

## **ICOMOS and GHF join forces for cultural heritage and sustainable development**

*Paris / San Francisco, 18 April 2021*

Great news comes with the International Day for Monuments and Sites this year as the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) celebrated with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18 April 2021.

Aimed at creating a framework for collaboration to develop, evaluate and **promote cultural heritage practices that support sustainable development**, the MoU was signed by Teresa Patrício, President of ICOMOS and Nada Hosking, Executive Director of the Global Heritage Fund.

The partnership between ICOMOS and GHF will raise awareness of projects embedding heritage as a driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is intended to develop an assessment framework that will **evaluate the sustainability of cultural heritage conservation projects** in different parts of the world, using the recently released ICOMOS policy, [“Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors”](#).

Nada Hosking, Executive Director of GHF explained, “The mutually beneficial partnership aims **to strengthen sustainable cultural heritage practices** as exemplified in the way we develop projects scopes, invest in cultural heritage preservation, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship within the communities we partner with. Devising specific plans to make measurable improvements over time isn’t easy. Anchoring our work with the SDGs help us as an organisation to do just that and ensure our projects impacts are formally recorded against measurable data.”

Gabriel Caballero, ICOMOS Focal Point for the UN Sustainable Development Goals shared his excitement: “This collaboration is important for us in ICOMOS as we search for case studies that improve the quality of life for people living in and around heritage sites, providing inclusive social and economic development and integrating environmental sustainability. We hope to test out the policies we create and learn more from local site managers and stakeholders **to further articulate what sustainability means on the ground.**”

Teresa Patrício, President of ICOMOS stressed that “Developing global partnerships is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. Reconciling theory and practice, this partnership will mobilise our organisations to share our knowledge and expertise in order to **harness the power of heritage to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.**”



In Morocco, communal granaries remain a powerful symbol of Amazigh societies where each building demonstrates the social and technological innovations of local builders. Global Heritage Fund is revitalizing these sacred earthen buildings and protecting the heritage of Amazigh communities, while bolstering local economic opportunities by leveraging heritage-led regeneration as a stimulus for community empowerment. © Global Heritage Fund

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## TO FIND OUT MORE

[www.icomos.org/en](http://www.icomos.org/en)

<https://globalheritagefund.org/>

## Background information

### ICOMOS

The International Council on Monuments and Sites ([ICOMOS](http://www.icomos.org)) is a unique non-governmental, not-for-profit international organisation committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage.

Present in 151 countries and active all over Europe, it is dedicated to the development of common doctrines, the evolution and dissemination of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance. It has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world. Its National and International Scientific Committees and Working Groups incorporate unequalled expertise. 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.

### **Global Heritage Fund**

Global Heritage Fund (GHF) is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization based in California, USA that was founded on the premise that cultural heritage protection can catalyse responsible social and economic regeneration. Thoughtfully undertaken, heritage revitalization enhances the quality of life in local communities while preserving invaluable links to our shared human history. GHF's projects address today's most pressing global issues including economic disparity, gender inequality, environmental stewardship, and sustainable travel. Through creative collaborations and grassroots partnerships, GHF initiates and supports initiatives that adapt cultural heritage to address contemporary needs around building resilience, creating opportunity, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainability. Since its establishment in 2004, GHF has formed over 120 such partnerships, delivering 28 projects in 19 countries and forming a brain trust of more than 40 advisors, impact partners, and ambassadors guiding investments in cultural heritage programs totalling \$30 Million USD.