

New guide illuminates path to recovering damaged heritage

Press release 13 February 2024

Loss and damage to cultural heritage arising from disasters and conflicts cause or exacerbate personal and social trauma. Often, this constitutes the first trigger for pursuing the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed heritage places.

This new publication by ICOMOS and ICCROM– Guidance on Post-Disaster and Post-Conflict Recovery and Reconstruction for Heritage Places of Cultural Significance and World Heritage Cultural Properties – is intended for experts working in heritage conservation and provides a framework through which the recovery of heritage places can be supported and harnessed in coming to terms with and overcoming the trauma associated with destruction and loss. The Guidance aims to help relevant actors affected by destruction at heritage places of cultural significance to set up sound decision-making processes for recovery and reconstruction. It sets out a framework which enables thorough, informed and participative decision-making in recovery.

Integrating the recovery of damaged heritage places within general recovery processes is crucial for sound and lasting post-event recovery. Through this publication, ICCROM and ICOMOS hope to assist affected communities and assist people in healing, rebuilding social cohesion, enhancing resilience and creating conditions for sustainable development.

Download the new publication for free here.

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 12,000 members, 100+ National Committees, 31 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.

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/

ICCROM-Sharjah is a regional conservation centre founded by ICCROM and the Government of the Emirate of Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates, where it has been based since its inception in 2012. ICCROM-Sharjah is a continuation of ICCROM's ATHAR programme, launched in 2004, which is dedicated to protecting cultural heritage in the Arab region and broadening access, appreciation and understanding of its rich history.