

## ICOMOS Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors now available in French

Press release – 27 October 2022

The French translation of the ICOMOS document, "Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors" was officially launched at the Annual General Meeting of the ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG) held on 27 October 2022. This translated document is aimed at spreading the important advocacy of ICOMOS that heritage is a driver and enabler of the achievement of all the SDGs, and it is not only bound to Target 11.4, which aims to "strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage".

At ICOMOS, we strongly believe that heritage can play a key role in addressing the SDGs, but more work is needed to understand and address the potentials and challenges that link heritage to each Goal. The Policy Guidance document is the first step in addressing this gap. Indeed, it seeks to respond to the current needs of the professional and broader society, while shaping high-level policy and grassroots implementation, building synergies and strengthening advocacy.

The work of ICOMOS has been founded, from the outset, on a principle closely aligned with sustainability: the common responsibility to safeguard the heritage of humanity for future generations. In the past decade, ICOMOS has increased its focus on heritage within the context of sustainable development, issuing documents such as: the "[Paris Declaration on Heritage as a Driver of Development](#)" (2011a); the "[Concept Note on Cultural Heritage, the UN SDGs and the New Urban Agenda](#)" (2016); the "[ICOMOS Action Plan on Cultural Heritage and Localizing the SDGs](#)" (2017a); and the report "[The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action](#)" (2019a). The ICOMOS Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors is the latest ICOMOS document to demonstrate the potential of harnessing heritage in achieving sustainable development, and its translation into French makes it accessible to 321 million French speakers and thus 17,5% of the world population.

The translator of the text, Laure Marique of ICOMOS Belgium believes that the translation of this important ICOMOS document promotes multilingualism, which can foster social cohesion and intercultural communication, and contribute to positive and sustainable democratic societies.

Naima Benkari, an ICOMOS International member based in Oman who contributed to the translation, agrees that the translation is an utmost necessity for more inclusive and culture-sensitive policies and assures their better understanding and implementation on the ground.

Translations to other languages are being planned by the SDGWG and it hopes to spread the important message of the holistic role of heritage to support the great ambition of the SDGs. For interested parties who would like to translate the document to their own languages, please get in touch with:

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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 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>

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