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World Heritage Cities Programme

[worldheritagecities@unesco.org](mailto:worldheritagecities@unesco.org)

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Queretaro (Mexico); © Ramiro Valencia D.R.

## Editorial: Celebrating 10 years of the HUL Recommendation

by Jyoti Hosagrahar  
Deputy Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

The 10th Anniversary of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) was launched in June 2021. This is an opportunity for introspection on the management of urban heritage. Historic cities are rich repositories of history, heritage, and identity accumulated over centuries. Historic cities inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List are recognized for their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as valuable not only to the residents but to all of humanity, including the more than 300 cities currently inscribed. At the same time, with cities expanding rapidly and facing growing pressures of urbanization, many are increasingly led to sacrifice urban heritage to make room for development. The rush for development projects to meet the contemporary local needs and aspirations has often pitted the protection and conservation and of monuments, historic streets and neighborhoods, as well as public spaces against major urban development and infrastructure projects.

Caught between immediate needs and their historical identities, knowledge, and practices, local communities often find themselves disconnected from their local areas, where they had transmitted their traditions over generations.

cont'd p.2

# Editorial: Celebrating 10 years of the HUL Recommendation

The know-how required for conservation or repairs of such places are also in peril. These losses jeopardize the world's cultural diversity as well as the identity of our cities.

The spirit of the HUL Recommendation extends well beyond World Heritage cities to all historic cities and urban heritage as an inclusive heritage management approach focused on the need for conservation and human-centred urban planning. The HUL Recommendation provides a framework for integrating heritage into planning processes towards sustainable, liveable cities. We are also at a moment in time when the pandemic has further revealed the consequences of poorly planned urban areas, as cities account for over 90% of the COVID-19 cases. At the same time, urban areas also have the responsibility to mitigate crises, including those related to climate change impacts, as research suggest that 70% of the world's green-house gases are emitted in cities. In this context, the HUL Recommendation approach provides a paradigm for heritage-based solutions for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban futures.

From this perspective, a UNESCO HUL Call for Action has been launched to mobilize all cities and urban actors to implement the HUL Recommendation at the local and national levels with the idea of conserving urban heritage for making cities and settlements more resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and livable. We invite you to sign up for the HUL Call for Action ([here](#)) and to undertake activities to raise awareness of local communities, engage with stakeholders across different sectors to enable better heritage protection in development projects, and develop practical strategies for safeguarding urban heritage with sustainable urban development. Sign up. Mobilize others. Join the UNESCO Network for HUL. Lets work together to make urban heritage significant for sustainable and liveable places.

As the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee just ended in Fuzhou, China, as an online event, the state of conservation of a number of World Heritage cities was examined. A number of new urban heritage sites were also among those inscribed on the World Heritage List.

More on the 44 COM in our next issue!

## From UNESCO World Heritage Centre



### Extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee

The extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee was recently hosted by UNESCO in cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

The session was presided over from Fuzhou by His Excellency Mr Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister of Education and Chairperson of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, Chairperson of the extended 44th session of World Heritage Committee.

[Learn more](#)



© Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road World Heritage Nomination Center

## State of Conservation and New World Heritage Sites in Urban Contexts

During the session, the 21-member Committee examined the state of conservation of 255 sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List, 53 of which also figure on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Among the sites that were open for debate are urban areas in Lahore (Pakistan), Venice (Italy) and Budapest (Hungary).

The World Heritage Committee added several sites to UNESCO's World Heritage List. Among them, a number of new sites are located in urban contexts and

directly link to activities developed by the World Heritage Cities Programme, such as "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China" (China), the "Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences" (Spain) or the 11 cities of the "The Great Spa Towns of Europe" (several countries) among others.

We welcome them into the World Heritage community and look forward to working closely with them very soon! More on this in our next issue.



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#WorldHeritage

#Youth4Heritage

### World Heritage Young Professionals Forum

As an integral part of the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou (China)/Online, 2021), and within the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the National Commission for the People's Republic of China for UNESCO will host the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2021 online, under the theme of "World Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods", from 5th to 9th July 2021.

[Learn more](#)



© UNESCO

### The 4th World Heritage Site Managers' Forum

This year's Forum was held online from 7 to 13 July with nearly 100 World Heritage Site Managers selected from around the world, as well as representatives from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, IUCN and ICOMOS), heritage experts and members of various Chinese heritage institutions.

[Learn more](#)



## Copernicus: Workshop on Data, Cultural & Natural Heritage & Climate Challenges

© EC

On 1-2 July 2021, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) hosted a workshop with key sectoral stakeholders to discuss climate challenges for cultural and natural heritage, data needs and potential solutions offered by the Service. The World Heritage Centre was represented by its Deputy Director, Jyoti Hosagrahar.

[Learn more](#)



© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

## Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan and Central Asia

In the framework of the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project "Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan and Central Asia" the World Heritage Centre (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France) is organizing, in close cooperation with the UNESCO Tashkent Office, a three-day online sub-regional workshop on 18-20 May 2021 on Zoom platform.

[Learn more](#)

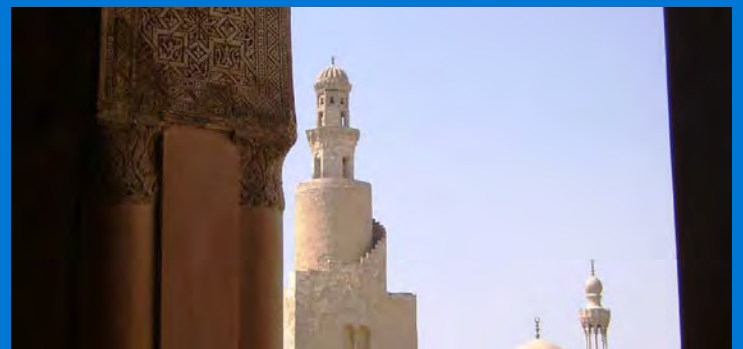
Effects	%
(1) Increasing costs of property maintenance or management	44%
(2) Direct damage to historic built fabric and/or created landscape features	41%
(3) Accelerated, progressive deterioration of historic built fabric	41%
(4) Impacts on tourism	40%

© UNESCO

## Online Information meeting for States Parties to the World Heritage Convention on the updating of the 2007 Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties

An information meeting on the updating of the 2007 Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties took place online on 18 June 2021, from 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm (Paris time), to present the draft document to all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, as well as the process followed for its updating.

[Learn more](#)



© UNESCO

## Online Technical Workshop on Heritage Impact Assessment: The Case of Historic Cairo

A technical workshop was organized to strengthen capacities of stakeholders in identifying and evaluating the impact that new projects may pose on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites, in addition to the elaboration of the necessary mitigation measures.

[Learn more](#)

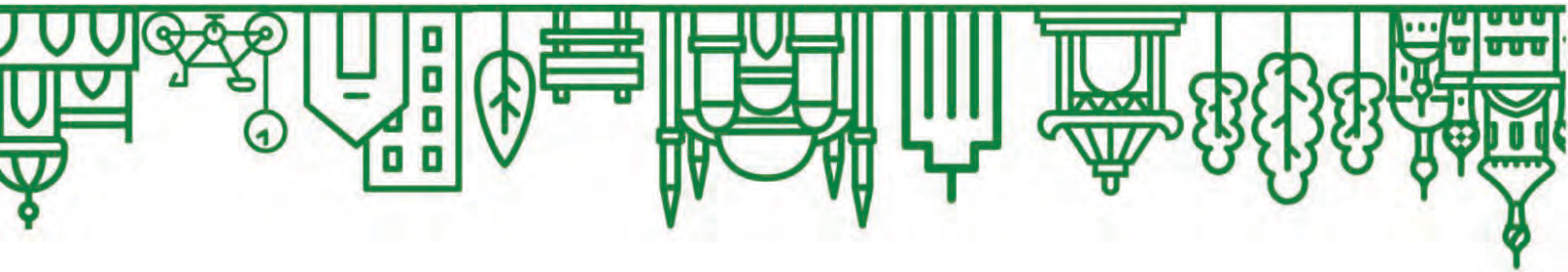


© Editions Gelbart

## 25th Anniversary of the inscription of Avignon on the World Heritage List

In June, World Heritage Centre director Dr. Mechtild Rössler participated in a mission to the historic city of Avignon with the French Ambassador to UNESCO, Ms. Véronique Roger Lacan at the behest of the Mayor of Avignon and the University of Avignon. In her remarks, Dr. Rössler highlighted the relevance of the HUL Approach to managing heritage in cities like Avignon.

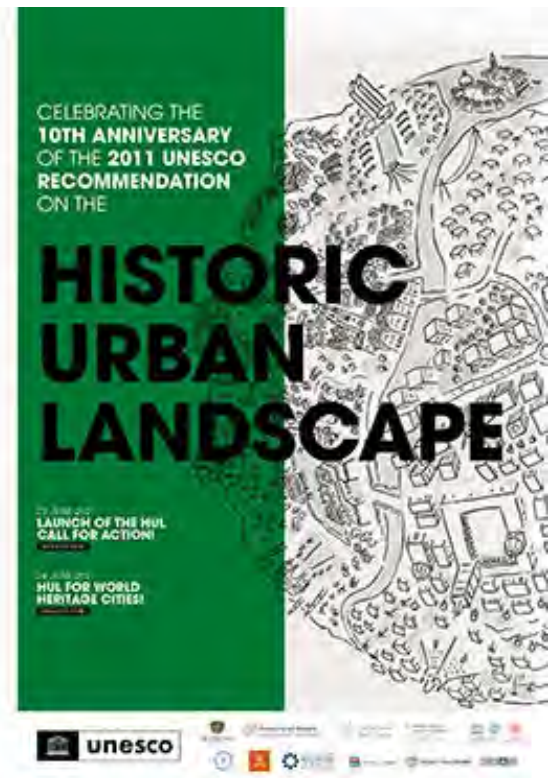
[Learn more](#)



## 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation)

On 16-24 June, a wide range of distinguished guests and experts – ministers, mayors, site managers and researchers from around the world – came together to participate in technical and plenary sessions in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the HUL Recommendation. The event notably launched UNESCO's Call to Action on the HUL Recommendation and featured a global conference on the application of the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage cities.

The celebrations featured more than 86 speakers (including 9 mayors/city leaders and 35 experts) from 39 countries, case-studies of 19 World Heritage cities and 15 video messages and panel discussions with mayors and city organisation leaders. Over 400 participants joined the sessions live and an additional 3690 viewers watched on YouTube: a major and highly visible success for the celebration of this important milestone in heritage conservation.



Poster from the HUL Celebrations event

# 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation)

On 23 June the HUL Call to Action was launched, with cities and settlements worldwide being invited to raise awareness about the Recommendation and accelerate inclusive urban heritage management by applying the HUL Recommendation approach. Mayors and city leaders shared their experiences and perspectives on the application of HUL in their cities, followed by insights provided by high-level experts. The Call is still open, and we invite you to join by clicking on the link.

[Learn more](#)

On 24 June, the session entitled “Implementing the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage Cities” featured reports from the rapporteurs, who presented the regional takeaways from the six preparatory technical sessions held on 16 and 21 June. These served to encourage debate at two round tables featuring experts on the role of heritage in sustainable development, local community involvement in urban policies, and the relationship between natural and built heritage, among others.



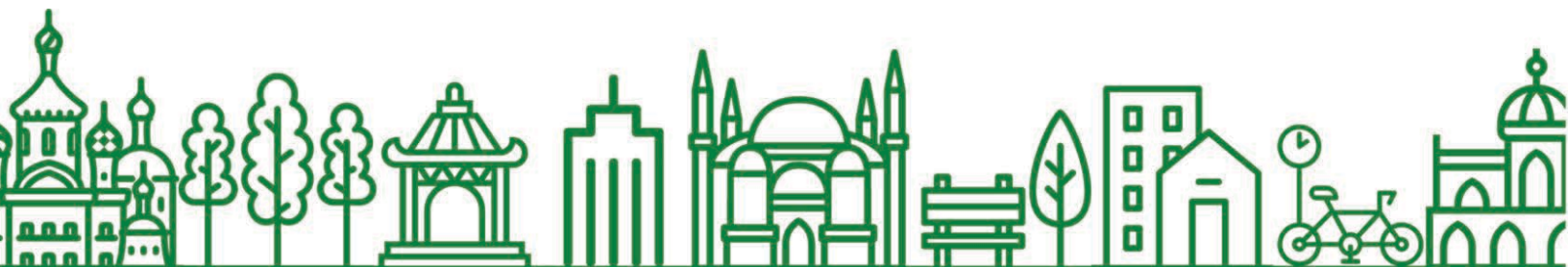
Working document from the anniversary event

As a wrap-up to the celebrations, the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Dr. Jyoti Hosagrahar, provided a comprehensive picture of the lessons learned during the four-day event and outlined steps forward in the implementation of the HUL Recommendation.

We wish to thank all the mayors, city representatives, site managers, experts and other participants for joining us. We also extend many thanks to our partners for their support.

**Visit the [event webpage](#) to learn more, sign up for the [Call for Action](#), and access session recordings.**

Follow-up events and reports are being prepared to continue the conversation and plan the ways forward for the HUL Recommendation. Stay tuned!



# Upcoming events

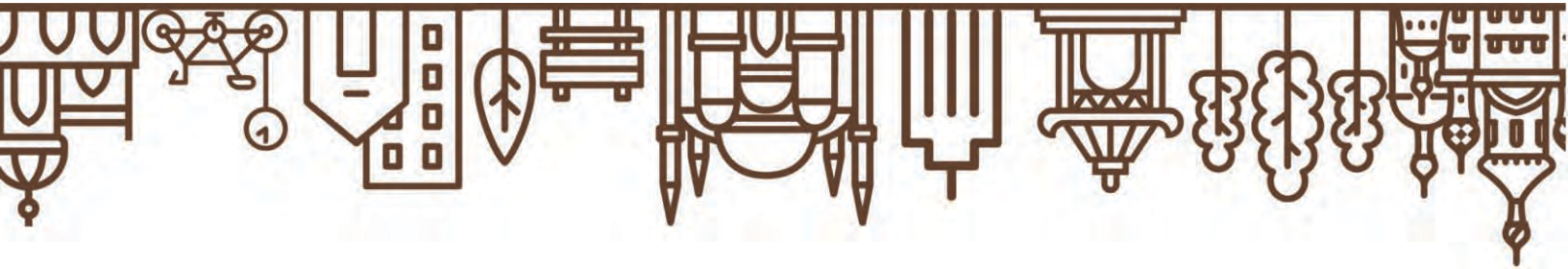


Ancient villages of Northern Syria © Michel Brodovich

## The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property: for a reinforced Global Dialogue (14/09/21)

Organised by UNESCO, in partnership with the European Union and in the framework of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the 1970 Convention, this international conference brought together the many actors in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property to dialogue on a united and collaborative approach to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property at the global level and on concrete activities to be implemented.

[Learn more](#)



## City focus

City Focus is a corner for the World Heritage Cities and other historic cities to share their challenges and initiatives. Share yours!

## 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape Case-studies

Between 16 and 21 June six preliminary technical sessions took place, featuring 19 case-studies examining the implementation of the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage Cities in various world regions as part of the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the Recommendation.

With contributions from senior experts serving as session chairs and rapporteurs, these discussions

highlighted the central role of urban heritage and culture for sustainable development, and its potential to address current challenges such as climate change and community engagement as well as recovery and resilience in the context of the ongoing pandemic crisis.

Highlights from the case-studies can be found on the following page. Further conclusions from the events will appear in the forthcoming report on the HUL Anniversary event.

# Case-studies

## Asia and Pacific

Two case-studies were presented from the region:

- One from Melbourne (Australia), focused on the development of the community consultation process for the upcoming update of the management plan on challenges in pressures from development, specifically regarding buffer zones.
- Another on the city of Ping Yao (China) on the long-term, comprehensive conservation master plan to enhance heritage conservation, economic development and liveability through innovative management and financing models.

Broadly, these case-studies raised issues regarding:

- People-centred approaches to heritage conservation and urban development
- Innovative management and financing models to address the added challenges of living cities
- Population and development pressures
- Involving community to harness culture's potential to contribute to sustainable local development
- Managing and preserving the layers of the historic city: OUV and local values, historic vs modern sites, diverse communities within one city.

[Watch the session](#)



Ancient City of Ping Yao (China)  
© Federica Leone

## Africa

Four case-studies were presented:

- From Grand-Bassam (Cote d'Ivoire) on establishing an integrated management and planning framework for the historic city to promote local economic development and increase the resilience against natural disasters.
- From Saint-Louis (Senegal), on how an extensive conservation and development programme brought together different stakeholders to improve the state of conservation of the historic city.
- From Djenné (Mali), the study focused on the proposal to develop a new neighbourhood outside the historic city to address population pressures.
- From Cidade Velha (Cabo Verde), on an entrepreneurship programme aiming to build capacity and skills amongst residents to develop culture-based small businesses and sustainable tourism.

Overall, these case-studies raised broader issues of:

- Strong potential of urban heritage to contribute positively to livelihoods and the quality of life of local communities
- Integration of tradition and modernity: new development and historic areas.
- Vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change



Saint-Louis (Senegal) © UNESCO

- An inter-sectoral approach to urban heritage management that combines tools, views and methodologies
- Inclusion and the challenges of developing a people-centred approach covering economic diversification, enhancing urban identities and enthusiasm for heritage, using digital technologies to engage young people and promote traditional knowledge at the same time.

[Watch the session](#)



# Case-studies



Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)  
© Gobierno de Puebla

## Latin America and the Caribbean

Four case-studies were shared for this region:

- Two from Puebla (Mexico), one from the State government and the other from the municipality, on the integration of urban heritage in spatial planning instruments and development plans, incorporating public and private investment.
- Guanajuato (Mexico), on how creating a local heritage management office has led to increased citizen participation in heritage management and conservation.
- Valparaiso (Chile), a pilot project to rehabilitate a historical building as affordable housing, community centre and commercial premises.

While these case-studies featured examples at different scales (at the level of the buffer zone for Puebla versus the building level in Valparaiso), some shared topics were raised:

- Strategies for addressing the role of the historic centre within the larger metropolis, countering depopulation, gentrification and over-tourism, and improving habitability and housing.
- Community participation in heritage management and conservation to make it more efficient and effective
- Long-term coordination and management between different social stakeholders and levels of government
- Integration of planning and legal instruments
- Alternative financing models, such as economic diversification, private-public funding and innovative funding schemes.

[Watch the session](#)

## Europe and North America

Several case-studies were shared for this region:

- Graz (Austria), on how pedestrianisation and design interventions in the historic centre helped improve the quality of public space
- Salzburg (Austria), on how regular community events can raise awareness about World Heritage values, involve residents in conservation and management, and provide key data for sustainable urban development.
- Durham (UK), on a community-led spatial planning proposal developed by local volunteers.
- Urbino (Italy), on updating the World Heritage management plan to incorporate innovative policies regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Mantua and Sabbioneta (Italy), on how a shared management framework and landscape interventions can strengthen the shared identity of a property.
- Coimbra (Portugal), on the development of themed cultural tourism with the help of digital mapping tools.



Urbino (Italy) © UNESCO

cont'd...

# Case-studies

- San Gimignano (Italy) and the integration of urban and rural areas and communities.
- Strasbourg (France), on the inclusion of natural heritage in the World Heritage management framework.
- Community-based planning and citizen engagement for better heritage conservation outcomes and strengthen local communities' spirit and identity.
- Developing evidence and data-driven policies thanks to new technologies.
- The relationship between the city and its natural environment and surrounding landscape

Shared themes include:

- Sustainable living and local identity: only a permanently inhabited city is resilient.

[Watch the session](#)



Carthage (Tunisia) © Jean-Jacques Gelbart

## Arab States

Two case-studies were shared for this region:

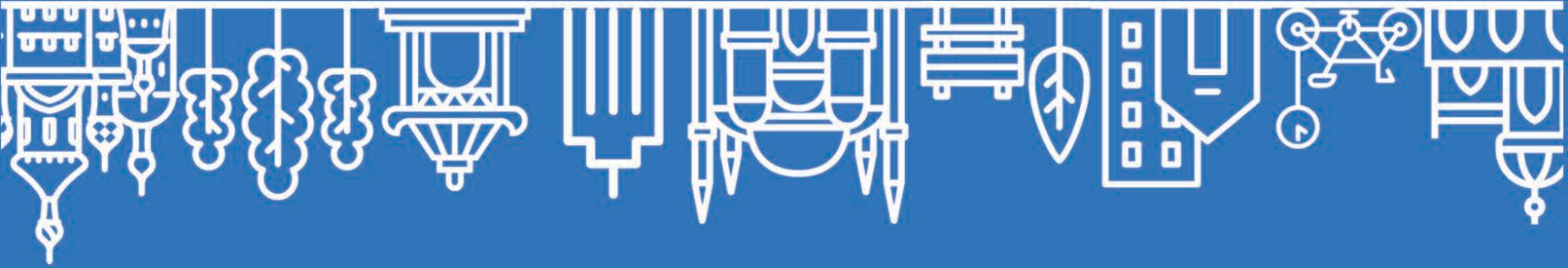
- One from Cairo (Egypt), on urban revitalisation through partnerships and community engagement.
- Another from Carthage (Tunisia), on how the HUL approach can help guide sustainable urban development around an urban archaeological site.

Both raised issues of :

- Heritage preservation through integrated and holistic approaches
- The central role of local partnerships, community involvement and stakeholders, especially with regards to the 2030 Agenda.
- The involvement of the private sector for funding.
- Cultural changes and their effect on the connection between the community and cultural heritage.
- The necessary and difficult balance between different layers of governance for projects.
- Strong development pressures due to fast growing populations and high densities.

[Watch the session](#)





# Reflections from Experts

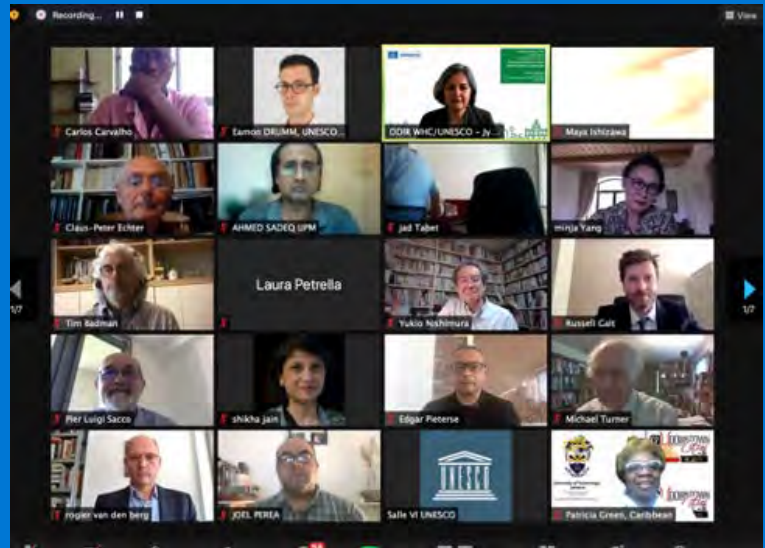
## Lessons from the 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

The celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) on 16-24 June was an opportunity to bring together a community of mayors, site managers and other stakeholders and celebrate heritage protection initiatives of the past ten years.

But it was also a forum for sharing practical advice and practices from over 40 high-level experts for how to integrate the HUL approach into projects for the future.

Our forthcoming report will weave together their reflections and recommendations about how heritage cities are using and can use the HUL approach and heritage protection more broadly to become more crisis-ready (with lessons from COVID-19 but also climate change adaptation and mitigation), as well as how to empower local communities and create human-centric places for the future.

It will cover how HUL principles could be used to operationally address a wide range of planning and development issues discussed by experts during the sessions, including:



Screenshot of the expert session on 24 June. [Watch the session](#)

- New perspectives on the perennial questions of governance (integration, cooperation, partnerships, long-term management plans).
- Opportunities and examples of project and heritage financing, public, private and PPP models.
- Heritage management in rapidly changing cities.
- Participatory, digital and innovative tools for community engagement
- Examples and practices of heritage being used for sustainable development.
- HUL and holistic approaches to including and protecting the natural environment and green spaces as part of heritage conservation.

Sign up [here](#) to receive the report.

# Our partners



© UfM

## UNESCO-UfM conference “Living with World Heritage: Adaptive Reuse and Regeneration in the Euro-Mediterranean region”

The Euro-Mediterranean region is also home to more than 150 UNESCO World Heritage cities that testify to its rich, long, and multi-layered history. The Mediterranean region is among the most densely populated areas around a sea in the world, with a population that has doubled over the past 40 years reaching 512 million in 2018, and it is expected to grow by an additional 182 million inhabitants by 2050. The multiple Issues of living and growing cities and the management of the regions many World Heritage sites were addressed in this conference. See the sessions [here](#):

Living with Heritage - [Webinar](#) - 17 May 2021

Living with Heritage - [Webinar](#) - 18 May 2021



## European Commission: apply for the Access City Award 2022

Cities across the EU can now apply for the Access City Award 2021. It celebrates cities that are becoming more accessible for persons with disabilities. This year it also recognises accessibility of public services during the coronavirus. Deadline: 9 September 2020 #EUAccessCity. Apply [here](#).



© UCLG

## UCLG High Level Political Forum 2021

United Cities and Local Governments 2021 High Level Political Forum took place from 1-14 July, showcasing that development agendas need to be addressed from the bottom up, underpinned by local service provision, driven by local governments and communities.

Read the LRG Agenda [here](#).

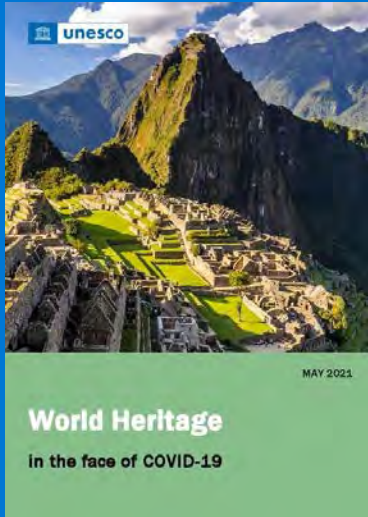


Historic Cairo, Egypt © UNESCO

## UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 and UfM Housing Plan adopted on 1 July 2021.

The Action plans can be communicated to relevant national and local authorities, especially those responsible for the development and implementation of National Urban Policies (NUPs), Integrated City Development Strategies (ICDS), National Housing Strategies (NHS) and National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategies, as well as Faculties of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design, NGOs and private sector, as appropriate. The English language versions of the plans can be accessed [here](#).

# Publications of interest



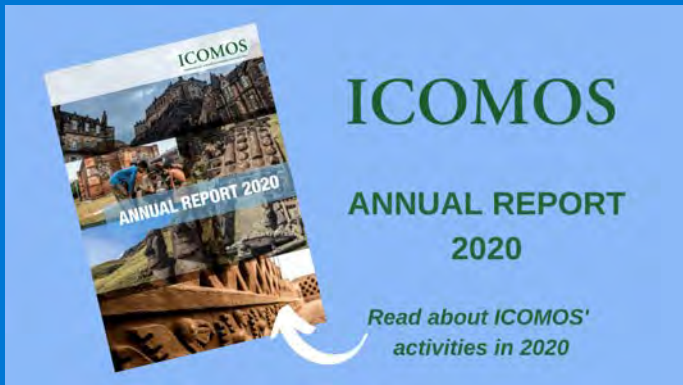
© UNESCO

## World Heritage in the face of COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted all sectors and all regions, and the world's over 1,000 UNESCO World Heritage properties are no exception. To understand the impact of COVID-19 on World Heritage one year after the start of the pandemic, UNESCO launched a far-reaching survey of site managers and national authorities and have published the results in the report 'World Heritage in the face of COVID-19'.

UNESCO Culture Sector Series.

[Browse the publication.](#)



© ICOMOS

## ICOMOS Annual Report 2020

The ICOMOS Annual Report 2020 is now available. Find out more about the activities undertaken in 2020 as well as projects on cultural heritage and pressing issues such as climate change and sustainable development.

[Browse the publication.](#)



© HOMEE

## Charter for Mega Events in Heritage Rich Cities

How can heritage-rich cities host mega-events so that they take full advantage of their heritage without putting it at risk? The Charter aims at solving this kind of question for city decision makers and event organisers by providing principles and recommendations on how to avoid pitfalls and engage heritage resources whilst safeguarding their values. Following the HOMEE project's recent webinar on the subject, learn more about the principles and practical applications [here](#).

# Opportunities



© IDB

## Consultancy position - IDB

An urban heritage specialist is being sought for a consulting mission with the Inter-American Development Bank for a short-term assignment in Suriname. The specialist will be asked to assess and propose measures for strengthening the existing institutional framework for the building committee and monument commission and to develop a proposal of revised special buildings codes. A working knowledge of Dutch is essential.

[Learn more](#)



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## Apply for the International Academy on UNESCO Designations and Sustainable Development

The sixth edition of the International Academy will take place in Torino, Ivrea, Biella and Milan from October 3rd to October 8th 2021, but mainly based in the city of Turin (Italy), which hosts three different UNESCO designations, related to the World Heritage List, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

[Learn more](#)



© OVPM

## Call for submissions: Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage

On this 2021 edition of the Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage, all member cities of the OWHC have the opportunity to vote for their favourite (1st choice) and second favourite (2nd choice) project among the 11 finalists. All project finalists for the Members' Choice are available in the following link for your evaluation:

Deadline : 9 August 2021  
Open only to OVPM member cities.

[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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>  
Contact us: [worldheritagecities@unesco.org](mailto:worldheritagecities@unesco.org)

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We gratefully acknowledge the Subdirección General de Gestión y Coordinación de los Bienes culturales (formerly Subdirección General de Protección del Patrimonio Histórico) of the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Government of Spain for the translation of this newsletter into Spanish.

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