

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT**

**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA GESTION DU PATRIMOINE ARCHÉOLOGIQUE**

Achievements and future prospects

The archaeological heritage is included from the very outset as an express field of interest for ICOMOS, both in the statutes of the organisation and in the Venice Charter. Clearly, though, when ICOMOS was founded, the main focus of interest was on the more prominent archaeological monuments, their preservation and examination. And in its central activities during the past 25 years or so, ICOMOS has above all concentrated on conservation of the architectural heritage and the integration of that conservation with urban planning.

Meanwhile, in large areas of the world, there has been a rapid development of archaeology as a science and of an archaeological heritage management. Interest has expanded from individual monuments to the composite structures of finds from different periods and their relation to the natural conditions governing human life and settlement. Archaeology has also been expanded chronologically, with the result that archaeologists and architectural historians today are tending more and more to work side by side. To this must be added a growth of interest in and demands for the preservation, not only of archaeological monuments but also of very modest remains and systems of such remains which are important for understanding a country's or an area's settlement development from earliest times. This all adds up to new demands for a holistic view of the cultural heritage and, accordingly, for an integration of archaeological and architectural heritage management.

The desire for greater involvement on ICOMOS' part in the archaeological field resulted in 1985 in the decision to set up an International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM). Although this committee has only been active for a short time, certain conclusions can be drawn which should have an important bearing on the future thrust of ICOMOS' activities.

One of the first lessons we have learned within ICAHM is the great variety of ICOMOS emphases at national levels. In most European countries, but in several countries outside Europe as well, efforts are

being devoted entirely to the conservation of buildings. As a result, archaeologists are very poorly represented, if at all, on the National Committee. This in turn means that such ICOMOS committees, generally speaking, are of no importance in connection with present-day efforts to develop an integrated cultural heritage management or cultural resource management. Different conditions prevail outside Europe, e.g. in Australia and North America. Archaeologists there are natural members of the National Committees, and the latter have a wider programme of activities.

Another conclusion which can be drawn from ICAHM's work is that a very great deal of international support will be needed in order for an archaeological heritage management to be developed all over the world. This is generally true of the developing countries, but it also applies to many other countries in Africa, Asia and Central and Southern America. This means general support for activities as such, and also financial support for the development of activities in the individual country and with a view to participating in an international experience interchange.

ICAHM's work on a Charter of ICOMOS' own for archaeological heritage management has, consequently, been very well received. The importance of such a document, capable of serving as a guideline for legislation and as a programme of activities at national level, has been emphasised in several quarters. A Charter also provides strong support in the task of convincing politicians of the justifiability of resources for preserving and caring for the archaeological heritage and convincing them of our common responsibility for the world's cultural heritage.

Discussions, primarily of the symposia in which ICAHM has taken part, have also led to requests for continuing work to develop and discuss guidelines and standards on a more detailed level for various activities of archaeological heritage management. This can mean, for example, general inventories in connection with impending major developments or underwater archaeology. Assistance is also desired in organising educational activities. Many developing countries have only a handful of trained archaeologists and are therefore in great need of training of some kind for assistants who will then be able to take part, for example, in inventory work previous to major development schemes.

In addition to guidance in various forms, and direct expert assistance, it is also a call, not least from the developing countries, for financial support. Of course, support for the preservation activities of

individual countries lies beyond ICOMOS' resources. This is more a question for UNESCO. At the same time, however, it should be possible to try and develop bilateral projects within the scope of the development co-operation programmes operated by various countries. There are also instances of development co-operation projects of this kind, both in the field of architectural heritage management and as regards training, research and preservation work in the archaeological sphere.

One serious problem affecting international co-operation generally and, accordingly, the work of ICOMOS, is the difficulty experienced by individual members and National Committees in financing travel and participation in International Committee work, seminars and symposia. It is particularly serious that those who have the greatest need to study the experience of others and to derive stimulus for their own work, most of them have the poorest prospects of gaining financial support for joining in international co-operation. In certain cases it has been possible to offer special scholarships in connection with symposia and suchlike. Clearly, though, some form of general supportive system is needed so as to establish more or less equivalent terms of participation in the work of ICOMOS at international level.

It has been very clear in the course of ICAHM's work that high travel costs are a direct impediment to active participation where many people are concerned. But there are also other reasons for trying to break down activities to regional level, e.g. within the International Committees. There are great differences between various parts of the world, as regards both the character of the cultural heritage and the conditions to which cultural heritage management is subject. This makes it essential to try and interest the National Committees in co-operating within suitably defined regions and thereby creating regional points d'appui for the work of the International Committees.

The experience briefly presented here prompts a desire for new inputs both by the National Committees and by ICOMOS at central level. From ICAHM's vantage point, I would particularly emphasise the following:

It is important to give the International Committees support for activities concerned, in keeping with a general objective stated in the Venice Charter and in ICOMOS Charters for special fields, with developing more concrete guidelines which can form the basis of work at national level. In the archaeological field, moreover, there is a great need to develop contacts the world over between experts

involved in archaeological heritage management. A great deal remains to be done here, following the initiatives which ICAHM has so far been able to take.

ICOMOS should make active efforts to widen the interests of the National Committees with a view to reaching experts everywhere in the field of cultural resource management. This is necessary, among other things, so as to make it meaningful for archaeologists to work within ICOMOS but also to achieve genuine integration in the task of preservation and care.

ICOMOS should encourage the National Committees to step up their regional co-operation so as to facilitate the interchange of experience and to create more effective fora between the National and International Committees.

ICOMOS, acting in collaboration with UNESCO, ICCROM and other international agencies, should encourage a development of educational activities designed primarily to support the developing countries. Activities of this kind should benefit from being organised at regional level.

ICOMOS, supported by National Committees, should encourage an expansion of bi-lateral inter-country assistance in cultural heritage management. This could be achieved by means of information on the development co-operation programmes existing between different countries and also through experts in various fields of activity, who are prepared to take part in development co-operation work.

In order for ICOMOS to be capable of preserving and developing its role as a worldwide organisation, it is essential that efforts be made to build up special resources which can be drawn on to subsidise journeys to important committee meetings. Several National Committees today are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to finance participation in ICOMOS' central meetings and in the meetings of the International Committees. This applies, not least, to the developing countries. It should be possible, through a special appeal, to create a fund for this very purpose. ICOMOS should take the initiative in launching an appeal of this kind.

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Summary

The development of archaeology and of an archaeological heritage management has created new demands for a holistic view of the cultural heritage and for an integration of archaeological and architectural heritage management. Therefore it is important that ICOMOS and the ICOMOS National Committees to a greater extent than till now try to engage archaeologists and develop a programme for an integrated cultural resource management.

In the paper is also emphasized the importance of ICOMOS Charters as guidelines for activities on a national level as well as the need of a continuous discussion about more detailed guidelines and standards and about training programmes. Finally is suggested that ICOMOS should encourage regional co-operation between national and international committees and increase its support to developing countries by offering bi-lateral inter-country assistance and by creating a fund which could facilitate the participation in the meeting and symposium activities of ICOMOS.

Résumé

Le développement de l'archéologie et de la gestion du patrimoine archéologique a créé un nouveau besoin d'envisager le patrimoine archéologique d'une manière globale et le besoin d'intégrer la gestion du patrimoine archéologique et celle du patrimoine architectural. C'est pourquoi il est important que l'ICOMOS et les comités nationaux de l'ICOMOS tachent d'engager les archéologues plus qu'aujourd'hui et qu'ils développent un programme de gestion intégrante des ressources culturelles.

La communication accentue aussi l'importance des chartes de l'ICOMOS comme grandes lignes pour les activités au niveau national ainsi que le besoin d'un débat continu sur les règles plus détaillées et sur des programmes d'entraînement. Enfin, il y a dans la communication une proposition à l'ICOMOS d'encourager la coopération régionale entre les comités nationaux et les comités internationaux ainsi qu'une proposition de renforcer le support aux pays en voie de développement, en leur offrant une assistance bilatérale et internationale et en créant un fond qui pourrait faciliter la participation aux assemblées et aux colloques de l'ICOMOS.