

ICOMOS and the Global Heritage Fund complete their first phase of investigating heritage gaps in the UN Sustainable Development Goals

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ICOMOS and the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) recently completed Phase 1 of their work which identifies key linkages and data gaps in the contribution of heritage to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The team developed a two-part investigation of data. First, it conducted a gap analysis, reviewing literature from Google Scholar to search for recently published papers that discuss heritage and one or more goals of the UN SDGs. The research analysed whether there are fields of the SDGs that are absent from literature of heritage-based projects. Second, the team studied GHF's organisational sustainability targets and compared these against the established targets of the SDGs.

Key findings show that the link between heritage conservation and the SDG Goal 2 ([Zero Hunger](#)) is rarely discussed and a lack of critical analysis on the contribution of heritage to the list of indicators agreed under the SDG Global Indicator Framework developed. In terms of evaluating GHF Sustainability Targets, it was noted that GHF projects mostly focused on Goal 16 ([Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#)) and Goal 17 ([Partnerships for the Goals](#)) and least on Goal 14 ([Life Below Water](#)).

Paul Burtenshaw, GHF's consultant, shares his thoughts on the collaboration between ICOMOS and GHF: "Through our projects, we have seen the positive impact that cultural heritage can have on local communities. We are really pleased to be able to work with ICOMOS and combine our experience with their expertise to develop better methods for gathering evidence of these benefits, and to share these methods with others who work in sustainable development."

Gabriel Caballero, ICOMOS Focal Point for the SDGs, compliments the work of the team: "It is good to see the first results of the collaboration between ICOMOS and GHF. We are starting to identify more quantitative data on the real impacts and gaps related to heritage within the SDGs beyond the confines of [Target 11.4](#)."

Download and read the full report of the 1st phase in [English](#).

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. With over 11,000 members, 100+ National Committees, 30 International Scientific Committees and several Working Groups, ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world. As an official Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. www.icomos.org

The Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG) was established as an interdisciplinary task force by the ICOMOS Scientific Council during the 18th General Assembly in 2014. It coordinates the response and implementation by ICOMOS of the UN 2030 Agenda. The Working Group seeks to conserve, safeguard, steward and engage with all types of heritage while providing cultural, social and economic development to communities, limiting environmental impact of heritage, promoting peace among people and advocating for strategic partnerships in this Decade of Action. <https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals>

The Global Heritage Fund (GHF) was founded on the premise that cultural heritage protection can catalyze responsible social and economic development. Through creative collaborations and grassroots partnerships, GHF initiates and supports projects that adapt cultural heritage to address contemporary needs around connecting communities, building resilience, creating opportunity, fostering innovation, and supporting sustainable travel. <https://globalheritagefund.org/>

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