



G20 CULTURE MINISTERIAL

PRIORITY 2 - ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS THROUGH CULTURE

Preserving Cultural Heritage,
Supporting the Green Transition

Multi-stakeholder Webinar

12 April 2021, 12.00 - 17.10 CEST



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1. BACKGROUND

Climate changes, given their scale and speed, put cultural heritage at serious risk. While the understanding of the factors behind such scenarios is rapidly improving, more needs to be done for policies at international, national and local levels to systematically tackle climate-related disruption of cultural heritage while at the same time leveraging the power of culture to support green transitions.

Climate change represents one of the greatest threats facing culture and cultural heritage. Floods and increasingly extreme weather events such as powerful storms, desertification or the melting of permafrost are destroying important sites at an alarming rate, with an impact on local cultural practices and sites of outstanding value. The historic environment and cultural landscape, designed in line with the local climate conditions, reveals its fragility when exposed to the rapid modifications of the atmosphere or weathering processes or the attack from pollutants. These catastrophic or subtle effects have an impact even on indoor art objects. The combined impact of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening the situation, exposing structural vulnerabilities and inequalities and depriving communities and cultural institutions of the resources needed to address those threats.

On the other, cultural heritage plays a role in supporting circular economies and a culture of reuse, reducing Greenhouse Gases associated with waste and consumption and helping countries de-carbonise economies at a lower cost. Culture can increase ambition and help address lifestyle transformation and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production approaches by the general public. Moreover, significant knowledge is embedded in cultural heritage, creativity and crafts, with a potential to support just transitions by communities towards low carbon and climate-resilient development pathways.

Understanding these issues is becoming the “new normal” for heritage administration, and learning from each other’s experience is now vital. How can we share experience to avoid or minimise those impacts? How can cooperation help heritage institutions to be better prepared and respond in case of an emergency? What lesson can we learn from the diverse risk management approaches? How can culture and heritage drive climate ambition and action? How to ensure a better representation of culture and cultural heritage in the climate change discourse and policy? How to make the best use of the opportunities offered by new technologies for risk prevention and management?

This multi-stakeholder webinar aims to fill this gap by providing policymakers of G20 countries with the latest evidence to define clear policy objectives and to jointly pursue them through coordinated action. The webinar will be an occasion to learn from the latest academic evidence, international and G20 countries policies and experiences to enhance resilience through adaptation (prevention), mitigation and emergency responses. The findings of the webinar will inform the Declaration of G20 Ministers of Culture and will set the scene for further cooperation of G20 countries on these issues.

Key issues and objectives

The webinar will provide the latest evidence on climate change scenarios and their likely impacts on cultural heritage through possible adverse events. The discussion will then review the kinds of cultural heritage more at risk, at the various scales, for the possible scenarios considered. Policymakers will receive information as to quantitative evidence and levels of vulnerability of heritage at risk due to climate change, also through specific analytical tools.

Case studies will subsequently be covered regarding the key steps of a possible coordinated strategy at the G20 level addressing objects and collections, buildings and sites, archaeology, intangible heritage and cultural landscapes: prevention and protection approaches, and adoption of appropriate initiatives; emergency response strategies in the case of unexpected disruptive events; cultural heritage as a driver and enabler of transformative climate action, and smart technological solutions to address both issues, as well as to implement long-term sustainability strategies for endangered heritage.



As to prevention and protection, the webinar will cover the main areas of intervention as emerging from current best practices: monitoring, conservation, planned maintenance, and energy-saving, to list some of the major ones. As to emergency response to disasters, the webinar will review some of the outstanding initiatives and approaches such as the Task Force Unite4Heritage (U4H), and initiatives of civil protection of cultural heritage. On this detailed and comprehensive basis, the webinar will invite member countries to adopt coordinated initiatives to jointly tackle the major challenges ahead.

The objective of the webinar is to single out common points for policy design and action for consideration by G20 countries in the relevant fora, notably the G20 culture working group and Ministerial.

Among the suggestions for possible action, the promotion of a new collaboration network aimed at sharing good practices and joint promotion of innovative experimentations and projects. Cooperation initiatives might include:

- A mechanism for the systematic exchange of strategies, experiences, tools and practices aimed at alleviating the impact of Climate change on Cultural Heritage and improving resilience and adaptation of territories and communities, including by making use of new technologies.
- Recommendations on how to ensure a better representation of culture and cultural heritage in the climate change discourse and policy, and integrate environmental sustainability and climate issues into cultural policy-making and practice and vice-versa, using the opportunity offered by the forthcoming Pre-COP26 in Milan (IT) and COP26 in Glasgow (UK).
- proposals for initiatives to improve the awareness of culture and cultural heritage professionals, institutions, civil society and local communities about climate-related threats to culture and heritage and promote socially responsible behaviours and practices.

2. FORMAT

Each session of the event will include a scoping presentation (5 minutes) outlining key issues and setting the background for discussion followed by 4-6 presentations (3-5 minutes each) and by brief (3-5 minutes) highlights on G20 countries case studies practices in the area, a Q&A session and a wrap up of key points by the chair.

The event will be held on-line.

Working language: English



3. DRAFT AGENDA

Priority 2 - Addressing the Climate Crisis Through Culture Preserving Cultural Heritage and Supporting the Green Transition	
12.00	Welcome Address Dario Franceschini , Minister of Culture of the Italian Republic
12:05	Opening Remarks Sen. Lucia Borgonzoni , Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Culture
Session I - The Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity Chair: Mario Tozzi , Institute of Environmental Geology and Geoengineering of the National Research Council	
12.15	Introduction by the Chair
12:20	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rohit Jigyasu, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ICCROM), <i>Towards making our historic cities climate-resilient: An Agenda for Action</i> • Adam Markham, Union of Concerned Scientist, <i>Global climate change and its impacts on cultural heritage</i> • Johanna Leissner, Fraunhofer Institute, <i>Impact of climate change on indoor environments and future energy demand</i> • Julian Bickersteth, President, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), <i>Climate change and cultural heritage</i> • Stacy Vallis, ICOMOS International Emerging Professionals, <i>Heritage for Generations: Intergenerational Efforts addressing Climate Change</i>
12:45	Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emanuela Carpani, SABAP Venice and Lagoon Superintendent, <i>The defence of the Venetian cultural heritage from the effects of climate change</i> • Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, <i>Resilient by Design</i> • Sumayah Al-Solaiman, CEO, Architecture and Design Commission, Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia, <i>The Cultural Impact of Architecture and Design on Climate Change</i>
13:00	Moderated Q&A
13:15	Conclusions by the Chair



Session II - Strategies and Actions for Increased Resilience of Cultural Heritage
Chair: Mechtild Rössler, Director of the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO and co-Chair of the International Expert Group UNESCO-ICOMOS-IPCC

13:25	Introduction by the Chair
13:30	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Cassar, University College London, <i>Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency in historic buildings</i> • George Kremlis, President of the Coordination Unit and Member of the Flexible Mechanism of the Initiative for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage from the Impacts of Climate Change in the framework of Unesco, <i>Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage</i> • Alessandra Battisti, Sapienza University of Rome, <i>Climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in cultural heritage: national and international experiences</i> • Michele Lazinger, International Council of Museums (ICOM), <i>Museums and Climate Change</i> • Rahul Goswami, Expert in living heritage, livelihoods and sustainability issues, <i>Intangible cultural heritage and community resilience</i>
13:55	Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nobuko Inaba, Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba Visiting Professor, The Open University of Japan, Special Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM, <i>New initiative in Japan to strengthen the role of cultural heritage in local sustainable development</i> • Giovanni De Siervo, Head of International Relations and Activities Unit, <i>PROCULTHER: an EU-funded project to reinforce the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster</i> • Mauro Gabriel Garcia Santa Cruz, Iniciativa Patrimonio y Cambio Climático (member of the Climate Heritage Network), Universidad Católica de La Plata (Argentina), <i>Adaptation and Mitigation for Cultural Heritage</i>
14:10	Moderated Q&A
14:25	Conclusions by the chair



Session III - Culture-Based Solutions Driving Climate Action

Chair: Andrew Potts, Chair of ICOMOS WG on Cultural Heritage and Climate Change and co-ordinator of the Climate Heritage Network

14:35	Introduction by the Chair
14:40	<p>Panel interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debra Roberts (Pr.Sci.Nat.) Co-chair Working Group II (AR6) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Co-Chair, “International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change” Scientific Steering Committee, <i>Contributions of cultural heritage to climate action, the view from the IPCC</i> • Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary-General, Europa Nostra, <i>Putting cultural heritage at the heart of the European Green Deal</i> • Glen MacDonald, UCLA Geography Chair on California and the American West; Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; National Trust for Canada Council of Advisors, <i>Art and Heritage as motivators for thought and action on climate change</i> • Sara Crofts, Chief Executive at Icon -the Institute of Conservation, <i>Communicating the role of cultural heritage in climate action</i> • Ariadne ‘Ari’ Gorrying, International Savanna Fire Initiative, <i>Firing up for climate change: the role of traditional fire management in a warming world</i>
15:05	<p>Case studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Élodie Héberlé - Manager of "Energy performance of buildings" activities at Cerema Est, <i>CREBA, the French ressource center for the energy retrofit of heritage buildings</i> • Rosie Paul, Mason's Ink project in India, <i>Using traditional building knowledge to reduce the carbon footprint of construction</i> • Gauri García Medina, General Coordinator of the Historic Centre of Morelia, <i>Power, Management and Heritage: recycling of the territory in the Morelia Historic Center</i>
15:20	Moderated Q&A
15:35	Conclusions by the chair



Session IV - Advanced technologies for the preservation of cultural heritage. Social and economic benefits

Chair: Cristina Sabbioni, Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate of the National Research Council

15:45	Introduction by the Chair
15:50	Panel interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauro Facchini, European Commission, Head of the Copernicus Unit, Directorate General of Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and Prof. Andrea Taramelli Associate professor IUS di Pavia – National delegate of the project Copernicus, <i>New technologies applied to cultural heritage and climate change: Copernicus and the space economy</i> • Anne Grady, Policy Officer, DG Education and Culture, European Commission, <i>Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change</i> • Marica Mercalli, General f Director for the Security of Cultural Heritage of the Italian Ministry of Culture, <i>The monitoring plan for the conservation of cultural assets. An experimental model for risk assessment.</i> • Hannah Fluck, Head of Environmental Strategy at Historic England, <i>Mapping Climate Hazards, Adapting Cultural Heritage</i> • Daniele Spizzichino, ISPRA, Italy, <i>New technologies for cultural heritage conservation: from satellite monitoring to sustainable mitigation</i>
16:15	Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie-Yvane Daire, PhD, Centre de Recherche en Archéologie, Archéosciences, Histoire, 'ALeRT Mobile' managing coastal archaeological heritage • Wu Yuhua, Chinese Information and Consulting Center of Cultural Heritage, <i>Exploration on the monitoring and preventive conservation of the world cultural heritage of Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian</i> • Alfonsina Russo, Director of the Colosseum Archaeological Park, <i>The experience in the Colosseum Archaeological Park: Climate modelling applied to cultural heritage protection</i> • Vito D'Adamo, Italian Ministry of Culture, <i>Multi-systemic monitoring for cultural heritage protection, an Italian model</i>
16:35	Moderated Q&A
16:50	Conclusions by the chair
Session V -Conclusions and the way forward	
16:55-17:10	Presentation by session Chairs of the conclusions and the way forward