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Message from the President

I am delighted to share with you the Annual Report of ICOMOS’ activities in 2021, the result of the collaboration of our members, our partners and our Secretariat.

The health crisis we have been experiencing for the past two years demonstrates the universal nature of the challenges we are called to address today. In the face of accelerating societal change, ICOMOS plays a crucial role in providing solutions for heritage conservation around the world. This report illustrates the wide range of efforts being made by ICOMOS as a whole to overcome these challenges.

The results of our work in 2021 prove that ICOMOS is a proactive and informed organisation and that we are developing new approaches and continuously integrating diverse perspectives.

This underlying framework is the basis for the conversations and exchanges that have taken place at our statutory meetings, conferences and webinars that continually demonstrate that we are an active network. I am delighted to see the ever-increasing number of participants in our activities. As President, I would also like to thank all those who donated on Giving Tuesday to support ICOMOS Culture-Nature initiatives! We appreciate your efforts and regularly reflect on what our growth means for our ability to serve our members as well as our partners who look to ICOMOS for support and expertise.

We continue to act on our responsibilities and defend our field of expertise. In 2021, ICOMOS organised and participated in multiple activities that attest to ICOMOS’ leadership in cultural heritage conservation. To name a few, we actively participated in the G20 Culture Ministers’ meetings, and we co-sponsored the International Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and UNESCO. This meeting opened new perspectives for understanding the cultural dimensions of the climate emergency. ICOMOS is also part of the CVI-Africa Climate Vulnerability project, which aims to improve preparedness measures for African cultural heritage sites and communities in light of climate change. Creating new alliances is part of our global position and our responsibilities in the field. In 2021, ICOMOS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to promote the role of culture and heritage in sustainable development. We have already collaborated on several initiatives, enabling our two organisations to develop a common understanding of the need to recognize the transformative potential of cultural development for the future of cities and the world.

I am particularly proud of our new publications which are the result of our multiple partnerships. The European Cultural Heritage Green Paper was produced by Europa Nostra in close collaboration with ICOMOS and the Climate Heritage Network, with contributions from other members of the European Heritage Alliance. This unique document focuses on the role of cultural heritage in achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal. The joint ICOMOS-ICCROM publication “Analysis of Case Studies in Recovery and Reconstruction” and the study “Exploring Cultural Heritage of the Arab Region: Potential offered for a more balanced World Heritage List” by ICOMOS and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage are some examples of ICOMOS’ work that reaffirm that being a strong voice is also being firm on its commitments. For ICOMOS, advocacy is at the core of our actions.

Reflecting on what we stand for, serving our members better, devising innovative approaches, defending our relevance and promoting our work has been an exercise that ICOMOS has consistently undertaken in 2021 and will continue to undertake in 2022.

Thanks to the commitment and support of our members and partners, we will continue our shared work for the benefit of the world’s heritage.

Teresa Patrício
President
Key Figures

ICOMOS Members around the World in 2021

- Presence in 131 countries

- 10,705 members
- 106 National Committees
- 29 International Scientific Committees

- National Committees with the greatest percentage of members under the age of 30*:
  - US/ICOMOS
  - ICOMOS New Zealand
  - ICOMOS India and ICOMOS Pakistan

- National Committees that gained the most members in 2021*:
  - US/ICOMOS
  - ICOMOS Canada
  - ICOMOS Finland

* among Committees with more than 10 members
The Annual General Assembly of ICOMOS was held online on 8 November 2021. In total, nearly 500 ICOMOS members were present, representing 50 National Committees and 10 International Scientific Committees.

The agenda focused on receiving the reports of the ICOMOS President and Treasurer on the management by the Board, and the health and financial situation of the association; approving the annual report and accounts, and discharging the Board; as well as voting next year’s budget and statutory matters. In all, the Annual General Assembly adopted 10 resolutions (available here).

In addition to the budgetary and administrative matters, the Annual General Assembly was marked by the adoption of the ICOMOS Guidelines on Fortifications and Military Heritage. Developed by the experts of the International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage (ICOFORT), these guidelines serve as a framework of reference for the protection and conservation of fortifications and military heritage. The Guidelines are available in English, in French and in Spanish.

All other matters such as elections of the Board and Officers, conferring of Honorary membership, voting the ICOMOS General Programme and budgetary guidelines for the next triennium, as well as proposing resolutions for adoption by ICOMOS will be dealt with by the next Triennial General Assembly (2023, Sydney, Australia).

2021 was again a challenging year, and although such a gathering could not be held in person due to global circumstances, the ICOMOS 2021 Annual General Assembly was considered a success – thanks to the many participating members and observers – as it brought together hundreds of heritage professionals from around the world.

NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE OFFICERS

The Advisory Committee, National Committees and Scientific Council meetings took place online in four sessions between 19 October and 3 November 2021, during which the new Officers, the Vice-President and the President of the Advisory Committee have been elected for the 2021-2024 mandate, following a call issued to National and International Scientific Committees.

In total, about 50 National Committees and 20 International Scientific Committees attended the 2021 Advisory Committee meetings that took place online, with the presence of the ICOMOS Board and members as observers. The Advisory Committee President Mikel Landa (ICOMOS Spain) declared the meetings opened on 19 October.

45 Presidents represented their National Committees at the National Committees meeting on 22 October, chaired by Advisory Committee Vice-President Douglas Comer (US/ICOMOS). This meeting was devoted to the analysis of the members by ICOMOS Director General Marie-Laure Lavenir and the regional report by each ICOMOS Vice-President representing a different region: Alpha Dip (ICOMOS Mal) for Africa, Leonardo Castrioncita (ICOMOS Brazil) for the Americas, Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun (ICOMOS Thailand) for Asia-Pacific; HRH Princess Dana Firas (ICOMOS Jordan) for the Arab States and Rien Alatalu (ICOMOS Estonia) for Europe. Douglas Comer congratulated all the Committees and their members for their intensive and excellent work in all regions, and stressed the importance of ICOMOS work at the regional level.

The Scientific Council was held on 27 October with 20 International Scientific Committees represented and chaired by Sheridan Burke, Scientific Council Officer. A number of International Scientific Committees took the floor to present their work and initiatives to address specific issues identified.

One of the highlights of the 2021 Advisory Committee meetings was the adoption of the new Triennial Scientific Plan 2021-2024 - Cultural Heritage and Climate Action. Built on the foundation of the ICOMOS report The Future of Our Past published in 2019, in which ICOMOS had assessed the ways in which cultural heritage can stimulate climate action and catalogued the many impacts of climate change on heritage places, this Plan is the first to ambitiously attempt a coordinated effort among all ICOMOS Committees and members to focus on a single scientific issue: climate change. The new Triennial Scientific Plan 2021-2024 - Cultural Heritage and Climate Action is available in English, French and Spanish.

ICOMOS thanks the outgoing Officers of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Christer Gustafsson (ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Economics of Conservation and ICOMOS Sweden), Mr. Douglas Comer (US/ICOMOS), and Mr. Tiong Kian Boon (ICOMOS Malaysia) for their dedication to this task in recent years. ICOMOS congratulates the Officers who have been elected for a second mandate: Mr. Mikel Landa (ICOMOS Spain), Ms. Sheridan Burke (ICOMOS Australia and ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage), Ms. Deirdre McDermott (ICOMOS Ireland) and welcomes the new Officers elected: Mr. Nitin Ranveer Sinha (ICOMOS International Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAF)), Ms. Deirdre McDermott (ICOMOS Ireland), Ms. Sheridn Burke (ICOMOS Australia and ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage), Mr. Douglas Comer (US/ICOMOS), and Mr. Tiong Kian Boon (ICOMOS Malaysia) for their dedication to this task in recent years. ICOMOS congratulates the Officers who have been elected for a second mandate: Mr. Mikel Landa (ICOMOS Spain), Ms. Sheridan Burke (ICOMOS Australia and ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage), Ms. Deirdre McDermott (ICOMOS Ireland).
SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM 2021

The Scientific Symposium was conducted online on 9 and 10 November 2021 with the theme: Living Heritage and Climate Change. This was the first of a series of annual Scientific Symposia that are part of the 2021-2024 Triennial Scientific Plan Cultural Heritage and Climate Action, focusing ICOMOS’ proposed scientific meetings and symposia on the impact of climate change on heritage sites and issues.

The 2021 Scientific Symposium was made possible thanks to Deirdre McDermott, Advisory Committee Officer and Scientific Symposium Coordinator, as well as the assistance and input of many members of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees and Working Groups: Our Common Dignity–Rights-based Approaches Working Group, Emerging Professionals Working Group, Indigenous Heritage Working Group, International Scientific Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICICH) and the Assisting Advisory Committee Volunteers (AAV).

This first online Scientific Symposium was divided into morning and evening sessions to facilitate participation for all members across the world. It was structured into 11 different sessions – including keynote addresses, knowledge cafes, workshops and paper presentations – chaired and facilitated by 50 speakers who contributed to the success of this Symposium, as well as the 600 participants who attended the various sessions and enriched the discussions and exchanges. You can find the 2021 Scientific Symposium Program here.

Acknowledging global calls for greater inclusion and recognition of diversity, the International Day for Monuments and Sites, on 18 April 2021, invited ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees, Working Groups and individuals to reflect on, reinterpret, and re-examine existing narratives with the theme “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures.”

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, participants were inventive and celebrated our monuments and sites through a wide variety of online events: from conferences and challenges to virtual meetings and many other innovative initiatives, more than 80 events took place.

As a result, participation in social networks played an even bigger role than in previous years. We are grateful to have had your support. The International Day for Monuments and Sites hashtags such as #18April, #IDMS and #InternationalDayforMonumentsandSites were widely used on social media. The hashtag #IDMS2021 appeared in more than 500 Instagram posts and we gained more than 70 followers!

We thank you all for your participation!

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We thank you all for your participation!
Giving Tuesday: Creation of the Culture-Nature Prize

This year, ICOMOS took part in Giving Tuesday, a global day to give and celebrate generosity. Thanks to donations from ICOMOS members and friends, we have raised 15,000 € to fund the creation of the ICOMOS Culture-Nature Prize which will be awarded in 2022 to the most promising Culture-Nature initiatives undertaken by our members.

In recent years, ICOMOS has increasingly worked with Culture-Nature approaches to heritage especially through projects and initiatives such as Connecting Practice, the Culture-Nature Journey and the PANORAMA Nature Culture Thematic Community.

We thank all the individuals who took part in our campaign: every donation, big or small, made a difference and helped us reach our goal! We also thank the ICOMOS National Committees: ICOMOS Ireland, ICOMOS Austria, ICOMOS Spain, ICOMOS Sweden and ICOMOS Mali; the International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture (CIAV) and the International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC); as well as the foundations New England Biolabs Foundation and The Ocean Foundation, who supported our campaign.

Listen to our members talk about their involvement in Culture-Nature initiatives on our YouTube channel.

Highlighting Activities by ICOMOS Committees

Creation of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Water and Heritage

The new International Scientific Committee on Water and Heritage (ISCWater) aims to advance the knowledge and experience about the world’s water heritage, to promote the conservation of this heritage and sustainably address water-related challenges of the present and future.

In line with its Mission Statement, the new ISC wishes to:

- Create an international platform for interaction between ICOMOS (its International Scientific Committees, National Committees, Working Groups) and other heritage organisations, the water sector, governments, agencies, associated communities and NGOs – for networking, education and dialogue;
- Develop methodologies, training, policies and good design process, responding to traditional wisdom, to inform climate change mitigation and adaptation, and improve current and future water management and planning; and
- Generally strengthen the role of water heritage in social engagement and policy-making.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact iscwater@icomos.org.

ICORP On the Road releases its fifth episode “Kartarpur Corridor – Collective Memories, Connected Histories”

ICORP On The Road is an initiative launched by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) that showcases inspiring stories by professionals and local communities about post disaster response and recovery of cultural heritage around the world.

This episode tells the story of how the communities of India and Pakistan – who have parted into two countries a long time ago – have been taking care of each other’s cultural heritage that was left on the other side of the border, with love and respect.

Watch the 5th episode and the full series on the ICORP On the Road YouTube Channel.

New ICOMOS National Committees in 2021

Following the formal accreditation by the ICOMOS Board, the National Committee of Azerbaijan has been officially created and the National Committee of Ivory Coast has been recreated. ICOMOS is thankful for their cooperation in this process and looks forward to setting up more National Committees in the future.
Many other ICOMOS National Committees, International Scientific Committees and Working Groups held webinars to address topics related to cultural heritage protection, such as climate change, sustainable development, COVID-19, tourism and water.

You can watch the recordings of past webinars on the ICOMOS website or on the ICOMOS YouTube channel. ICOMOS National Committees, International Scientific Committees and Working Groups are invited to inform ICOMOS International of their past or upcoming webinars.

Thank you for your valuable contributions!

MORE THAN 60 WEBINARS WERE ORGANISED IN 2021, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

The Heritage Thursdays Webinar Series by “Our Common Dignity” - Rights-based Approaches (OCD-RBA) Working Group delved into topics related to people-centred approaches to cultural heritage. A conversation around the issues arising in Oceania on climate change and the impacts for Indigenous people on country and culture was created through a series of webinars by Kerime Danis and Helen Wilson, co-convenors of the Caring for Country Committee (a Working Group of Australia ICOMOS). The ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG) also held 5 webinars linking policy, economy, cultural heritage, environmental resilience and people to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) webinar series covered many issues related to underwater cultural heritage: new challenges, awareness and outreach, and first-hand accounts of experiences from experts. The ICOMOS International Committee on Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH) developed webinars as a platform where professionals can share their expertise and perspectives in the field of authenticity and reconstruction, while the International Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual (PRERICO) explored the theme of the reuse and regenerations of cultural religious heritage in the world.
New ICOMOS Committee Presidents

We are pleased to introduce you to the new Presidents of ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees elected in 2021.

Discover their rich professional experience and academic background on our website.

Shireen Allan
ICOMOS PALESTINE

Marcela Arguedas Chaves
ICOMOS COSTA RICA

Lorenc Bejko
ICOMOS ALBANIA

Kristina Biceva
ICOMOS MACEDONIA

Magnus Borgos
ICOMOS NORWAY

Adriana Careaga
ICOMOS URUGUAY

Paula Cordeiro
ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CIVVIH)

Sadagat Davudova
ICOMOS AZERBAIJAN

Flávio De Lemos Carsalade
ICOMOS BRAZIL

Eric Pallot
ICOMOS FRANCE

Lubica Pinčíková
ICOMOS SLOVAKIA

María Gabriela Santibañez
ICOMOS ARGENTINA

Soehardi Hartono
ICOMOS INDONESIA

Tino Mager
ICOMOS GERMANY

Fidelma Mullane
ICOMOS IRELAND

Yasmine Makaroun
ICOMOS LEBANON

Mona O’Rourke
ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES (ICLAFI)

Gyanin Rai
ICOMOS NEPAL

Ulrika Mebus
ICOMOS SWEDEN

Tracy Ireland
AUSTRALIA ICOMOS

Soehardi Hartono
ICOMOS INDONESIA

Yasmine Makaroun
ICOMOS LEBANON

Tracy Ireland
AUSTRALIA ICOMOS
Developing Leadership in Cultural Heritage Conservation

Palangan Village in Kurdistan, Cultural landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat, Iran, a 2021 World Heritage inscription
Nearly 100 scientists, policymakers, practitioners and traditional knowledge holders, including over a dozen ICOMOS members, participated in a series of 15 virtual sessions, helping to develop and review the state of knowledge regarding connections of culture, heritage and climate change and identify gaps. Sessions were organised around three scientific questions addressing:

- Integration of diverse knowledge systems across areas of climate research and response;
- Loss, damage, and adaptation for culture and heritage;
- Roles of culture and heritage in transformative change and alternative sustainable futures

Three public sessions, one on each of these questions, as well as a launch event were held. The discussions were guided by three white papers commissioned for the meeting.

This meeting was the first in IPCC history where scientists and experts working on culture, heritage and climate science were brought together in one forum. This represents a key milestone in a longstanding effort by ICOMOS to improve the treatment of cultural heritage in climate science, as well as progress on a 2016 request by the World Heritage Committee for closer collaboration with the IPCC.

A ‘Co-Sponsored Meeting’ is an official modality of the IPCC. Securing such a meeting on the topic of culture and heritage was one of the original objectives of the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG) when it was established in 2011. ICOMOS’ work on the project was carried out by a team that included Dr. Will Megarry, Dr. Hana Morel, Sarah Forgesson, Angélique Ploteau and Andrew Potts, aided by an ICOMOS IPCC Work Stream Advisory Committee. Members of the ICOMOS Emerging Professional Working Group served as session rapporteurs.

Funding was provided by the German Federal Environmental Foundation, with additional support from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture and the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China.

The work done at the Meeting will form the basis of a report scheduled for release in mid-2022 that will address ways to catalyse research and collaboration around culture, heritage and climate change, and expand global capacity around these themes. The timing of the report is also designed so that it can serve as a resource for several important, multi-year climate science initiatives being launched in 2022, including a Special Report on Cities and a new assessment of the IPCC Working Group II on climate impacts, adaptation and vulnerability – both as part of the IPCC’s Seventh Assessment Report (AR7), as well as IPCC’s contribution to the UNFCCC Global Goal on Adaptation work plan launched at COP26.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was held on 29 and 30 July 2021.

Her presentation focused on ensuring that culture and heritage are taken into account when tackling climate change, as they are both at risk from its impacts and part of the solution.

“Your leadership in establishing climate action as a priority theme in your ministries and supporting a focus on climate among the culture and heritage operators in your countries will be crucial.”

Teresa Patrício, President of ICOMOS
Cultural heritage supports climate action in Africa

The CVI-Africa project is led by institutions in Africa and the United Kingdom in partnership with ICOMOS and is applying the Climate Vulnerability Index for World Heritage properties in Africa.

In 2019, ICOMOS released the report “The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Culture Heritage in Climate Action”. It concluded that responding to climate change requires adjustments in the aims of heritage practice. CVI-Africa is an important example of the type of innovation needed across all aspects of culture heritage methodologies in the face of the climate emergency.

Decisions on conservation and preservation of cultural heritage in the face of climate change begin with a detailed understanding of a place's vulnerability, which can be assessed using the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) method. In 2021, the CVI method was used for the first time in Africa.

The CVI-Africa project also provided crucial training to six African heritage professionals on the CVI method. The project culminated in workshops at two World Heritage sites impacted by climate change: the Sukur Cultural Landscape in Nigeria and the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani in Tanzania, which were made possible thanks to ICOMOS members in Tanzania. The results of the workshops will be published and available to all.

More broadly, the ongoing CVI-Africa project is supporting communities in their efforts to safeguard cultural heritage, respond to climate change and seek sustainable development options.

Fostering new relationships and encouraging knowledge exchange lies at the heart of the CVI-Africa project. The members of the project consortium were brought together by the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) for which ICOMOS serves as the Secretariat.

Great news came with the International Day for Monuments and Sites in 2021 as ICOMOS and the Global Heritage Fund celebrated with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 18 April. Aimed at creating a framework for collaboration to develop, evaluate and promote cultural heritage practices that support sustainable development, this partnership 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 new ICOMOS policy document: “Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors”.

This policy document produced by the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (Priority Action 1 Task Team) has two objectives:

- To engage development actors and raise awareness of the potential contribution of heritage practices to sustainable development processes;
- To guide ICOMOS members and heritage professionals at large, in adopting a sustainable development perspective in their heritage practices and aligning them to the SDGs.

Therefore, it represents a first attempt at providing a policy framework for all actors, including international organisations, national and local governments, businesses, civil society and expert organisations.

Another major initiative in 2021 was the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and ICOMOS in the framework of the fourth UCLG Culture Summit which took place in the city of Izmir, Turkey. The MOU aims to establish a general framework of cooperation to advance the development of the global conversation on the place of culture and heritage in sustainable development, as well as to develop a common global voice and an innovative platform for joint actions among the two associations.

ICOMOS also actively participated in several international events related to the Sustainable Development Goals, such as the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Virtual Conference “Heritage and our Sustainable Future: Research, Practice, Policy and Impact” held by the UK National Commission for UNESCO and Praxis, University of Leeds.
The InnovaConcrete project started in 2018 and aims to promote innovative solutions for the conservation of 20th century cultural heritage, especially concrete-built heritage, utilizing nanotechnologies. It was funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage (ISC20C) was among the 29 partners of this project and delivered a benchmark guidance document on the approaches to the conservation and management of concrete heritage.

While the primary emphasis of the project has been the development of new nanotechnologies that can combat the deterioration mechanisms in concrete, there is also a very important effort to raise awareness about the significance and cultural values of heritage concrete. In June, ISC20C organised the InnovaConcrete Kaunas workshop “Monument and non-Monument concrete heritage of the post-war era”, a virtual conference on the monumental nature of concrete heritage of the post-war era. ISC20C also participated in several other workshops leading up to the final workshop of the project “Conservation of the 20th Century Concrete-based Cultural Heritage: Innovative materials, procedures and awareness” held in Cadiz, Spain from 2 to 4 December 2021. On this occasion, “The Cádiz Document: InnovaConcrete Guidelines for the Conservation of Concrete Heritage” was officially presented.

2021 was a significant year for ICOMOS’ contributions to European projects with the culmination of the InnovaConcrete project and the launch of the CHARTER project. Two of the various European projects that ICOMOS is actively participating in.

European Cultural Heritage Green Paper “Putting Europe’s shared heritage at the heart of the European Green Deal”

Potts, Andrew; Norsø, Natasja; T. [Eng, Spa, Fre]

The paper focuses on the role of cultural heritage in achieving the ambitions of the European Green Deal. The publication lead author is Andrew Potts, former focal point of the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group. The European Cultural Heritage Green Paper is produced by Europa Nostra in close cooperation with ICOMOS and the Climate Heritage Network, with the input of other members of the European Heritage Alliance. It proposes a series of concrete recommendations both for policy-makers and for cultural heritage stakeholders. Potential conflicts, real or perceived, between heritage safeguarding and European Green Deal action are also identified, as well as win-win strategies for overcoming these conflicts.

Download:
- English
- French
- Spanish

L’avenir de notre passé : Engager le patrimoine culturel dans l’action pour le climat

Bundi, Sherinde; Cox, Peter; Gip, Cady; Gavine, Iwan; Govaert-Pistorius, Inna; Guerra-Romero, Milagros; Lavenir, Marie-Laure; Marchand, Trevor; Potts, Andrew; Pushkarova, Darina [Eng]

The French translation of the ICOMOS report “Future of Our Past: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action” is now available. Putting forward a multi-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage, the report is intended for site managers, scientists, researchers, but also to climate activists and policy-makers. The report highlights a number of ways in which the core considerations of cultural heritage intersect with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including heightening ambition to address climate change, mitigating greenhouse gases, enhancing adaptive capacity, and planning for loss and damage.

Analysis of Case studies in Recovery and Reconstruction


This joint ICOMOS/ICRCRM publication brings together the voices and experiences of experts and practitioners working in the field. Published in two volumes with an accompanying report, the publication includes 11 case studies addressing post-trauma recovery and reconstruction. Managed through a joint Working Group comprising members of both organisations and administered through the ICOMOS Secretariat and the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Office, this highly collaborative project has provided an opportunity for both organisations to learn from a diverse set of experiences in recovery and reconstruction around the world.

Download:

We present here a selection of books and documents published by ICOMOS International, ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees during the year 2021. It is by no means an exhaustive catalogue.

Publications by ICOMOS and partner organisations

The CHARTER Alliance consortium first in person meeting, Bilbao, Spain

The CHARTER project started in 2018 and aims to promote innovative solutions for the conservation of 20th century cultural heritage, especially concrete-built heritage, utilizing nanotechnologies. It was funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage (ISC20C) was among the 29 partners of this project and delivered a benchmark guidance document on the approaches to the conservation and management of concrete heritage.

While the primary emphasis of the project has been the development of new nanotechnologies that can combat the deterioration mechanisms in concrete, there is also a very important effort to raise awareness about the significance and cultural values of heritage concrete. In June, ISC20C organised the InnovaConcrete Kaunas workshop “Monument and non-Monument concrete heritage of the post-war era”, a virtual conference on the monumental nature of concrete heritage of the post-war era. ISC20C also participated in several other workshops leading up to the final workshop of the project “Conservation of the 20th Century Concrete-based Cultural Heritage: Innovative materials, procedures and awareness” held in Cadiz, Spain from 2 to 4 December 2021. On this occasion, “The Cádiz Document: InnovaConcrete Guidelines for the Conservation of Concrete Heritage” was officially presented. This document provides guidance for the conservation of concrete heritage with respect to its cultural, historical, aesthetic, social and technological values that define its significance. It is an aid to conservation and restoration practitioners and other professionals, including architects, engineers, conservators, contractors, craftsmen, public officials, and private owners who may be faced with making important decisions about the treatment of a heritage concrete structure.

2021 also marks the beginning of CHARTER (Cultural Heritage Actions to Tackle: Refine, Training, Education and Roles), an Erasmus+ project starting from January 2021 until December 2024 with a consortium of 21 members including ICOMOS and its International Scientific Committee on Training (CIF). CHARTER seeks to create a lasting, comprehensive sectoral skills strategy to guarantee Europe has the necessary cultural heritage skills to support sustainable societies and economies. ICOMOS is co-leader of Work Package 2 (Strategic analysis of cultural heritage competences and occupational profiles) which published its first deliverable, “A New Landscape for Heritage Professionals: Preliminary Findings”. The report presents the development of a new integrated model for the cultural heritage sector, defining its breadth, dynamics and boundaries in relation to existing cultural, statistical, occupational and economic conceptual definitions, policy principles and frameworks.
This Quality Principles document is a new version of the document European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with Potential Impact upon Cultural Heritage. This new version has been updated based on the feedback from partners and stakeholders. The publication includes recommendations as well as a set of ‘Selection Criteria’ to support decision makers in assessing the quality of projects with potential impact on cultural heritage. The European quality principles document stems from the work of an expert group assembled by ICOMOS, under the mandate of the European Commission and in the framework of the European Union Flagship Initiative of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, "Cherishing heritage: developing quality standards for EU-funded projects that have the potential to impact on cultural heritage".

The main objective of the document is to provide guidance on quality principles for all stakeholders directly or indirectly engaged in EU-funded interventions that could impact on cultural heritage, mainly built heritage and cultural landscapes. The document focuses on the core issue of quality, providing a summary of key concepts, international charters, European and international conventions and standards as well as changes in understanding and practice of heritage conservation. Environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits resulting from the application of quality principles are outlined.

The full revised version in:
- German ISBN 978-2-918086-56-7

The abridged version in:

EUROPEAN QUALITY PRINCIPLES for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage – Revised edition November 2020

Dimitrova, Elena; Curis; Hanneb, Luanga; Mons, 278p. ISBN 978-2-918086-41-3

This thematic study explores the theme of agricultural landscapes related to the cultivation and processing of the most-consumed manufactured drink in the world. The result of generations of communities interacting with nature, tea landscapes are embedded with multiple intangible values and are a demonstration of human ingenuity adapting to varied geographical and social conditions. This thematic study aims to provide a useful framework for potential nominations to the World Heritage List of tea landscapes in Asia. The intention was not to identify all the types, nor all the possible sites, but to initiate a path of research as a basis for later work.

Exploring Cultural Heritage of the Arab Region: Potential offered for a more balanced World Heritage List

The aim of this joint ARC-WH-ICOMOS project is to reflect on the inadequate balance happening on the World Heritage List within cultural sites, and analyze some of the challenges facing the Arab countries. This study provides a preliminary assessment of the promising themes and typologies that could be considered by the Arab States Parties as a basis to expand the understanding of cultural heritage and identify the sites with potential for future World Heritage nomination proposals.

This thematic study is the result of a joint initiative between the Arab Regional Centre for Heritage (ARC), the World Heritage Centre (WH) and ICOMOS, under the mandate of the European Commission and in the framework of the European Union Flagship Initiative of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. It represents the work of an expert group assembled by ICOMOS, under the mandate of the European Commission and in the framework of the European Union Flagship Initiative of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. The European quality principles document stems from the work of an expert group assembled by ICOMOS, under the mandate of the European Commission and in the framework of the European Union Flagship Initiative of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. The European quality principles document stems from the work of an expert group assembled by ICOMOS, under the mandate of the European Commission and in the framework of the European Union Flagship Initiative of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

This thematic study is the result of a joint ICOMOS project. The work was carried out under the mandate of the European Commission and in the framework of the European Union Flagship Initiative of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.
An Unwavering Commitment to Heritage Protection

Dinorwig Slate Quarry, the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, United Kingdom, a 2021 World Heritage inscription
At the Service of the World Heritage Convention

As an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS evaluates cultural and mixed nominations to the World Heritage List, reports on state of conservation, reviews requests for international assistance through the World Heritage Fund and contributes to the objectives of the Global Strategy and to the intellectual underpinnings of the application of the Convention in all the regions of the world.

Relevant documents related to the ICOMOS World Heritage mandate are available on our website.

MAIN WORLD HERITAGE ACTIVITIES IN 2021

For the 2021 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 25 properties (17 new nominations, 1 extension and 1 deferred nomination) and 6 minor modifications to the boundaries proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. In 2021, ICOMOS organised 3 Advisory missions carried out within the framework of the Upstream process, which provides support at an early stage for sites which may have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consulted ICOMOS on a regular basis throughout the year on problems or threats to specific sites, and further research was carried out via ICOMOS networks.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The World Heritage Committee inscribed 34 new properties on the World Heritage List at its extended 44th session in Fuzhou, China, in July 2021, including 29 cultural sites, 5 natural sites and 3 major boundary modifications. Descriptions of the inscribed properties in 2021 are available on UNESCO’s website.

FOCUS ON THE ADVISORY AND MONITORING UNIT OF ICOMOS

The ICOMOS Advisory and Monitoring Unit is composed of two members of staff and is supported by a network of dedicated ICOMOS advisors and experts. The unit is responsible for monitoring the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (to date, 897 cultural properties and 39 mixed) in the framework of the World Heritage Convention.

This is achieved through Reactive Monitoring missions to World Heritage properties, the preparation of state of conservation reports (SOCs) presented to the World Heritage Committee, and the assessment of specific projects or issues, submitted by States Parties to the World Heritage Centre in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, through Technical Reviews. For the extended 44th session of the Committee, ICOMOS carried out one Reactive Monitoring mission and was involved in the preparation of 171 SOCs. ICOMOS submitted 135 Technical Reviews in 2021.

The Advisory and Monitoring Unit also provides advice to States Parties on specific projects or issues that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties. This is achieved through Advisory missions, which have a more specific scope than Reactive Monitoring missions, and through the provision of longer-term Advisory assistance via online meetings and regular exchanges of documents and comments. In 2021, ICOMOS carried out one Advisory mission and was involved in over 180 technical meetings with States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and IUCN. This work included, for instance, the provision of advice to the States Parties of Syria and Libya on the drafting of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger for the Ancient City of Damascus and the Old Town of Ghadames.

In addition, the Unit is responsible for reviewing requests of International Assistance through the World Heritage Fund and retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and regularly assists the World Heritage Centre in the Periodic Reporting process.
Workshops on a Tentative List for Equatorial Guinea

ICOMOS participated in three online workshops with IUCN and UNESCO in September 2021, in the framework of the international assistance “Creation of the Tentative List for the Republic of Equatorial Guinea”. This international assistance focused on reinforcing the understanding of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value and preparing the Tentative List.

The three online workshops brought together representatives from ICOMOS, Equatorial Guinea, the World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) who provided technical information to discuss the potential Outstanding Universal Value of six sites in Equatorial Guinea, including the neogothic Church of Batete, the Monte Alene National Park and the Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve.

The workshops addressed the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the elaboration of the Tentative List, as well as their application in the Equatorial Guinean context. They also provided a roadmap summarizing the steps necessary to prepare experts to develop strong future nominations. During the last workshop, experts from ICOMOS and IUCN proposed recommendations to build capacity and finalize the process of creating the Tentative List for Equatorial Guinea.

This workshop is part of the ongoing reform of the nomination process, which led ICOMOS to develop the “Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists” in order to respond to the growing need of States Parties for substantive advice in the elaboration and revision of their Tentative Lists.

The property is an emblematic example of the application of a new building technique, reinforced ceramic, which Dieste developed by drawing on a thousand-year long tradition of brick construction, while applying modern scientific and technological knowledge, and thus opening up new structural and expressive possibilities for architecture.

Designed from the outset to be built with local materials by local people, the Church of Atlántida, located in a lower middle-class semi-rural community, has its roots in long-established building traditions, while embodying the scientific and technical achievements of modernity. The Church of Atlántida particularly illustrates the search for optimization of resources and sustainability. The property is imbued with the humanistic principles that constantly guide the spatial and material concepts of engineer Dieste.

The work of engineer Eladio Dieste: Church of Atlántida, a 2021 World Heritage inscription

THE WORK OF ENGINEER ELADIO DIESTE: CHURCH OF ATLÁNTIDA (URUGUAY)

One of the new properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2021 is the work of engineer Eladio Dieste: Church of Atlántida (Uruguay).

The Church of Atlántida of engineer Eladio Dieste with its belfry and underground baptistery is located in Estación Atlántida, a low-density locality, 45 km away from Montevideo. Inspired by Italian paleo-Christian and medieval religious architecture, the Church with its belfry and baptistery, all built in exposed bricks, exhibit forms dictated by the effort to achieve greater robustness with limited use of material.

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Transnational Serial Nominations in Europe

As a result of the ICOMOS Europe Initiative of reflecting on Transnational Serial Nominations in Europe, ICOMOS published the report Sharing experience on Transnational Serial Nominations in Europe as the outcome of this fruitful reflection, thanks to the financial support of the Walloon Region (Belgium).

World Heritage transnational serial nominations embody the essence of the spirit of the World Heritage Convention: the principle of the universal value of heritage for humankind and the role of transnational cooperation in the recognition and conservation of the world’s heritage.

However, the increasing number and size of serial nominations along with issues in their evaluation and management convinced the World Heritage Committee that additional reflection was necessary on serial properties. Between 2008 and 2010, meetings were held in Vilm (Germany) and then in Ittingen (Switzerland), which resulted in a modification to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2011).

After 10 years of implementing these changes, the ICOMOS Europe Group, comprising the ICOMOS National Committees of the European region, considered that exchanging information within its network of professionals about preparing and managing cultural transnational serial nominations could prove worthwhile. Collecting inputs on positive outcomes, shortcomings, challenges and potential for an improved understanding of our heritage through the shared journeys undertaken by States Parties in dealing with transnational serial nominations seemed useful to improve the processes of identification, care for and transmission to future generations of these complex properties.

The need for guidance on how to set up robust transnational serial nominations for World Heritage and long-lasting cooperation among partners has been underlined by a number of ICOMOS National Committees. The lessons learned and suggestions presented in this report can be seen as a first contribution to further stimulate the reflection on the opportunities and challenges inherent to this type of nomination and on the preconditions for the realisation of a sustainable project, especially after its inscription.

Focal points and site managers from the Arab region participated in the workshop to gain a better understanding of cultural and natural heritage conservation in the framework of the SDGs towards the sustainable development and management of World Heritage sites.

Participants received extensive training on the HUL Recommendation and how it may be integrated into the World Heritage Convention and on identifying compatible SDG strategies for the enhanced protection of World Heritage sites in the region.

ICOMOS expresses its gratitude to the experts of the ICOMOS SDGWG that served as resource persons for the workshop (Peter Phillips, Gabriel Caballero, Luisa De Marco, Naima Benkari, Susan Fayad, Ona Vileikis, Jordi Tresserras, Monica Rhodes and Lina Kutiefan) and the representatives of ARC-WH and BACA for their fruitful collaboration.

The workshop was organised by ARC-WH and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) in collaboration with the ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGDG), with the support of the ICOMOS International Secretariat.

It aimed to enhance the understanding and application of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy, the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, and the 2030 Agenda for the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab region.

The ambition of this workshop was to strengthen a regional approach for the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the protection and management of World Heritage sites, so as to reinforce the preservation efforts against development pressures and other threats originating in disintegrated and unsustainable planning and decision making.

As part of the activities developed in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018 between ICOMOS International and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), a ‘First Workshop on Integrating the Policy Document on World Heritage and Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda into the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States’ was held online on 31 May, 1-2, 7-8 & 10 June 2021.
Historic Center of Colón, Panama

ICOMOS issued a Heritage Alert in September 2021 to amplify awareness of the threats to the historic center of Colón, a historic urban landscape, and to draw urgent attention to its poor state of conservation and condition of neglect. The historic center of Colón was threatened by demolitions and an amendment to the law that protected it, which was passed on 21 September 2021 without the modifications suggested by heritage conservation organisations (Bill 654, that modifies Law 47, of 8 August 2002, which designates the Old Quarter of the city of Colón as a national monumental complex). By removing protection from some historic buildings and complexes, this new law led to the demolition of the architectural complex of “Las Cuatro Potencias” which was part of the historic center. Nevertheless, the Heritage Alert attracted media attention and was featured in various newspapers and radio programmes. It also led to meetings between the Ministry of Housing, ICOMOS Panamá and the Heritage Section of the Panamanian Society of Architects and Engineers (SPIA) which resulted in the creation of a working group aimed to conserve the Wilcox House, a building which represents the housing typology in Colón and has been threatened to be demolished since 2017. Read the full update on the Heritage Alert at ICOMOS Panamá.

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) Old Campus

Following the issue of a tender notice (which was later withdrawn), ICOMOS had issued a Heritage Alert in January 2021 to draw attention to the imminent risk of loss of the internationally significant buildings that make up the cultural landscape designed by architect Louis I. Kahn with his team of Indian architects, landscape architects and engineers. In its letter, ICOMOS underlined that it was imperative that the IIMA develop its approach to the future of the dormitories by undertaking a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the entire Kahn Old Campus – a plan that identifies and preserves the integrity of the individually significant structures and features as well as the whole of the cultural landscape defined as the Kahn planned campus.

BLUE SHIELD ANNIVERSARY

In 2021, the Blue Shield celebrated its 25th anniversary. It was founded on 8 June 1996 by four international organisations: the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), that recognised the need for greater cooperation to protect cultural heritage at risk from conflict and disaster.

What role did ICOMOS play in its founding?

ICOMOS had a crucial role in the creation of the Blue Shield. Herb Stovel and Leo Van Nispen, the former Secretary General and Director of ICOMOS first convened a meeting in Paris between ICOMOS, ICOM, UNESCO, ICCROM and other NGOs following a mission where experts were sent by UNESCO to monitor the state of cultural heritage in Dubrovnik, which was at the time a war zone. In 1992, ICOMOS with UNESCO initiated the Inter-Agency Taskforce (IATF) after the Dubrovnik bombing and UNESCO missions, with the participation of ICOM, ICCROM and other organisations. Then, in 1995 in Sri Lanka, leaders from the built heritage, archaeology, museum and archives sectors attended a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on cultural heritage hosted by then President of ICOMOS, Dr Roland Silva. The discussions in this meeting resulted in ICOMOS inviting ICA’s Secretary General Charles Keskermeti to the 1996 meeting in Paris that sealed the creation of the Blue Shield.
Finally, we thank the ICOMOS Committees and individual members as well as all the supporters who contributed to the crowdfunding campaign “Support Culture-Nature initiatives by donating to ICOMOS” by making a donation: Kerime, Mitchell, Elena, Olga, Marie-Laure, Ivan, Teresa, Pamela, Max, Kristal, Nils, Dana, Steve, Rebecca, Ole, ICOMOS Ireland, Mario, Granne, Toshikazu, Toni, Edith, Adriana, Yasuyoshi, Hossam, Sofia, Nobuko, Michelle, The Ocean Foundation, ICOMOS Austria, New England Biolabs Foundation, Aylin, Florence, Cynthia,健之 大窪, Meredith, Peter, Kirsti, Jessica, Nora, Monica, Natalia, Ethymios, Silvia, Till, Fergus, Fernanda, James, ICOMOS Spain, Mohammad, Vera, Ludmila, ICOMOS Sweden, Christensen Fund, Martin, Nupur, Liz, Yoioochiti, Britta, David, Margaret, Alain, ICOMOS Mali, Cees, Hae, Milagros, Jurate, ICOMOS CIAV, ICOMOS IPHC and our anonymous donors!

ICOMOS thanks the following main partners and institutions for the financial support they provided in 2021 as well as all the individuals who provided support.

ALIPH (International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas)
Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), Bahrain
Christensen Fund, USA
Cultural Heritage Administration, Republic of Korea
Cyprus University of Technology
Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
European Commission
Federal Chancellery of Austria
Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland
German Environmental Foundation (DBU)
Getty Foundation, USA
Google Arts & Culture
Heritage Department of Wallonia, Belgium
ICOROM
ICOMOS Germany
IUCN
National Cultural Heritage Administration of China (NCHA)
Ministry of Culture, France
Organization of World Heritage Cities, Canada
State Administration of Cultural Heritage, China
UK Arts and Humanities Research Council and Sport
UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
UNESCO
World Monuments Fund (WMF)

Key Financials

As of 31 December 2021 (in Euro)

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<th>Key Financials</th>
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<td>• Advisory missions</td>
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<td>• Other services</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER REVENUES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Subsidies</td>
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<td>• Release of provisions</td>
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<td>• Personnel costs</td>
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<td>• Other operating costs</td>
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<td>• Provisions *</td>
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<td><strong>EXTRAORDINARY COSTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES (B)</strong></td>
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<td>5 758</td>
<td>-28 396</td>
</tr>
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* Provisions include provisions for costs, for social contributions, for contingencies as well as amortisation and depreciation
ICOMOS
A unique non-governmental, democratic, not-for-profit international organisation committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world’s cultural heritage.

ICOMOS was created in 1965 in Warsaw following the adoption the year before of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, also known as the Venice Charter.

ICOMOS is dedicated to the development of common doctrines, the evolution and circulation of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance.

ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world.

As an 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.