



## WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM

World Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods

5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Fuzhou (China)/Online

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **Introduction**

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World Heritage Young Professionals Fora are among the flagship activities of the World Heritage Education Programme, serving as a platform for bringing youth and heritage experts together to foster intercultural learning and exchange, to debate common concerns and to discover new roles for themselves in heritage conservation. They also provide an opportunity for youth to meet with the members of the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies, and to discuss the 1972 Convention and its implementation in greater depth. The participants also present the results of the Forum to the World Heritage Committee. For further information on the previous World Heritage Young Professionals Fora, please visit: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/youth-forum/>

As an integral part of the 44<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Built on the success and experience of the previous World Heritage Young Professionals Fora, the WHYPF 2021 aims to bring together 32 young professionals from fields related to World Heritage, to facilitate mutual learning and exchanges on topics related to the Convention and its implementation, including heritage conservation, and sustainable community livelihood, in greater depth. Through a combination of presentations, round tables, workshops, virtual visits etc., participants will be able to deepen their knowledge of World Heritage, UNESCO's priorities, and China's approach to heritage conservation, while also having the opportunity to benefit from the experience of China and other countries in improving the livelihood of stakeholders related to World Heritage sites. Following their learnings from the Forum, the young professionals will draft an outcome document titled, 'Youth Voices on World Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods', which will be presented at the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

## **Theme of the Forum**

Heritage has long been absent from the mainstream sustainable development debate despite its crucial importance to societies and livelihoods, and the wide acknowledgment of its great potential to contribute to social, economic, and environmental goals. In addition to its intrinsic value for present and future generations, World Heritage – and heritage in general – can make important and instrumental contributions to ensure sustainable livelihoods across various dimensions. The protection and preservation of World Heritage not only ensures environmental and cultural sustainability, but also improves socio-economic development by supporting the traditional knowledge and skills from the local communities around the heritage properties, and strengthens the resilience of communities and in times of crisis, by providing them with a sense of identity, continuity, dignity and empowerment.

However, enhancing community development hand-in-hand with World Heritage conservation is fast becoming a critical global challenge, and all stakeholders must endeavor to find innovative ways to ensure sustainable livelihoods at and around the World Heritage properties, while continuing to protect, preserve and promote these sites. Although this responsibility is being undertaken at all levels of governance, youth has a particularly crucial role to play, by bringing in their perspective and providing their recommendations for the future of our common heritage. Consequently, this edition of the Young Professionals Forum will focus on “**World Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods**”.

The Forum will address the following three sub-themes:

■ **World Heritage: People and Governance**

In this sub-theme, participants will discuss the World Heritage Convention (including its five strategic objectives) as an instrument for policy development, its role in enabling the inclusion and participation of people associated with World Heritage and the involvement of various stakeholders (including youth) at all levels of governance, from international to national and regional levels.

■ **World Heritage: Tourism and Community Development**

In this sub-theme, participants will explore the needs, challenges, and opportunities for sustainable tourism at World Heritage sites and exchange on how to promote and develop the livelihoods of heritage communities through tourism.

■ **World Heritage: Community Empowerment through Innovation**

In this sub-theme, participants will talk about the appropriation of World Heritage values by communities and seek to improve the technological innovations and knowledge transmission towards creating livelihoods surrounding heritage.

## Application and Selection

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Eligible applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Aged between 23 and 32 years;
- Available for the entire duration of the Forum;
- Proficient in English, as the Forum will be conducted entirely in English.
- Experienced in the field of World Heritage; working on conservation and promotion of heritage in their regular activities, along with other young people;
- Motivated and committed to implementing the outcomes of the Forum in their respective countries.

In addition to general eligibility, the following elements will also be considered in selecting the participants:

- Balanced geographical representation;
- Gender equality;
- Diversity of professional backgrounds;
- Ability to disseminate gained experience in the country or institution of origin.
- Knowledge and experience in sustainable livelihood practices for World Heritage sites.

All interested candidates who may wish to participate in the WHYPF 2021 should apply to the Forum by filling in and submitting the online application form in English. The application form can be found at:

<https://reg.44whcfuzhou2021.cn/youth>

The deadline for submitting the applications is **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**. Successful applicants will be notified by 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.