Updating of the “Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

Climate Change has become one of the most significant threats to World Heritage properties, impacting their Outstanding Universal Value, their integrity and the potential for economic and social development at the local level.

The issue of the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage was brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee in 2005 by a group of concerned organizations and individuals. Subsequently, UNESCO has been at the forefront of exploring and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage. In 2006, under the guidance of the World Heritage Committee, and along with the World Heritage Convention’s Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN) and a broad working group of experts, prepared a report on ‘Predicting and Managing the effects of climate change on World Heritage’, as well as a ‘Strategy to Assist States Parties to the Convention to Implement Appropriate Management Responses’. This was followed by a compilation of Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage, prepared by UNESCO. This process lead to the adoption in 2007 by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention of a Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties (Policy Document).

Since the adoption of the Policy Document, an important number of reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties affected by Climate Change have been presented to the World Heritage Committee. In 2017, the World Heritage Committee reiterated the importance of States Parties undertaking the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and by pursuing efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. Aware that knowledge related to adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change has drastically increased over the past 10 years, the World Heritage Committee requested at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to periodically review and update the Policy Document, to make available the most current knowledge and technology on the subject to guide the decisions and actions of the World Heritage community.

A project has been initiated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to update the Policy Document for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020 and ensure its widespread communication and dissemination to all stakeholders concerned. This project is being undertaken by a team comprising Mr. Rohit Jigyasu, addressing cultural, and Mr. Oscar Guevara, addressing natural aspects of the project. The Internet based questionnaire below has been developed to provide an important information input into this project. This questionnaire will be widely circulated to the World Heritage stakeholders, including States Parties, World Heritage Committee members, Advisory Bodies, Site Managers, NGOs, and civil society.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance, which will make a major contribution to the more effective update of the Policy Document under the World Heritage Convention.

There are 38 questions in this survey

*: compulsory question

Open fields are limited to a maximum of 150 words, unless otherwise specified online
Section A

Information about yourself

[] Title *

Please choose only one of the following:

- Mr
- Ms

[] First Name

Please write your answer here:

[] Last Name

Please write your answer here:

[] Job Title *

Please write your answer here:

[] Institution / Organization

Please write your answer here:

[] Prefer not to disclose personal information / Please choose only one of the following:

- Yes
- No

[] Country

Please choose only one of the following:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
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<td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Gambia (the)</td>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>Congo</td>
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<td>Czechia</td>
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<td>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>Holy See</td>
<td>Maldives</td>
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Zimbabwe

[(A1) Please indicate whether you are a representative of a: *]

Please choose only one of the following:

- [ ] State Party
- [ ] World Heritage Advisory Body
- [ ] World Heritage Manager or Staff site manager
- [ ] World Heritage Centre staff member
- [ ] NGO/Civil Society
- [ ] Academic/Research organization
- [ ] Indigenous Peoples
- [ ] Other

[(A2) Please indicate whether your expertise is mainly in:*]

Please choose all that apply:

- [ ] Cultural Heritage
- [ ] Natural Heritage
- [ ] Mixed Heritage
- [ ] Climate Change mitigation
- [ ] Climate Change adaptation
- [ ] Legal matters
- [ ] Climate Science
- [ ] Other (Specify):

Please tick more than one box if required
section B
Awareness of and involvement in the Climate Policy under the World Heritage Convention

[[B1] What is your level of awareness of the Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties?*

Please choose only one of the following:

- I have never heard of it
- I am aware of it but have never read it
- I am aware and have basic knowledge of its content
- I am aware and familiar with its content and recommendations

[[B2] Have you ever used the Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties to address climate change related issues in World Heritage properties? *

Please choose only one of the following:

- I have not used the Policy Document
- I am addressing Climate Change issues but that work is not expressly linked to the Policy Document
- I am applying the recommendations of the Policy Document to a certain extent
- I am fully implementing various actions, in line with the recommendations of the Policy Document

[[B3] The recommendations of the Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties are grouped into three major categories. If you have applied any of the recommendations of the Policy Document, from which of these categories were those recommendations drawn?*

Please choose only one of the following:

- Establishing synergies with various international conventions/agreements and organizations (e.g. use of World Heritage properties as examples where Climate Change-related monitoring, greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation processes can be applied, tested and improved with results fed into processes under the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Warsaw Mechanism, etc.)
- Undertaking Research (e.g. Research on increased risk factors; socio-economic research, such as valuing the economic losses from climate change or impacts of climate change on societies; Research into other stress factors; research on capacity of site managers to raise awareness of climate change; knowledge transfer among World Heritage properties of a common typology, ecosystem or regions)
Applying legal mechanisms under the Convention (e.g. obligation of States Parties to address causes and impacts of Climate Change, and alternative mechanisms, other than the List of World Heritage in Danger)

☐ None of the above
☐ Not applicable

[](B4) Have you used the following tools/processes/procedures under the World Heritage Convention to assess, manage and/or report climate-related activities?

Please choose all that apply:

☐ Nomination process
☐ Management planning/Management Systems, including risk preparedness systems
☐ Periodic Reporting
☐ Reactive Monitoring
☐ Experience /Good Practice sharing
☐ Other tools:

Please tick more than one box if required

[](B5) How do you rate the overall usefulness of the Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties to address Climate Change related issues in World Heritage properties?*

Please choose only one of the following:

☐ Highly Useful
☐ Somewhat useful
☐ Not useful at all

Specify reasons for your choice and what could be done to improve usefulness?

Please write your answer here:
Section C

General views on Climate Change impacts and measures for greenhouse gas mitigation, adaptation for World Heritage properties

(C1) How do you rate the importance of addressing Climate Change-related issues to achieve the objectives of the *World Heritage Convention*? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 5 – Critically Important
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 0 - Not important

(C2) In your opinion, what is the role of the *World Heritage Convention* in addressing Climate Change threats to World Heritage at the site level, in the context of mitigation and adaptation commitments taken by States Parties at national and global levels? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Highly important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not important

(C2) Comment

Please write your answer here:

(C3) Which of the climate-related elements listed below have been observed or identified as currently having a negative impact on the World Heritage property(ies) you are managing/World Heritage properties in your country/World Heritage properties in general (cultural, natural or mixed)?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ Air temperature change
- ☐ Change in wind frequency, direction and/or intensity
- ☐ Drought frequency and severity
- ☐ Extreme temperature events
Please tick more than one box if required

[[C4] What type of observed climate-related impacts are being experienced as a result of climate hazards on the World Heritage property(ies) (if any) you are managing/World Heritage properties in your country/World Heritage properties in general (cultural, natural or mixed)?*

Please choose all that apply:

☐ Degradation of OUV or significant loss of attributes that underpin the OUV
☐ Impacts on geological heritage (loss of glaciers for example)
☐ Impacts on scenic beauty
☐ Direct Damage to historic built fabric and/or created landscape features
☐ Accelerated, progressive deterioration of historic built fabric and/or constructed landscape features
Impacts on biodiversity, including for example loss of species,

Impacts on biodiversity, including for example increased exotic and/or invasive species, increased pests and diseases,

Impacts on biodiversity, including for example loss of habitats,

Impacts on biodiversity, including for example negative effects on the ecological integrity and/or ecological processes,

Landscape changes, for example loss of ability to grow traditional plants/agricultural systems

Economic losses (both direct and indirect), including increased poverty or hunger of associated communities

Impacts on Tourism

Increasing costs of property maintenance or management (attributed to climate-related conditions / events) including increased building and/or landscape maintenance/stabilization needs

Loss or degradation of Intangible Heritage

Increased risk of social and other conflicts or violence

Forced migration/involuntary displacement of people

Impacts on local communities or Indigenous Peoples

Water shortages

Diminished capacity to address development needs of local communities such as basic infrastructure, education, and health due to repeated losses

No significant Impacts

Other (specify):

Please tick more than one box if required

[(C5) In your experience, what measures have you been involved in, and at what level, to address Climate Change related issues in the management of World Heritage properties you are managing/World Heritage properties in your country/World Heritage properties in general (cultural, natural or mixed)?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability &amp; Risk Assessments</th>
<th>International Level</th>
<th>Regional Level</th>
<th>National Level</th>
<th>Local Level</th>
<th>Site Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring of Climate Change related impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the World Heritage properties management – (Climate Change Mitigation)</td>
<td>International Level</td>
<td>Regional Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions to preserve natural carbon stocks and/or reduce emissions associated with land use changes (Climate Change Mitigation)</td>
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<td>Actions to reduce existing/current climate risks, and the ongoing impacts on World Heritage properties (Climate Change Adaptation)</td>
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<td>Actions to reduce, prepare, respond from climate-related disaster risks (disaster risk management)</td>
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<td>Actions to recover from climate-related disaster</td>
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<td>Policies/Legislation for disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change including climate related hazards and extreme events.</td>
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<td>Capacity Building of heritage professionals and key stakeholders in and around World Heritage properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change Education / Awareness raising Activities in and around World Heritage properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change Research including sharing observed information with climate science processes specific to World Heritage properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pursued thematic, regional or global linkages and</td>
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<td>International Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>cooperation to understand, access, fund, promote or implement climate change measures for World Heritage properties</td>
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<td>Engagement with local communities or Indigenous Peoples, development of co-management structures for World Heritage properties</td>
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<td>Used World Heritage properties to act as a catalyst for policies to mitigate climate change, and to communicate best practices in vulnerability assessments, adaptation strategies, mitigation opportunities.</td>
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<td>Precautionary approaches to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change covering relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases in and around World Heritage properties</td>
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<td>Assessing or addressing the loss of key values of World Heritage properties as a consequence of climate change.</td>
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<td>Actions to increase resilience of local communities (including Indigenous People) to Climate Change related disasters in and around World Heritage properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions to support recovery of local communities (including Indigenous People) to Climate Change related disasters in and around World Heritage properties</td>
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<td>International Level</td>
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around World Heritage properties

Actions to promote sustainable development including actions such as promoting renewable energy, sustainable mobility solutions, and waste recycling

Please tick more than one box in the table if required

(C6) Have you established synergies or coordinated efforts to work on Climate Change issues with any of the organizations / institutions/ stakeholders listed below?

Please choose all that apply:

- ☐ UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- ☐ IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
- ☐ CBD (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity)
- ☐ UNESCO
- ☐ UNESCO’s Culture Conventions
- ☐ UNESCO’s Science Sector
- ☐ Any other organization/convention/programme of the United Nations System
- ☐ The World Heritage Committee’s Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Specify
- ☐ Your national government
- ☐ Your local / sub national government
- ☐ Civil society and/or private sector
- ☐ Local communities or Indigenous Peoples associated with properties

Please tick more than one box if required

(C7) What are the key challenges to effective implementation of various measures for addressing Climate Change issues in the management of World Heritage properties:

Please choose all that apply:

- ☐ Lack of or weak enabling legislation
- ☐ Lack of or ineffective policies
- ☐ Lack of implementation of policies
Lack of enabling institutional frameworks
Absence of knowledge resources (Manuals, guidelines, toolkits etc.)
Lack of capacity to assess and monitor climate change impacts and implement various measures
Lack of capacity to access/downscale models of future climate threats
Lack of capacity to appropriately attribute impacts to Climate change versus other drivers
Incomplete inventorying of sites’ heritage attributes
Lack of political support
Lack of site specific research/analysis
Lack of financial resources
Lack of human resources
Others (Specify):

Please tick more than one box if required

[]Please clarify in the box below if this is your opinion or if it is based on studies/news articles. If so, please provide relevant links or references.

Please write your answer here:

[]Relevant Documents
Please upload at most 5 files

Kindly attach the aforementioned documents along with the survey

Section D
Suggestions for strengthening synergies between the World Heritage Convention and Climate Change actions

[[D1] Please share your views on how the nomination process under the World Heritage Convention could be better used to assess, manage and/or report climate-related activities?

Please write your answer here:

[[D2] Please share your views on how the Periodic Reporting exercise of the World Heritage Convention can be better used to assess, manage and/or report/share climate-related activities?

Please write your answer here:
(D3) Please share your views on how the Reactive Monitoring process of the World Heritage Convention could be better used to assess, manage and/or report/share climate-related activities?

Please write your answer here:

(D4) Please share your views on how management planning/management systems under the World Heritage Convention could be better used to assess, manage and/or report climate-related activities?

Please write your answer here:

(D5) Please share your views on how national implementing legislation and regulation under the framework of the World Heritage Convention help assess, manage and/or report climate-related activities?

Please write your answer here:

(D6) Which of the following actions are needed for monitoring issues related to Climate Change and World Heritage properties? *

Please choose all that apply:

- Monitoring local climatic conditions
- Modeling localized climate (scenarios) shifts and (possible /expected) impact on values
- Assessing and/or Monitoring impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties (and their OUV)
- Monitoring and reporting preventive and corrective actions to address climate impacts
- Monitoring and reporting actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the World Heritage properties management / operations
- Monitoring and reporting actions to maintain and/or enhance the biosphere carbon sinks (carbon stocks in terrestrial and marine ecosystems) in World Heritage properties.
- Monitoring and reporting actions related to sustainable development of local communities

Please tick more than one box if required

(D7) Which of the following actions are needed to increase the resilience of World Heritage properties to Climate Change? *

Please choose all that apply:

- Establishing/strengthening legal measures
- Working to build meaningful synergies between the World Heritage Convention and UNFCCC
Making use of World Heritage properties for communication and education activities on Climate Change

Financial instruments to fund climate actions

Financial instruments to transfer climate risks (insurance)

Recognizing the links and integrating World Heritage properties into broader local, regional, or national Climate Change policies or plans

Integrating World Heritage properties into local, regional, or national policies/strategies for Sustainable Development if any

Improving the integrity of the site by increasing surface, connectivity and integration in the surrounding land and seascape

Capacity building, training/sharing experiences and research

Precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change covering relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases

Please tick more than one box if required

Section E

Key elements of the updated Climate Change Policy for the World Heritage Convention

[] (E1) In your opinion, how should the updating process most effectively improve the existing Policy Document? *

Please choose only one of the following:

- Update, revise or add to the existing content (specify e.g. address mitigation or address the role of properties in addressing climate change)
- Develop an implementation strategy, including e.g. platform to share experience, ask questions, etc.
- Develop a completely new Policy Document (specify)
- Others (specify)

[] (E2) Which of the following elements should be prioritized as climate mitigation topics to be addressed by the updated Policy Document?*

Please choose all that apply:

- Measuring carbon footprint of World Heritage properties management
- Green House Gas mitigation through improved low-carbon management of World Heritage properties
Green House Gas mitigation through improved management of biosphere carbon sinks (carbon stocks on terrestrial and marine ecosystems)

Integrating World Heritage properties into local and national climate mitigation policies

Using traditional knowledge and heritage values or methodologies associated with World Heritage properties to communicate best practices in mitigation strategies and to drive mitigation ambitions

Using traditional knowledge and heritage values or methodologies associated with World Heritage properties for adaptation actions to enhance the resilience of local communities including Indigenous People to the impacts of Climate Change related risks and disasters

Precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change covering relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases

Other climate mitigation topics:

Please tick more than one box if required

(E3) Which of the following elements should be prioritized as climate adaptation topics to be addressed by the updated Policy Document?*

Please choose all that apply:

- Monitoring and reporting impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property(ies)
- Assessing future impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property(ies)
- Climate adaptation through improved World Heritage properties (and surrounding land/seascape) management strategies (including through World Heritage buffer zones)
- Climate adaptation through improved integration of World Heritage properties into local and national adaptation, disaster risk reduction and emergency response policies
- Using World Heritage properties as a means to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change upon World Heritage to act as a catalyst in the international debate and to drive adaptation ambition
- State of conservation recommendations to respond to Climate Change physical impact in the World Heritage properties
- Use of traditional knowledge and heritage values or methodologies associated with World Heritage properties to communicate best practices in adaptation strategies

Other climate adaptation topics:

Please tick more than one box if required

(E4) Which of the following aspects should be included in the updated Policy Document? Please rate them in order of priority as low, medium or high*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators for monitoring climate change drivers and impacts, such as those included in the UNESCO Culture [2030 Indicators]</th>
<th>High priority</th>
<th>Medium priority</th>
<th>Low priority</th>
<th>Not relevant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and technical information needed to assess the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties and associated communities and prioritizing action in an equitable and transparent manner</td>
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<td>The potential role of World Heritage properties for climate mitigation, including but not limited to, biosphere carbon sinks (carbon stocks in terrestrial and marine ecosystems), encouraging use of non-motorized transportation, and waste, and water recycling</td>
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<tr>
<td>The potential role of World Heritage properties for climate adaptation including actions that could be taken at World Heritage properties to enhance the resilience of local communities to climate change related risks and sustainable development actions</td>
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<tr>
<td>The legal aspects for addressing Climate Change issues for World Heritage properties, including the obligation of States Parties to address causes and impacts of climate change, alternative mechanisms, other than the List of World Heritage in Danger, to address risks, legal effects of loss of OUV</td>
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<td>Addressing in an integrated manner the multiples drivers of risk to World Heritage properties</td>
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<td>Synergies of the World Heritage Convention with other international conventions / programmes to enhance climate action, including finance and resource mobilization and sustainable development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>High priority</td>
<td>Medium priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness, capacity building, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing in World Heritage property management potential for loss of heritage values as a consequence of climate change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address linkages between climate actions (e.g. GHG mitigation or adaption) and sustainable development</td>
<td>✡</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[](E5) Who should be most engaged to formulate and implement these actions and priorities?*

Please choose all that apply:

- Intergovernmental agencies
- National Governments
- Subnational/Local authorities
- Civil Society Organizations/NGOs
- Private Sector
- Indigenous Peoples/Associated Communities
- Financial institutions
- Tourism industry

Please tick more than one box if required.

You have now reached the end of the questionnaire. We thank you very much for your participation and for your continuous support to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

***

If you have indicated being either a State Party representative or a World Heritage site manager:

As you may know, the Culture 2030 Indicators is a framework of thematic indicators whose purpose is to measure and monitor the progress of culture’s enabling contribution to the national and local implementation of the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (or more information, visit the website [https://whc.unesco.org/en/culture2030indicators/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/culture2030indicators/)). One of the indicators identified relates to “Climate adaptation and Resilience” and aims at assessing measures taken to foster climate change mitigation and adaptation and enhance resilience through sustainable safeguarding and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as natural heritage.
We would like to take the opportunity of the questionnaire on the updating of the Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties to kindly ask you to provide us feedback on measures taken at your level by filling in the following check-list and returning your inputs to the World Heritage Centre at culture2030indicators@unesco.org.

Thank you very much for your support.

Submit your survey.
Thank you for completing this survey.