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Consolidated Report on the Third UNESCO Member States Consultation on the Implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

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INTRODUCTION

The 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (hereafter 2011 Recommendation) was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 36th session on 10 November 2011 (36 C/ Resolution 41) and recommends to Member States to integrate policies and practices of conservation of the built environment into the wider goals of urban development, in respect of the inherited values and traditions of different cultural contexts.

This innovative standard-setting instrument calls for the conservation of urban heritage to be embraced for its contribution to culturally vibrant, economically prosperous, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable cities and settlements. The 2011 Recommendation advocates a landscape approach to historic urban areas that: (i) integrates heritage conservation with urban development plans and processes; (ii) regards the built heritage, natural environment, local communities and their practices to be integrally related; and (iii) views urban heritage as a resource and a vector for sustainable urban development. The 2011 Recommendation is also an important tool for protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of urban World Heritage properties and an instrument for managing urban heritage in all cities and settlements prioritizing sustainable development, inclusion and resilience including climate resilience.

The 2011 Recommendation complements UNESCO normative tools, in particular the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (hereafter World Heritage Convention). Currently, out of 1,157 properties on the World Heritage List, 322 are World Heritage cities – almost one-third of all properties. Thus, historic cities constitute the most represented types of properties on the World Heritage List and their management and protection are often complex. The management of urban heritage is a multifaceted challenge and must contend with factors such as the impacts of rapid urbanization, globalization, ill-conceived/uncontrolled urban development projects and the impacts of climate change, all of which are transforming the built form, natural environment, land-uses and the lives of communities inhabiting historic cities. Of the 900 cultural World Heritage properties today, more than 70% are located in urban areas, making them vulnerable to the same pressures.

The approach of the 2011 Recommendation is aligned with the vision outlined in the [UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda](https://unhabitat.org/about-us/new-urban-agenda)¹ for a more sustainable urban future and closely intersects with the economic, social and environmental pillars of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sdgs.un.org).²

¹ <https://unhabitat.org/about-us/new-urban-agenda>

² <https://sdgs.un.org>

Throughout this survey, 'historic urban area' has been used to refer to historic cities and settlements or their historic parts that include the historical built fabric around monuments and landmarks. 'Historic urban landscape' refers to the approach of the 2011 Recommendation and not a type of heritage site. For definitions of other terms used throughout the survey, please refer to the glossary provided in this link: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/192971>. For more information on the 2011 Recommendation, visit <https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul>.

Cities worldwide confront multiple problems of rapid and unprecedented urbanization, globalization, ill-conceived/uncontrolled urban development and infrastructure projects, as well as the impacts of climate change and related extreme weather events and disasters, among others. A significant number of cultural heritage sites of historical value across the world are located in urban areas. Historic urban areas affected by increased storms, aridity, heatwaves or land subsidence are experiencing demographic changes, with migration of population and resulting impacts on historic urban areas.

In 2021, the celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation³ were launched with a global event, as well as regional technical sessions. The events brought together 59 mayors, city leaders and high-level global experts, and nearly 1,500 experts, National Commissions, National Focal Points and site managers. The UNESCO HUL Call for Action⁴ was also launched on this occasion. During the 12 months following the Call for Action, 145 cities, institutions and individuals had signed up to the HUL Call for Action to raise awareness about the 2011 Recommendation and to accelerate inclusive urban heritage management. Outcomes of these exchanges helped to identify key issues and challenges that recognized that urban heritage must be managed through an approach that integrates heritage conservation with urban development plans and policies across a range of scales from architectural motifs of buildings to the wider setting of the city, its skyline and natural features in a framework of sustainable development and climate resilience, in line with the approach of the 2011 Recommendation.

The World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly of the World Heritage Convention – the governing bodies of the World Heritage Convention – have through their decisions promoted a holistic approach to managing urban heritage. More than 50% of all State of Conservation (SoC) reports examined by the World Heritage Committee relate to heritage in urban areas, reflecting the complexities of reconciling urban development with heritage conservation. The main factors affecting World Heritage cities are management and institutional factors, and urban development factors, both of which affect more than one in three World Heritage cities. For example, among others, the World Heritage Committee by Decisions 37 COM 12.II, 39 COM 11, 41 COM 7 and 43 COM 7.3 has asked the Secretariat to elaborate 'a guidance document on urban heritage, including its definition, identification, conservation and management' based on the approach of the 2011 Recommendation. In response to

³ 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation <https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1596>

⁴ HUL Call for Action <https://survey.unesco.org/3/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=966989&lang=en>

these requests and decisions, with the funds available, UNESCO has developed initiatives to promote and support the Member States and their local authorities in the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation.

METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY AND ANALYSIS

In preparing the survey, the Secretariat drew upon the survey questionnaire and conclusions of the Second Consolidated Report; the outcomes of two major global workshops focused on the 2011 Recommendation and seven World Heritage City Labs; the *World Heritage City Dialogues*; the *UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators* framework for measuring the role of culture at the local level; as well as the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise submitted by States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in the last four years, in order to identify key issues related to the 2011 Recommendation to be addressed in the Third Member State Consultation. The survey questionnaire was significantly shortened and modified compared with the Second Member State Consultation. Furthermore, a survey questionnaire for local authorities was developed for their reporting. Following feedback received from international experts as well as the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, the drafts of two questionnaires were prepared. These were further modified with the feedback from Member States at the 214th Session of the Executive Board, finalized and shared with the Member States. The survey questionnaires supported the reports of the national and local authorities on the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation. The content of these national and local reports has been analysed and consolidated to prepare the present Consolidated Report on the Third Member State Consultation.

Following Decision (214 EX/SR5) 13.V 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape⁵ — the two survey questionnaires were sent by UNESCO to all Member States on 30 June 2022, accompanied by a request to appoint Focal Points and submit reports at national and local levels. The submission deadline for survey responses was 1 October 2022, extended to 1 November 2022. Following this, reminders were sent by UNESCO on 7 and 27 July 2022. In the last week of September 2022, emails were sent to Member States which had still not identified Focal Points. The survey was accessible from the dedicated webpage on the 2011 Recommendation (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul>) in English and French.

Focal Points for each Member State at the national and local levels were established by national authorities to ensure the authenticity of survey responses. Forms requesting contact details for the designated National Focal Point in the framework of the 2011 Recommendation, as well as for designated Local Focal Points at city level, were sent to each Member State in English and in French. As a result, 77 Focal Points were established for national-level responses and 200 Focal Points for local-level responses.

⁵ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381300>

THE RESPONDENTS

Data on survey responses received by Member States to sections A and B

Table 1 shows the Member States that responded to the survey at two levels: national and local. Out of 193 Member States, 187 reports received from 69 Member States⁶, with 62 national reports and 125 local reports (see Table 1). This is a significant increase from the 55 Member States who reported for the previous Consultation.

Table 1. Respondent Member States (alphabetical)

Member States	National report	Local report (s)
Group I: Western European and North American States		
Andorra	•	
Denmark	•	
Finland	•	•
Italy	•	•
Luxembourg	•	•
Netherlands	•	
Norway	•	•
San Marino	•	•
Spain	•	
Sweden	•	•
Switzerland / Suisse	•	
Türkiye	•	•
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	•	•
Group II: Eastern European States		
Armenia	•	•
Azerbaijan	•	•
Czechia	•	•
Estonia	•	
Georgia	•	•
Latvia	•	
Lithuania	•	•
Poland	•	
Russian Federation	•	
Serbia	•	
Group III: Latin-America and Caribbean States		
Brazil		•

⁶ 19% from Group I, 14% from Group II, 19% from Group III, 19% from Group IV, 19% from Group V (a) and 10% from Group V (b). One report was from an Associate Member State.

Consolidated Report on the Third UNESCO Member States Consultation on the Implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

Member States	National report	Local report (s)
Chile	•	
Colombia	•	•
Costa Rica	•	
Cuba	•	•
Ecuador	•	•
Honduras	•	•
Mexico	•	•
Nicaragua	•	•
Peru	•	•
Paraguay	•	
Trinidad and Tobago	•	
Uruguay		•
Group IV: Asian and Pacific States		
Bangladesh	•	
Cambodia	•	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		•
Fiji	•	•
Indonesia	•	
Iran	•	•
Japan	•	
Malaysia	•	•
Maldives	•	•
Nepal	•	
Pakistan	•	•
Singapore	•	•
Turkmenistan	•	•
Group V (a): African States		
Burkina Faso	•	•
Cote d'Ivoire	•	•
Eritrea		•
Gambia		•
Ghana	•	
Kenya	•	
Madagascar	•	
Mauritius	•	•
Nigeria	•	•
Seychelles	•	•
Sierra Leone	•	•
United Republic of Tanzania		•
Zambia	•	•

Member States		National report	Local report (s)
Group V (b): Arab States			
Egypt		•	•
Iraq		•	•
Jordan		•	•
Morocco			•
Oman		•	
Qatar		•	
Saudi Arabia		•	•
Total count of responding Member States⁷	69	62	45

⁷ 18.84% from Group I, 14.49% from Group II, 18.84% from Group III, 18.84% from Group IV, 18.84% from Group V (a) and 10.14% from Group V (b).

RESPONDENTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Responses were received from 125 cities from 45 Member States and Associate Member States (Table 1). Member States who responded to the National Level Survey may not have responded to the Local Level Survey, and vice versa. Around 60% of the 125 cities have World Heritage sites listed by UNESCO.

A summary of responses received across regions for sections A and B is analysed in Table 2 in terms of i) breakdown of responses received by the electoral group and ii) percentage of responding Member States to participant Member States per electoral group.

Analysis of responses received for sections A and B: National and local level surveys

a) Breakdown of responses received in the Third Consultation (2022), by UNESCO electoral group⁸

Table 2. Breakdown of Member States responding to surveys conducted at the national and local levels, by UNESCO electoral group

UNESCO electoral group	Number of respondent Member States for national and local level surveys	Percentage of respondent Member States for national and local level surveys
Group I: Western European and North American States	13	19%
Group II: Eastern European States	10	14%
Group III: Latin America and Caribbean States	13	19%
Group IV: Asian and Pacific States	13	19%
Group V(a): African States	13	19%
Group V(b): Arab States	7	10%

⁸ Please note that this breakdown is by UNESCO electoral group, where 69 Member States responded. This breakdown is different from that of Table 3, which is divided by regions with a view to the execution by the Organization of regional activities.

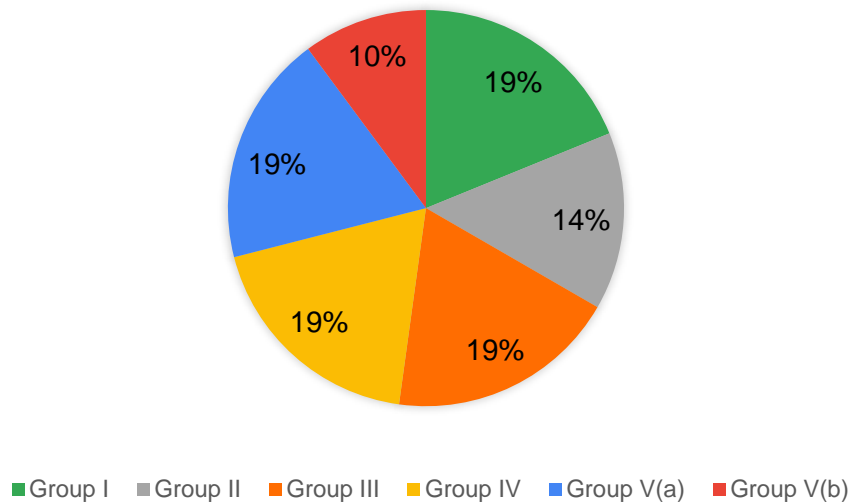


Figure 2. UNESCO electoral group representation for both national and local respondents, Third Consultation (percentage).

b) Breakdown of responses received based on UNESCO electoral group in the Second UNESCO Member States Consultation (2019)

The overall trend of responses between the Third Consultation (2022) and the Second Consultation (2019) shows an increase in Member States' implementation of the 2011 Recommendation.

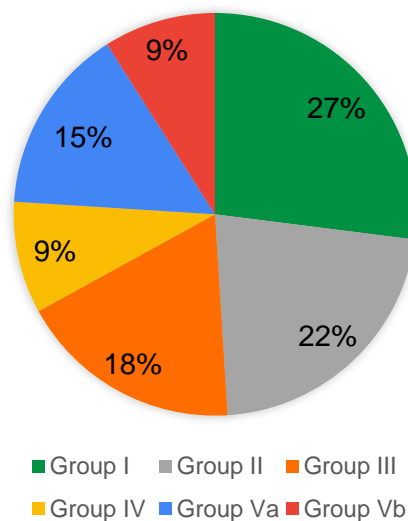


Figure 3. UNESCO electoral group representation for the National Level Survey conducted for the Second Consultation (percentage).

CONCLUSIONS

The Third Member State Consultation on the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation overwhelmingly confirmed the importance of the Recommendation. It demonstrated the urgency of mainstreaming the Recommendation as a tool for managing urban heritage in and around settlements and cities to recognize, protect and integrate historic built environments into planning for sustainable development. At a time when rapid urbanization, the demands of new and ill-conceived/uncontrolled development projects and the pressure of real estate markets, among others, threaten to consume and erase historic places, and at a time when climate change and accompanying extreme conditions and disasters have emerged as the single greatest challenge to heritage, the approach of the 2011 Recommendation is clearly more relevant than ever in highlighting their resilience and sustainability beyond their uniqueness.

Participation in the consultation

1. An increase in Member States' implementation of the 2011 Recommendation since the Second Consultation in 2019 is evident and encouraging, with 187 reports received from a total of 69 Member States out of 193, with 62 national reports and 125 local reports.⁹ One additional report was also submitted by an Associate Member State. This is a significant increase from the 55 Member States who reported for the Second Consultation. In addition, local authorities were consulted during this Third Consultation, following the recommendation of the last consultation. As a result, this Third Consultation was also opened to cities and settlements in all countries to report.
2. Increase in implementation is also evident in the increased number of reports from Latin America, the Arab States and Africa.
3. Another point with regard to the participants was that during the Second Consultation, a majority of States had appointed their National Focal Points for World Heritage as the Focal Points for the 2011 Recommendation; the Third Consultation saw that the Focal Points for the 2011 Recommendation were distinct and often from a different ministry or agency. This reflects the wider significance of the 2011 Recommendation for the Member States.
4. At the same time, participation came from 36% of the 193 Member States in total, reminding us that a lot needs to be done with respect to the remaining

⁹ 19% from Group I, 14% from Group II, 19% from Group III, 19% from Group IV, 19% from Group V (a) and 10% from Group V (b).

64% to raise awareness and promote the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation.

5. The First and Second Consultations for implementation of the 2011 Recommendation invited inputs to a survey from national-level authorities. This Third Consultation invited responses from authorities at two levels of decision-making: national and local. The responses of the 125 cities that came from 45 Member States provided an enormous depth and richness to the understanding of the implementation of the Recommendation. However, the limited participation of cities and settlements from a small number of countries demonstrate the substantial work necessary to raise awareness of the Recommendation at the local level and to support its implementation in cities and settlements.
6. Of the 125 cities that responded, 51% had World Heritage properties inscribed and 29% of the responding cities have sites inscribed on their national Tentative List; hence their awareness of the 2011 Recommendation was heightened. While it is encouraging to know that about 50% of the local responses came from cities and settlements without a World Heritage designation, this is a relatively smaller number. Again, this indicates that much work remains to be done to bring awareness of the 2011 Recommendation to cities and settlements everywhere and to support its implementation.
7. More than half of the Member States indicate that pressures of economic development with cities advocated as centres of economic growth, increasing urbanization, pressures of building and large infrastructure construction pose challenges to urban heritage protection, specifically high-rise building construction in and around historic urban fabric. About a third of the responding cities report rapid urbanization, developmental pressures, interventions of infrastructure projects such as light rail, often at the cost of urban heritage, mass tourism and change in agricultural land use and traditional farming to contemporary occupations. Uncontrolled urban development, in most parts of the world, causes an over-densification that adversely affects the environmental quality of the place.
8. The COVID-19 pandemic had a very significant impact on the economic and social life of historic urban areas, as well as on their conservation efforts. But it also gave impetus to the use of new digital tools for outreach where possible.
9. 64% of responding Member States have noted that climate change threatens disruptive erosion of historic urban areas which are often unprepared for uncertainties and risks. Responding Member States and reporting cities have conveyed increased incidence of super storms, heavy winds and rainfall and frequent flooding as well as landslides and land subsidence, among other

impacts. Much needs to be done in this area alone with respect to Disaster Risk Reduction, among other urgent problems.

Governance mechanisms and planning to protect urban heritage

The 2011 Recommendation emphasizes the need to ensure that appropriate legislative and institutional frameworks and measures are in place to effectively manage all the different aspects of urban heritage, beyond just laws for protecting monuments. The national and local authorities reported on the governance mechanisms in place to protect urban heritage and ensure thriving historic urban areas focusing on the prevalence and the effectiveness of laws, policies, regulations and measures for the protection of urban heritage. They also reported on the integration of heritage conservation with plans and planning processes at the urban and regional level.

1. More than half of the Member States who responded to the survey conveys that increasing pressures of urbanization, building developments, high-rises, and large infrastructure pose challenges to urban heritage protection. Moreover, 64% have noted the negative impacts of climate change in addition to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Sixty percent (60%) of responding Member States have national laws and policies to support the protection of urban heritage though very few reported regulatory frameworks at the local level.
3. Less than 50% of the responding local authorities across regions have heritage management plans for the protection of urban heritage. Furthermore, less than 20% of the responding cities integrate their heritage management plans with city development plans and others such as tourism management and transport management plans. Anchoring of heritage management plans in city development plans and processes, is critical to protecting urban heritage.
4. The harmonious integration of contemporary interventions into the historic urban fabric is a core principle of the 2011 Recommendation. Most reporting cities have regulations requiring major new construction in historic urban areas to obtain approvals from heritage authorities. However, building regulations to guide new construction to be compatible with the unique architectural character of historic urban areas are almost completely absent.
5. While historic urban areas demand the coordination of multiple authorities at the local and regional level from heritage to tourism, urban development to infrastructure and transport authorities, the provision for steering committees or intersectoral coordination mechanisms at the national or local levels for urban heritage management is largely absent in most responding countries and cities.

Understanding and inventorying the multiple layers of urban heritage

The 2011 Recommendation advocates a landscape approach for identifying, conserving and managing historic urban areas within their broader contexts, considering the interrelationships between the physical forms, natural features, social and cultural values and the wider setting. The 2011 Recommendation emphasizes an approach that promotes looking at historic urban areas as composed of layers, including the monuments and the ordinary urban fabric around them, the waterbodies, green areas, agricultural lands and hills around the historic urban area, as well as the intangible cultural heritage and traditional practices and knowledges of the local communities. It underlines the relationships between the built heritage, the natural environment including its wider setting, and the local communities. In relation to the OUV of World Heritage properties, these layers constitute the local attributes of urban heritage that contribute to the conditions of integrity. The approach of the 2011 Recommendation that includes the built fabric, streets and public spaces, natural features such as waterbodies and gardens, as well as the practices of the local communities, means that these multiple attributes of urban heritage must be inventoried and protected.

1. The understanding of urban heritage for most reporting national and local authorities remains largely limited to protecting a few selected monuments. A third of the respondents at the national and local levels do not have inventories of historic urban areas, structures, monuments and sites in their countries and cities, as a strategic step in the process of heritage protection. Only three of the 125 reporting cities recorded having updated inventories of their heritage even when 51% of them are inscribed on the World Heritage List underlining a pressing need for training to document and protect the multiple attributes of their urban heritage and integrate them into sustainable development as well as for heritage-based climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.
2. At the same time, national and local authorities across all regions reported their support for traditional building techniques and local materials that protect the distinctiveness of historic places. Similarly, more than 70% of local responses indicate that inventorying the intangible dimension of cultural heritage in historic urban areas through strategies for their safeguarding or integration with urban heritage management are absent.
3. Concerted efforts and guidance would benefit cities and settlements regarding the layering principle of the Recommendation in local regulations.

Inclusion and participation of local communities in managing urban heritage

The 2011 Recommendation promotes inclusive and participatory decision-making at all stages of planning and management. The use of civic engagement tools should involve a diverse cross-section of stakeholders and empower them to identify key values, set goals and agree on actions to safeguard their heritage and promote sustainable development.

1. Fifty percent (50%) of the responding Member States and local authorities have policies to ensure wide consultation with stakeholders in the management of historic urban areas. However, the reports indicate that more policies are necessary to ensure the participation of marginalized people, women, and Indigenous Peoples
2. Responding cities demonstrated efforts to engage youth, with more than two-thirds of the responding cities encouraging them through educational activities on urban heritage.
3. Access to public spaces in historic urban areas in more than 75% of the responding cities is reported to be open to all communities. However, data indicates that only about 46% of public spaces in cities are community managed. Concerted efforts are needed for policies to advance a gender-balanced, people-centred and inclusive approach to managing urban heritage.

Ensuring inclusive economic benefits of urban heritage

The 2011 Recommendation recognizes the need for financial sustainability of conservation efforts in historic urban areas, including for the many privately owned historic buildings. It encourages innovative financial models and instruments to enable the conservation of even ordinary houses in historic urban areas, recognizing the need to protect heritage with local value and meaning. The 2011 Recommendation also emphasizes the potential of historic urban areas to promote sustainable livelihoods, including for women, Indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups. These activities should be compatible with the conservation of attributes of urban heritage of historic urban areas. The 2011 Recommendation underscores that financial tools should be aimed at building capacities and supporting innovative income-generating development, rooted in tradition.

1. More than 50% of responding Member States reported having financial policies and instruments to protect urban heritage with 70% of the responding local authorities having policies to support sustainable tourism to benefit local communities. About 60% of reporting cities confirmed the use of financial tools and policies to support an urban revitalization of historic urban areas. However, less than 40% of the responding local governments advance policies such as micro-credit and loans to support small businesses, traditional occupations and artisanal practitioners and a very low proportion of cities report financial tools and policies to mitigate the negative effects of gentrification indicating the need for equity and inclusion in the availability of financial mechanisms. Overall, the reports indicate a pressing need for greater policy coherence and coordination to develop innovative financial strategies for urban heritage management.
2. At the local level, the percentage of funding allocated for preservation of urban historic areas ranges from approximately 2% per year to 26% per year.

Advancing sustainable development and climate resilience in historic urban areas

The 2011 Recommendation addresses the need to better integrate and frame urban heritage conservation strategies within the larger goal of overall sustainable development. Integrating the 2011 Recommendation approach means mainstreaming strategies and practices for sustainable urban development, including implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda at the local level. Policies and measures to enhance the resilience and sustainability of the heritage as well as the local communities in historic urban areas are encouraged. Historic urban areas, usually built using local building materials to respond to local geographies and climatic conditions, offer significant opportunities to contribute to sustainability, including disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. For example, valuable heritage-based strategies might include the reuse of historic buildings, promoting green ecological infrastructure, strengthening historical connections with waterbodies and green spaces, introducing renewable energy sources, using local building materials and techniques, supporting non-motorized transport and recognizing and including traditional knowledge, as a central component of reinforcing resilience to natural hazards and climate change. National and local authorities reported on how ecological sustainability and climate action are being mainstreamed into the management of historic urban areas.

1. Almost all national and local reports indicate that their urban heritage is impacted by climate change with a high proportion reporting from Latin America. Impacts range from frequent and severe heat waves to heavy precipitation and flooding, droughts, and dust storms. Less than 40% of the responding national and local authorities have measures to protect traditional watersheds, water systems, promote urban agriculture and greening strategies.

2. Laws, policies and measures exist in more than half of the responding Member States to address climate change impacts; however, they are mostly absent at the local level. Even when they have them, urban heritage is absent in national and local climate action strategies and policies. About 65% of responding States report having national climate change policies or national disaster management policies but more than 50% of local-level reports indicate the absence of such strategies and policies for climate change mitigation, adaptation, or disaster risk reduction at the city level. Urgent promotion of the 2011 Recommendation approach is needed to further climate resilience and sustainable development in historic urban areas following the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and New Urban Agenda 2030.

Knowledge and capacity-building

Developing diverse knowledge systems and promoting capacity-building are essential to the 2011 Recommendation and its implementation. Knowledge, skills and research about urban heritage should be actively developed and disseminated among target communities, decision-makers, academics and professionals.

1. Less than 30% of the responding Member States reported capacity-building and knowledge creation on the 2011 Recommendation and less than 30% of reporting cities indicated undertaking research. The availability of translations of the 2011 Recommendation in local languages is also a challenge. About 20% of the responding cities have accredited courses on urban heritage indicating a significant need for guidance and capacity building.

2. While more than 60% of the national and local governments use digital technologies such as drones, aerial photography, remote sensing applications, and Geographic Information System (GIS) based surveys for documentation of heritage properties, digital tools need to be promoted further across all regions.

PROMOTION OF THE 2011 RECOMMENDATION BY UNESCO

1. Since the last report in 2019, UNESCO, with support from Member States, and including category 2 centres, UNESCO Chairs, the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee and private sector partners, has organised 11 major international conferences, promoted on-site activities in 32 cities from all global regions, carried out 24 capacity-building workshops with local authorities, participated in over 40 externally organised events, and advanced the integration of 2011 Recommendation in policymaking at international and regional levels. UNESCO has also developed digital platforms and tools for supporting implementation and technical knowledge: the e-magazine *Urban Notebooks*, (April 2020-December 2021); the *World Heritage Canopy*, a digital platform of innovative heritage-based solutions and practices for sustainable development that integrates the 2011 Recommendation; the *Urban Heritage Atlas*, a digital tool for analysing and documenting the attributes of urban heritage for World Heritage cities; and a *Resource Manual for the 2011 Recommendation* that is currently under development. The 10th Anniversary of the Recommendation was celebrated with a global event, as well as regional technical sessions bringing together 59 mayors, city leaders and high-level experts, and nearly 1,500 participants that included the launch of the *UNESCO HUL Call for Action* to raise awareness and engage cities everywhere regarding urban heritage.

WAYS FORWARD

From the response to the Third Member State Consultation and Member States as well as the cities and settlements some priority areas for action emerge:

Protection

1. Recognizing the relevance of the 2011 Recommendation in the context of increasing global challenges as cities, settlements, and urban heritage continue to face and urgently seeking solutions to enhance sustainability, inclusion, and climate resilience.

2. Continuing efforts to implement the 2011 Recommendation adopting its approach to integrate heritage conservation into urban development plans and processes.
3. Implementing the 2011 Recommendation and its approach to World Heritage properties in and around urban areas as well as in cities and settlements as a vital tool to integrate heritage conservation with urban development plans and processes in the framework of sustainable development and to advance climate resilience.
4. Ensuring adequate laws, policies, and measures exist to protect the different attributes of urban heritage and at different scales from their wider setting to small architectural features and motifs, and also ensure their implementation.

Recognition and Mapping

5. Adopting a culture-based approach to urban heritage management integrating intangible dimensions of cultural heritage, including festivals, as well as museums and creative industries to benefit local communities and ensure meaningful and compatible use of urban heritage and conservation of its attributes. This is also relevant following the UNESCO 2022 MONDIACULT Declaration.
6. Developing a detailed inventory and cultural mapping of urban heritage attributes across multiple scales, material and intangible, and then identify mechanisms to protect and safeguard them that take into account their character, size, and geographic area.

Integration and Coordination

7. Integrating urban heritage management as a strategic objective of urban development plans and processes at the national and local levels, and integrating also heritage management plans in urban development plans and processes that engage with urban heritage attributes.
1. Ensuring adequate guidance and regulatory mechanisms to integrate harmoniously contemporary interventions into the historic urban fabric. Impact Assessments for Urban Heritage being carried out systematically prior to any interventions in historic urban areas.
8. Establishing intersectoral coordination mechanisms for urban heritage management at the national and local levels to include to tourism, culture, infrastructure, parks, waterfront, and transport authorities among others as relevant.

9. Prioritizing the safeguarding of vernacular building traditions, construction techniques, materials and professional development, promoting also the use of local building materials.

Inclusion and Engagement

10. Including and engaging all local communities and empower community-based management, putting in place policies to ensure wide consultation with stakeholders in the management of historic urban areas.
11. Urban heritage conservation processes could advance gender equality by ensuring the participation of women, marginalized populations, and Indigenous Peoples with policies and strategies and advance youth engagement through education and training activities.
12. Urban heritage conservation processes such as adaptive reuse of historic housing fabric and public open spaces could advance equity and access to housing as well as diversity.
13. Urban heritage conservation processes integrating social housing by adapting historic buildings and neighbourhoods for affordable and diverse housing to could help address social needs in historic urban areas.
14. Advancing financial policies and measures to support local economic development in historic urban areas to promote micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises promoting compatible and sustainable livelihoods along with sustainable tourism policies.
15. Putting in place policies and processes for compatible adaptive reuse of historic built fabric, ensuring financial tools and measures for the continuity of local communities.
16. Ensuring policy coherence and coordination between national and local financial policies and measures to support innovative strategies for financing urban heritage conservation and sustainable development at the local level.

Advancing Sustainability and Resilience

17. Integrating historic urban areas in national climate change strategies and policies including risk-centred thinking about historic urban areas for climate resilience and design mechanisms that suit a diverse range of affected stakeholders.
18. Integrating historic urban areas in urban and local climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and disaster risk reduction strategies at the local level.
19. Mainstreaming strategies for sustainable development in historic urban areas at the local level including low carbon strategies for urban agriculture,

renewable energy, recycling, green infrastructure, non-motorized transport, and management of groundwater among others building especially on existing traditional systems.

20. Informing local climate action plans by using local materials, traditional knowledge and practices, and lessons learnt from urban heritage.

21. Supporting recovery and reconstruction of historic cities.

Building Capacities

22. Reinforcing capacities for urban heritage management including digital technologies and tools from digital storytelling and mapping to earth observation from documentation and data collection to analysis and decision-making with systematic updating and coordination of digital data from different agencies and institutions.

23. Enhancing and advancing courses and university programmes on urban heritage.

Links to UNESCO tools:

World Heritage Canopy

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

Urban Heritage Atlas

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/urban-heritage-atlas/>

Urban Heritage Resource Manual

World Heritage Cities Programme

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

World Heritage City Labs

[World Heritage City Lab – Historic Cities, Climate Change, Water, and Energy - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

[World Heritage City Lab: Urban Heritage and Traditional Building Practices for Sustainable Development - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

[World Heritage City Lab – Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage](#) -

Urban Notebooks

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