Call for contributions

Climate crises are widespread and intensifying. Culture has a role to play in reducing the impacts of climate change, as well as protecting the environment and the human connections to it. *Climate.Culture.Peace* is a knowledge building initiative, aimed at exploring the interconnections between culture, climate change, peace and disaster resilience. It includes a virtual conference, to be held from 24th to 28th January 2022, with a focus on heritage places and institutions, which are threatened by climate-related disasters and/or conflicts driven by environmental stresses. It will bring together diverse knowledge holders, policy advisors, practitioners, as well as community and youth leaders.

This initiative is generously supported by the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

> We seek participation from all around the world; contributions from the CPF target countries1 across the Middle East and Africa are particularly encouraged.

Types of contributions

Your contribution to *Climate.Culture.Peace*. could be one or more of the following:

Knowledge/practice/research presentation: an 8-10 minute presentation followed by a question & answer discussion. These will be organized around a core of information or practice that can explore connections between, or challenges of, climate change, culture, heritage, peace and disaster resilience. Presentations also may be submitted as potential case studies (see below).

"Ignite" talks: a series of speedy 5-minute presentations that will share innovative ideas, questions, experiences, or challenges, of climate change, culture, heritage, peace and disaster resilience. These will be informal presentations that will help explore climate interactions from diverse perspectives and practices, igniting a conversation and discussion.

Case study: an opportunity to share a story; these are written and illustrated place-based examples of connections between climate change, culture, heritage, peace and disaster resilience, or conflict that will be featured on the *Climate.Culture.Peace* website; some case studies may be invited for presentation at the conference. Case studies will be between 500-1500 words, with photos and/or videos to illustrate the story.

Media/multimedia: photos, audio and video clips, music, and other art forms that convey aspects of culture and heritage in relation to climate change, peace and disaster resilience are invited; these will be shared throughout the conference, as well as on the website.

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1 The British Council's Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) target countries are: Afghanistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian territory, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Yemen.

This project is conceived and designed by ICCROM's flagship programme First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR), which is aimed at protecting cultural heritage from conflicts and disasters.

Proposal guidelines

Proposals for contributions should respond to one or more of the four themes of the *Climate.Culture.Peace* initiative, as described below. These themes may be interpreted broadly and creatively.

Proposals for contributions may be submitted via *this web form* by December 22, 2021. Proposals should include a brief (150-200 word) description of the contribution. Proposals may be made in English or Arabic. Notification of selection will be sent by January 7, 2022. Upon selection, complete case studies and multi-media should be submitted by January 20, 2022.

Word limit
100-150 words

Languages
English and Arabic

Deadline
22 December 2021

Climate.Culture.Peace theme outlines

Culture and *heritage* are central to all four of the conference themes. There are many definitions and deep histories for both *culture* and heritage[2]. For the purposes of this call, we wish to emphasize that culture and heritage bring together the full range of human experience - from the past into the present. Together they include things (such as places, sites, objects and artefacts, buildings, monuments, landscapes and environments) and the many forms of knowledge and practices that allow us to see, listen, share, explore and question who we are now and how we have come to be.

Connections between culture and heritage are recognized to be evolving. This may be critical as our understanding of climate change and the human responses to it develops and grows.

Concepts of conflict and peace are also woven throughout. Conflict occurs in many forms and at many scales. The effects of climate change increase risks of disasters and conflict. In turn, conflict increases vulnerability of communities and places to the impacts of climate change. We wish to emphasize that peace is not solely the absence of conflict, but rather sets of relationships (such as people-people, people-environment) that are sustainable, durable, and allow all in them to thrive.

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[2] Selected references include British Council (2018) Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth; ICCROM (2005) Definitions of Cultural Heritage

Theme 1 | Culture – the missing link

Culture and heritage shape our perceptions of, and responses to, climate change and the environmental variability it is bringing. But major global approaches are not yet recognizing the influence of culture and heritage on climate action. Exploration of connections between climate change, culture and heritage, peace and conflict are needed. Directions for such exploration include, but are not limited to:

- How has climate change come to be? What is the human history of climate change (including industrialization, colonization, etc)?
- What would be the benefits of integrating forms of cultural heritage, knowledge, and practices that are currently not well recognized into climate action and disaster resilience?
- What are the roles of the cultural heritage of under-recognized and marginalized communities for climate action, disaster resilience, and peacebuilding?
- What role does culture and heritage play in the development of conflict in relation to climate?
- How do we learn from experiences of past societies with stress and change?
- Are there situations in which culture or heritage is a constraint on climate action?
- How do cultural diversity, practices, and knowledge sustain biodiversity? What are the connections between them?

Example: Some long-standing gardening or agricultural practices not only conserve water, fertilize soils and control pests, but they also provide habitat for multiple animal species. Today, with newer technologies, only a small number of people still hold this knowledge and practice these methods. In response, a community started a garden training program for school children.

Theme 2 | Climate change as a risk driver for culture and people

Climate change has become one of the primary global threats to culture and heritage. Floods, storms, fire, droughts and rising sea levels threaten physical places and things, but as they can make vital resources such as plants, animals, sacred sites and practices inaccessible or scarce, they also pose a great risk to people's livelihoods and their intangible heritage. Identification of the range of climate change related risks to heritage and their likely impacts is still in its infancy. Areas in need of knowledge exchange and research include but are not limited to:

- How are we experiencing the impacts of climate change on our cultural heritage?
- How well do we currently understand the risks of climate change-related extreme hazard events to heritage?
- How well do we currently understand the risks and effects of slow-onset hazard processes such as drought, desertification, ecosystem shifts, sea level rise on, and for heritage?

- What are the current methods and tools for assessing and reducing climate change-related risks to tangible and intangible heritage? What other methods and tools are needed?
- How is climate change a threat multiplier for culture in conflict, and in what ways?
- How do we understand, convey, and respond to loss of, and damage to culture and heritage?
- What are the intersections of climate change with culture and livelihoods? (including livelihoods using traditional knowledge and crafts, and/or related to tourism)

> Example: In a community, many people have moved to cities for work in response to the effects of drought and desertification. But these moves have resulted in fewer people knowing how to build traditional styles of homes that helped to buffer extreme heat. In response, young architects are working to revive use of traditional materials.

Theme 3 | Culture based mitigation, adaptation and renewal

Culture and cultural heritage hold many types of knowledges and practices that offer pathways for climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as connection and communication. They also include knowledges and practices related to dispute resolution, creative and equitable responses to conflict, and valuable tools for dealing with societal stress in constructive and peaceful ways. Areas in which further connections and exploration are needed include:
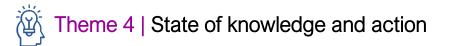
- How are Indigenous peoples' and local knowledge of ecosystems and their corresponding management contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation?
- What are the roles of heritage places and institutions as knowledge holders in meeting basic needs under climate change - food, water, soil, homes, jobs, incomes, and air?
- How can heritage act as a source of mental and social support, and provide coping mechanisms for stresses that climate change is bringing?
- What are examples of social and cultural structures that enable reciprocity and avenues for peacefully dealing with conflict?
- What are examples and methods of storytelling and intergenerational connections that support climate adaptation and build resilience?
- How can heritage support or buffer local environmental extremes:
  - In traditional and vernacular architecture?
  - In traditional agriculture and land management?
  - In measuring and valuing carbon held in existing buildings and through adaptive reuse?

> Example: Intense storms and flooding trigger a large displacement of people. Cultural institutions and local museums became shelters for those displaced and efforts to ensure the collections were safe became a collective task and a measure for recovery.

Theme 4 | State of knowledge and action

To date, culture and cultural heritage are not well represented in global to regional climate change science, policies, or strategies, as well as in areas where these intersect with peace and conflict. Areas in which attention to both barriers and potential action are needed include but are not limited to:

- What is the state of representation of culture and heritage in climate knowledge assessments (such as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services [IPBES)?
- What is the status of integration of culture and cultural heritage into different scales (international, national and local) of disaster risk reduction?
- What is the status of integration of culture and cultural heritage into different scales of conflict prevention, conflict response, studies of climate security, and peacebuilding?
- How does culture contribute (or not) to risk-informed sustainable development and climate action – including policy, strategy and programmes?
- What does equity and capacity building for culture-based climate action and heritage safeguarding look like?
- Are culture and heritage included in assessing and responding to loss and damage and how - from local to global scales - in policy, and inaction?

Example: There are several international agreements calling for attention to cultural heritage in planning for disaster risk management. However, preparing local replicable plans integrating concerns for heritage plans can be very difficult due to limited examples and funding to carry them out.

FIRST AID and RESILIENCE for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

This project is conceived and designed by ICCROM's flagship programme First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR), which is aimed at protecting cultural heritage from conflicts and disasters.