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World Heritage Cities Programme
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Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania). Author: Geoff Mason © OUR PLACE The World Heritage

A word from the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

UNESCO celebrates World Cities Day 2021, whose global theme of 'Adapting cities for climate resilience' aligns with our aim to address a wide range of linked issues from management of ecosystems to poverty eradication. Climate resilience and action has become an increasingly important part of UNESCO's programmes and activities, recognised by Member States as an essential crosscutting theme for advancing sustainable development worldwide.

Global challenges and opportunities, notably in the urban environment, need to be addressed in a holistic way, with integrated climate resilience policies and action plans to greatly reduce climate related risks for their populations. Urban culture and heritage have a key role to play in this dynamic. This issue of Urban Notebooks addresses some of these through the lens of the World Heritage Cities Programme, our partners and other initiatives worldwide. The World Heritage Cities Programme has participated in the recently-launched UNESCO Cities Platform, which proposes pragmatic Urban Solutions to convey to Member States, cities, partners, and the general public. They aim to contribute to our collective actions and measures for adapting cities for climate resilience, and they recognise cultural resilience and the safeguarding of our collective heritage as part of this process. Urban heritage can both promote resilience and be protected through cooperation, collaboration mechanisms and a shared understanding of the challenges facing us all.



Ernesto Ottone Ramirez
Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO

Editorial: Climate change and World Heritage cities

The COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference, hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy, will take place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow, UK. As the impacts of climate change become more apparent and more disastrous, cities – which produce 70% of the world’s greenhouse gases, and where half of the world’s population resides – must urgently be part of the solutions for climate action both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. More than 90% of the world’s urban areas are coastal (UN-Habitat) and are more likely to be impacted by climate change including through sea level rise, storm water surges, flooding and other climate-related disasters. 318 the 1154 World Heritage properties currently inscribed are World Heritage cities. For historical reasons, many of these were founded along coasts or rivers; indeed, more than one third of the historic cities that are part of the World Heritage Cities Programme are coastal. This has enormous significance for World Heritage cities but also more generally for the protection of urban heritage and sustainable development.

Climate change is now among the major threats to cultural and natural heritage sites, those inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, as well as those that are not. Reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites indicate that all types of World Heritage sites are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, in all regions of the world. The impacts, whether from slow changes to extreme weather events, may result in loss and damage to urban heritage. This was the case for instance with recent floods in Germany and Cartagena, Colombia. Venice is among the numerous historic centres permanently threatened by rising sea levels.

At the same time, historic cities and settlements are also repositories of solutions with important options for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and enhance resilience to natural hazards. The 2015 World Heritage Policy on Sustainable Development emphasises what governments can do to recognise and promote the inherent potential of cultural and natural heritage for reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change, through ecosystem services, strengthened social cohesion and traditional knowledge and practices. Historic cities and settlements – in their ordinary built fabric as much as their grand monuments – can and must be part of the solution and a resource for Climate Action. The UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) is another important framework for integrating heritage conservation and sustainable development.

UNESCO and the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee have been at the forefront of addressing the threat of climate change to World Heritage since 2005, leading to the development of a Report on Predicting and Managing the Effects of Climate Change on World Heritage and the adoption of the World Heritage Strategy on Climate Change in 2006. This was followed by a compilation of Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage, and a Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties in 2008. Currently, the World Heritage Centre is updating its Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties that was endorsed by the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee and will be examined by the General Assembly of States Parties to the 1972 Convention in November this year.

Other recent UNESCO initiatives include the inclusion of culture in the G20 debates; the flexible mechanism established by Greece and endorsed by the UNESCO Executive Board; the UNESCO UNFCCC follow-up committee requested by the UN Secretary General in the margins of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit; and the Urban Heritage Climate Observatory in cooperation with the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), and the Greek GEO Office to address the impacts of climate change on World Heritage cities. Finally, the UNESCO-IPCC-ICOMOS Initiative on culture, heritage and climate change, including the co-sponsored international meeting on culture, heritage and climate change, to take place early December 2021, includes the development of three white papers and will be a valuable opportunity to assess the state of knowledge and practice linking culture and climate change. Look out also for the World Heritage Review to be published soon on climate change.

In addition to global policies and national commitments, historic cities provide important opportunities for local action. On the one hand, historic cities serve as climate change observatories for gathering and sharing information on applied and tested monitoring, mitigation and adaptation measures to minimise the impact of climate change on the heritage. On the other hand, the fabric of the historic town – from the embodied energy in its built form to its dense planning and design, from its use of local building materials to traditional building responses to local climate – offers valuable knowledge, experience for mitigation and adaptation solutions.

In case you have not yet done so, join the Call to Action on the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to develop solutions together!

Jyoti Hosagrahar
Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre

From the UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Plenary session. © UNESCO/Cyril Bailleur

UNESCO Executive Board held from 6-20 October, General Assembly to be organised from 9-24 November

The 212th session of the UNESCO Executive Board was held in person from 6-20 October. The General Monitoring session the CR Committee examined an update on actions taken on the continuing implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL).

The upcoming General Conference will decide on the way forward for the UNESCO intergovernmental meeting on cultural policies, MONDIACULT 2022, to be convened as a UNESCO category II meeting in Mexico in September 2022.

The updates to UNESCO's Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties, endorsed by the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, will be examined by the General Assembly of States Parties to the 1972 Convention in November.

Learn more about the [Executive Board](#) and the [General Assembly](#)



Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (China) © Shutterstock

Kunming declaration paves way for global biodiversity negotiations

Part 1 of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) gathered countries to negotiate towards the adoption of a new and transformative global deal to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 (post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) due in 2022. The hybrid meeting held from 11 to 15 October 2021 was hosted by China from the city of Kunming under the theme "Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth".

[Learn more](#)



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The impacts of climate change on World Heritage Properties

The fast-approaching COP26 and World Cities Day provide an occasion to revisit this year's updates to the Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties, which are affected by the impacts of climate change at present and in the future. Their continued preservation requires understanding these impacts to their Outstanding Universal Value and responding to them effectively. Learn more:

[Learn more](#)



"Paris promised. Glasgow must deliver" warns COP26 President Alok Sharma in UNESCO speech

The success or failure of our climate future is in world leaders' hands, stressed Alok Sharma, President of the 26th United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in a speech given at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 12 October. Recalling that temperatures have already risen at least 1.1 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and that the world has not done enough since the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015, he urged leaders to take ambitious action at COP26 in a few weeks to ensure that the 1.5-degree limit does not slip out of reach.

[Learn more](#)



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World's first UNESCO trail launched in Scotland

The world's first ever UNESCO trail, bringing together some of Scotland's most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites, has been launched on Friday, 15 October, 2021. Scotland's UNESCO Trail connects the country's 13 place-based UNESCO designations, including World Heritage Sites, Biospheres, Global Geoparks and Creative Cities to form a dedicated digital trail. It aims to take visitors on a cultural journey across the country experiencing everything from history to science, music, design and literature to nature and cityscapes.

[Learn more](#)



© UNESCO

Call for volunteer experts including young people

UNESCO is launching a call to constitute a roster of volunteer experts, prioritizing local and regional experts in the field of biodiversity and land restoration, environmental management and environmental law, as well as knowledge holders.

[Learn more](#)



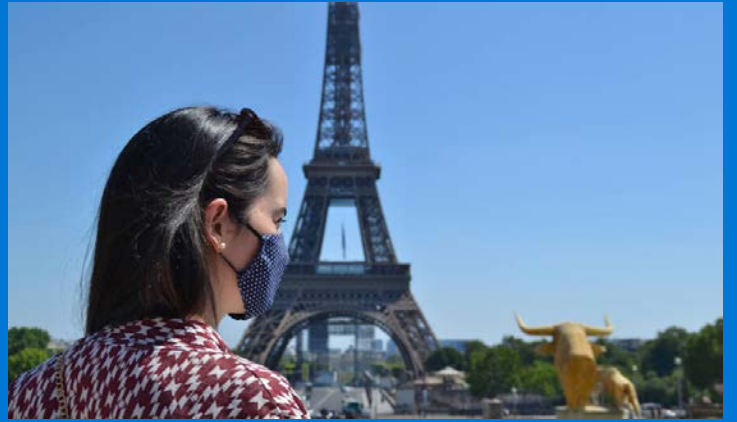
Screenshot of the event.

International Advisory Committee on World Heritage created in Uzbekistan

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) on World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan was officially opened in Khiva and online on 15 September 2021, within the framework of the International Cultural Forum "Central Asia at the Crossroads of World Civilizations".

Uzbekistan was represented at the ceremony by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and Sports Mr. Aziz Abdulkhakov, and UNESCO by the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO (WHC) Dr. Jyoti Hosagrahar.

[Learn more](#)



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Tourism survey to analyse impacts of COVID-19

According to World Heritage in the face of COVID-19 (2021), World Heritage sites experienced a 66% drop in visitation and a 52% decline in ticket sales in 2020 as a result of COVID-19. In collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to the 1972 World Heritage Committee in the framework of the UNESCO Task Force on Culture, Tourism and COVID-19, UNESCO is now working on gathering more in-depth data to analyse the mid and long-term impacts of the crisis on sustainable tourism management at World Heritage properties.

[Learn more](#)



Ambassador of Guinea-Bissau and Minister-Counsellor for Culture with UNESCO-WHC team (06/10/2021) © Delegation of Guinea-Bissau

UNESCO World Heritage Centre strengthens support with Guinea-Bissau to implement 1972 Convention

UNESCO World Heritage Centre met on Wednesday 6 October 2021 with His Excellency Mr Carlos-Edmilson Marques Vieira, following his nomination in July 2021 as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Guinea-Bissau to France, UNESCO and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). This meeting provided an opportunity to update the Ambassador on current UNESCO's initiatives regarding the 1972 Convention in Guinea-Bissau, as part of Priority Africa.

[Learn more](#)



© UNESCO

UNESCO Commends Cambodia's Commitment to Strengthen Urban Heritage Preservation

Cambodia has a long-standing record for its efforts on cultural conservation, and this Circular will further strengthen the balance between urban growth and sustainable development, and reaffirm Cambodia's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 11, highlighting the importance cultural and natural heritage for making safe and resilient cities. The Circular will also promote the universal respect for cultural rights for all through the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage.

[Learn more](#)



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Latin America and the Caribbean region starts the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise

The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting (2018 – 2024), a global World Heritage conservation monitoring exercise carried out in six-year cycles, carries on this September with reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, giving key stakeholders the opportunity to reflect on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Latin America and the Caribbean region on the conservation, protection and management of World Heritage properties at the regional, national and the local level.

[Learn more](#)



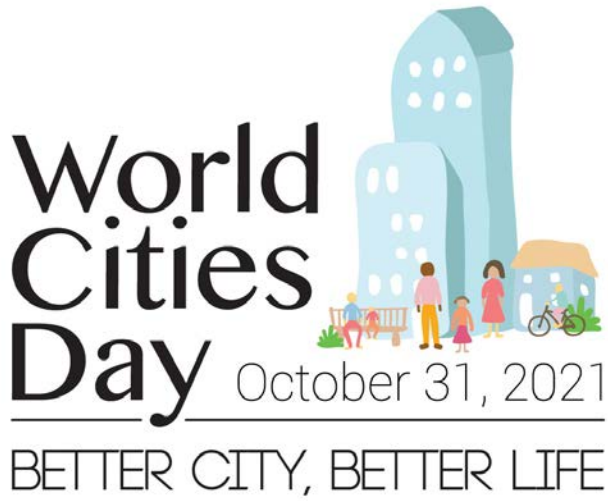
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Exploring the potential of Modern Heritage of Africa

The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) is coordinating the Modern Heritage of Africa (MoHoA) Programme in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to define, identify, protect, and promote modern heritage of Africa.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming events



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31 October: World Cities Day 2021 on Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

Worldwide celebrations of World Cities Day will take place this year, as always, on 31 October. The main Global Observance will be co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and will take place in Luxor.

The theme for World Cities Day 2021 is Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience, reflecting the fact that climate change will have a huge impact on city residents with hundreds of millions of people experiencing floods, rising sea levels, storms and increasing periods of extreme temperatures.

The Global Observance held in a hybrid format will bring together high-level representatives from national and local governments, UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, civil society organisations and academic institutions to exchange innovative ideas, best practices and solutions to build urban climate resilience. The Global Observance celebration registration is open [here](#). It can also be followed on YouTube [here](#).



2011 UNESCO
Recommendation
on the
Historic
Urban
Landscape

World Heritage City Dialogues 2021 – 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

28/10-2/11 2021: World Heritage City Dialogues 2021 – 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)

In framework of the World Heritage Cities Programme and World Heritage Cities Day, a new round of World Heritage City Dialogues is being organised by the World Heritage Cities Programme.

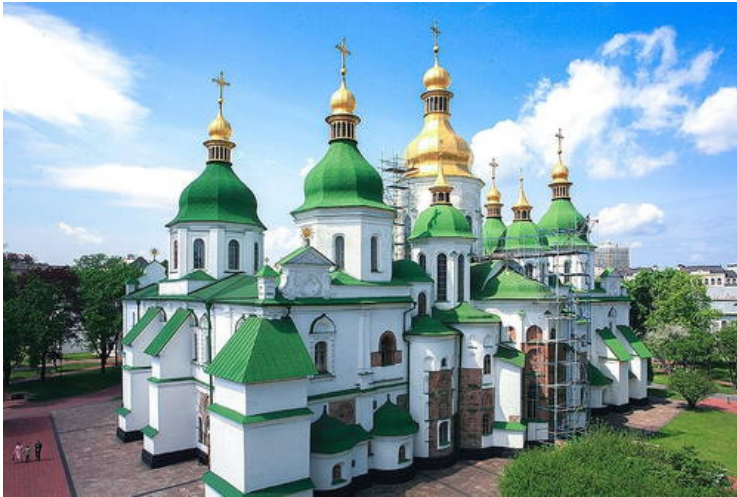
This time, the dialogues will build on the takeaways from the 10th Anniversary Celebrations (June 2021) and the launch for the UNESCO Call for Action on the HUL Recommendation. The Celebrations served as a platform for international experts, managers and practitioners to share lessons learned from COVID-19 as well as strategies to address the impacts of climate change on the future of urban management.

For this set of dialogues, a special focus will be put on "Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience", the theme of the World Cities Day for 2021 (31 October), aiming to provide a space for site managers and focal points to present and elaborate ideas and strategies for Climate Action and implementing the HUL approach when facing these issues. We also want to hear about the impacts of climate change and extreme-weather events on World Heritage cities and discuss the challenges and possibilities of using the HUL Approach as a tool for sustainable development. Discussions will put a specific focus on urban processes and tools, and how the HUL Recommendation can be used in each region.



Dutch Water Defence Lines (extension of the Defence Line of Amsterdam). Fortified town of Gorinchem © New Dutch Waterline

30 November: World Heritage City Lab – Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage, Kyiv, Ukraine



© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

December 2021: UNESCO World Heritage Cities Programme and the Ministry of Culture of the Netherlands design competition and event on applying the HUL Recommendation to heritage conservation, climate action, and water management in World Heritage Cities

The second stage of this conference will be a hybrid event, which will take place in Kyiv and online on 30th November 2021 and expand on the results of the first stage, hoping to make a particular contribution to the celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the HUL Recommendation by the General Conference of UNESCO and as a follow up to the UNESCO Call to Action on the HUL Recommendation.

This event will resume the discussion on the prevailing challenges and resources for urban heritage to foster sustainable development and to enhance the capacities of the World Heritage properties site managers in contributing to prosperous, resilient and peaceful cities. This time, experts and academics will exchange with the site managers and practitioners who already participated in the first stage. This will help build on previous ideas and come up with strong well contrasted takeaways.

The World Heritage Cities Programme is organising a design contest in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Netherlands on applying the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage Cities. The competition is open to university students.

Given that there are many strategies and actions for sustainable development for historic cities depending on each city's natural environment, local knowledge, geographic situation, built heritage and socioeconomic context, this competition shows the importance of interdisciplinarity in the management of historic cities, rather than a more traditional siloed approach. The competition focuses on local solutions in the context of World Heritage cities looking for practical solutions on-site.

The call for design concepts will be launched in early November 2021, and an event will follow in mid-December 2021. More information to follow

City focus

City Focus is a corner for the World Heritage Cities and other historic cities to share their actions and initiatives. [Share yours!](#)



Improving water availability and sustainability by reviving traditional water systems in Bengaluru (India)

The Million wells for Bengaluru campaign is an initiative to build one million shallow wells using traditional well-digging techniques. The initiative for the revival of traditional water systems integrates traditional practices and historical elements of the city with ecological sustainability and water management. (The city of Bengaluru is not part of the World Heritage Cities Programme.)

[See the case study on the World Heritage Canopy](#)



Taking nature into account in the World Heritage Management plan of Strasbourg (France)

The World Heritage site of "Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt" is carrying out an update of the World Heritage management plan and urban planning tools following the extension of the property in 2017. The new plan seeks to integrate cultural and natural heritage values and their attributes in order to improve the city's liveability and micro-climate.

Learn more on the World Heritage Canopy

Frantisek Zvardon © Mission Patrimoine
– GCT Ville et Eurométropole de Strasbourg.

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of the historic city of L'Aquila (Italy)

The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of L'Aquila is a long-term plan to promote sustainable urban transportation, reduce emissions and pollution, and enhance liveability in the historic city. The project involves a variety of actions including enhancing cycling networks and infrastructure, improving existing public transport and promoting electric transportation options such as electric buses, cars and e-bicycles. (The city of L'Aquila is not part of the World Heritage Cities Programme.)

Learn more on the World Heritage Canopy



Reflections from an Expert

Recycling cultural values in a circular economy

Today it is acknowledged that conservation of cultural heritage may greatly contribute to global challenges such as climate change. Sustainability, inclusiveness, and the role of culture for the urban future have been highlighted in many documents and reports by UNESCO. In fact, the global post-pandemic recovery is expected to be based on innovative models that enhance cultural and creative industries, green development, and the circular economy.

Hence, the adaptive reuse of cultural heritage may be considered key in the implementation of multidimensional and human-centred approaches.



Dr. Christian Ost
President, Raymond Lemaire International
Conservation Centre, KU Leuven
Honorary Rector, ICHEC Brussels
Management School

Continued...

For the conservation community, this perspective notably requires a robust commitment to what they believe is the right thing to do, but also acceptance of the fact that today, the value of heritage goes beyond its cultural identity alone. A new paradigm of conservation stems from the recognition that intrinsic values of cultural heritage can also become instrumental in helping to achieve global challenges. Economic, social and environmental impacts are not just welcome additional outcomes from heritage conservation, but long-term pillars of sustainability, together with its cultural identity.

As an example, the management of cultural tourism should not be considered separately from heritage conservation decisions. Hence, tourism should not be potentially too low or too massive with regards to the carrying-capacity of a site. The alternative is to better integrate cultural tourism in the conservation decision and development. Another example is to consider urban conservation as a multidisciplinary and holistic approach that takes economic, social, and environmental criteria into consideration, together with the cultural significance of the place (see the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape).

Adaptive reuse of cultural heritage is no longer a cultural issue only. It is a key factor in providing sustainable development in a circular economy, as defined as a natural bio-ecosystem that reduces entropy, increases resilience and stimulates cooperation between its components. It is about co-evolution, co-operation, co-ordination of cultural and economic actions. A circular city is a living, complex, dynamic, human-centred circular system, in terms of

transmission of cultural values, waste disposal, recycling of material, energy efficiency, local and social cohesion through a participatory approach. It is a city able to self-organize, self-manage, and self-govern (see Horizon2020 European project CLIC: www.clicproject.eu).

Heritage conservation is the best and most efficient action or policy to foster the development of a circular economy urban and rural contexts. Conservation projects enable us to rethink, recycle, reuse, repair existing buildings, materials, energy and skills. The World Heritage city of Djenné in Mali has been from its beginning a place of implicit circular processes: recoating the earth-made buildings and monuments, relying on local intangible skills of masons and builders, reducing any waste of goods and energy with social practices and local economic exchanges. How have such circular processes been disrupted? Either by unsustainable tourism (in excess or in scarcity), or by rural exodus to bigger cities.

Heritage conservation and adaptive reuse are unparalleled in achieving circular economy and sustainable development. But co-creation of values and cooperation requires out-of-the-box rethinking of processes and organisation tools. It requires innovative forms of governance inherited from the economy of the commons. It requires innovative places and creative communities which take charge of their own place. Finally, it requires innovative financial and business models to prioritise long-term multidimensional objectives (not just profits). A model of co-creation of values, aiming at the (re)generation of sustainable economic, social and environmental values without compromising the conservation of cultural heritage.

Our partners



2021 Online Lecture Series on Understanding World Heritage Interpretation & Presentation

A series of online lectures produced by the International Centre for World Heritage Interpretation & Presentation on a range of contemporary topics including synergies between World Heritage and tourism, digital media and end-users, community engagement and participatory strategies in the post-Covid era.

[Learn more](#)



© Mantua and Sabbioneta (Italy). © Valerio Li Vigni

The road to COP26: climate change at the heart of URBACT cities of all sizes

COP26, the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference, is on its way. In November, governments from around the world will gather in Glasgow (UK) to reaffirm their commitment to tackling climate change. Meanwhile, without waiting for the next COP, many URBACT cities have already been developing their own strategies, activities, and partnerships to move towards greater integration and transversality in their local climate policies.

As partners in URBACT networks, Manchester (UK), Mantua (IT) and Clermont-Auvergne Metropole (FR) all recognise the vital role of the local level in defining policies to actively reduce CO2 emissions.

[Learn more](#)



© UIA

Results of the 5th edition of the Baku International Architecture Award

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan (UAA) have announced the winners of the Fifth Edition of the Baku International Architecture Award. Endorsed by the UIA since 2015, competitors in the 2021 edition of the Award included 193 projects submitted from 38 countries around the world. The online jury meeting took place on 30 September 2021. It included Jury Chair Esa Mohamed (Malaysia), In-Souk Cho (South Korea), Victor Leonel (Angola), Joseph Kwan (Hong Kong) and Elbay Gasim-Zada (Azerbaijan).

[Learn more](#)



© World Bank

MENA Cities at the Forefront of Climate Action: The Time is Now

Held on 29 September, this event organized by the World Bank brought together Mayors and Governors from the MENA region as well as international global experts to discuss climate change as a challenge and an opportunity for development and economic growth at the city level. Discussions delved into the key role cities play in formulating and implementing effective climate action.

[Learn more](#)



UN Global Climate Action Awards: Winners Unveiled, City of Paris is a winner

The recipients of a special 10th anniversary edition of the United Nations Global Climate Action Awards were announced today, shining a light on innovative examples of what people across the globe are doing to combat climate change ahead of the pivotal UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow later this month. The City of Paris was awarded a Climate Leadership award for its ambitious plan to reduce local emissions by 100% by 2050, achieving the goal of zero emissions, and promoting an 80% reduction in the carbon footprint of the city compared to 2004 levels.

[Learn more](#)



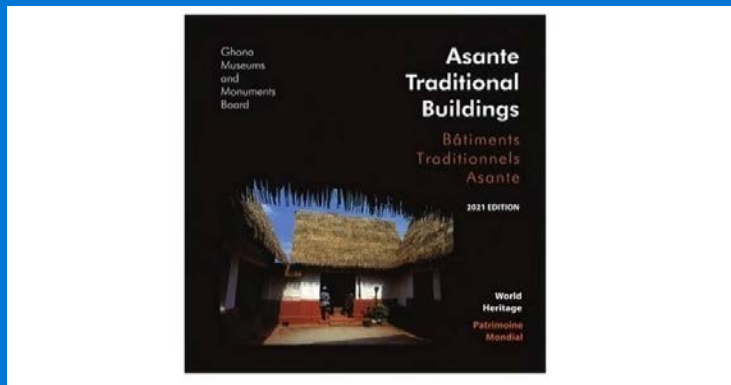
© UN-Habitat

In August 2021, participants from national and local stakeholders in Cambodia joined hands together to endorse and enhance climate change adaptation and resilience of the most vulnerable coastal human settlements through concrete climate change adaptation actions, particularly in areas where eco-tourism has the potential to sustain such interventions. A kick-off workshop on the “Climate change adaptation through protective small-scale infrastructure interventions in coastal settlements of Cambodia” was organized, attended by some 60 participants, jointly by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), Ministry of Environment, and UN-Habitat in Cambodia.

UN-Habitat: Cambodia stakeholders kick off climate resiliency project for coastal settlements

[Learn more](#)

Publications of Interest



New edition of Asante Traditional Buildings publication aims to promote sustainable heritage tourism

As part of the Sankofa Project, sponsored by the French Embassy in Kumasi, Ghana - the revision and 2021 edition of Asante Traditional Buildings has been published. The revised publication aims to regenerate interest in the traditional architecture found at the Asante Traditional Buildings (Ghana) UNESCO World Heritage site and motivate students and researchers towards sustainable development.

[Read the report](#)



Cities, urban heritage and climate change

A recent publication from Yasemin Didem Aktas (UCL) and an accompanying issue of Atmosphere on the subject of how, with the rest of urban infrastructure, urban heritage is under attack from various intensifying climatic stressors. The influence of changing temperature and humidity cycles, precipitation regimes and wind patterns coalesces with constant transformation of the cityscapes to redefine climate-induced hazards in urban areas. "Urban" here should be considered as a "lens", magnifying, reducing or otherwise distorting the impact of climatic variables on the built environment and beyond.

[Read the report](#)

Towards a shared culture of architecture - Investing in a high-quality living environment for everyone

This report was presented at the final conference of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) expert group held in Graz on 6 October 2021. It suggests ways to operationalise quality criteria for architecture and built environment. The report is based on a collection of case studies that were gathered from multiple governance levels across Europe and that the 39 experts of the OMC group examined between 2020 and 2021. The European Commission coordinated the process. Deputy Director Jyoti Hosagrahar participated in the meeting on behalf of the World Heritage Centre. [Read the report](#)



Working together to beat the climate crisis. Collaborative city, state and regional climate action: six country snapshots

Multilevel collaboration and action are part of the new normal to enable ambitious climate action. In the face of the climate emergency, the groundwork is being laid for just, inclusive, holistic and nature-friendly climate action led by all levels of government, with local leadership guiding and driving implementation in cities, states and regions.

[Read the report](#)

Opportunities



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Call for Projects within the framework of the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals

At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has considerably weakened the creative sector and greatly disrupted the production and distribution of cultural goods and services, UNESCO is giving a new impetus to the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals to support States and key actors in their efforts to promote the status of the artist and the diversity of cultural expressions. "With this call for projects, UNESCO aims to reinforce its technical assistance through a cutting-edge expertise to support the development of a more robust creative sector in line with the objectives of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions," said Toussaint Tiendrebeogo, Secretary of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Deadline for submissions: 3 December 2021

[Learn more](#)



UCLG Culture Committee: Pilot Cities Global programme peer learning session

A peer-learning virtual seminar will be held on 27 October 2021, in Jinju (Republic of Korea) and online. It belongs to the Pilot Cities Global programme, an initiative of the UCLG Culture Committee. The seminar is entitled "Cultural Access of Vulnerable Social Groups and Rural Areas". Contact [Jordi Pascual](#), Culture Coordinator, UCLG.

Sixth International Conference on Universal Design: call for participants

The Sixth International Conference on Universal Design will take place in Brescia, Italy, September 7–9, 2022, hosted by the University of Brescia and co-organized by the University of Brescia (prof. Alberto Arengi), the University of Trieste (prof. Ilaria Garofolo) and Ca' Foscari University of Venice (prof. Giulia Bencini). Previous highly successful editions were in (2012), Lund (2014), York (2016), Dublin (2018) and Helsinki (2021).

[Learn more](#)

About Urban Notebooks

Note: The practices shared in Urban Notebooks are not assessed in any way by the World Heritage Centre or presented here as model practices nor do they represent complete solutions to heritage management problems. The views expressed by experts and site managers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Heritage Centre. The practices and views shared here are included in Urban Notebooks as a way to provide insights and expand the dialogue on urban heritage with a view to further urban heritage management practice in general.

The cases shared in Urban Notebooks address heritage protection practices in World Heritage sites and beyond. Practices and examples showcased in the newsletter do not entail any recognition of inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List or any of its thematic programmes.

Guidelines for contributions

Urban Notebooks is a way for World Heritage Cities to share up-to-date information, practices and opportunities around the world.

Please share with us your challenges and projects. Share with us the initiatives and activities related to culture in your city in response to the COVID-19. Please share opportunities as well. Your contributions will make the Urban Notebooks better.

Keep us updated! Email submissions and news to worldheritagecities@unesco.org

Send us your news – photos, videos, projects, activities, publications.

Share on social media: #WorldHeritageCities #ShareOurHeritage #ShareCulture ; tag @UNESCO.

Send us your current contact details and stay updated on our latest initiatives.

Send submissions to worldheritagecities@unesco.org (English/French) along with the Grant of Rights ([English/French](#)).

The Team of the World Heritage Cities Programme
Get connected: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/cities/>
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