

CONCEPT NOTE

Launch Event for

Climate Change in Mediterranean World Heritage Cities

The publication *Climate Change in Mediterranean World Heritage Cities* will be the first comprehensive data-driven assessment of the climate change impacts on World Heritage Cities in the Mediterranean region. UNESCO has joined hands with the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and the Greek GEO Office (GGO) for this unique and pathbreaking study of 114 UNESCO World Heritage Cities in the Mediterranean region. It employs qualitative reporting from World Heritage cities and settlements for the current scenario together with climate model projections of threats based on Earth observation as well as Earth system models and regional climate models to predict a future scenario. This report on Mediterranean World Heritage Cities provides evidence of the impacts of climate change on urban heritage as well as the ways that urban heritage helps to avert, minimize, and address climate change impacts.

The Mediterranean region faces severe climate hazards, threatening its rich cultural heritage, including a number of outstanding historic cities inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Although vulnerable to climate events, historic cities offer mitigation and adaptation solutions based on heritage as well as local and traditional knowledge, demonstrating the urgency of integrating climate action strategies with the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

As presented in detail in this publication, World Heritage Cities in the Mediterranean region are being impacted by a variety of climate hazards including drought, flooding, storms, and extreme temperature fluctuations, including heatwaves. The predicted future scenario under the worst-case is already being experienced at many World Heritage Cities, with the predictions showing it will only get worse. The knowledge inherent within tangible and intangible heritage of historic cities can offer vital lessons for resilience and effective adaptation and mitigation strategies.

In this context, UNESCO is organising a high-level launch event together with GEO, and GGO to highlight the findings of this report which is an urgent call to action that also challenges us to recognize that the protection of our heritage is not only about preserving valuable remains from the past but equally about shaping a resilient and inclusive future that draws on lessons, knowledge, and practices associated with heritage and recognizes the richness of the world's cultural diversity. The short launch event aims to bring together high-level speakers representing governments as well as relevant organizations in addition to short presentations from the lead authors. The event will officially launch the report on *Climate Change in Mediterranean World Heritage Cities* and provide an opportunity to disseminate the findings of the paper among experts and practitioners just before the World Heritage Committee commences in the first week of July.

Format and date

A one-hour launch event on 30 June 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 am (Paris time) that will be held online via the Zoom platform. Register [here](#).