Cultural & Natural Heritage: Vital for Sustainable Development

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect & safeguard the world’s cultural & natural heritage

Heritage is not just monuments: it is identity, social memory and ‘sense of place’

Heritage has a crucial, structural role within the urban development process:
Creating social cohesion / stimulating growth / reducing poverty / fostering socio-economic regeneration / increasing the density of urban cores and containing the anarchic spread of new buildings / enhancing tourism benefits by preserving cultural resources as a fundamental asset of long-term tourism development / strengthening social fabric and enhancing social well-being / enhancing the appeal and creativity of regions

We must take up the challenge of conserving this fragile, non-renewable resource for the benefit of current and future generations
Culture and cultural heritage should be declared the “4th pillar” for sustainable development


Localizing the SDGs
- ICOMOS is committed to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, in particular SDG 11.4, working for the positive integration of culture and cultural heritage into urban development plans and policies
- We are celebrating the 2017 UN International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, #IY2017
- We are focusing our actions on:
  - Advocacy (mobilizing its own membership and building partnerships)
  - Localizing the Means of Implementation (guidance for stakeholders, showcasing good practice)
  - Monitoring (developing methodologies for UN-designated indicator on ‘expenditure’* and other indicators**).

* Total expenditure (type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed, World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector, sponsorship and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage
** Supplementary indicators in development (e.g. no. of registered heritage sites, capacity building activities, participation and inclusion of NGO’s, employment inc. type of job, share of heritage in GDP, positive effect of heritage on ecological balance, social equity and economic vitality in cities and regions)

More info:
http://www.icomos.org > What We Do > Focus > Sustainable Development
Twitter: @icomosSDG2030, #SDG11.4, #CulturalHeritage
Panel: “Localizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals for the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage"
July 3, 18:40-19:30

ICOMOS is pleased to host, as an Advisory Bodies Side Event in the 41st Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee being held in Krakow, Poland, a panel discussing activities of selected international agencies working for cultural and natural heritage related to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on SDG 11.4 and how this work relates to World Heritage, particularly in the context of cities and local governments.

Speakers (In alphabetical order of organization and speaker last name):
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS): Christer Gustafsson, Secretary General, Economics Committee // Danuta Klosek-Kozlowska, ICOMOS Poland / Vice-President, Historic Towns Committee // Ege Yildirim, Focal Point for the SDGs
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Tim Badman, World Heritage Programme Director
- Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC): Jahyun Jang, Asia and the Pacific Regional Coordinator
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Nada Al Hassan, Chief of Arab States Unit/ Focal Point for SDGs

About ICOMOS
ICOMOS is the only global non-government organisation of its kind, dedicated to the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places.
- Worldwide network of heritage professionals (architects, town planners, historians, archaeologists, art historians, geographers, anthropologists, engineers, economists, lawyers, etc.)
- Advisory Body for the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, involvement in several other UNESCO Conventions
- 10,500 Individual Members, 350 Institutional Members, in 152 countries
- 110 National Committees
- 28 International Scientific Committees:
- Interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and expertise, transmission and youth involvement, advocacy and leadership
- Theory, methodology and scientific techniques of conservation of urban, architectural, archaeological, intangible heritage, cultural and creative industries
- Principles enshrined in the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter) and 13 subsequent doctrinal texts