



Call for Proposals

Transformative change through heritage-based and community-led climate action

If you are an organization, looking to capture the potential of culture and heritage¹ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while managing risks² of disaster and/or conflict for vulnerable communities and their heritage, join the First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR) programme of ICCROM and its partners in a transformative journey.

This project is conceived by ICCROM's flagship programme, First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR), with the support of [The Swedish Postcode Foundation](#), and in partnership with:

- [The Culture and Museum Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic, Kiribati](#)
- [Casa K'ojom, Guatemala](#)
- [Leadership for Environment and Development \(LEAD\) India](#)
- [Confederation of Risk Reduction Professionals \(CRRP\), India](#)
- [The School of Architecture of Federal University of Minas Gerais \(UFMG\), Brazil](#)
- [The State Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage of Minas Gerais \(IEPHA-MG\) Brazil](#)
- [Local Governments for Sustainability - South American Secretariat \(ICLEI\), Brazil](#)

¹ **Culture** and **heritage** bring together the full range of human experience - from the past into the present. It resides in all of us, our lives and livelihood, our art, our places and traditions and our knowledges and practices. Examples may include sustainable and peaceful practices of sharing, as well as using natural resources, traditional/indigenous knowledge for coping with and adapting to climate extremes.

² **Risk** is defined as the potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognizing the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems. In the context of climate change impacts, risks result from dynamic interactions between climate-related hazards with the exposure and vulnerability of the affected human or ecological system. Source: IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, *Technical Summary*, 2022. Available at: <https://perma.cc/56NK-ABRV>

What will it involve?

Net Zero: Heritage for Climate Action is an 18-month (July 2022 – 31 December 2023) multi-level capacity development project, which aims to advance culture-based climate adaptation³, greenhouse gas reduction/mitigation⁴ and enhance preparedness while coping with loss and damage, as well as acting for peaceful and just transitions. **05 host institutions** will lead transformative change at **05 innovation sites** in **05 different regions** suffering from acute environmental stresses, visible in the form of frequent extreme hazard events and/or climate-driven conflicts.

Project objectives

1. Through community-led action at 05 innovation sites, develop a **training prototype** on heritage-based climate action (see application form).
2. Identify and field test integrated strategies mitigating climate change and reducing vulnerabilities of people and heritage to climate extremes and associated risks.
3. Highlight the **role of culture and heritage** in policies for climate action, disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding.
4. Foster greater **inter-agency coordination** and transdisciplinary exchange to mitigate the impacts of the climate emergency
5. Encourage the use of indigenous and traditional knowledges to develop strategies for climate action and disaster risk reduction and make just transitions.

³ **Adaptation** is defined, in human systems, as the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects. Source: IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, *Technical Summary*, 2022. Available at: <https://perma.cc/56NK-ABRV>

⁴ **Mitigation** is the lessening of the potential adverse impacts of physical hazards (including those that are human-induced) through actions that reduce hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. In terms of climate change, it is an human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Source: IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, *Glossary*, 2022. Available at: <https://perma.cc/X375-49EU>

The project will foster an inclusive and participatory action to reduce vulnerability⁵ to climate change, safeguard heritage and secure livelihoods of the vulnerable communities, through multisectoral cooperation and integrated action. It will comply fully with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Any success of adaptation is dependent on the achieved level of mitigation and the transformation to global and regional sustainability outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, adaptation is essential for climate-resilient development.”

- IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, 2022.

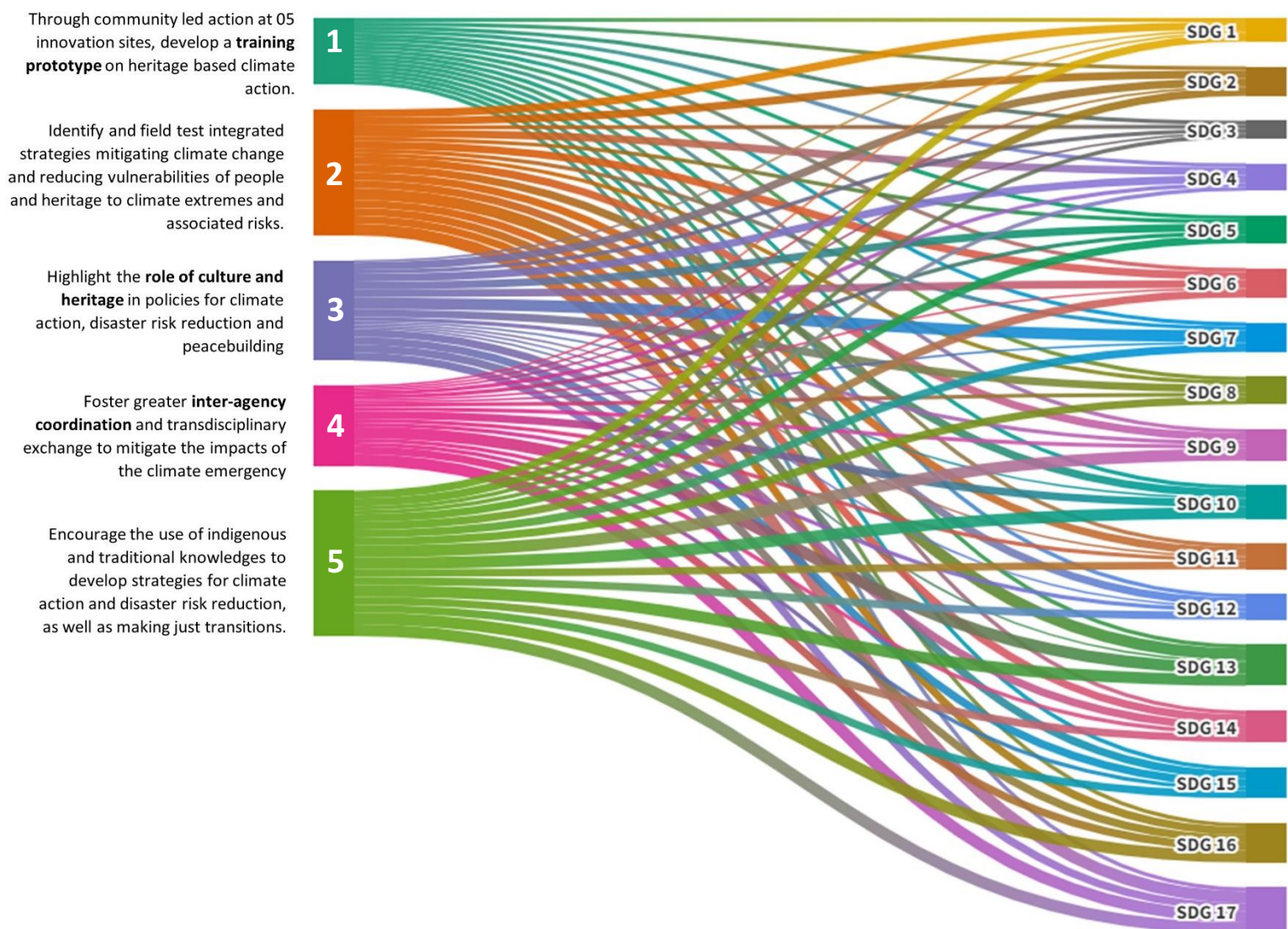


Figure explaining how *Net Zero: Heritage for Climate Action* adheres to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

⁵ **Vulnerability** is defined as the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected and encompasses a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt. Source: IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, *Technical Summary*, 2022. Available at: <https://perma.cc/56NK-ABRV>

The project is comprised of the following four phases:

- **Phase 1: Situation Analysis and Data Gathering (July – December 2022)** – Upon selection, teams at innovation sites will receive seed grants to gather oral histories. Working across sectors and using local cultural heritage resources, they will assemble place-specific knowledge on livelihoods, sustainable resource management, as well as coping with climate variability and extremes. The teams will learn to cross-link this information to climate change and variability data.
- **Phase 2: 4-week in-person workshop (February 2023)** – Participants drawn from the respective teams at the 5 innovation sites, will develop mitigation and adaptation strategies for their respective sites. They will enhance their skills for working with cultural bearers and heritage communities, to reduce their vulnerabilities to climate risks. Participants will be given hands-on training for enhancing emergency preparedness for at-risk communities and their local cultural heritage resources, protecting them from climate-driven disasters and/or conflicts.
- **Phase 3: Project implementation at five innovation sites (March – August 2023)** – The 5 teams will field-test at least one mitigation or adaptation solution at each innovation site. In this phase, their action will be supported with distance mentoring and seed grants.
- **Phase 4: Final symposium (November 2023)** – This phase will bring together results, as well as insights gained through the work carried out at the innovation sites. The outcomes collected in this phase will be disseminated through an international symposium. A final free to download, open-access publication, will present the case studies of the innovation sites and summarize the proceedings of the symposium and will be released in January 2024.

Why?

Effects of global climate variability and change – sea level rise, floods, storms, and droughts – are disrupting the lives, livelihoods, and cultures of millions of people, driving forced migrations, giving rise to new tensions, and aggravating existing conflicts. For some regions, climate change is causing drastic changes, while for others, the pace of change is more gradual.

" Societal choices and actions implemented in the next decade determine the extent to which medium- and long-term pathways will deliver higher or lower climate resilient development. "

- IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, 2022.

The [Climate.Culture.Peace](#) conference, which forms the basis of the *Net Zero* project, underscored the urgency of promoting better integration of culture and heritage in policies for climate action, disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding. Cases from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, regions which are most impacted by climate variability and change, highlight how knowledge embedded in culture and heritage could help in sustainable resource management – lessening food insecurity, promoting greater inter-communal harmony and reducing vulnerability to climate extremes.

Therefore, through an integrated approach, the project, *Net Zero: Heritage for Climate Action* aims to identify and field test integrated strategies for heritage safeguard, disaster risk reduction, climate action and peacebuilding. It will enhance coping capacities among vulnerable cultural bearers in 5 countries, whose lifeways and livelihoods are threatened by frequent extreme hazard events and/or conflicts driven by climate change.

Eligibility criteria

Proposals are invited from institutions and organizations which:

- have a proven track record of working with communities (especially vulnerable groups) and successfully implementing projects on cultural heritage safeguard, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and/or climate action.
- are highly motivated to promote culture-based climate action, disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding.
- are working in areas suffering from acute environmental stresses visible in the form of frequent extreme hazard events and/or climate-driven conflicts.
- are able to work across sectors, engage their respective local governments and enlist other partners.

- have the capacity to use the seed grant and commit additional resources to complete all phases of the project.
- Have the ability to amplify the results at each innovation site by meaningfully engaging youth and young professionals.

Organization and their teams who have previous experience of working with indigenous communities or who have implemented successful projects in culture-based climate action and/or disaster risk reduction, will be prioritized.

How to apply?

To be considered for selection, we invite interested organizations to share their project ideas by filling in the [project proposal template](#) and sending it to far_programme@iccrom.org

Proposals should clearly outline the following:

- What are the major climate-related risks to the local populations and their cultural heritage?
- How some of the most visible impacts are threatening peace and resilience⁶ locally?
- Which cultural resources, knowledge and practices could help reduce these climate-related risks and promote peace and resilience? Describe how these resources and practices could contribute to peace and resilience?
- Resources that you will be able to commit for the implementation of the project. This can include funds and the number of personnel and volunteers (if applicable) assigned to the project team.
- Upon completing the project, how would you build on the outcomes of the project?
- Share examples of community and/or culture-based past projects that your organization has successfully implemented. Include a short paragraph explaining the objectives and outcomes of the project(s).

In support of your application, you may share maps, documents and photos via WeTransfer or Google Drive.

⁶ **Resilience** is defined as the capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation. Source: IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, *Technical Summary*, 2022. Available at: <https://perma.cc/56NK-ABRV>

Selection

After the application deadline, a selection committee, drawn from ICCROM and partner organizations, will review the project proposals based on a predefined selection criteria. Following the initial assessment, shortlisted applicants will be invited for two rounds of interviews.

Financial support

After the selection, agreements will be signed between ICCROM and the institutions responsible for the respective innovation sites, followed by awarding of the seed grants. These grants will be split in 4 instalments and distributed during Phase 1 and Phase 3 of the Project.

Deadline

7 May 2022

For further information, please email far_programme@iccrom.org