



2011 UNESCO
Recommendation
on the
Historic
Urban
Landscape



World Heritage City Lab – Management of World Heritage Cities

13-14 December 2021

Concept Note

Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments
(Russian Federation)
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International Conference organised in the context of the 30th Anniversary of the inscription of the "Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments" on the UNESCO World Heritage List

and

The 10th Anniversary of the HUL Recommendation

Organised by the Committee for the state preservation of historical and cultural monuments of the City of Saint Petersburg in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Government of Saint Petersburg



Government of the
Leningrad region

Background

The cultural heritage of a city or a country, including those recognised as World Heritage sites, is a source of pride, inspiration, knowledge, and respect for the local communities, the nation, and, by virtue of its universal value, all of humanity. The Russian Federation is proud to have 19 cultural sites on the World Heritage List, of which a number are located in urban contexts:

- Architectural Ensemble of the Trinity Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad
- Citadel, Ancient City and Fortress Buildings of Derbent
- Historic and Architectural Complex of the Kazan Kremlin
- Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments
- Historic Monuments of Novgorod and Surroundings
- Historical Centre of the City of Yaroslavl
- Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow
- White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal

These sites are important not only for their uniqueness and their particular histories but also for enabling intercultural dialogue and exchange, within the country and beyond in the world. For cultural heritage in urban areas, as cities grow and change, with communities that live and work in and around the heritage property, and the daily pressures of new development projects, urban infrastructure and rising real estate markets, the management of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remains a challenge requiring solutions that are multi-faceted, complex and dynamic.

There is clearly an urgent need to develop management strategies to support the integration of heritage conservation with sustainable urban development plans and processes. In recent sessions of the World Heritage Committee, there have been increasing reports of cases where a worrying pattern of situations affecting heritage in urban contexts have emerged. Hence, it is internationally significant to deepen reflection on the heritage management practices of urban properties. One of the issues flagged during the discussion on the State of Conservation of properties during the 43 COM in Baku was the urgent need to develop strategies and guidance for a better integration of Management Plans for urban World Heritage properties in the urban development plans and processes (Decision 43COM 7.3). Previous World Heritage Committee decisions have also identified the need to better address urban pressures for development in and around World Heritage properties and to fully implement the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) (Decision 41 COM 7). The 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, also noted the 'pressures on historic urban areas arising from inappropriate or inconsistent development controls, and rapid, uncontrolled, and unplanned development, including large development projects' (Decision 44 COM 7.2). Furthermore, the decision also called upon States Parties to utilise the approach of the HUL Recommendation to manage urban development within the properties and their buffer zones and to use the opportunity of the 10th Anniversary of the HUL Recommendation in 2021 and the UNESCO HUL Call for Action to support key actions to implement the HUL Recommendation. The urgency of developing effective management for World Heritage cities has been underlined by the analysis of State of Conservation reports during the 44th session of the Committee. Of the more than 250 reports reviewed, more than 70 concerned World Heritage cities, some of them reporting inadequate management frameworks (43%), a matter of particular importance given the high number of sites presenting urban development pressures (54%).

Despite the extensive and successful experience in the field of heritage preservation in the Russian Federation, issues related to the implementation of international legal norms in Russian federal and regional laws, the implementation of Impact Assessments for new large-scale construction projects and reconstruction projects on the OUV of the property, as well as the multiple visions of for the development in World Heritage cities, remain. They are often left to the purview of city managers to protect the OUV of World Heritage properties in the face of global transformation. The World Heritage Committee in its 36th Session invited the State Party to designate a principal management authority with sufficient authority to control the property, as well as to develop an overall Management Plan for the property, including a Plan for Environmental Design and Urbanism for the entire territory, as well as a Safeguarding Plan defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property cities (Decision 36 COM 7B.85). Responding to this invitation and understanding that this could be a valuable contribution to all urban heritage globally, the City of Saint Petersburg is collaborating with UNESCO World Heritage Centre to organise an International Expert Workshop to explore and exchange on management systems to support the appropriate management of World Heritage cities.

The "Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments" is an example of a serial World Heritage property, composed of an emblematic historic city and 36 monuments, sites and elements, many of which were recovered and restored following damages during the Second World War. Facing new challenges of urban development, the Russian authorities invited, in 2019, a UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission. It assessed the state of conservation of the property and recommended to organize such an International Conference on the preservation and management of World Heritage sites that are urban landscapes.

The conference is motivated by the recommendations of the above-mentioned Decision 36 COM 8B.35 and will discuss the development of general guidance on management systems and governance for World Heritage cities, contributing to the implementation of the HUL Recommendation (<https://whc.unesco.org/document/172639>). Such management systems and governance matters could also address the 2018 Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage (<https://whc.unesco.org/document/168799>). Lectures by senior experts are accompanied by presentations of selected case studies, illustrating the diverse examples of management systems and practices for recovery, reconstruction, protection, management and sustainable development in World Heritage cities. Moreover, expert debates revolving around the future of World Heritage cities will offer an exceptional chance to explore cross-cutting approaches that could inspire the definition of wholistic governance frameworks for urban heritage.

In this context, the attention is focused on the implementation of HUL Recommendation to address of the integration of heritage conservation with sustainable development. The HUL Recommendation was adopted during the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference on 10th November 2011, to address "the need to better integrate and frame urban heritage conservation strategies with the larger goals of overall sustainable development...". This UNESCO standard-setting instrument responds to concerns and threats of transformation of urban areas and their settings due to rapid and uncontrolled development including large development projects. It proposes new policies standards and principles to balance the increasing pressures of cities on people and the planet, and to bring a shift of attitude to the conservation and management of the cultural heritage to enable better integration of cultural heritage conservation in national and urban development policies.

Relationships between heritage and urban issues are complex, and touch on social and economic as well as cultural factors as highlighted in target 11.4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals where the safeguarding of heritage is essential to make our cities “inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Moreover, the November 2019 UNESCO General Conference draft decision in support of the reporting of the HUL Recommendation, reaffirms “the importance of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and of its implementation by Member States, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, and the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want”.

Key Objectives

The World Heritage City Lab- Management of UNESCO World Heritage Cities will:

- analyse the issues above;
- gather international experts to present examples of historic city management from around the world;
- create space for peer-to-peer exchange and debate;
- provide an opportunity to reflect on the HUL Recommendation and the UNESCO HUL Call for Action on the 10th Anniversary of the HUL Recommendation.
- bring attention to the strategic multi-stakeholder management of historic cities and the need for transversality and inter-sectoral cooperation.

Conference Format

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, and conditioned by the restrictions applied worldwide, the Conference has been organised as an online event, with the possibility of a group of Russian site managers, key persons and experts attending offline (hybrid).

Conference venue: Online

Dates: 13-14 December 2021

Outcomes

As a result of the "World Heritage City Lab- Management of UNESCO World Heritage Cities":

- the city of Saint Petersburg in particular, as well as any other cities and practitioners attending the City Lab., will learn from other historic city management examples that will serve as a reference when (re)developing their own Management Plans;
- emphasis will be put on the HUL Recommendation as a tool for integrating heritage protection with sustainable urban development;
- the main takeaways of this World Heritage City Lab will be presented as a wrap up to the event. As a result of the conference, a summary report of the conference is planned to be issued, in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in English, French, and Russian.
- Cases presented during the conference will be disseminated broadly through the different channels of the World Heritage Cities Programme.

Additional visual material

In the framework of the conference, with a view to mark the 30th anniversary of the inscription of 3 sites, the Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments, Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow, and Kizhi Pogost on the World Heritage List, short films will be prepared and shared (subtitles in

English/French) on each of the sites from the perspective of their urban management and the HUL Recommendation.

Thematic Areas

Management of UNESCO World Heritage Cities with a focus on:

- Governance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Impact Assessment
- Contribution of World Heritage to Sustainable Urban Development

Working languages

English, French, Russian

Format

Online conference (Zoom Platform) with the possibility for Russian and specific attendees to participate *in presentia*.

Selected reference documents

(each invitee will be asked to contribute with suggestions)

UN	2030 Sustainable Development Goals
UN-Habitat	New Urban Agenda
UN-Habitat	Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
UNESCO	2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape
UNESCO	Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
UNESCO	Inclusion of the Historic Urban Landscape in the relevant sections of the text of the Operational Guidelines, 2010
UNESCO	Managing Historic Cities, World Heritage papers, n°27 - November 2010
UNESCO	Managing Cultural World Heritage, Resource Manual, 2013
UNESCO	“World Heritage in the Russian federation”, The World Heritage Review, n°64 June 2012
UNESCO	“World Heritage and Urban Heritage”, The World Heritage Review, n°81 September 2016
UNESCO	“Walled cities”, The World Heritage Review, n°91 May 2019
UNESCO	Case Studies on the Conservation and Management of Historic Cities (web)
UNESCO	Fukuoka Final Outcomes, 2020
UNESCO	Outcomes of the World Heritage City Lab, 2020
UNESCO	Outcomes of the World Heritage City Lab - Living with World Heritage: Adaptive Reuse and Regeneration in the Euro-Mediterranean region, 2021
UNESCO	Report on the 10th Anniversary event of the HUL Recommendation, 2021

UNESCO	Relevant World Heritage Committee decisions
ICOMOS	Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas 1967
ICOMOS	Xi'an Declaration on the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas 2005
ICOMOS	The Valetta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban areas 2011
ICOMOS	Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for World Heritage Properties 2011

