

ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

ICOMOS 2021 Advisory Council

Scientific Symposium – On-line [9,10 November]

Final Symposium Call

2021 Theme: LIVING HERITAGE and CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientific Symposium outline

Living heritage provides people with their sense of identity and is continuously regenerating in response to their environment. But we live in a time of rapid environmental change accelerated by the current climate crisis. Our responses to this crisis have the potential to strengthen our living heritage or destroy it. With this in mind we invite you to explore the following questions:

- How is the climate emergency changing living heritage in your region?
- How may living heritage, the connection of people with places, culture and nature, contribute to address the challenges of climate change, sustainability and community development?
- Can regional and local responses to risks posed by that climate change to livelihoods and cultural heritage, become assets for climate actions and resilience?
- In our heritage practice can we develop responses to climate change impacts that strengthen the connections of people with heritage places; contributing to well-being and building resilience.
- What shifts in local, national, and international heritage policies and practice are in progress or are needed to activate heritage as a tool in developing effective responses to the climate emergency.

In this United Nations Decade of Action for Sustainable Development, ICOMOS embraces a two-pronged approach to climate change that both responds to the risks that climate change poses to culture and cultural heritage and also champions heritage in all its forms, as a source of resilience and an asset to climate action.

Living Heritage includes human practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, that continue with changes over time. The values of such living cultural expressions are related to identity, memory and remembrance, belief and symbolism, nature and the environment. Such intangible heritage is enacted, renewed, and transmitted within communities, in response to their environment, their interaction with nature, and their history.

ICOMOS Resolution 20GA/19 on People-Centered Approaches promotes people-centered approaches, the connections of people with heritage and places; intercultural dialogue and understanding, sustainability and well-being when addressing local, national, and international heritage policies and practice.

ICOMOS is committed to honouring heritage communities and individuals' rights, taking into consideration past and future generations, acknowledge their role in developing and implementing resilience strategies in a rapidly changing and unstable world, and assist authorities to empower citizens to maintain and develop their values and livelihoods in a dignified, responsible, and sustainable manner.

ICOMOS works to sustainably synergise cultural heritage conservation and management with the diverse cultural, environmental, and socio-economic concerns of people and communities, through building partnerships with relevant sectors, such as social and health services; peace-building and conflict resolution; cultural and creative industries; nature and biodiversity conservation; tourism; urban and territorial planning and development; and infrastructure and energy provision.

This is the first of the series of annual scientific symposia that are part of the *Triennial Scientific Plan (TSP) 2021-24 Climate Change Reboot* focusing proposed ICOMOS meetings and Scientific Symposia on how climate change impacts on specific heritage places and issues.

In the 2021 Scientific Symposium you are asked to look at how these inter-related considerations play out in the context of living heritage amidst climate change, including how they affect the heritage communities as well as understanding, assessing and managing of places directly or tangibly associated with living traditions, ideas, beliefs, and/or artistic and literary works.

The Symposium will occur during the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference, (COP26) underscoring linkages between Living Heritage and the need for urgent actions to respond to the global climate emergency. It will also reinforce the ICOMOS 20th General Assembly resolution 20GA/15 on Climate and Ecological Emergency, which calls on all relevant actors to seek to safeguard all types of heritage from adverse climate impacts, implement risk-informed disaster responses, deliver climate resilient sustainable development; and recognise equity and justice as fundamental dimensions of climate action.

The goal is to broaden the discussion beyond impacts of climate hazards, to include changes in how people valorise and celebrate Living Heritage for climate resilience, adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation. Local perspectives and experiences are sought to showcase a diversity of approaches, expressions and approaches that drive climate action.

The 2021 ICOMOS Scientific Symposium on the theme of **Living Heritage** will address the following ICOMOS Documents:

- [Triennial Scientific Plan \(TSP\) 2021-24 Climate Change Reboot GA20/13](#)
- [ICOMOS People Centred Approaches Resolution GA20/19](#)
- [ICOMOS Buenos Aires Declaration on Human Rights 2018](#)
- [ICOMOS Climate and Ecological Emergency Resolution GA20/15](#)
- [ICOMOS Future of Our Pasts](#)
- [The research commissioned for the Indigenous Heritage WG](#)
- [Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors](#)

- [UN Special Report on Report on climate change, culture and cultural rights](#)
- [Mālama Honua – to care for our island Earth. A Statement of Commitments from the Nature-Culture Journey Participants at the IUCN World Conservation 2016.](#)
- [Yatra aur Tammanah: Our purposeful Journey](#)

The symposium will investigate, explore and reflect on the ways in which these guiding documents can be implemented in the regional and/or global work of acknowledging, mitigating and adapting to the climate emergency.

Possible Themes

Proposals to be submitted should cover one or more sub-topics:

1. INTERCONNECTIONS. Exploration of the interconnected relationship between people, place, heritage and sustainability. This could include conservation practices and innovative strategies that respects and preserves this dynamic relationship in view of the current climate emergency;
2. EXAMPLES. Case studies that benchmark and share strategies for the integration of inter-connected values in evaluation, management, and revitalisation of living heritage;
3. COMMUNITIES. Studies that consider the roles and actions of communities, groups and individuals, and their experience of sustaining their living heritage both as a means of mitigating climate change but also in response to climate change, through their livelihoods, conservation and development policies, good governance and application of useful tools;
4. METHODOLOGIES. Successful methods and tools for the identification, documentation and interpretation of living heritage in its fullest sense, that develop and support appropriate policies at all administrative levels, and to raise awareness among all actors on its value;
5. PARTNERSHIPS. Collaborative work of ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, and other national and international organisations which identify ways of bringing forward broader actions on behalf of the global wealth of living heritage – with a focus on People-Centred Approaches;
6. SUSTAINABILITY. Transformative practices that tackle sustainable development issues of living heritage and supports inclusive social development and environmental resilience for urban and rural communities.

Panels and papers, often using example cases, knowledge cafés, and poster presentations, will create a platform for a rich dialogue concerning living heritage in both urban and rural settings, culture-nature intersections, conservation challenges, opportunities for applying the *Principles*, and next steps to sustain and support living heritage .