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Information meeting on the updating of the “Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

Remarks by Mr. Ernesto Ottone R.


UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture



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

Background and Process


Ms. Mechtild Rössler
Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre



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2005
2006
2007
2008
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019

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Climate Change impacts on World Heritage brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee by concerned organizations and individuals (petitions**)**

- ▶ Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)
- ▶ Huascarán National Park (Peru)
- ▶ Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize)
- ▶ Great Barrier Reef (Australia)





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2005
2006
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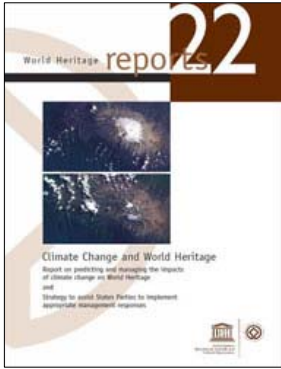
March 2006: Working Group

Report
"Predicting and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage"

Strategy
"Strategy to assist States Parties to implement management responses"

(Decision **30 COM 7.1**)






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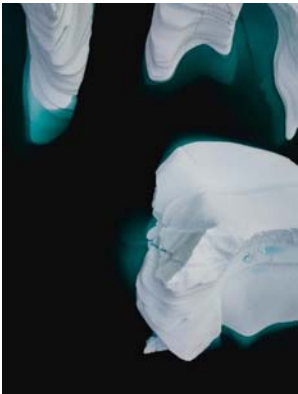
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 2005 2006 2007 2008 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



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WH Committee requested


- States Parties **to implement the Strategy** to protect **OUV**
- WHC to develop a **draft Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on WH properties** (consultative process)




(Decision **30 COM 7.1**)

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Working Group Meeting to Develop the Draft Policy Paper on Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties, 05-06 February 2007

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/471/>

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2005 2006 **2007** 2008 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Draft Policy Document:

WH Committee (31COM)

↓

Comments incorporated

↓

Revised draft Policy Document

↓

General Assembly of States Parties (16GA)

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2005 2006 2007 **2008** 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Operational Guidelines

- Amendment to Paragraph 179 (b) (vi)
- Amendment to Paragraph 180 (b) (v)

Reference to the “**threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors**”

- Amendment to Paragraph 181

Impact must be those which are **amenable to correction by human action**

(Decision **32 COM 7A.32**)

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2005 2006 2007 2008 **2015** 2016 2017 2018 2019

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WH Committee

strongly encouraged States Parties


- to participate in **COP21** in December 2015, with a view to achieving a universal climate agreement
- **mobilize** global climate action on the ground



(Decision **39 COM 7**)



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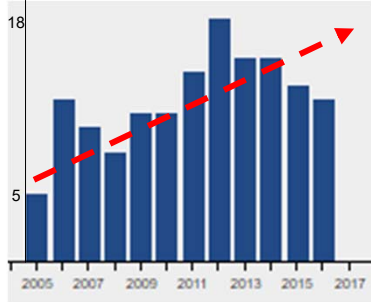
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2005 2006 2007 2008 **2015 2016** 2017 2018 2019

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between 2005 and 2016:

- 144 reports** on the state of conservation of **38 WH properties** located in **33 States Parties**



Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

- + 12 global decisions** related to climate change



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2005 2006 2007 2008 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

WH Committee

requested WHC & ABs

*“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.”*

(Decision **40 COM 7**)

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2005 2006 2007 2008 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Preparatory meeting
Vilm, Germany
October 2017

International Expert Workshop “World Heritage and
Climate Change – Towards the update of the *Policy
Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on
World Heritage Properties*”

→ discuss the challenges posed
by climate change to the conservation
and management of World Heritage

→ set of recommendations
for the updated Policy Document

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Overview of the process

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- A project has been initiated in 2019 by the World Heritage Centre
- Benefitted from funding by the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (NFIT)






Kingdom of the Netherlands




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Overview of the process

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- Project** undertaken by WHC with 2 international experts:
 - Mr. Rohit Jigyasu (India) (**cultural** heritage aspects)
 - Mr. Oscar Guevara (Colombia) (**natural** heritage aspects)




- Inclusive** and **participatory** project with all World Heritage stakeholders, including States Parties, World Heritage Committee members, Advisory Bodies, Site Managers, NGOs, and civil society

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Methodology

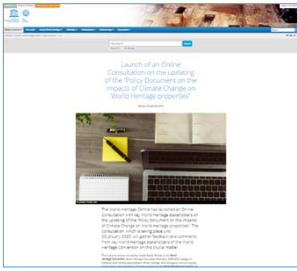
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- Desk Review**

100+ relevant background documents, including: Policy and technical documents, Convention's decisions, reports, special reports and background documents from the UNFCCC, CBD, IPCC and IPBES, peer-reviewed papers, grey literature, and policy briefs, case studies, outcomes of relevant meetings, etc.


- Stakeholders consultation**

Wide online consultation of all stakeholders of the Convention (30 Dec. 2019 to 31 Jan. 2020)





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Methodology


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- International Technical Advisory Group of experts**

 - 10 experts identified by Electoral Groups + Observers
 - Geographically and gender balanced
 - Advisory Bodies
 - Secretariat
 - To provide guidance and comments

- 4 online meetings**

 - 27-29 April
 - 4 June
 - 15-17 July
 - 22 September





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Methodology

- Drafting the updated Policy document
 Several drafts of the updated Policy Document prepared
 ‘Zero draft’ circulated to all States Parties on **23 March 2020**

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Methodology

- Zero Draft of the updated Policy Document
 discussed by the Technical Advisory Group on 27-29 April and 4 June 2020
- 2nd Draft of the updated Policy Document
 circulated to Technical Advisory Group on 6 July 2020
 and discussed on 15-17 July 2020
- 3rd Draft of the updated Policy Document
 circulated to Technical Advisory Group on 11 September 2020
 and discussed on 22 September 2020

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 Methodology


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- **Proof-reading and finalization of the updated Policy Document** between October 2020 and March 2021, involving ABs and other UNESCO Sectors
- **Outline of the updated Policy Document** circulated to all States Parties on **23 November 2020**
- **Circulated to all States Parties on 4 June**, as Annex 1 of Document WHC/21/44.COM/7C



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Results of the online consultation

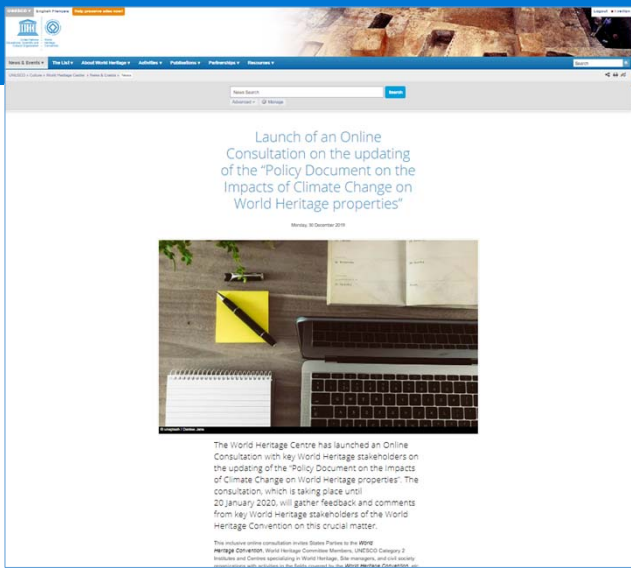
Mr. Rohit Jigyasu
Cultural heritage expert, ICCROM

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Online Consultation

All key stakeholders


30 December 2019 -
31 January 2020

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Section A: Personal information

Section B: Awareness of and involvement in the 2007 Policy

Section C: General views on climate change impacts and measures for GHG mitigation, adaptation for World Heritage properties

Section D: Suggestions for strengthening synergies between the World Heritage Convention and climate action

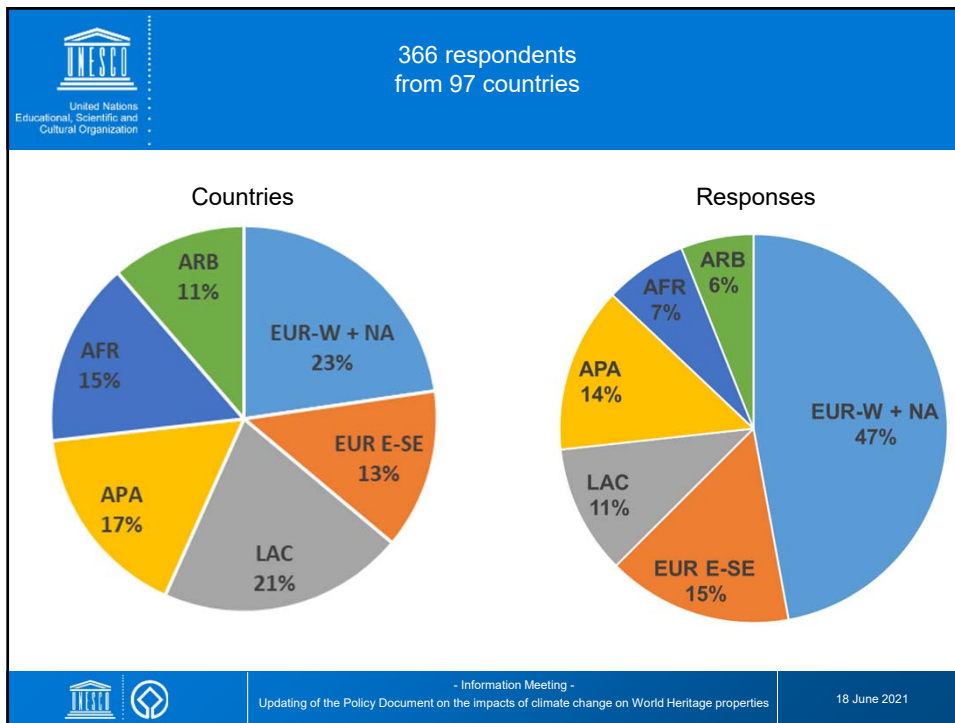
Section E: Key elements of the updated Policy

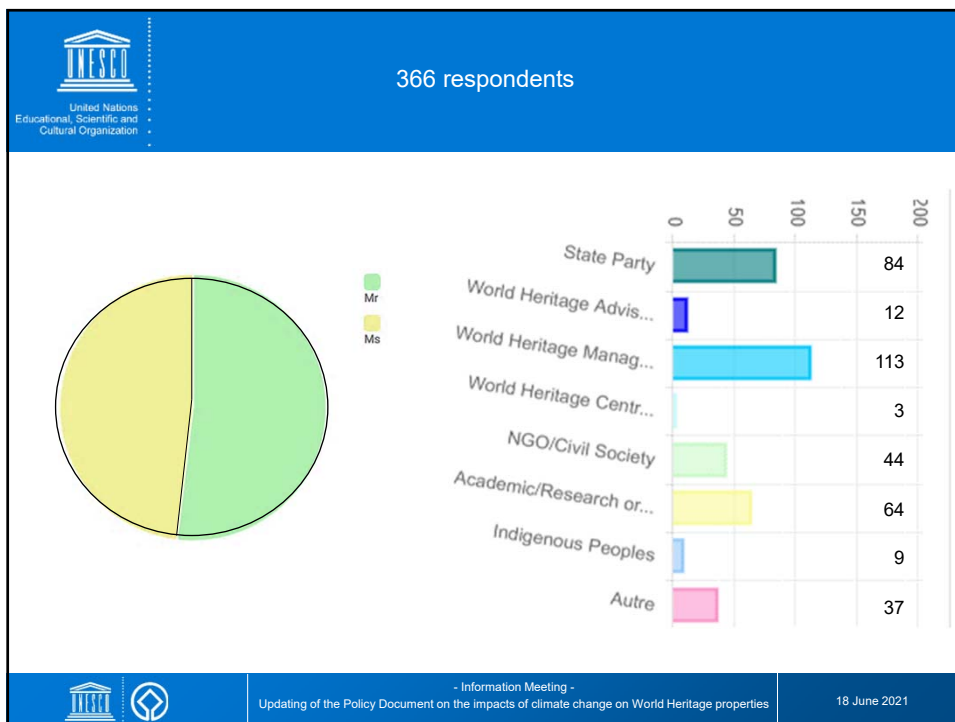
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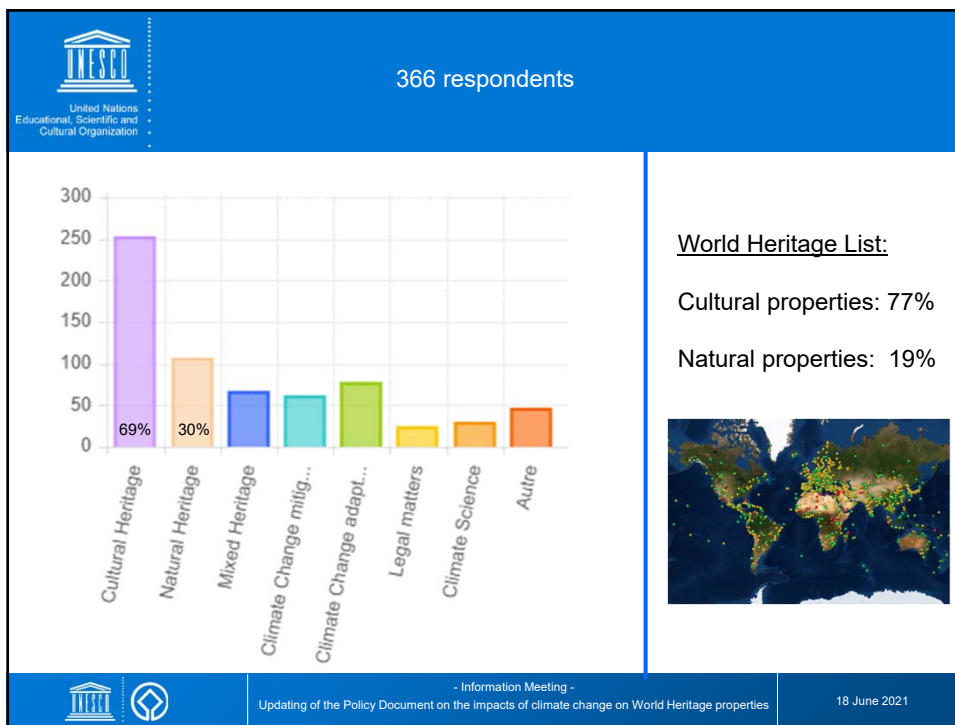
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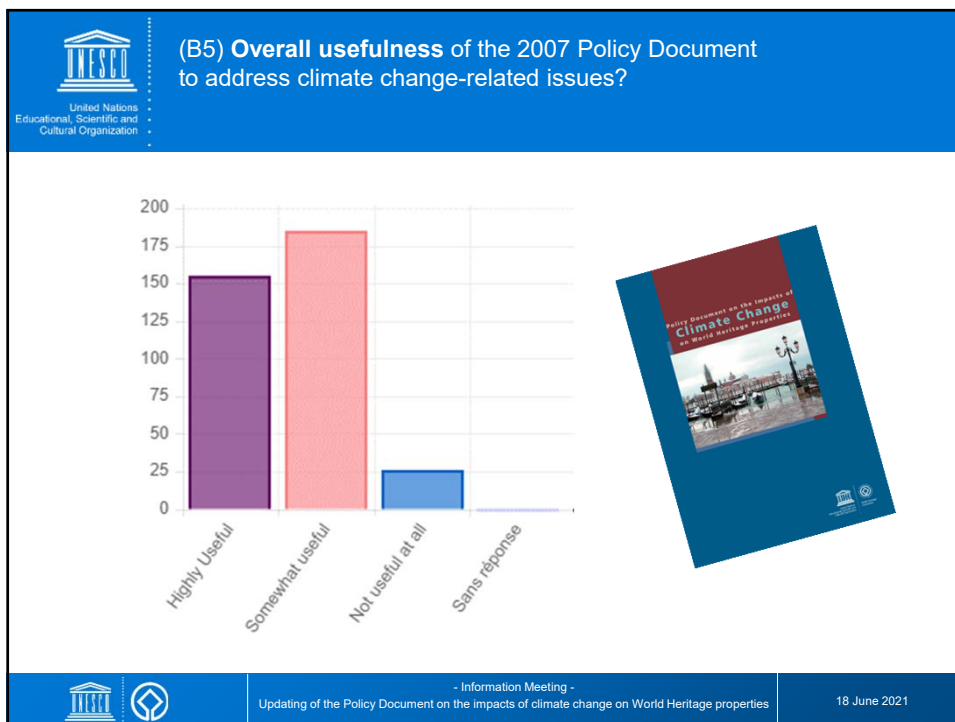
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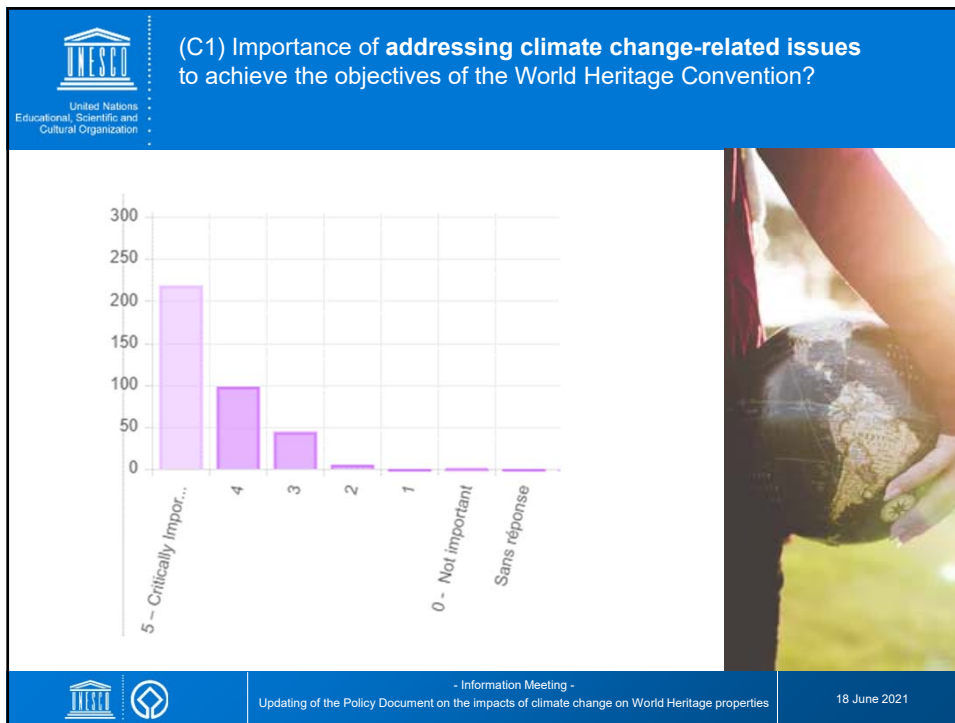
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(C3) Climate-related elements observed or identified as currently having a negative impact on World Heritage properties

Effects	%
Extreme rainfall events	53%
Precipitation change	51%
Air temperature change	50%
Extreme temperature events	49%
Drought frequency and severity	47%
Humidity change	43%
Storm intensity and frequency	43%
Flood intensity and frequency	42%
Sea level rise	34%
Wildfires	33%

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(C4) Climate-related **impacts experienced** as a result of climate hazards on World Heritage properties

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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%



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(C4) Climate-related **impacts** experienced as a result of climate hazards on World Heritage properties

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Effects	%
(6-9) Impacts on biodiversity (species, habitat, invasive alien species, ecological integrity/processes, etc.)	30/35%
(10) Impacts on local communities or Indigenous Peoples	30%
(11) Landscape changes - loss of ability to grow traditional plants/agric. systems	30%
(12) Water shortages	28%
(13) Degradation of OUV	27%
(14) Loss or degradation of Intangible Heritage	23%



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(C4) Climate-related **impacts** experienced as a result of climate hazards on World Heritage properties

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Effects	%
(15) Economic losses , incl. poverty, hunger of associated communities	22%
(16) Impacts on geological heritage (loss of glaciers for example)	18%
(17) Forced migration/involuntary displacement of people	16%
(18) Diminished capacity to address development needs of local communities	14%
(19) Increased risk of social and other conflicts or violence	13%







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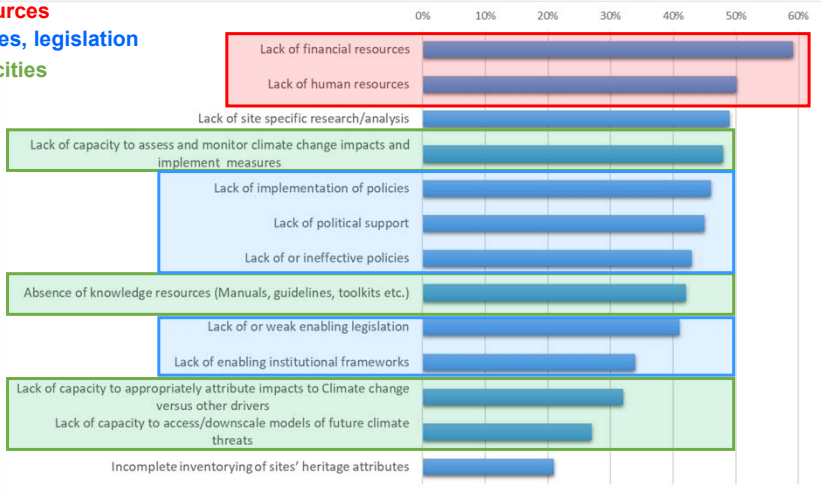
(C7) Key **challenges** to effective implementation of measures for addressing climate change issues in the management of World Heritage properties

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Resources

Policies, legislation

Capacities



Challenge	Percentage
Lack of financial resources	~58%
Lack of human resources	~52%
Lack of site specific research/analysis	~48%
Lack of capacity to assess and monitor climate change impacts and implement measures	~45%
Lack of implementation of policies	~42%
Lack of political support	~40%
Lack of or ineffective policies	~38%
Absence of knowledge resources (Manuals, guidelines, toolkits etc.)	~35%
Lack of or weak enabling legislation	~32%
Lack of enabling institutional frameworks	~28%
Lack of capacity to appropriately attribute impacts to Climate change versus other drivers	~25%
Lack of capacity to access/downscale models of future climate threats	~22%
Incomplete inventorying of sites' heritage attributes	~18%

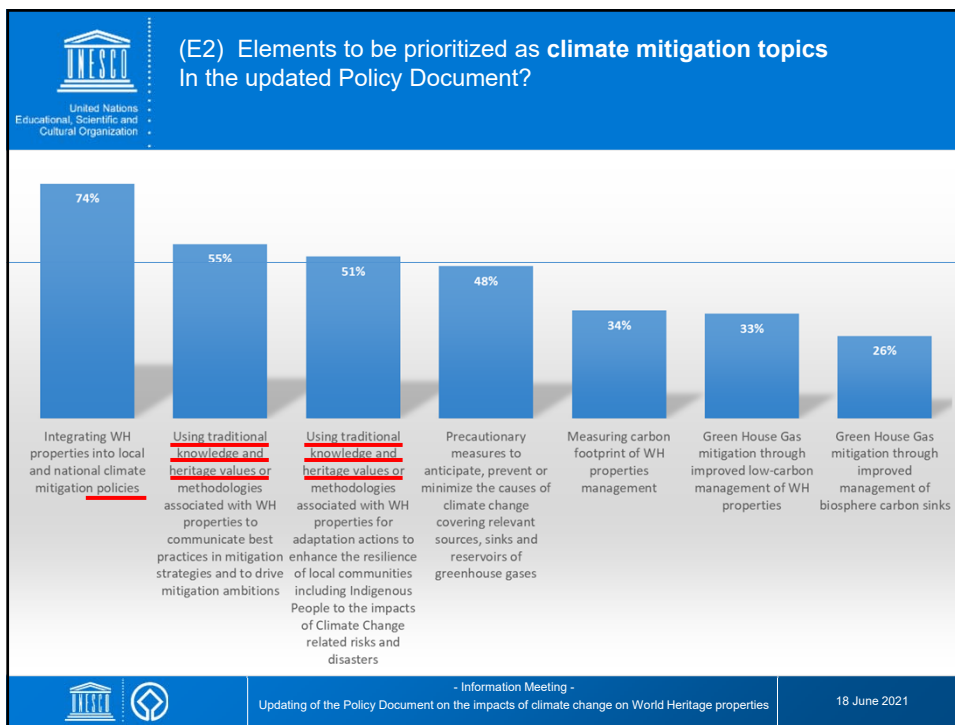



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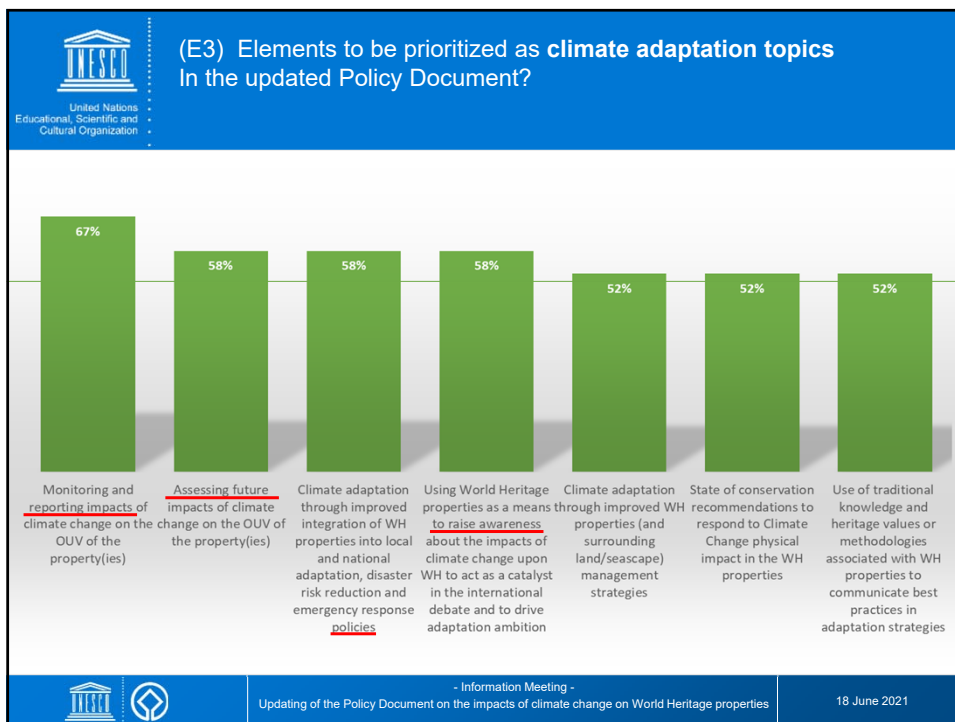
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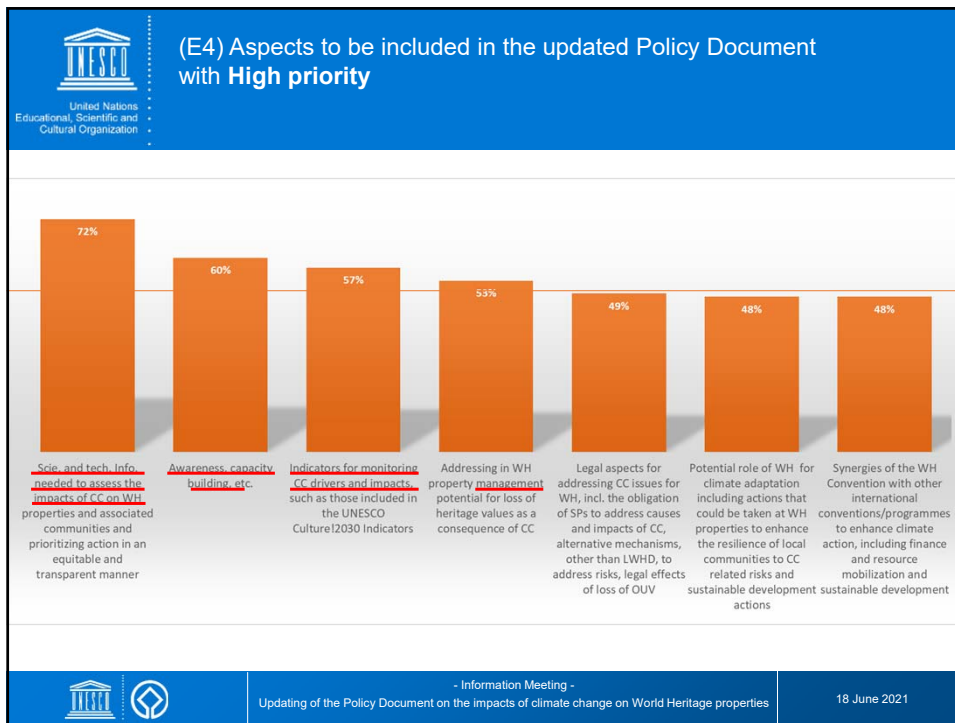
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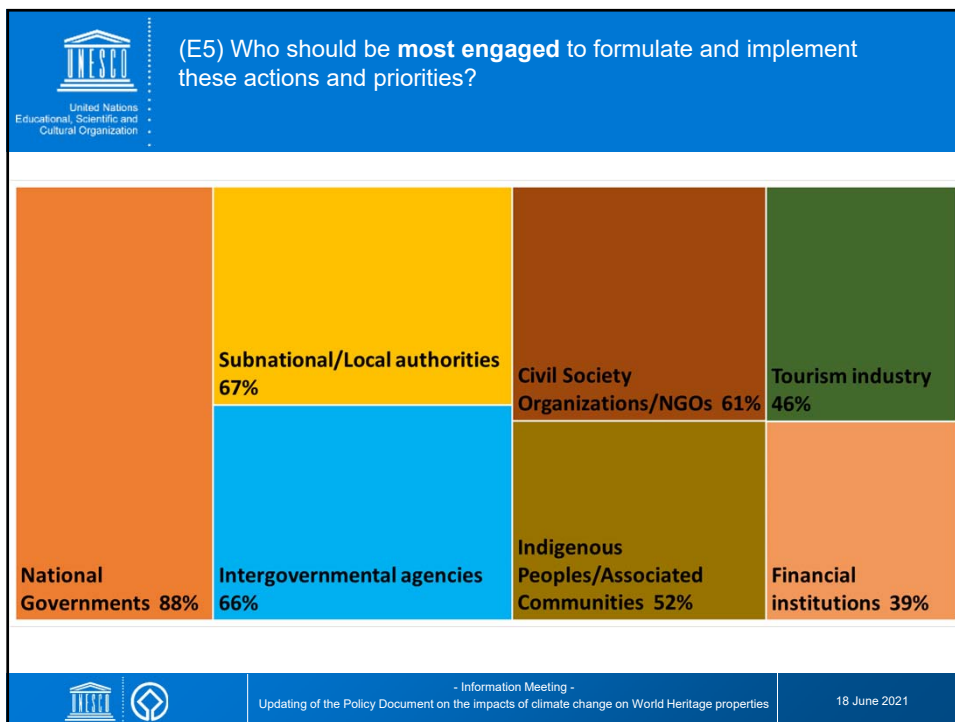
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Main gaps identified in the 2007 Policy Document


- The Policy functions as an international tool for climate change but **does not provide guidance for implementation** at regional, national and property levels
- The Policy does not recognize the direct or indirect **impacts** of climate change **on communities and intangible heritage** of World Heritage properties
- Guidance on **adaptive management** is missing
- **Practical recommendations and guidelines** to mitigate climate change impacts on World Heritage properties should be incorporated
- The Policy is only available in English and French. **Translation** of the document in regional languages will result in wider accessibility and understanding
- **More awareness** about such a document has to be raised at national, local and property levels

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Key Recommendations for the updated Policy Document (1/3)




- A **thematic approach** with respect to different climate change factors/hazards and different typologies of heritage
- Consider **vulnerability of Intangible Heritage** due to the impacts of climate change
- Reflect the **interconnectedness** between nature and culture
- Emphasise on **risk assessment** of World Heritage properties due to climate change especially with regards to the impacts on the OUV
- Develop and update **baseline data** for assessing the impact of climate change on World Heritage properties
- Encourage States Parties to **actively participate** in monitoring, adapting, mitigating and responding to climate change impacts




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 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>	<h3>Key Recommendations for the updated Policy Document (2/3)</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the need for developing monitoring systems with reference to the potential impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties • Need for synergy with latest international conventions • Emphasize improved capacity for integrating climate mitigation and adaptation for management and conservation of World Heritage properties • Importance of traditional knowledge on climate change for mitigation and adaptation • Emphasise the importance of community participation for adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties • The Nomination dossiers/P.R./SoC should articulate the vulnerability and risks of the World Heritage Property due to climate change and also current and proposed mitigation and adaptation measures to address them 		
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 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>	<h3>Key Recommendations for the updated Policy Document (3/3)</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation in the management plan/system of World Heritage properties • Articulate synergy between international and regional conventions and national and local policies for climate change and heritage • Develop tools and procedures for climate risk assessment, mitigation and adaptation for World Heritage properties • Formulate/Strengthen national and local legislations addressing climate change risks to heritage • Provide mechanisms for implementation at property level • Disseminate knowledge and information on a global level through good practices • Translate the Policy Document in regional languages 		
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Presentation of the “Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

Purpose and scope of the Policy Document


Mr. Rohit Jigyasu
Cultural heritage expert, ICCROM



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I. PREAMBLE


- A. Overview
- B. Purpose and Scope
- C. Guiding Principles



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A. Overview

- Historical background of 2007 Policy Document
- New evidence of the magnitude of threats due to climate change
- Climate Change accelerates the destruction of eco-systems, while the loss and unsustainable use of nature are in turn, key drivers of climate change
- Contribution of world heritage properties against climate impacts
- 'Transformative Change' by making World Heritage properties climate neutral
- Connectivity of climate change and interactions between decision makers, communities and natural and cultural heritage to support transformative change
- Links with 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda, 2015 Paris Agreement
Aligning the goals
- Engaging with local communities to strengthen natural, cultural and social resilience and offer sustainable futures

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B. Purpose and Scope


- To provide high-level guidance on enhancing the protection and conservation of heritage of Outstanding Universal Value through comprehensive adoption of climate action measures, including climate adaptation, mitigation, resilience building, innovation and research
- Create synergies between the objectives and processes, multilateral agreements, processes and instruments such as 2030 SD Agenda, 2015 Sendai Framework, 2016 New Urban Agenda, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- To galvanise urgent action in support of transformative change by States Parties, which can reflect its aims in their own national policies that guide the implementation of World Heritage Convention
- Relevance to all stakeholders and rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and the private sector
- Embedded in the existing processes of World Heritage Convention




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C. Guiding Principles


- Adopt a precautionary approach aimed at minimising the risks associated with climate change
- Anticipate, avoid and minimise harm to protect the heritage of Outstanding Universal Value
- Use best available knowledge, generated through disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary processes, including from scientists, researchers, site managers, indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Integrate a sustainable development perspective
- Promote global partnership, inclusion and solidarity

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Presentation of the “Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

The Policy Framework


Mr. Oscar J. Guevara
Natural heritage expert, WCPA - Climate Change Specialist Group

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II. THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

- A. Long-term Vision
- B. World Heritage Climate Action Goals
- C. Legal Framework
- D. Climate Action
 - D.1. Assessing climate risks to World Heritage properties
 - D.2. Climate Adaptation
 - D.3. Climate Mitigation
 - D.4. Knowledge sharing, capacity building and awareness
 - D.5. Transformative change

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II. THE POLICY FRAMEWORK RESPONDS TO THE NEED OF


- Ensure that the updated Policy Document is fully anchored in the World Heritage system
- Ensure clear links with the UN Agenda 2030, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and with all other relevant World Heritage documents
- Ground the updated Policy Document in contemporary climate policy and in the best available climate science
- Have an action-oriented updated Policy Document




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LONG TERM VISION


- The vision of the Policy Document is that each State Party understands **the current and future potential impacts** of climate change on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties situated on their territory, and **undertakes climate action in an effective, ambitious, cooperative and active way**
- This is undertaken **consistent with States Parties' obligations** under the World Heritage Convention to ensure the protection, conservation and management of their cultural and natural heritage to the utmost of its own capacities and resources and, where appropriate, with international assistance and co-operation

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GOALS


- **Goal 1 (Climate risk assessment):** By 2030, States Parties should develop **tools** and build **capacity** needed to assess **climate risks** and identify potential reversible or irreversible damage to attributes carrying the **Outstanding Universal Value** associated with current and projected impacts of climate hazards, and to **report** the resulting climate risks assessments through World Heritage processes such as Periodic Reporting and state of conservation reports
- **Goal 2 (Climate Adaptation):** By 2030, States Parties should **establish** at the national and/or other appropriate levels, and **implement at the site level**, robust **climate adaptation frameworks** that can **demonstrate measurable progress** on monitoring of climate hazards, assessing and reducing climate risks and vulnerabilities, and in doing so enhancing adaptive capacity and building climate resilience for all World Heritage properties

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GOALS


- **Goal 3 (Climate Mitigation):** By 2030, States Parties should implement at national and/or other appropriate levels, **comprehensive climate mitigation frameworks** that **guide mitigation action** for cultural, natural and mixed properties that encourage the reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions associated with World Heritage properties, including, where appropriate, actions to safeguard natural ecosystems that are carbon sinks
- **Goal 4 (Knowledge sharing, capacity building and awareness):** By 2030, States Parties should have developed and implemented **activities aimed at improving education, awareness raising, and human and institutional capacity** in relation to the risks and responses related to climate change impacts on World Heritage properties, including programmes designed to promote these properties as exemplars of climate action

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Implementation of the Policy Document


Mr. Rohit Jigyasu
Cultural heritage expert, ICCROM

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III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY DOCUMENT

- A. Enabling conditions
 - Governance
 - Finance
 - Technological innovation
- B. World Heritage Committee-level implementation
- C. National-level implementation
- D. World Heritage property-level implementation

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A. Enabling Conditions


States Parties will endeavour to enhance the feasibility of actions contemplated through this Policy Document by attention to the following enabling conditions underpinning climate action in the World Heritage context.

- Finance, technological innovation, institutional capacity, multi-level governance, and changes in human behaviour and lifestyles
- Inclusive processes, attention to power asymmetries and unequal opportunities

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B. World Heritage Committee-level implementation

- Developing and implementing a funding strategy to attract public and private sector support for climate action and capacity building for World Heritage properties
- Ensuring that basic documents of World Heritage system, such as the Operational Guidelines and Resource Manuals, adequately address climate change
- Promoting climate action measures for properties that are on frontlines of climate change impacts and encourage South-South collaboration
- Strengthening the link between the World Heritage Convention and UNFCCC in terms of monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- Promoting synergies with existing international policies and tools from various sectors
- Considering amendments to the formats of Periodic Reporting and State of conservation Reporting and UNESCO's 2030 culture indicators
- Identifying regional or thematic actions across States Parties

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C. National-level implementation


- Identifying and accessing resources needed from all sources through collaboration with government and corporate/private sectors
- Achieving coherence with national policies by building synergies between the heritage sector and other sectors
- Ensuring national guidance on World Heritage and for cultural and natural heritage generally addresses climate change
- Developing pilot projects that promote good practices in climate action for World Heritage properties
- Standardizing and sharing data gathering across WH properties to facilitate identification and analysis of common hazards and impacts of climate change
- Developing climate vulnerability and risk indicators and establishing baseline data for WH properties at national level to assess and track climate risks.
- Implementation of climate actions (adaptation and mitigation strategies)




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D. World Heritage property-level implementation


- Undertaking climate vulnerability and risk assessments for WH properties
- Developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies consistent with climate adaptation frameworks developed at the national level
- Prioritising monitoring of climate hazards, assessing and reducing climate risks and enhancing adaptive capacity of the property
- Implementing management practices that reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience of WH properties to pressures such as urbanisation and tourism
- Engaging with traditional knowledge holders and local communities
- Quantifying or where appropriate reducing or otherwise offsetting any net greenhouse gas emissions associated with the property
- Knowledge mobilisation, education , awareness raising and human and institutional capacity building

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Presentation of the “Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

Annex I Glossary of terms


Mr. Rohit Jigyasu
Cultural heritage expert, ICCROM

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- Definitions of concepts used in the Policy Document have been drawn from IPCC reports (2012, 2018 and 2019)
- These terms should be understood by the heritage sector to enable better communication and coordination with environment sector.
- The discrepancy between some of the terms such as mitigation used in heritage and defined in the glossary based on IPCC reports also needs to be recognized.

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Annex II

Areas for further focus on adaptation


Mr. Oscar J. Guevara
Natural heritage expert, WCPA - Climate Change Specialist Group

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Overview

This Policy Document recommends that each State Party implements at national and/or other appropriate levels, all the necessary actions to have in place a comprehensive climate risk management framework that fosters adaptation and resilience building actions (Goals 1 and 2)


- A. Assessing climate risks
- B. Climate risk management
- C. Baseline information
- D. Damage and loss of OUV
- E. Managing for Resilience

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Annex III Areas for further focus on mitigation


Mr. Oscar J. Guevara
Natural heritage expert, WCPA - Climate Change Specialist Group

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Overview

This Policy Document recommends that each State Party implements at national and/or other appropriate levels, all the necessary actions to have in place a comprehensive climate mitigation framework, that fosters synergies, better coordination and enhance effective implementation, of the local, subnational, national and international climate mitigation developments since the adoption of the Paris Agreement


- A. Built environment
- B. Land-use management
- C. Life cycle assessment
- D. Tourism

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Presentation of the “Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

Annex IV

Areas for further focus on knowledge sharing, education & capacity building


Mr. Rohit Jigyasu
Cultural heritage expert, ICCROM

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Overview

- A. Global-level actions (World Heritage Convention)
- B. State Party-/Property-level actions

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A. Global-level actions


- Informing the UNFCCC Secretariat and its Parties of the impacts of climate change on World Heritage in order to include these into their guidelines for national communications
- Ensuring that capacity building activities on climate risk assessments, reporting, adaptation and mitigation strategies are coordinated with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, other international organizations and secretariats of other conventions
- Organization of international and regional workshops to share the knowledge and experience, and establish networking among States Parties
- Develop communication strategies to inform the public and policy makers on climate action for World Heritage properties
- Promoting and sharing good practices on climate action for World Heritage properties among States Parties

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B. State Party/Property-level actions


- Collecting information and establishing national database on the past and existing impacts of climate change on WH properties
- Promoting and development of risk and vulnerability maps at national level
- Providing information to decision-makers, stakeholders, local communities, users and managers of the properties and other heritage specialists about the existing and potential impacts of climate change on properties, management responses, possible technical and financial assistance, existing networks and institutions from heritage and climate sectors and various capacity building initiatives.
- Promoting and sharing of good practices
- Encouraging site managers to provide feedback based on their experience
- Encourage academic institutions to share their research and undertake interdisciplinary projects and data synthesis to improve links between heritage research fields and other areas of climate science

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Information meeting on the updating of the “Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties”

Questions & Answers

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Thank you

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange>



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