

## New toolkit underway to strengthen capacities for climate action in World Heritage Sites

Press release – 1 September 2023

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the three Advisory Bodies – ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN –are developing their first joint toolkit on climate action for World Heritage. Coordinated through the [World Heritage Leadership programme](#), and with the initial support from the Australian Government, the toolkit will support States Parties and site managers to integrate climate change action in the management strategies of World Heritage sites.

Managing the risks of climate change on World Heritage conservation is a rising concern. In the last decade, climate change has become the fastest growing global threat to World Heritage properties, with [one third of natural World Heritage properties](#) and one in six cultural properties already experiencing climate impacts.

The Australian Government has committed 510,000 AUD (about 315,000 EUR) to support the pilot phase of the project. Over the course of 15 months, a research team will first take stock of existing tools and guidance, after which a series of consultation workshops will be organised. The aim of the pilot phase is to develop a Climate Action Toolkit for World Heritage which can be tested in a diversity of cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage sites.

The new toolkit will be published under the series of [Resource Manuals](#) on World Heritage, with a strong focus on strengthening capacity of management authorities having to deal with climate change and disaster risk at the site level. The toolkit will cover case studies and key areas of intervention, including adaptation plans, but also provide examples of solutions that World Heritage sites may provide to help tackle climate change, including through local and indigenous knowledge as well as ecosystem functions and services.

UNESCO and its project partners invite interested actors and World Heritage sites to share their experiences and case studies in integrating climate change into management of World Heritage at [whl@iccrom.org](mailto:whl@iccrom.org).

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**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](http://www.icomos.org)

**The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)** is an intergovernmental organization working in service to its Member States to promote the conservation of all forms of cultural heritage in every region of the world. For more than six decades, ICCROM has partnered with Member States to support them in safeguarding heritage within their borders and beyond. Working at the international and governmental levels, and with institutions and professionals on the ground, the organization engages and informs new generations of professionals and the general public with an interest in heritage. <https://www.iccrom.org/>

**The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)** is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and 15,000 experts. This diversity and expertise make IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. These projects combine the latest science with traditional knowledge of local communities to work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. <https://www.iucn.org/about-iucn>

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