Urban Heritage Atlas

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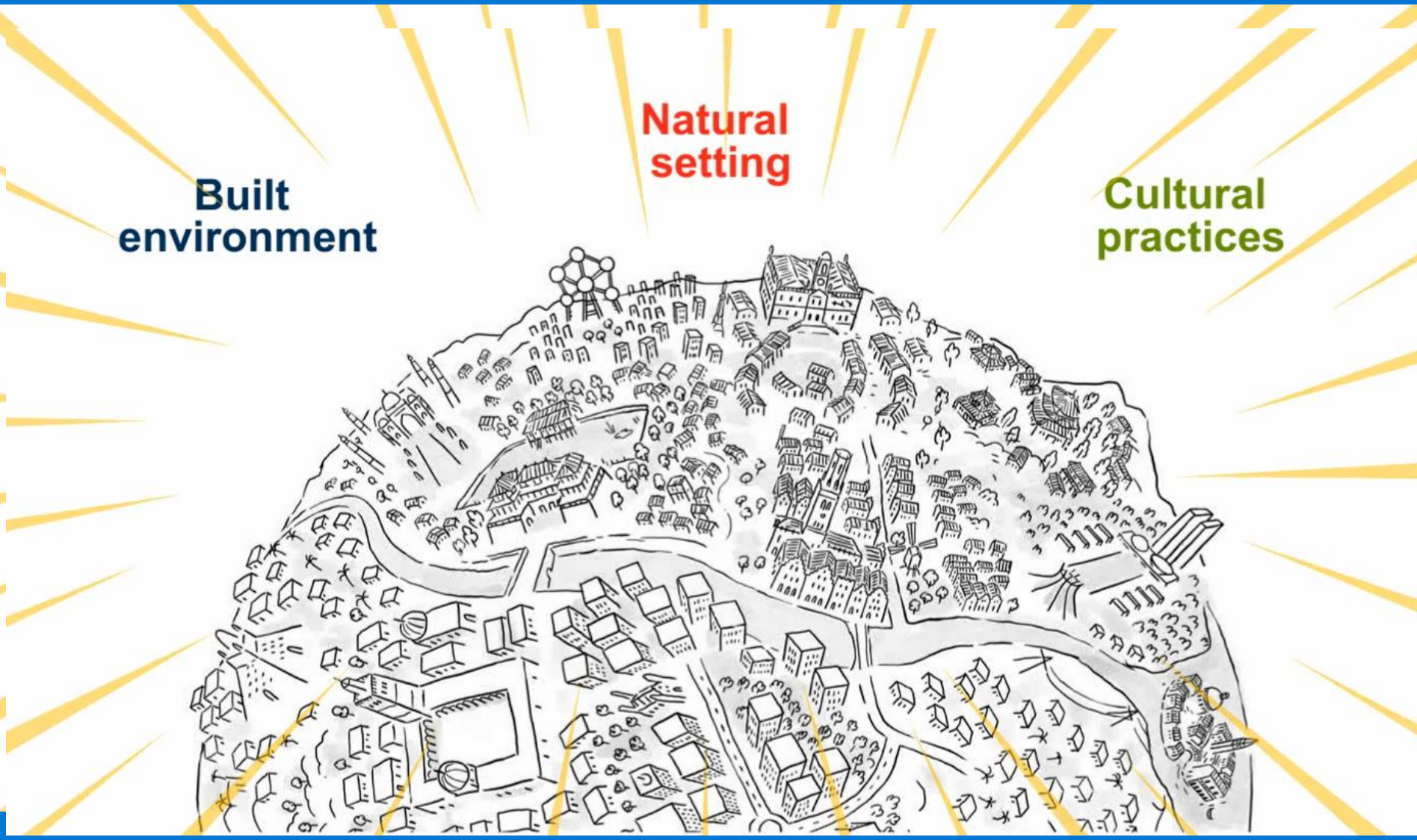
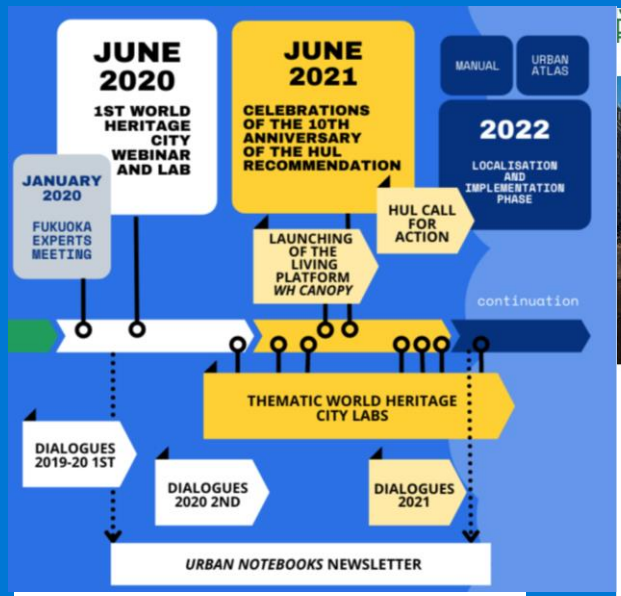
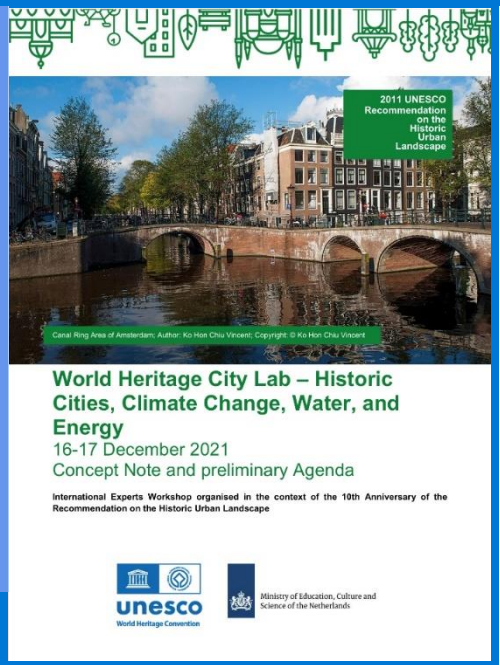
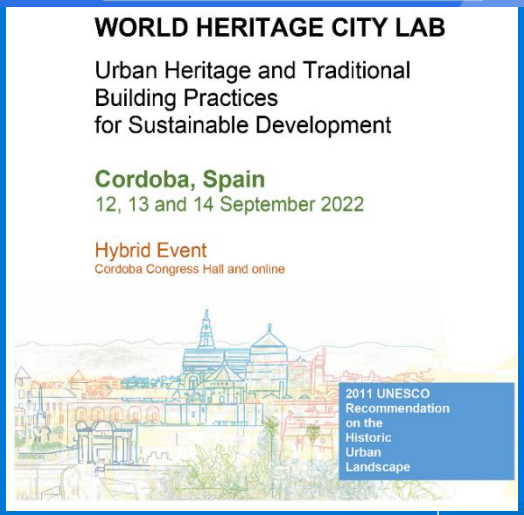
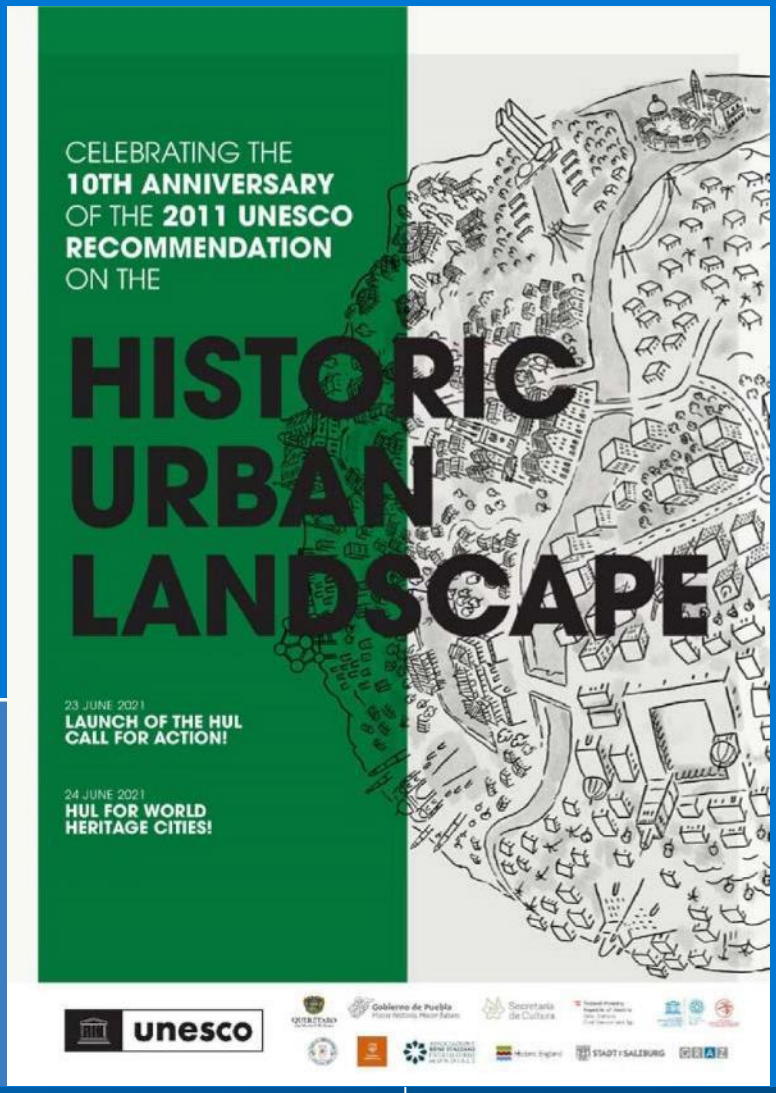


World Heritage City Labs

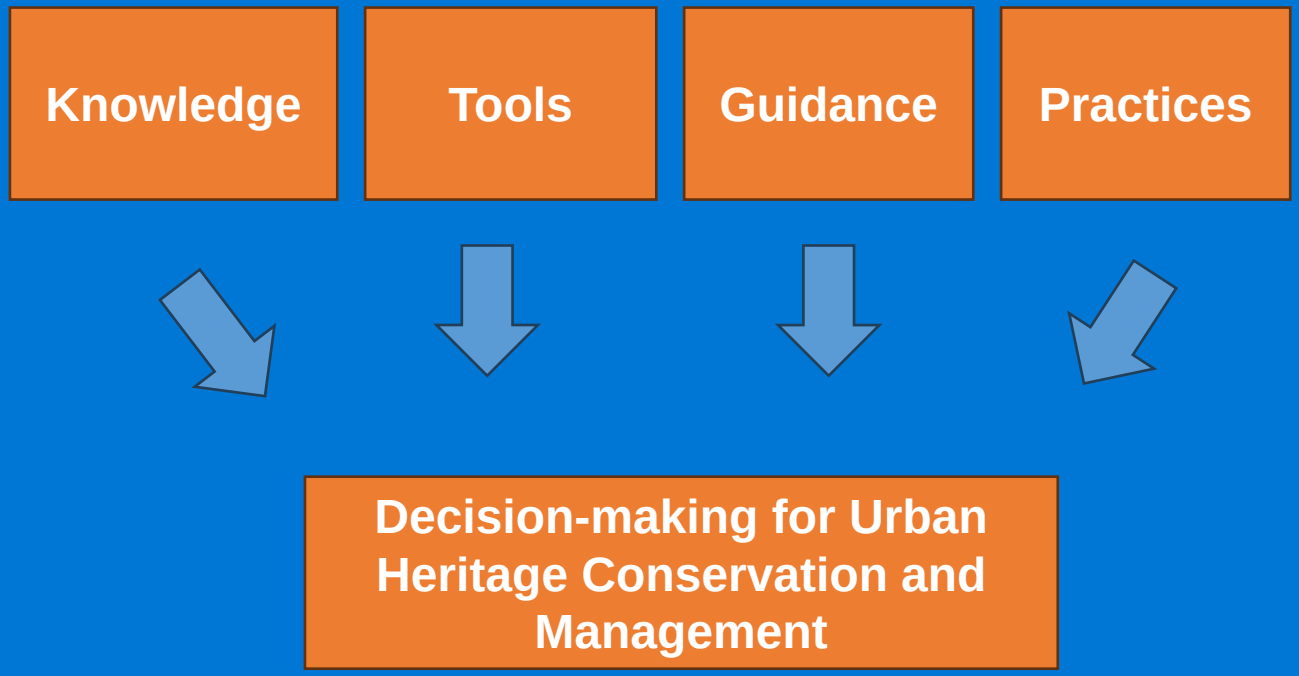




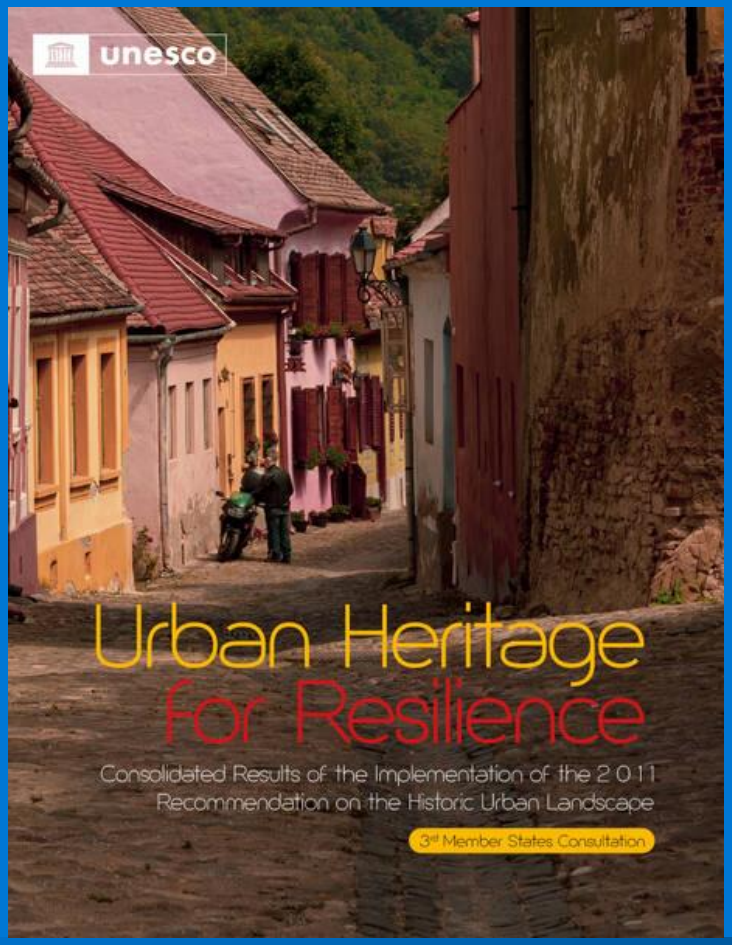




Key Needs for Urban Heritage Conservation



Third Member State Consultation on the HUL Recommendation



https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2627/

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World Heritage Canopy: Heritage-based Solutions for Sustainable Development

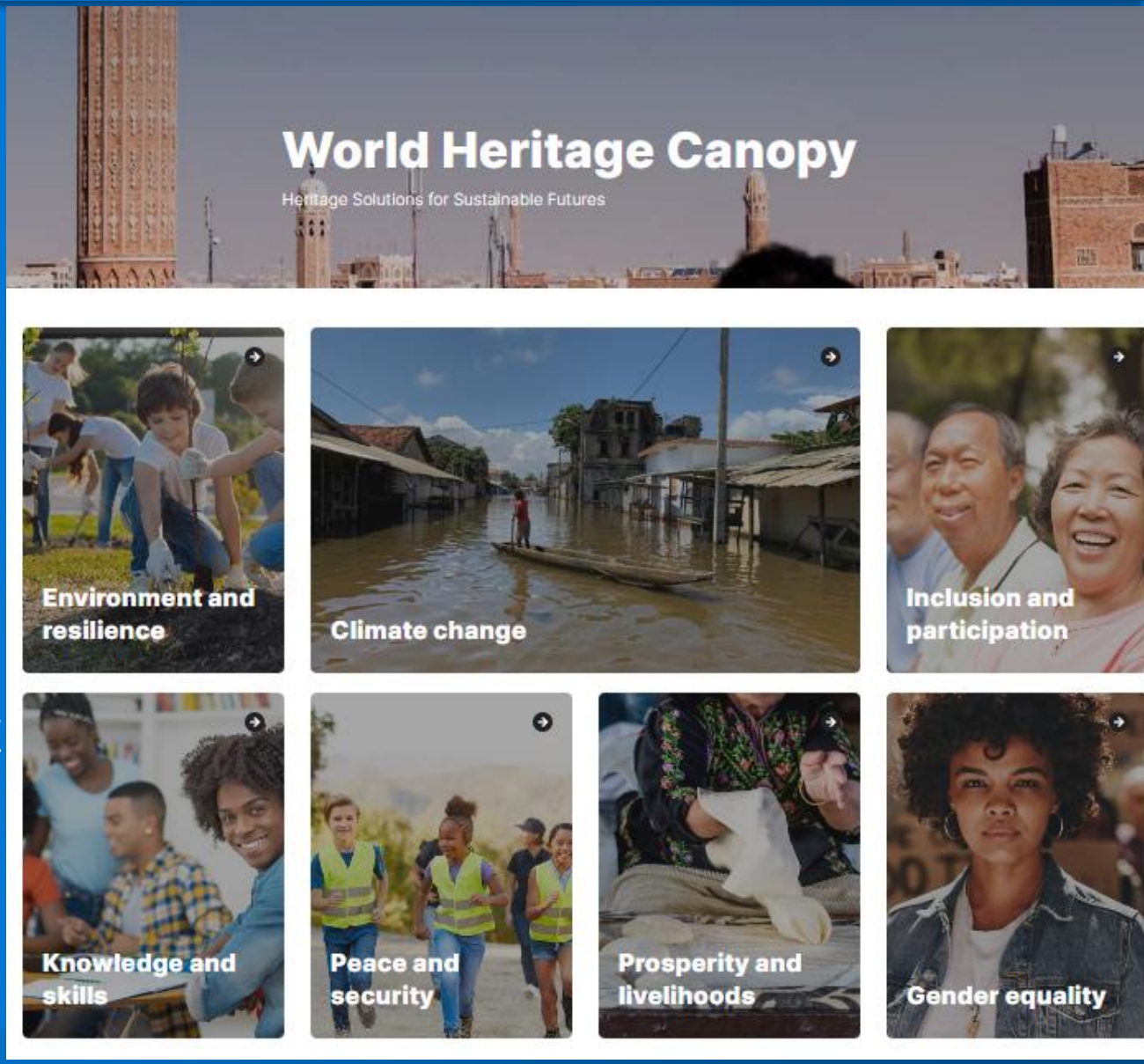
From theory

↓

To action

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

65 case studies



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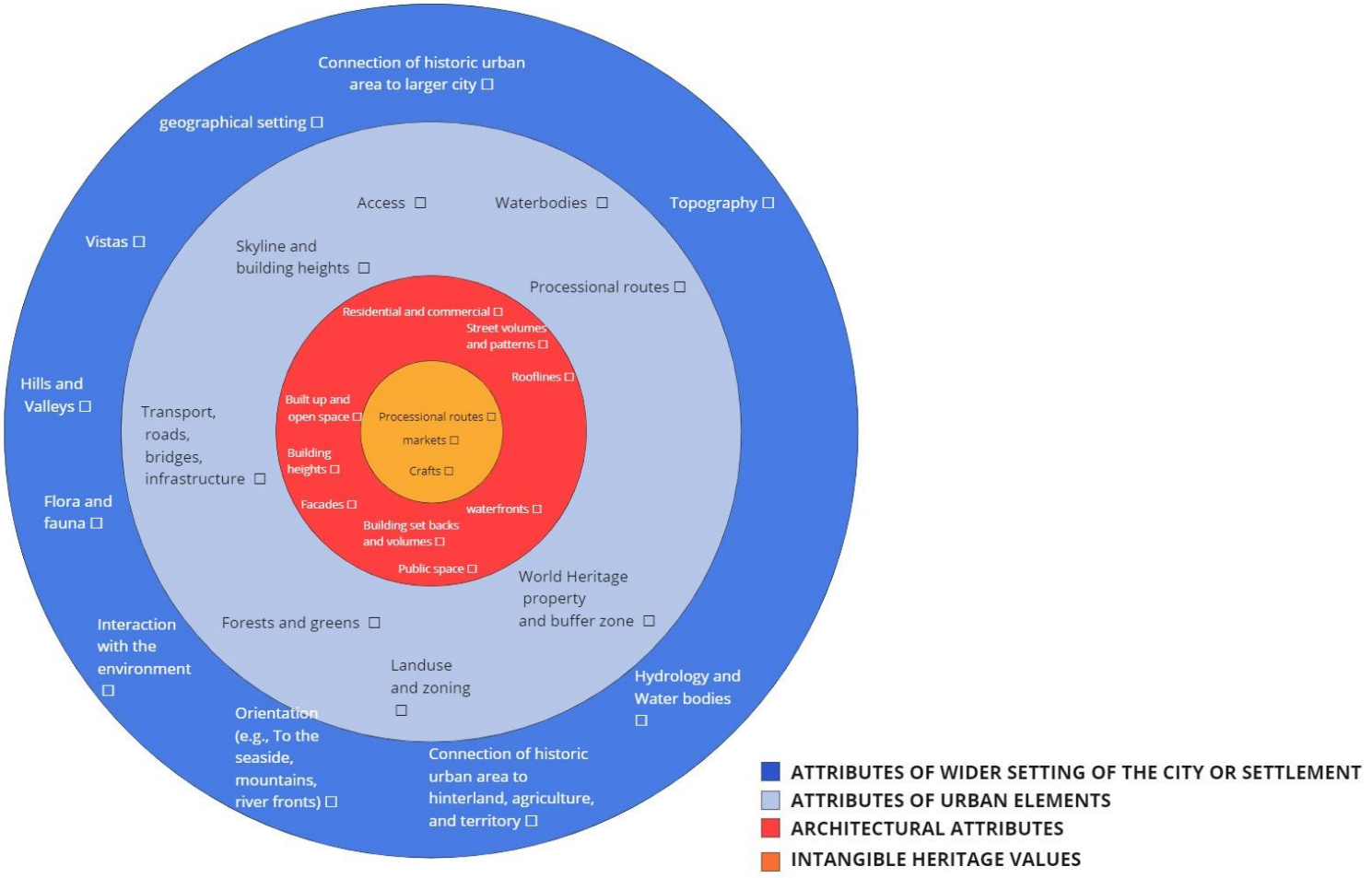
Managing Urban Heritage: A Resource Manual for Implementing the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape



Managing Urban Heritage: A Resource Manual for Implementing the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter II: A methodology for implementing the HUL

Chapter III: What to protect in historic urban areas: identifying, inventorying, and mapping attributes

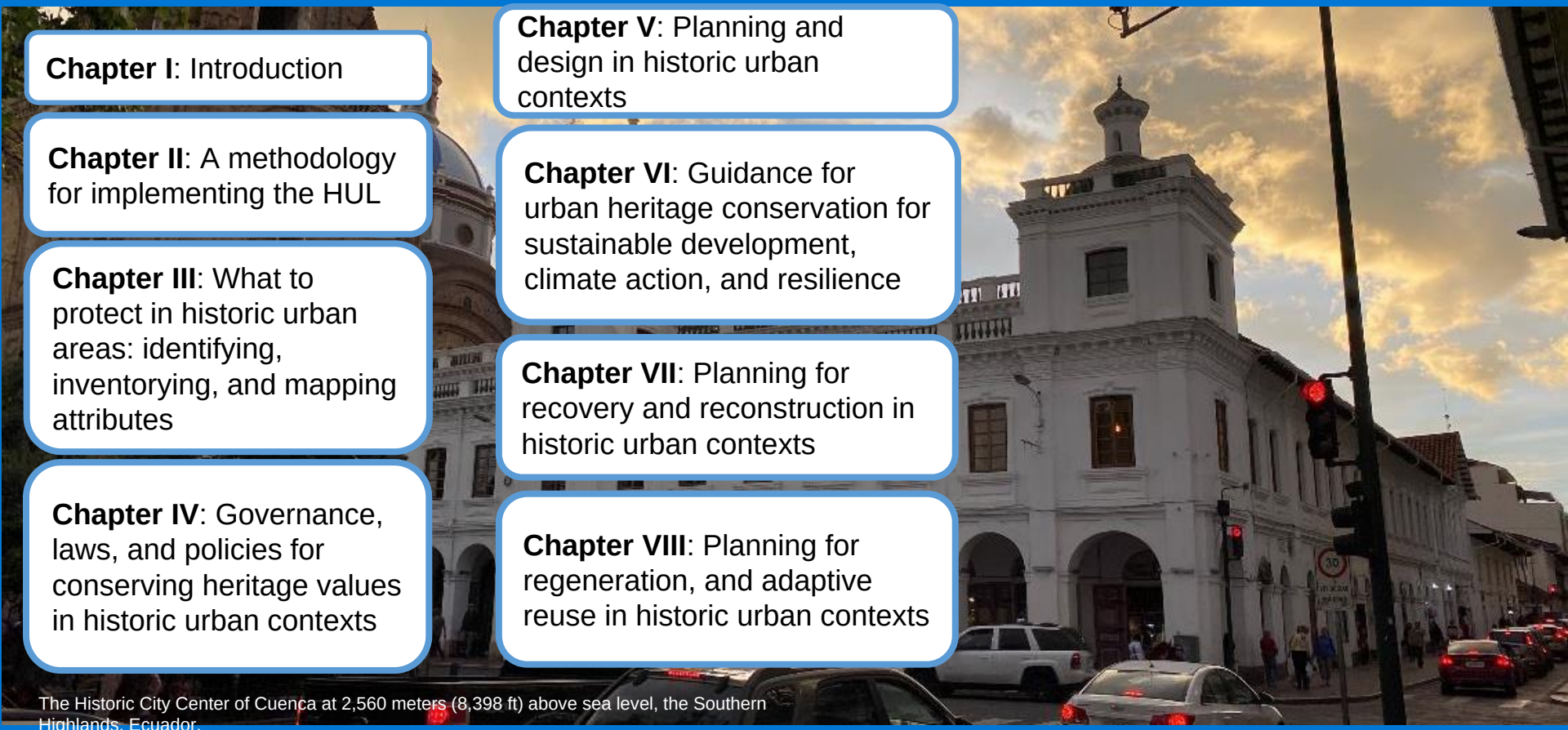
Chapter IV: Governance, laws, and policies for conserving heritage values in historic urban contexts

Chapter V: Planning and design in historic urban contexts

Chapter VI: Guidance for urban heritage conservation for sustainable development, climate action, and resilience

Chapter VII: Planning for recovery and reconstruction in historic urban contexts

Chapter VIII: Planning for regeneration, and adaptive reuse in historic urban contexts



The Historic City Center of Cuenca at 2,560 meters (8,398 ft) above sea level, the Southern Highlands, Ecuador.

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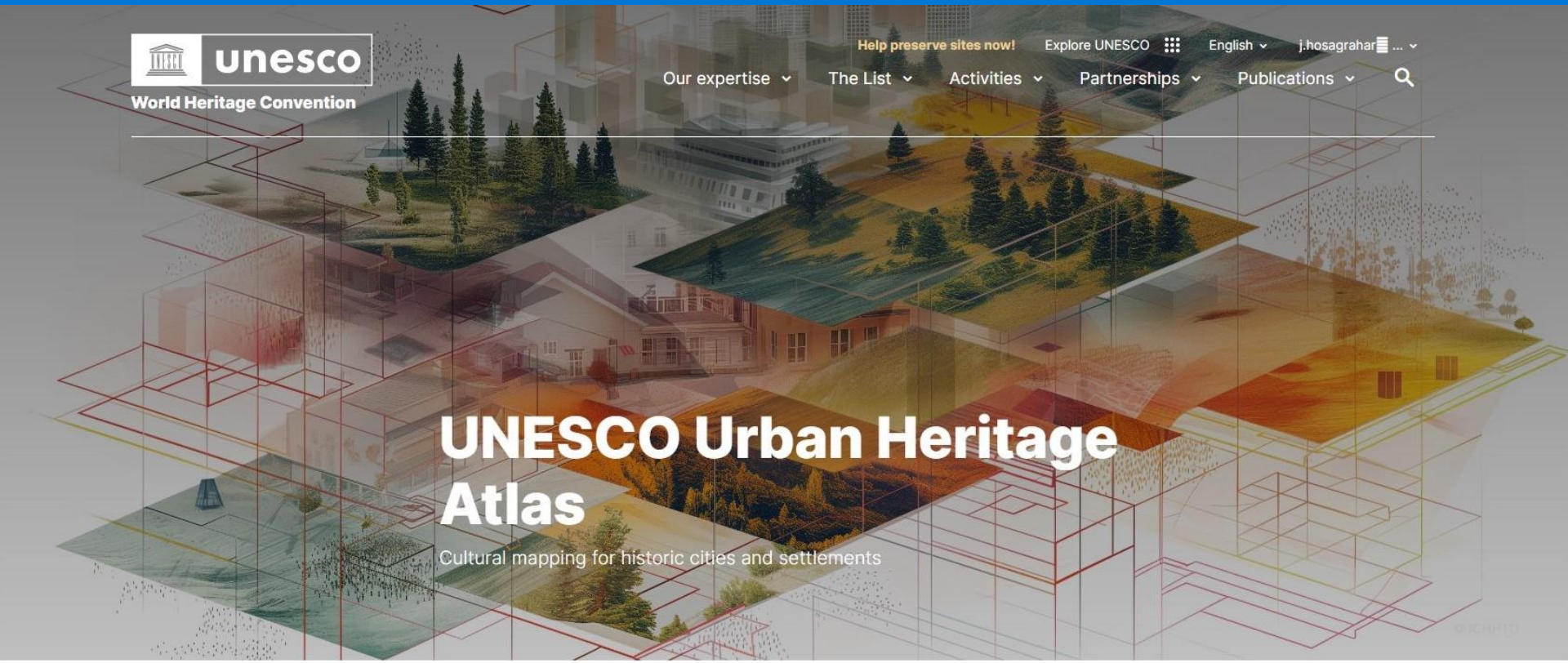

This is:

- An atlas of the World's historic cities and settlements

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- A resource for education, capacity building, and participation

An Atlas

The Urban Heritage Atlas is an atlas and an archive that documents and explains, visually, narratively and with analytical maps, the diversity and uniqueness of the world's historic cities and settlements. As such, it serves as a repository of city-building practices and new developments over time, as well as the diverse regions of the world. This also includes vernacular architecture and traditional building techniques. While many collections and publications on World Heritage cities have been produced through the years, the diverse attributes and dimensions of World Heritage properties in urban contexts, and urban heritage in general, remain inadequately understood and threatened by a rapidly urbanising world. Urban heritage is often imagined as a collection of monuments and managed in an isolated way disconnected from holistic urban dynamics. This resource aims to fill this gap.

A technical aid

The Urban Heritage Atlas is technical aid for the implementation of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), an instrument that provides a framework and approach for integrating heritage conservation with urban development plans and processes. As it makes the different layers of heritage visible, it supports better management of the historic urban area, ensuring that new projects and interventions are compatible with its heritage values. The HUL approach is a way of understanding urban heritage as part of a landscape or system composed of different elements and layers. It is not a category of cultural landscape nor a type of site. The Urban Heritage Atlas will be supported by the *Managing Urban Heritage (*currently under preparation), a resource manual and a guide for the implementation of the HUL Recommendation.

A cultural mapping platform

The Urban Heritage Atlas is also a **cultural mapping platform** that supports the identification and documentation of the specific attributes of historic cities and settlements that have a unique heritage value and should be conserved. For local (and national) authorities, this platform helps recognise what should be protected in a historic city or settlement and thus helps with better management of historic urban areas. It supports mapping the Urban Heritage values (UHV) and attributes that express the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property at different scales. Cultural mapping is a methodology that makes visible the spatial relationships and built forms, cultural resources and practices and national features that make historic cities and settlements distinctive and meaningful. It supports those cities and settlements that are a part of or have properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as well as all others not yet inscribed on the World Heritage List, including those on the national Tentative Lists (sites that may be eventually considered for nomination to the World Heritage List).

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A learning resource

Finally, the Urban Heritage Atlas advances the understanding and awareness of urban heritage as well as educates and builds capacities. It invites and enables the participation of all stakeholders to enable informed decision-making around conservation as well as new interventions and projects toward better management of urban heritage.

Atlas of historic cities and settlements

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Samarkand - Crossroad of Cultures,

Old Towns of Djenne, Mali

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What is the approach of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape?

Today, more than 70% of cultural World Heritage sites are located in urban areas, making them vulnerable to the pressure of urbanisation. To support State Parties in the conservation and management of their urban heritage, UNESCO Member States have adopted the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), and the World Heritage Committee has established a thematic programme, the World Heritage Cities Programme.

How is urban heritage conservation different from the conservation of monuments?

The way that cultural heritage is identified, conserved and managed has evolved over time. From a focus on monuments and outstanding buildings, heritage conservation has expanded to other types and categories, such as cultural landscapes, intangible cultural heritage and vernacular settlements. This evolution is accompanied by a growing understanding of the potential of cultural heritage to contribute to sustainable development and climate resilience. The approach to urban heritage conservation is not about material or structural preservation and restoration as much as it is about planning, policies, laws, and regulations.

Urban heritage and sustainable development

Conserving urban heritage as a central element of the sustainable development of a city can improve its liveability, foster economic development and social cohesion, and help achieve a balance between urban growth and quality of life. This was reflected in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The information presented in this platform has been compiled through 2 different methods:

1. Identification of attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value and Urban Heritage Values

In the first stage, the secretariat conducted desk research, compiling and analysing the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of each of the properties (as the pilots were World Heritage properties), as well as relevant World Heritage Committee Decisions and World Heritage Nomination dossiers preserved at the UNESCO archive. The attributes that convey the OUV of the site were identified in each of the scales applying the framework developed in *Managing Urban Heritage*:

- Architectural attributes: building typologies, architectural styles, ornamentation, construction details and materials.
- Attributes of Urban elements: patterns, infrastructure, historic areas, built-up density, balance of open and built spaces, etc.
- Attributes of the wider setting of a city or settlement: geographic setting, scenic views, natural elements that determine the shape and the lifestyle of the city, etc.
- Intangible heritage: traditions, gastronomy, festivals, creative practices.

2. Capacity-building exercises and reflection of local authorities and communities

Another essential condition in developing this work has been the direct exchanges with national and local stakeholders, such as the site managers of the World Heritage