

The Climate-Culture Nexus

A course on managing climate risks to heritage and culture-based climate action

Call for Applications

Course Date - 19-20 February, 2024

Mode of Delivery - Online

Course Language – English

Application Deadline – 31 January 2024

ICCROM's flagship programme, [First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis \(FAR\)](#) is pleased to announce a **two-day course on managing climate risks to heritage and culture-based climate action**.

If you are a professional working in the fields of cultural heritage, disaster risk management, climate science or peacebuilding looking to understand the nexus between climate change, disasters and conflicts, and assess climate-related extreme risks to tangible and intangible heritage, as well as leverage Indigenous or traditional knowledge to develop integrated strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, as well as peacebuilding, we invite you to join this course.



About the Course

The latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) have underscored the need for transformative and inclusive action within this decade to limit the global temperature to 1.5°C for preventing unprecedented and irreversible damage and loss to people and their cultural heritage.

Climate change is one of the primary threats to cultural heritage. Rising sea levels and coastal erosion may cause the disappearance of the world's most iconic historic sites and cities. Frequent and intensifying floods, fires and droughts not only threaten material and natural heritage, but also pose great risk to intangible heritage, making vital resources in the form of practices, sacred sites, plant, and animal species inaccessible.

The world is facing a new era of growing uncertainties. The [Global Assessment Report 2023](#) has shed light on intricate connections between climate change, conflict, epidemics or inflation that are creating compound crises, a phenomenon increasingly referred to as a polycrisis.

However, culture embedded in the knowledge and lived experiences of communities who are at the forefront of the climate crisis is a great resource for developing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, as well as promoting sustainable development.

Responding to these challenges and harnessing the wealth of Indigenous and traditional knowledge held by local communities, ICCROM's flagship programme on [First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis](#) (FAR) launched a two-year cascading capacity development project - [Net Zero: Heritage for Climate Action](#), with the generous support of the [Swedish Postcode Foundation](#). The Project field-tested strategies for using heritage to mitigate climate change, as well as reduce the risks of disasters and conflicts at five innovation sites in Brazil, Egypt, India, Sudan and Uganda.

Drawing from the comprehensive methodology and tools developed through ICCROM-FAR's Net Zero project, this two-day course will engage participants in assessing climate-related risks to heritage and its associated communities, as well as tapping into the lived experiences of local communities to develop strategies for climate adaptation and decarbonization.

Objectives

Through lectures, in-depth discussions and case studies, the course aims to –

1. **Enhance capacity** of at least **30 diverse professionals** to understand the interlinkages between climate change, disasters and conflicts, as well as their cascading impacts on cultural heritage and people.
2. **Assess climate-related risks** to tangible and intangible heritage in the participating countries.
3. **Demonstrate the role of cultural heritage** in understanding human history and root causes of the climate crisis.
4. Showcase how processes involved in making and conservation of heritage **could support climate action**, reduce disaster risk, as well as promote peace and sustainable development.
5. **Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange** among diverse stakeholders, reinforcing the urgent need for proactive and adaptive measures to tackle the challenges to cultural heritage, in the face of the climate crisis.

Expected Outcomes

Through this course, 30 diverse professionals will be **equipped with tools and skills** to -

1. **Identify how climate is acting as a driver** of disaster and conflict risks to tangible and intangible heritage at their respective project sites and institutions.
2. **Safeguard heritage from extreme weather events**, as well as engage local communities to develop inclusive strategies for disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding and climate action.
3. **Digitize place-specific knowledge and intangible heritage** of communities on climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as foster inter-generational knowledge transfer.
6. **Collaborate with relevant stakeholders** including disaster risk management agencies, civil protection, urban planning units, universities, as well as environmental planning and cultural ministries to **inform climate adaptation and disaster risk management plans** for tangible and intangible heritage at their respective countries.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications are invited from countries on the frontline of the climate crisis, facing recurring extreme hazard events that cause economic, ecological, and socio-cultural damage and losses. A total of **30 participants will be selected** and priority will be given to applicants from countries, including the following but may not be limited to –

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Chad
- Cameroon
- Cuba
- Congo
- Dominican Republic
- Egypt
- Ethopia
- Haiti
- India
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lagos
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Maldives
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Seychelles
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe

We encourage **mid-career and emerging professionals** from the fields of heritage conservation, disaster risk management, climate science, urban planning, as well as peacebuilding to apply for the course. Applicants should possess relevant knowledge or work experience in related fields.

Applicants must articulate their **motivation for attending the course** and explain how the knowledge gained will contribute to their work or research in the field of heritage safeguard, climate action and disaster risk management.

[Apply Here](#)