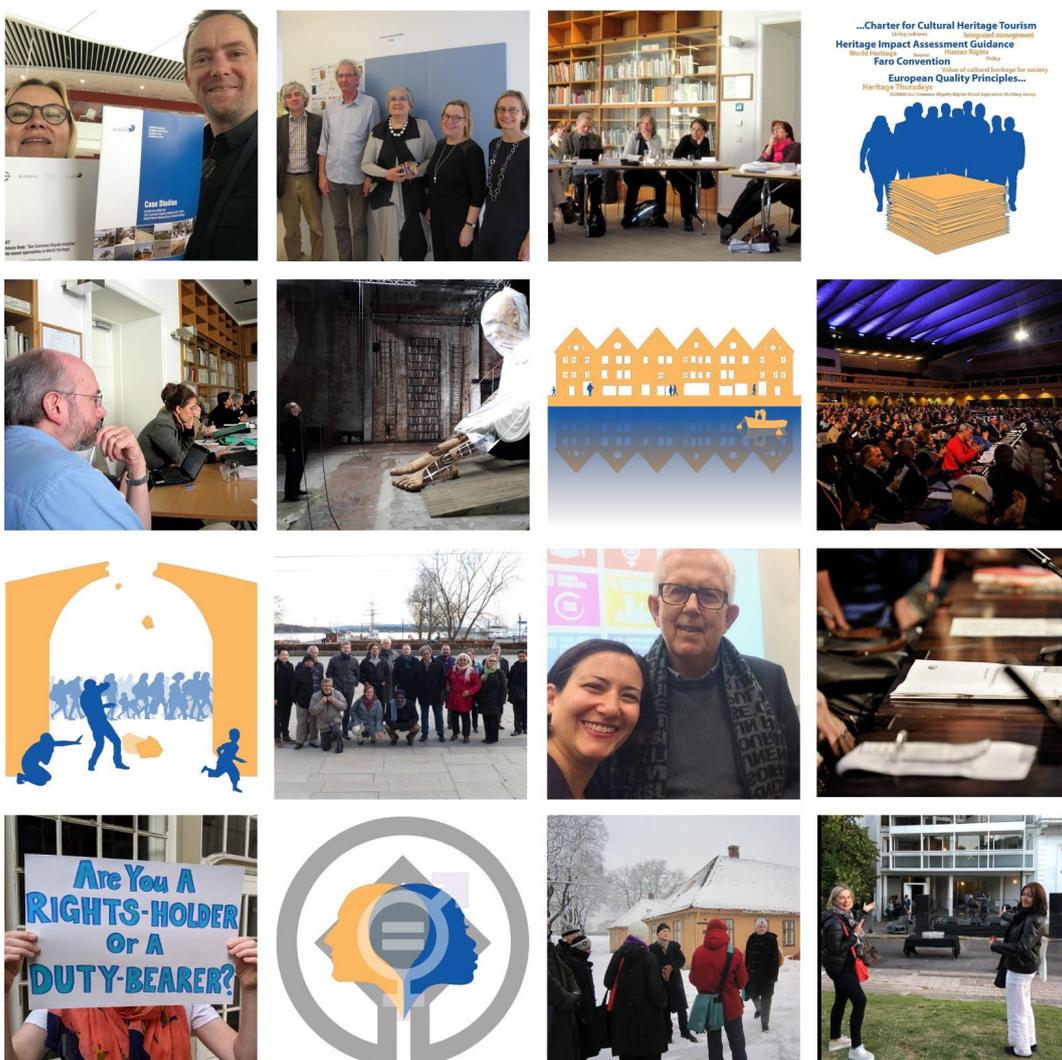


Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group

History and Milestones



Editors

Paulette Wallace, Bénédicte Selfslagh, Margaret Gowen, Sophie Starrenburg,
Bente Mathisen, Laura Robinson

Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group

History and Milestones

Prepared by

Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group

Published by

International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS

With financial support from

ICOMOS Norway

ISBN: 978-2-918086-94-9

© Copyright: ICOMOS, 2023

International Secretariat 11 rue du Séminaire de Conflans - 94 220 Charenton-le-Pont, Paris, France

Available in the ICOMOS Open Archive at <https://openarchive.icomos.org/id/eprint/2896/>

Contributing authors

Bente Mathisen (publication coordinator), Amund Sinding-Larsen, Laura Robinson, Stener Ekern, Peter Bille Larsen, Paulette Wallace, Bénédicte Selfslagh, Nils Ahlberg, Riin Alatalu, Diane Archibald, Adriana Careaga, Angela Curmi, Saranya Dharshini, Deirdre McDermott, Graciela Mota, Ave Paulus, Gráinne Shaffrey

Editors

Paulette Wallace, Bénédicte Selfslagh, Margaret Gowen, Sophie Starrenburg, Bente Mathisen, Laura Robinson

Graphic design

Yasemin Sarıkaya Levent

Cover design

Laure Marique

Suggested reference

ICOMOS Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group. 2023. Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group: History and Milestones. Paris, ICOMOS.

The contributing authors are responsible for the choice and the presentation of the facts contained in this publication and for the opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of ICOMOS and do not commit the organisation.



ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, is a global non-governmental organisation dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites. It participates in the development of professional guidelines and inspirational texts, exchange of ideas and the promotion of best practices.

ICOMOS is an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* of UNESCO. As such, it reviews nominations of cultural sites to the World Heritage List and ensures the conservation of sites already inscribed on the List.

Its creation in 1965 was the logical outcome of initial conversations between architects, historians and international experts that began in the early twentieth century and that materialised in the adoption of the *Venice Charter* in 1964.

In light of numerous studies, conferences, symposia and discussions led by its National Committees and International Scientific Committees, ICOMOS has gradually built the philosophical and doctrinal framework of heritage at an international level.

For more information: www.icomos.org



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) License. To view a copy of the license, visit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode>



Contents

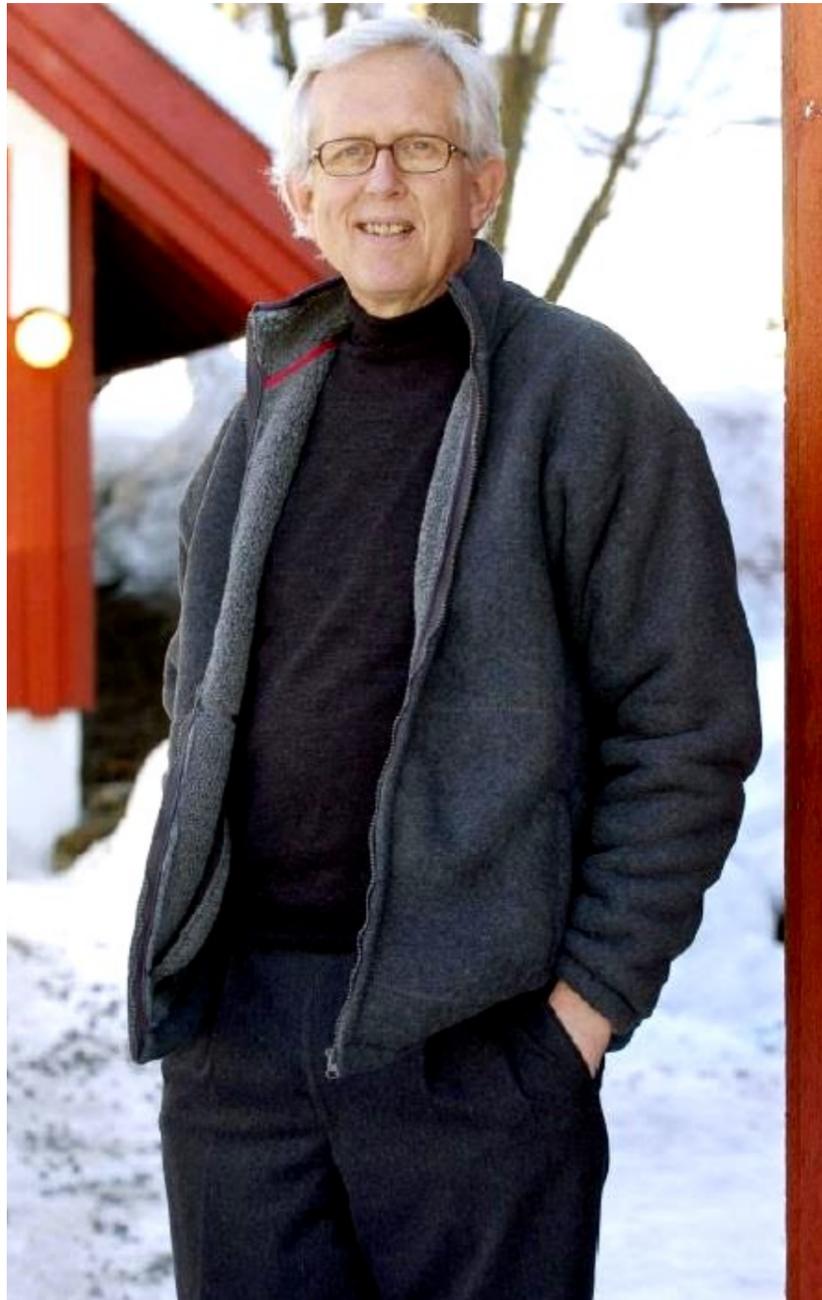
	Foreword: Rights-Based Approaches in Heritage Management <i>Amund Sinding-Larsen</i>	9
	Glossary	10
	Introduction <i>Bente Mathisen & Laura Robinson</i>	11
	Demystifying Human Rights: Lessons from Teaching ICOMOS Practitioners in International Human Rights Law <i>Stener Ekern</i>	13
	Human Rights and Capacity-Building: Lessons Learnt from the World Heritage Field <i>Peter Bille Larsen</i>	21
Before 2011	<i>Our Common Dignity</i> launched by ICOMOS Norway	29
2011	The OCDI Concept	33
	ICOMOS <i>Our Common Dignity</i> Resolutions	35
2012-2013	Cooperation between ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM on Rights-Based Approaches.....	39
2014	Building Capacity and Learning from Practice	41
	Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting	43
	Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the ICOMOS General Assembly	45
	<i>ICOMOS Ethical Principles</i>	47
2015	A Milestone for Sustainable Development and Rights-Based Approaches	49
	Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting	53
2016	Pilot Capacity-Building Course on <i>Heritage Management and Human Rights</i> in Norway	55
	Lessons from Asia-Pacific and the Global Arena	57
	Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting	59
	Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the IUCN World Conservation Congress	61
2017	OCDI Milestone: <i>Taking Stock and Looking Forward</i>	63
	Case Studies Carried out within the Our Common Dignity Initiative 2011-2016: Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage	65
	Capacity-Building Course on <i>Heritage and Rights</i> in South Africa	67
	Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting	69
2018	Knowledge Café at the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium	71
	<i>European Quality Principles</i>	73



2019	Monthly Virtual Meetings	77
	<i>Amendments to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention</i>	79
	Knowledge Café at the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium	83
	Capacity-Building Workshops on <i>Heritage, Communities and Rights</i> in Estonia	85
2020	Gazzola Prize awarded to Amund Sinding-Larsen	87
	Capacity-Building Workshop on <i>Human Rights and Heritage Management</i> in Latin America	89
	Submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic	91
2021	The <i>OCD-RBA Working Group Guidelines</i>	93
	<i>Living Heritage and Climate Change</i> ICOMOS Virtual Scientific Symposium 2021	95
	Submission to the International Criminal Court on their Draft Policy on Cultural Heritage	97
	<i>Heritage Thursdays 2021</i>	99
	Capacity-Building Course on a <i>Human Rights-Based Approach to Norwegian World Heritage</i>	103
2022	Consultation on the European Investment Bank Group's <i>Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework</i>	105
	Communities, Participation, and Rights Issues in World Heritage Nomination Dossiers	107
	<i>Heritage Thursdays 2022</i>	109
	Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and Migration	111
2023	Reflections on Heritage & Gender.....	113
	Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and the Governance of Development	115
	<i>ICOMOS Responsible Practice Toolkit</i>	117
	 Acknowledgements and Thanks <i>Bente Mathisen & Laura Robinson</i>	 119
	Appendix: <i>Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention</i> in relation to Rights, Communities and Indigenous Peoples	121
	Further Readings	127
	Image Credits	131

Foreword

Rights-Based Approaches in Heritage Management



Human rights constitute a dimension that embraces all UN conventions. The UNESCO *Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)* adopted in 1972 should hence manifest a human rights dimension in all work to further social and cultural sustainability.

The *Our Common Dignity Initiative* was launched in 2007 by ICOMOS Norway. The following year a national conference *World Heritage and Human Rights: Conflicts or Cooperation?* was organised in Oslo, Norway, through the cooperation of four institutions – the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the University of Oslo, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, and ICOMOS Norway (coordinator).

In 2011, the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* expanded into a cooperation project between the Advisory Bodies to the *World Heritage Convention* - ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN - coordinated by ICOMOS Norway. The objective of the initiative was building awareness of rights issues in World Heritage and general heritage management, to promote 'good practice' approaches and to develop and promote relevant tools and guidelines, in particular for World Heritage, from tentative lists and nominations through to the conservation and management of heritage resources.

An *Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group (OCD-RBA Working Group)* was set up by the ICOMOS Board in 2011, consisting of members from ICOMOS Norway, India, South-Africa and Australia. This was a result of an understanding of community engagement and rights issues being an overarching topic which should be integrated within ICOMOS ethos and work.

Through the period 2008-2022, the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and the OCD-RBA Working Group published a number of project reports and international case studies. This work was recently recognised in the report by the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights *Cultural Rights: 10th Anniversary Report*. The international OCD-RBA Working Group is today expanding in its tasks and mandate and with members from most cultural regions.

Amund Sinding-Larsen
Dr., Consultant Architect
Initiator of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and project manager 2008-2017
[Gazzola Prize Laureate 2020](#)

Glossary

The Our Common Dignity Initiative (OCDI) started in 2011 as a collaborative action between the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM). The initiative sought to raise awareness of the need to integrate the consideration of human rights issues within World Heritage processes and to work towards Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage management.

Our Common Dignity – Rights-Based Approaches Working Group (OCD-RBA Working Group) is a working group within ICOMOS that was formed in 2011 to explore rights issues in World Heritage and heritage management in general, working to develop and recommend relevant tools and guidelines for application in all World Heritage processes - from State Party selection of sites for tentative lists through the procedure for nomination and inscription on the World Heritage List, and for application in management and monitoring following inscription.

Rights-Based Approaches (RBA) are intended to strengthen the capacities of rights-holders to present their entitlements at/to heritage places and to enable duty-bearers and managers to meet the necessary requirements relating to the rights of all those with an interest in the heritage place concerned. Rights-Based Approaches seek to identify rights-holders and duty-bearers in order to promote the integration of rights, norms, standards and principles into policy, planning, implementation and outcomes assessment in order to help ensure – wherever possible – that heritage practice and management respects and supports rights.

Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) is based on the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and its framework, and as such it is included in RBA.

Rights-holders are all those who have statutory and customary rights related to a World Heritage site or other heritage site. They can be individuals, groups of different kinds, with different interests and/or other characteristics, and they can be organisations (including NGOs) with an interest in the place.

Duty-bearers are all those who represent the State Party's responsibilities and duties pursuant to the *World Heritage Convention*. In the case of other heritage sites, the State is commonly the designator of the heritage site with the overall duty/responsibility for management. Other groups such as Indigenous Peoples may also identify their duty of responsibility for a heritage site.

Communities is a generic term and includes all groups of people who possess a direct connection to a heritage place. They include local, migrant, settler, fragile and host communities, and Indigenous Peoples or traditional peoples, who live or work in a heritage place and hold associations with it. That connection may be tangible as well as intangible or spiritual, and has often endured over time.

Issues is a neutral term but generally refers to a vital or unresolved matter. It may refer to implications of designation, protection, conservation and management.

Introduction

Cultural heritage results from human creativity and from the endeavours of individual human beings and the communities of which they form a part. The rights, responsibilities and duties of these communities have been explored by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), working together through the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* since 2011.

The human rights-based approach, a conceptual framework based on the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), has been mainstreamed within the work of the United Nations' agencies since 2003. The human rights-based approach is situated within a broader universe of Rights-Based Approaches (RBA), which are built on the identification of rights and duties, and of the recognition of rights-holders and duty-bearers. These RBA seek to integrate human rights-based approach standards and principles into heritage policy and planning, and more broadly into the identification and conservation of heritage. Contained within the very notion of RBA is the recognition that such approaches are inherently pluralistic. In light of this plurality, there is no internationally agreed definition of RBA. Nonetheless, the concept of RBA and its underlying methodology have been almost universally accepted in international development programmes. The common core of these approaches is ensuring respect and support for rights in practice.

Applying RBA to the UNESCO *Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)* reveals that the duty-bearers are usually the State Party or its representatives; by contrast, the group of rights-holders is intrinsically diverse, as it refers to all those who have rights related to a World Heritage site. Rights-holders can thus be individuals with formal or informal rights in relation to the site; however, they can also be groups, interest organisations, or NGOs. In this context, the notion of 'rights-holders' must be distinguished from stakeholders, which usually have a contractual or reciprocal contact with the duty-bearer. In comparison, this is not always the case for rights-holders, and as such they occupy a more vulnerable position within the World Heritage governance framework.

An important milestone for the embedding of RBA into heritage governance was the World Heritage Committee's revision of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* in 2019. The revised paragraph 12 encourages States Parties "to adopt a human-rights based approach, and ensure gender-balanced participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination, management and protection processes of World Heritage properties."

This E-publication shares the key outcomes of more than 10 years of ICOMOS contributions to the promotion of RBA in the heritage context through the Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group (OCD-RBA Working Group). Our ambition is to inspire managers and caretakers of cultural heritage to further explore the merit of RBA for their work by providing documents, case studies, tools and links to the activities of the working group thus far.

The following pages showcase how the OCD-RBA Working Group has engaged with rights in heritage management, particularly within the arena of World Heritage. It sets out a number of milestones along the path to achieving the goal of embedding RBA into all areas of the work of ICOMOS, and it celebrates the international activities that have led to where the working group is today. Much has been achieved - yet there is still much to do.

Bente Mathisen
OCD-RBA Focal Point 2017-2022

Laura Robinson
OCD-RBA Focal Point 2022 (ongoing)

Demystifying Human Rights: Lessons from Teaching ICOMOS Practitioners in International Human Rights Law

Stener Ekern

Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo



In the late 2000s, working at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), I was contacted by Amund Sinding-Larsen from ICOMOS Norway. Having been prodded by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee regarding human rights violations related to the nomination of World Heritage sites in various countries, Sinding-Larsen wanted more concrete knowledge about human rights. This was the beginning of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and thus began my collaboration with ICOMOS. After several seminar lectures and the co-editorship with William Logan of a special issue of the *Journal of Heritage of Heritage Studies* (Ekern et al. 2012) and as a senior researcher at the NCHR, I was invited by Sinding-Larsen on behalf of ICOMOS Norway to co-design and arrange a training course on heritage and human rights in Oslo in 2016. Thereafter followed a series of similar intensive courses in South Africa (2017) and Estonia (2019), as well as two online courses in Brazil and Estonia (2020 and 2021). I have also been involved in similar courses with heritage organisations in Norway.

These experiences of teaching human rights in ICOMOS have been rich opportunities for drawing lessons about human rights education, in addition to my general experiences of teaching at (and running) NCHR's master's programme in human rights. This article seeks to sum up the general lessons in human rights education that I have collected from this work and its implications for applying a human rights approach to heritage work.

Perhaps the first and most obvious lesson is that the heritage practitioners I meet at ICOMOS gatherings and the students I meet at the university have rather similar preconceptions of human rights. The difference would be that heritage practitioners also possess a wealth of practical experience that makes for a stimulating learning environment. The cases they bring forth and the dilemmas they present are valuable contributions to the field of human rights education and particularly cultural rights.

The similarities between the two groups point to the fact that both of them, as 'human rights students', initially appear to be equally mystified by the concept of human rights as a distinct politico-legal system, also known as international human rights law, in contrast to scattered declarations, conventions and ethical approaches. That is, both groups tend to think about human rights in much more moral terms than international human rights law warrants, and they simultaneously tend to think that international human rights law is much more complicated and rigid than it is in practice. In other words, there is a need for demystification when teaching human rights.

Consequently, I usually dedicate the first lesson of the courses I offer to heritage practitioners to comparing different definitions of and perspectives on human rights in order to tease out prevailing misconceptions. I invite the participants to a general discussion which serves to take both a wider and a more focussed look at international human rights law, and particularly the category of 'cultural rights' where heritage work belongs. On a similarly general level, I introduce the concept of 'culture' and the way it straddles the divide between group rights and individual rights. Generally, ICOMOS members are more knowledgeable about 'culture' than their peers at university courses, but often as confused about the relations between groups and individuals as rights-holders and duty-bearers as any student. The logical final step is an appreciation of 'heritage', where I present it as a kind of 'frozen' group culture, an object

(tangible or intangible) that succeeds in symbolising the collective to which individual human beings always belong. With this broader, yet more precise picture of human rights in mind, the class can move on and take a renewed and better-informed look at concrete cases of heritage management, and start uncovering how human rights impacts their work.

The first section of this article is dedicated to presenting the importance of demystifying human rights for heritage practitioners prior to engaging in discussions on the importance of human rights for their work. I subsequently introduce two further lessons drawn from my experiences with designing and participating in ICOMOS courses over the last decade. The second section thus discusses how many heritage practitioners tend to think about legal systems as a fixed set of easily applicable rules and procedures, frequently forgetting about the proportionality principle to which judges dedicate much of their time and which requires the weighing of factors in order to reach a reasoned solution. The third section elucidates the enormous riches of the social world which emerge from the cases that the students bring forward and that serve for the basis of our discussions of heritage and rights. The social and political spaces being spun around heritage practices at heritage sites present us with a never-ending catalogue of complex relationships between differently composed social actors at different levels, some individual, some communal, some institutional and some intangible.

The aim of the present contribution is, as always, to contribute to the broadening of knowledge about human rights and international human rights law among heritage practitioners and the 'culture sector' in general. It is also to sum up my work with ICOMOS.

Defining human rights

As already noted, my general experience as a human rights teacher is that the notion of 'human rights' is such a commonly used and vague concept that it first needs to be demystified before it can be applied to concrete situations in the way that policy makers, state administrators and not least lawyers do. I therefore present three basic points about what human rights are, following the proposals made by Bielefeld (2012), in order to clear up a number of widespread and typical misconceptions about human rights.

The first point is that human rights are a claim about dignity: that all humans possess inherent dignity in equal measure. It is not a kind of 'honour' that accumulates when living in accordance with certain codes and rules. Bielefeld's second point is that while human rights are a kind of revolutionary thought or 'liberating spirit' opposed to all kinds of custom-based privilege and inequality, they are not a new tradition that its promoters construct in order to replace existing traditions. Finally, Bielefeld insists that human rights provide an actually existing infrastructure for legal and political implementation. They are not an all-encompassing moral system nor are they a set of ethical codes from which can be derived justice for all and in all situations. They are a set of legal and quasi-legal texts out there for everyone to read.

In other words, human rights are not a panacea for all societal conflicts. They are a set of law-like texts taking the form of agreements (i.e., conventions or treaties) between the governments of the members of the United Nations; these agreements specify what states can and ought to do vis-à-vis individuals and groups living under their jurisdiction. Thus, for practical purposes the important point for heritage practitioners is to be knowledgeable about how the rights in question work—that is to say, their adoption of a contractual format for ordering political relations within and between nation-states, and moreover their location within

the broader system of international law. It is less important to focus on philosophical dilemmas, such as whether morals can be universal and how legal rules can be translated across linguistic and cultural boundaries. As we will see below, however, when we enter the territories of group rights and culture, not least its 'frozen' companion, heritage, the latter dilemma of translation reappears.

Another trick for opening the semantic field for a constructive (and constructivist) discussion about implementing and promoting human rights, as well as for avoiding violations, is to look at how differently human rights tend to be defined in the disciplines of law, political science and anthropology. As it is frequently said, human rights are too important to be left to lawyers alone. In law, the short definition is that human rights constitute that branch of international law which deals with the relations between a state and its citizens. Lawyers thus typically emphasise state behaviour towards individuals. Legal research accordingly focuses on how to integrate and refine these internationally defined rules in domestic law (i.e. in a specific nation-state). Immediately one realises how this can be a most delicate issue for the state in its perennial quest for maintaining stability and sovereignty.

In political science, too, the focus is also on state behaviour, albeit with a slightly different emphasis. Political scientists pay attention to how human rights are created through diverse institutional designs and how they play an increasingly important role in international politics, not least through the UN system, such as in the case of the work of UNESCO in assisting the safeguarding of World Heritage. For political scientists human rights are also an important factor when researching claims about and designing policies of social justice in our contemporary state- and market-driven world. Here it is worth noting how human rights can be defined without reference to any particular religious or philosophical tradition simply as a "response to modernity" (Nickel 2007), in so far as answering to contemporaneous societal needs is what legitimises the modern state as a democratic polity.

Anthropology untightens the intimate bonds between the state and the individual that human rights weave by relativising the modern state as only one form of political authority. It also relativises the individual human as a relational being, existing both as an individual and as a group-based creature. Moreover, it problematises how the contractual format of ordering relations into rights-holders and duty-bearers impinges on social relations in modern societies. Finally, anthropology treats international human rights law and its uses of legal rules and courts as just one particular way of framing societal disputes. The anthropological approach towards human rights as a social phenomenon with, as it were, 'a life of its own' might seem to be of little immediate practical value. However, as I hope to show, deconstructing the notions of 'states' and 'citizens' with the aid of an anthropological lens may offer a refreshing and flexible look at old and seemingly immovable conflicts in heritage politics.

The problem with culture

Having now prepared the ground for discussing human rights as primarily a law-like system with the goal of international human rights law being to ensure proper state behaviour in the various fields of social life, it is time to bring up the problem of reconciling 'culture' with human rights. The former is typically imagined as a collective phenomenon, whereas the latter is typically imagined as something pertaining to individuals. In the field of cultural rights and heritage this is not only a cross-cutting and 'deep' issue, as academics frequently put it, stemming from and affecting all aspects of our existence as humans, but a stubbornly difficult

problem to solve when communities and their immediate interests clash. What can practitioners do? What is the right thing to do in terms of the superior law that our national authorities have adopted?

Collective and individual rights represent numerous intricate challenges. Collective rights can thus be closely entwined with or contain individual rights; moreover, the rights of one collective may easily invite conflict with those of another collective. In order to come to grips with these complexities, in my teaching I place the focus on processes of group formation: the construction of collective identities. In other words, the relations between what we might imagine as the 'outer' part of a human identity, where group relations are negotiated, and the 'inner' or 'core' part of our social being, where we live as individuals. The cause of much confusion is, I believe, the fact that 'culture' is a dual concept. It refers both to the way we categorise others and the way we see ourselves. To enjoy 'my' culture the state must respect me as a private person as well as protecting my relations with my community.

The term 'culture' is thus at once used to understand and display our own individuality and to identify others and navigate socially. The latter ability—to discriminate between different human groups—is fundamental to human social life. Human rights thus must include various ways of protecting this part of our humanity. And indeed, numerous human rights grant such protection; it is sufficient in this regard to mention on the one hand the rights to freedom of speech, freedom of association and the right to private life, and on the other hand the rights to practice religion and to practice one's language in community with others. Culture in this sense cannot be enjoyed alone.

But will a right to enjoy the heritage of my own cultural group imply that there is a coinciding right of access for all other groups to visit my heritage sites? How can the state protect such complicated, non-individual rights of people under its protection? The multiple meanings of the 'right to education' is a case in point of the potentially complex answers to these questions. In human rights texts, this social right thus started out in the 1950s by focussing on equal access to for instance national museums in the capital for the proverbial poor girl from remote, rural areas. By the 1990s, human rights declarations had shifted their focus towards the rights of the same girl, still living a life at the margins of national society, to receive education in her mother tongue. This shift of the right to education from being centred around social class to group identity speaks volumes of how differently 'culture' can be understood and how even a key human rights concept can change over time. Not in the least, it also shows how states, as duty-bearers, must be alert to different ways of interpretation and implementation in order to comply with international human rights standards.

It should be noted that students typically have become aware of these tensions between the group and the individual by way of never-ending discussions about the purportedly individualistic or Western bias of international human rights law. By acknowledging the duality of ourselves, as persons with both an individualistic and a collectivistic existence, we can bracket off potentially divisive discussions about insurmountable cultural boundaries, and jump directly, as it were, to finding ways of determining how to weigh the rights involved in a decision about 'whose rights'.

Even though cultural distinctiveness is essential for humans, culture is not a set of 'essences' that, for instance, make Norwegians fundamentally different from Swedes. In and of itself, it does not require state intervention on behalf of the individual or the group in order to ensure its

protection. What does require state protection, however, is the ability to acquire and make use of culture and cultural boundaries in order to create the possibility to belong to a group that is essential to an individual's existence as part of a broader collective, as outlined above. International human rights law protects our humanity; a spirit which is kindled through the interplay between us-as-individuals and us-as-collectives (Fagan 2017). As the pragmatic philosopher William James put it 125 years ago: "*Without the protection of the community, the individual dies. Without the spark of the individual, the community withers*" (James 1896).

The duality of humanity brings us to a further lesson for those seeking to teach human rights, which is the importance of moving beyond the idea that law is a collection of procedures and rules from which we can deduce a right solution; that is to say, the idea that applying human rights will automatically lead us to the right answers. For international human rights law to function as a useful approach for assessing disputes between stakeholders in conflicts over heritage nomination and management, in addition to deconstructing the concepts involved, it is also important to note that the decisions we take about limiting or denying rights must be proportional, anchored in law, and necessary in a democratic society. These procedural steps, borrowed from legal practice, ensure fairness and justice. The latter requirement in particular refers to the fundamental building blocks of international human rights law itself: the idea that human rights are here to protect our capacity to live peacefully together as individuals as well as groups—that is to say, in a democracy.

Heritage represents the 'us' or the 'we' to which we belong. It is comprised by heirlooms and monuments and landscapes to which we or our neighbours have a special attachment and that moreover are deemed to have value and even an 'outstanding universal value' if they are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Leaving aside the latter requirement for the moment, the aspects of heritage preservation that typically invite conflict involve questions of property rights and rights of access. It is about 'us' and 'them', and the relations between collectives and their respective relations to the state.

Cases

This brings us to the third lesson drawn from my experience in offering courses on human rights to heritage practitioners. In order to stimulate the pedagogical side of the training session, I ask participants to prepare a case study which touches upon conflicting sets of rights. Many training sessions also include visits to heritage sites. Nothing is better for fomenting discussions and stimulating creativity! Examining case studies and undertaking site visits represent an opportunity for participants to directly experience the richness of social life on the ground, and thus learn to trace the numerous and complex social relations that are involved in each case.

In the remainder of the section, I will discuss two examples drawn from my own experiences: the first concerning a field visit conducted during a training in Estonia, and the second concerning an ongoing case of conflicting uses of apparent wilderness in Norway. Both examples demonstrate the complexities of cross-cutting rights and group interests and track conflict lines in practice. In both cases international human rights law does not give any definite answers nor any easy recipes for resolution; however, they also illustrate how a human rights approach may nudge us in constructive directions and suggest possible solutions by insisting on proportionality and by being grounded in considerations of humanity.

The first example concerns the remains of a top-secret Soviet submarine base on the northern coast of Estonia. The place was used to conduct research on making submarines invisible to detection, and is therefore full of the remains of electronic and magnetic equipment (of which the most sensitive parts were taken away when the Soviet navy pulled out from the site) situated amongst large and ugly—but fascinating—skeletal concrete constructions. Not far away is the small port town where Soviet servicemen and engineers used to live, including civilians; today, its population is mostly Russian. Given the size and the importance of the facility, granting it a status as a monument seems self-evident. But a monument of what? And for whom? The abandoned military yard certainly is heritage, but in what way? What constitutes a reminder of Russian occupation and destructive uses of a once peaceful fishing village set on a beautiful coastline for Estonians in the area, is for the Russians living nearby a reminder of a prosperous past. As a form of heritage, it is clear that the submarine facility means very different things to the majority and the minority groups who live in the area. The memories that a visit ushers in are potentially very conflictive, yet possibly also complementary if placed within a wider context where this place is only one among many that give testimony to a specific historical period.

The second case relates to an ongoing conflict involving the use of forested and bare mountain areas on the peninsula of Fosen in Central Norway, where the interests of Sámi reindeer herders clash with those of central and local Norwegian governments in leasing the land to energy companies for the construction of large wind turbines in order to contribute to the transition to a sustainable society. While at first glance this would not appear to be a conflict between the collective rights of different groups insofar as the state is not a 'group', in the eyes of the Sámi there is little doubt that the state in question was originally established by such a group: the Norwegian majority. Invoking international human rights law, which many contemporary Sámis do, the erection of windmills in areas that are crucial to reindeer herding easily amounts to a human rights violation. This claim follows from the fact that (1) the Sámis are an indigenous people within the State of Norway and thus entitled to an extra layer of self-rule as a group; and (2) that reindeer herding is constitutive of Sámi culture and hence takes priority over other economic activities.

Not all Sámis will agree to the latter statement, given that only a minority of them are reindeer herders; moreover, they might be critical of the implicit claim that 'some Sámis are more Sámis than others'. However, for lawyers, arguments about the representativity of one particular practice will be beside the point insofar as the texts of international human rights law (e.g. International Labour Organisation Convention 169 *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention*) are clear about how indigenous cultures are sustained by indigenous practices and, crucially, the point is to protect Indigenous Peoples vis-à-vis the state.

In this case, too, we see how the cultural value of a site is intimately tied to how it has been used by a particular group. Heritage is constructed through the activation of such emotional bonds. The point of cultural rights is to protect the emergence of these bonding processes within and between groups of humans. In the two cases above, international human rights law plays a fundamental role in acknowledging this part of our humanity and sets out to protect such processes of being and becoming human. If one applies a human rights approach in order to analyse the two cases above, it is important to note that international human rights law focuses as much on procedural matters as on identifying any particular outcome. What the government decides must then be proportional, be grounded in law and necessary in a democratic society. The Estonian government must undertake a balancing act between

Russian and Estonian readings of the ruined submarine dock, possibly by transporting immediate feelings of anger and loss up to the level of a broader narrative about overcoming group-based stories of recurring conquest and liberation. The Norwegian government must recognise its cultural character (and not only point out that it is constitutionally multicultural), and take a broader look at the history of a region that is the historical home to different groups. In both cases, international human rights law provides the necessary grounding in law through which to facilitate debates concerning heritage management and protection. It goes without saying that encouraging the reconceptualisation of group relations and applying such procedures is also beneficial for the upholding of democracy and avoiding violence.

As UN members and signatories to most international human rights law treaties (and therefore also as upholders of human rights), both the Estonian and Norwegian states find themselves in the roles of arbiters but also as interested parties in conflict—to the extent that they are beholden to the majority culture. This latter aspect of the situation is what so easily polarises a conflict and enables it to escalate. However, the references to and explanations of collective rights and culture discussed above enable us to see how a human rights approach might help to disentangle situations where the pursuit of immediate interests hampers the ability to look for solutions. Following the human rights-based approach presented and discussed in this article might provide openings by taking a broader look at social and political conflict.

References

- Bielefeld, H. (2012) 'Philosophical and Historical Foundations of Human Rights', in C. Krause and M. Scheinin (eds.) *International Protection of Human Rights*, Turku: Åbo Akademi, pp. 3-17.
- Ekern, S., Logan, W., Sauge, B., and Sinding-Larsen, A. (2012) 'Human rights and World Heritage: preserving our common dignity through rights-based approaches to site management', *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 18(3), pp. 213-225.
- Fagan, A. (2017) *Human Rights and Cultural Diversity. Core Issues and Cases*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Nickel, J. (2017) *Making Sense of Human Rights*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- James, W. (1896) *The Will to Believe*.

Human Rights and Capacity-Building: Lessons Learnt from the World Heritage Field

Peter Bille Larsen

Senior Lecturer, Geneva Heritage Lab, University of Geneva



“Do we have rights issues in the cultural World Heritage nominations like in natural sites?”, an ICOMOS representative asked me in an interview a decade ago. If rights violations were more frequently being raised in the natural heritage context, at that point in time a growing community of ICOMOS voices raised the flag about human rights in the cultural heritage context and the need for further action. Displacement and dispossession were increasingly recognised as cross-cutting challenges.

Furthermore, the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO were under fire from NGOs and Indigenous Peoples alongside growing debates in the heritage community calling for the need to better situate heritage practice in its social context. More fundamentally, it was a period in which heritage practitioners began to seek answers to certain fundamental questions: how to make sense of and deal with contradictions, conflict and displacement in heritage management? How to engage with rights-based approaches?

The Our Common Dignity Approach

We may say that the paradigm shift took place unevenly in relation to nature-culture linkages (Larsen and Wijesuriya 2015), and rights and heritage in sustainable development (Boccardi and Scott 2018), among other issues. I was initially requested by Amund Sinding-Larsen to undertake a review of how the Advisory Bodies to the *World Heritage Convention* took human rights issues into account in their evaluation processes. This work led to a decade-long collaborative effort in the framework of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* to explore and inform discussions on the human rights implications of World Heritage designation and management.

A number of questions emerged in the course of this work. A recurrent question, in addition to the concrete implications of human rights in heritage, was about the right(s) ways of moving forward. There was no evident arena where the discussion on heritage and human rights could be taken up given the context of a rather timid recognition among UNESCO officials and delegates from States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and others that there was a need for further action. This included calls for the development of social safeguards and for further technical insights, as well as for capacity-building among leading practitioner voices representing a wide range of heritage specialists, such as architects, archaeologists, historians and anthropologists. Multiple disciplines thus converged in calling for further development of this new normative territory for heritage policy and practice, even if their respective perspectives and views on possible entry points for change differed.

It was nonetheless far from evident to have an explicit dialogue around human rights in the World Heritage Committee despite misgivings and critiques from civil society in relation to the situation in some specific World Heritage sites. By contrast, capacity-building and a focus on developing best practices were part and parcel of official mandates, thereby offering safe grounds for further discussion, given that capacity-building is one of the **Strategic Objectives** (or ‘Five C’s’) of the *World Heritage Convention*. This includes measures such as providing assistance in preparing nominations to the World Heritage List, and for deepening the understanding and implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and related instruments.

Capacity-building, in short, offered an avenue of potentialities, at once within the solid zone of the acceptable and the corridors of institutionalised power, as well as being a space from which to explore ways of more equitable conservation practice. This dual coverage was not insignificant. It built legitimacy within the *World Heritage Convention* mechanisms allowing the three Advisory Bodies to engage on a regular basis, while at the same time offering flexibility in terms of the issues addressed and people involved. As a result, work on human rights was no longer peripheral, but repeatedly presented in official arenas by the Advisory Bodies as the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*. This included side-events at several World Heritage Committee sessions and beyond (Larsen and Sinding-Larsen 2019; Sinding-Larsen and Larsen 2017).

Engaging in capacity-building and the search for good practices in a manner that was centred around the specificity and obligations of international human rights standards spearheaded a much-needed normative debate and emerging community of practice in the World Heritage arena. Indeed, once policy opportunities presented themselves, as in the case of developing the *Sustainable Development Policy* or with the revision of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, this community of practice was mobilised to play a direct role in articulating policy recommendations (Larsen 2018).

Capacity-building between periphery and centres

Capacity-building with respect to rights-based approaches took place in at least three ways. The first involved specific training and brainstorming events organised by the ICOMOS Our Common Dignity – Rights-Based Approaches Working Group (OCD-RBA Working Group) in Norway, South Africa, Brazil, and Estonia. The second modality involved the already mentioned sequence of side-events at sessions of the World Heritage Committee as well as IUCN Congresses and ICOMOS meetings, which allowed for the presentation of normative discussions on heritage and human rights and good (and bad) practices. The third modality involved the inclusion of rights-based approaches in broader training programmes, such as the World Heritage Leadership programme coordinated by ICCROM and IUCN in cooperation with ICOMOS.

Listing all three strands together is important in terms of the audiences covered. The first capacity building efforts spearheaded by the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and the OCD-RBA Working Group targeted heritage professionals specifically interested in heritage and human rights. The second involved a more open-ended form of capacity-building by expanding a community of interest or practice. This dialogue not only included Advisory Body representatives, but also civil society members, UNESCO staff and State Party delegations. The third modality reached a diverse audience from sites managers to researchers and policy makers interested in World Heritage professionalisation. Whereas the sections below mainly highlight insights from training conducted by the OCD-RBA Working Group trainings, there were constant connections with the broader attempt to build community, foster best practices and develop policy.

Understanding the linkages and identifying opportunities for action

The format of the OCD-RBA Working Group training sessions was shaped by two key learning outcomes. The first of these was concerned with enabling participants to better understand the linkages between human rights and heritage not only from a theoretical perspective, but also in a manner that would enable them to undertake a ‘rough’ assessment or situation analysis of their own specific countries. The second involved the facilitating of self-assessment approaches which would enable participants to identify opportunities for action in specific sites or management systems (see Annex for an example).

By having participants review both the procedural and substantive rights dimensions of World Heritage processes, the OCD-RBA Working Group’s capacity-building efforts generated significant debate and conversation around very concrete issues such as Indigenous participation, gender equality and decision-making processes, but also labour, land and resources (Ekern and Larsen 2023, Larsen 2022). Much depended, obviously, on the specific context.



Holding training sessions in specific countries also led to the identification of national or regional issues informed by participants, experts and field visits. In Southern Africa, trainings by ICOMOS expert, Ntsizi November, and Leburu Andrias, Indigenous expert on the *Okavango Delta*, were further enriched by a deep dive into post-Apartheid heritage policy and practice in museums, sites and urban planning. In Estonia, Riin Alatalu and Ave Paulus built strong linkages with local communities in the Lahemaa area and in Tallinn, connected with the Estonian heritage community and situated the training session in the wider Baltic context. The Norwegian sessions engaged with the country’s national heritage administration, site managers and heritage experts, touching upon broader management issues, Indigenous issues in relation to the Sámi, and much more. Nonetheless, what united these regional contexts was a shared focus on introducing human rights discourse (see Ekern, this volume) and the introduction of rights-based approaches.

Exploring Rights-Based Approaches

Within the general framework of rights-based approaches, capacity-building sought to introduce key terminology and concepts. An important facet of these discussions involved ‘making the connection’ between heritage and rights by inviting participants to reflect upon a set of common heritage-related questions from a rights-based angle. The goal in doing so was to show that rights-related matters are part and parcel of a structured approach to address common heritage-related questions, such as resolving conflicts around use, access, representation and value narratives.

Whereas language around community participation in the heritage field is notoriously vague, rights-based approaches can help clarify the different options and choices involved. They also offer a platform for raising issues such as vulnerability, accountability, discrimination and participation on different terms. Specific terminology in relation to rights-holders, duty-bearers and their respective obligations has been central to these conversations, particularly when framed around the concepts of entitlements and responsibilities. Such concepts are generally fairly new to heritage managers, yet often help to shed light on new dimensions. Participation, for example, is not merely about doing good, but a requirement from a rights-based context. It’s not a matter of professional choice or preference, but a responsibility.

Lessons learnt

Throughout the years, the OCD-RBA Working Group's capacity-building activities offered an opportunity to reflect upon the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and the workshops themselves. Throughout the years they led to a reflection on lessons learnt.

For one, they have demonstrated the importance of engaging with the needs and perspectives of site management with respect to human rights issues in World Heritage sites. For many people, both human rights and World Heritage discourses are perceived as lofty aspirations, and often considered as being too complex or challenging to implement on the ground. The workshops made it clear that each (World) Heritage site offers can be considered from the perspective of rights-based approaches. The use of self-assessment tools and peer-to-peer discussions offered a safe space for exploring the potential and relevance of these approaches. They highlighted their relevance in a wide range of cultural, natural and mixed site settings, not only from the perspective of the World Heritage system, but also very often engaging in connections with national heritage designations, intangible heritage, museum institutions and other linkages.

Second, targeted capacity-building demonstrated the feasibility of identifying human rights issues in heritage management. Contrary to the assumption commonly held by participants prior to the workshops that human rights were too sensitive, political, or even unrealistic to talk about, the workshops revealed ways and opportunities to strengthen processes of identifying rights issues across many different types of sites. Getting down to the specificity of heritage contexts allowed for targeted conversations about both procedural and substantive rights issues, leading site-managers to recognise and identify human rights issues they were keen to work on. Conversations about who was involved or absent in defining heritage values and management design were common.

A third lesson concerns the importance of engaging with and investing in enhancing rights-based approaches to heritage management. The level of capacity-building offered by the OCD-RBA Working Group workshops did not necessarily offer tools or ready-made solutions on specifics such as collective land rights, restitution or grievance mechanisms. Nonetheless, by offering a general framework and overall methodology, the aim of the Working Group's workshops was to render the human rights issues in heritage concrete, understandable and actionable. Indeed, the fact that site managers started identifying rights issues, allowed for informed exchanges about what could be done and helped participants to learn from others how they had dealt with similar rights challenges and opportunities. Bringing in experts, but also allowing for the discovery of expertise within and among networks formed part of the approach. While not all participants were able to implement rights-based approaches in their work, identifying possible avenues for action was in itself a step forward.

A fourth lesson concerns the challenges of capacity-building through isolated training activities. While training offers an important space for diving into new topics, the time and institutional constraints for solving rights-based issues are very real. Human rights issues often touch upon structural issues that require long-term investment and professional expertise beyond what can be offered within a conventional project-based framework. One example is the side-lining of customary land rights in natural heritage sites, which often entails issues surrounding regulatory arrangements which cannot be solved overnight; nor is it always easy to mobilise the resources necessary to reshuffle participation mechanisms and tenure

arrangements. Capacity-building, in this sense, is one of several building blocks rather than a quick fix; furthermore, there is a difference between individual training and building the capacity of organisations as such.

A fifth lesson relates to the need to systematically mainstream rights-based training in wider capacity-building. Considering the cross-cutting nature of human rights, it is potentially relevant in all heritage related work, as is for example further underlined by policy commitments to mainstreaming in the World Heritage context. There have been some scattered attempts to integrate rights-based approaches, or examples of it, in wider training programmes such as the World Heritage Leadership Programme, yet much more is needed to include these approaches as part of the standard curriculum for World Heritage site managers and heritage professionals at large.

The sixth lesson concerns reaching all target groups equitably in heritage training. Considering the importance of addressing the needs of both duty-bearers and rights-holders in order to strengthen effective rights-based approaches in practice, it is well-recognised that most outreach and training reach efforts are yet to reach rights-holders systematically. This remains a systems-wide hurdle, which is further shaped by structural inequalities in relation to access, resources and organisational capacity to join programmes. Most of the people who have participated in the Working Group's trainings have been researchers, site managers and other heritage professionals. In some cases, we were also able to include Indigenous and local community representatives as trainers or participants. However, in the majority of cases the latter remained a minority. Indeed, international training courses will not cater to all rights-holders, who often benefit more from courses in their own languages adapted to specific regional and linguistic contexts.

The final lesson concerns the importance of structural enablers to allow for capacity to translate into tangible improvements for rights in heritage. A central feature of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* has been to combine advocacy work with technical advisory services and capacity building. This combination has over the years led to advances on certain policy discussions, yet more needs to be done to strengthen enablers for more equitable conservation practice. There is a constant need to strengthen inputs from the policy level to operational practice such as World Heritage evaluations, management planning and State of Conservation-related activities.

What might a future capacity-building programme look like? The short answer is that such a programme should boost activities and offer tangible improvements both in terms of legacy issues relating to existing heritage areas as well enabling action in the preparation of new nominations to the World Heritage List. For this to happen human rights need to become part of the everyday core work of World Heritage planning and management. While policy aspirations appear to be heading in this direction, actual practice remains fragmented on a number of fronts (Larsen 2022).

Perhaps the major lesson here is, in fact, the huge potential and relevance of capacity-building even when formal institutions are failing or moving slowly. Capacity-building in the World Heritage context does not need to be a technical matter, as it involves community-building with close linkages between policy and practice. The good news is that there is potential to bridge the gap between policy ambitions and practice. The combination of professional commitment and readiness for a paradigm change in the heritage field is promising, even in the context of wider trends.

Annex

Where are you on the rights barometer?: key questions

Consider these questions to help identify where you can focus your work.

- What do we know about the (rights) challenges of the specific World Heritage area?
- Is there already discussion about potential rights affected by World Heritage activities?
- How well do we know rights-holders (and how well do they know us)? What are their specific interests, rights, questions?
- To what extent is there a risk that the World Heritage process or specific part of this process (nomination, management, future plans, other actors) contributes towards the worsening of rights?

Vulnerability

Who risks being left behind or potentially being negatively affected by World Heritage activities? What do you know about the winners and losers of the process?

- Can you identify those who are negatively affected and to what extent they are vulnerable?
- Have you engaged rights-holders in a common understanding of what is important from different perspectives?
- To what extent are you aware of their rights in the World Heritage process and possible outcomes?
- What are their specific needs or capacity challenges in order to act?

Duty-bearers

Who can and has the responsibility to act in relation to the identified rights issues?

- Which existing mechanisms, competences and areas of activity can be mobilized so that responsible offices and authorities (so-called duty-bearers) live up to their areas of responsibility?
- What are the concrete options for action in the short and long term?

References

Boccardi, G., and Scott, L. (2018) 'A view from the inside: An account of the process leading to the adoption of the policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective within the World Heritage Convention', in P.B. Larsen and W. Logan (eds.) *World Heritage and Sustainable Development*, London: Routledge.

Larsen, P.B., and Sinding-Larsen, A. (2019) 'Heritage, human rights and Norwegian development cooperation: The Our Common Dignity initiative and World Heritage', in S. Labadi (ed.), *The Cultural Turn in International Aid: Impacts and Challenges for Heritage and the Creative Industries*, London: Routledge.

Larsen, P.B. (2018) 'Human rights, wrongs and sustainable development in World Heritage', in P. Larsen and W. Logan (eds.), *World Heritage and Sustainable Development: New Directions in World Heritage Management*, London: Routledge.

Larsen, P.B. (2023), 'The Lightness of Human Rights in World Heritage: A Critical View of Rights-Based Approaches, Vernaculars, and Action Opportunities', *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, 41(1), pp. 70-86.

Larsen, P.B., and Wijesuriya, G. (2015), 'Nature–Culture Interlinkages in World Heritage: Bridging the Gap', *World Heritage*, 75, pp. 4-15.

Sinding-Larsen, A., and Larsen, P.B. (eds.) (2017), *The Advisory Body "Our Common Dignity Initiative" on Rights-based approaches in World Heritage: Taking stock and looking forward*, Oslo: ICOMOS Norway.

BEFORE

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UN Human Rights Council, Report of the independent expert in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed (2010)

UNESCO

UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
World Heritage Committee Decision 25 COM XV.1-5 Report on the Proposed World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE) (2001)
World Heritage Committee Decision 26 COM 9 Budapest Declaration On World Heritage (2002)
UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights (2003)
UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
World Heritage Committee Decision 31 COM 13B The “fifth C” for “Communities” (2007)

ICOMOS

Declaration of ICOMOS marking the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1998)

IUCN

IUCN Rights-based approaches: Exploring issues and opportunities for conservation (2009)
IUCN Conservation with Justice: A Rights-based Approach (2009)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005)
European Charter of the Architectural Heritage (1975)
Amsterdam Declaration adopted at the Congress on the European Architectural Heritage (1975)



Our Common Dignity launched by ICOMOS Norway

Uzbekistan’s president Islam Karimov received in 2006 the UNESCO Borobudur Gold Medal for the preservation of the World Heritage site of Tashkent, the same year as serious allegations of human rights violations within the Uzbekian World Heritage site occurred. In informal discussions that autumn, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee raised the issue of this award with the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO and with ICOMOS Norway, questioning the award’s legitimacy.

This was one of several alerts on human rights violations within World Heritage sites which were given public attention globally. It should be remembered that although the UNESCO Constitution mentions human rights, the *World Heritage Convention* adopted in 1972 does not refer to them. The issue of human rights in World Heritage sites was never raised by the World Heritage Committee, its decision-making body. Therefore, in order to be able to further explore the above issue, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (University of Oslo) was brought into the discussions.

A concept develops

During 2007, wider discussions on heritage and rights continued within this group, coordinated by ICOMOS Norway. The discussion highlighted the need for more knowledge of human rights within international heritage work per se, and to raise international awareness of human rights issues in World Heritage sites particularly: The idea for an *Our Common Dignity* initiative was born.

The idea was Amund Sinding-Larsen’s, and as President of ICOMOS Norway, the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee were invited to cooperate with ICOMOS Norway to organise a national seminar with the theme heritage and rights.

The seminar *World Heritage and Human Rights: Conflicts or Cooperation?* was held in Oslo, Norway in 2008 with 90 participants. Presentations by leading experts on human rights, the issues of Indigenous Peoples and cultural heritage, looked at sustainable development and community rights nationally and internationally.

The seminar discussed several ideas to compensate for the lack of safeguards against human rights violations in World Heritage protection, with an overall aim that the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* be amended to include references to human rights issues.

Encouraged by the response to the seminar, Amund Sinding-Larsen reached out to his professional network of international experts, World Heritage bodies and academic institutions, in order to reflect on how best to achieve the above aims.

Further recommendations were that human rights assessment should become a regular part of evaluating a State Party proposal for new inclusions on the World Heritage List, as well as human rights forming a standard component of subsequent Periodic Reporting for sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List.



BEFORE

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
 UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
 UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
 UN Human Rights Council, Report of the independent expert in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed (2010)

UNESCO

UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
 World Heritage Committee Decision 25 COM XV.1-5 Report on the Proposed World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE) (2001)
 World Heritage Committee Decision 26 COM 9 Budapest Declaration On World Heritage (2002)
 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
 UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights (2003)
 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
 World Heritage Committee Decision 31 COM 13B The “fifth C” for “Communities” (2007)

ICOMOS

Declaration of ICOMOS marking the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1998)

IUCN

IUCN Rights-based approaches: Exploring issues and opportunities for conservation (2009)
 IUCN Conservation with Justice: A Rights-based Approach (2009)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005)
 European Charter of the Architectural Heritage (1975)
 Amsterdam Declaration adopted at the Congress on the European Architectural Heritage (1975)

Our Common Dignity launched by ICOMOS Norway

The main result of these contacts was the workshop in Oslo, Norway March 2011 where ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM agreed to cooperate through the *Our Common Dignity Initiative: Towards Rights-Based World Heritage Management*. This was the starting point for a World Heritage cooperation to contribute towards people-centred management.

From the start of this process, ICOMOS Norway was generously granted support to the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* first by the Norwegian UNESCO Commission, and later, by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment.

More Information

- World Heritage and Human Rights: Conflicts or Cooperation? (2008-2009)
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (different versions)
- Our Common Dignity Initiative: Towards Rights-Based World Heritage Management (2011)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent Expert in the Field of Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed, on the right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage



The OCDI Concept

In March 2011, at a workshop convened in Oslo, Norway, representatives from the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM agreed to a joint collaborative process entitled the *Our Common Dignity Initiative: Towards Rights-Based World Heritage Management*. The Oslo workshop was the starting point of a wide international cooperation, involving the exchange of know-how and learning on the specific topic of rights issues in heritage management.

Human rights form an integral part of the *UNESCO Constitution* adopted in 1946, as described in paragraph 1, UNESCO seeks: "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations".

Notwithstanding this foundational article, human rights are not mentioned in the *UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)*. Human rights, property rights and cultural and political rights are mentioned in the later *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage (2003)* and human rights, property rights and cultural rights are noted in the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)*. By 2010-11, it was clear that a systematic and concerted approach to rights issues was required within the processes of World Heritage.

At the invitation of Bénédicte Selfslagh, Secretary General of ICOMOS and of the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly held in Paris in November 2011, Amund Sinding-Larsen presented the OCDI concept during a plenary session of the assembly. The Oslo workshop was followed up with Resolution *GA17 2011/30 Our Common Dignity: Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Management*, adopted by the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly, requesting its Executive Committee to develop an 'Our Common Dignity' initiative as a key activity in the ICOMOS 2012-14 Triennial Action Plan.

The mandate for an ICOMOS Working Group entitled *Our Common Dignity - Rights Based Approaches* (OCD-RBA Working Group) was adopted after prolonged discussions. Initially the proposal was to establish an ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for heritage and rights, but the compromise was to establish a working group following up the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* subsequently.

More Information

- Our Common Dignity Initiative: Towards Rights-Based World Heritage Management (2011)
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage (2003)
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
- ICOMOS Resolution GA17 2011/30 Our Common Dignity: Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Management (2011)

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent Expert in the Field of Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed, on the right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage (2011)

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on the intentional destruction of cultural heritage (2016)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna (2018)

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2019)



ICOMOS Our Common Dignity Resolutions

ICOMOS resolutions are decisions adopted by its General Assembly. Draft resolutions on heritage sites or practices can be submitted to the ICOMOS International Secretariat by at least ten ICOMOS members from three different National Committees or by three National or International Scientific Committees in the months preceding a Triennial General Assembly. An appointed Resolution Committee examines and coordinates the drafts and submits them to the General Assembly for adoption.

Once adopted, the resolutions are circulated to all ICOMOS members and partners for follow up. The Secretary General of ICOMOS reports annually to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly on the implementation of the adopted resolutions, and on the results or their effects.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The first resolution, submitted in 2011, anchored the work on Rights-Based Approaches in ICOMOS' work. ICOMOS Norway submitted the resolution to the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly, which adopted Resolution *GA17 2011/30 Our Common Dignity: Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Management*. The resolution requests an inclusion of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* as a key activity in the ICOMOS Triennial Action Plan.

Resolution *GA18 2014/43* adopted by the 18th General Assembly supports *Advancing Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Conservation*, and the 19th General Assembly Resolution *GA19 2017/23* lines up *Next steps for Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage*.

The resolutions were followed up by the establishment of the ICOMOS *Our Common Dignity Working Group*. The initial proposal was to create an ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on heritage and rights. But after prolonged discussions, the ICOMOS Board decided in November 2015 to establish a working group. The Advisory Committee at its meeting in 2016 adopted a recommendation to support the work on *Our Common Dignity: advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation* through the OCD-RBA Working Group. The working group was coordinated by Focal Point Marie Louise Anker (Norway) and the founding members included Kristal Buckley and Peter Phillips (Australia), Ntsizi November (South Africa) and Gurmeet Sangha Rai (India).

In 2018, the OCD-RBA Working Group submitted the *Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which was endorsed by the participants meeting for the Advisory Committee and Annual General Assembly. Although technically speaking, this is not an ICOMOS General Assembly Resolution, the *Buenos Aires Declaration* has become an important reference document, recommending “*all possible assistance so that communities and right-holders are consulted and invited to actively participate in the whole process of identification, selection, classification, interpretation, preservation and safeguarding of, as well as the stewardship of and development of cultural heritage*”

The OCD-RBA Working Group initiated Resolution *GA20 2020/19 People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage* in 2020, which ultimately was submitted on behalf of five ICOMOS working groups, 11 National Committees, and 85 individual ICOMOS members.



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent Expert in the Field of Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed, on the right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage (2011)

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on the intentional destruction of cultural heritage (2016)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna (2018)

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2019)



ICOMOS *Our Common Dignity* Resolutions

Through this resolution, the ICOMOS General Assembly resolved to “*Support and seek to expand continuing cooperation of international scientific committees, working groups, and national committees in relation to the shared objectives of sustainable development; climate change action; cultural diversity; human rights-based approaches; and the diverse forms of Indigenous Cultural Heritage.*”

More Information

ICOMOS resolutions

- GA17 2011/30 Our Common Dignity: Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Management
- GA18 2014/43 Advancing Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Conservation
- GA19 2017/23 Next steps for Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage
- GA20 2020/19 People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage

ADCOM Recommendation and ICOMOS Declaration

- Our Common Dignity: advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation (2016)
- Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2018)

UNESCO

UNESCO, *World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities in the Management of UNESCO Designated Sites, Kotor, Montenegro* (2012)

UNESCO, *Celebrating 40 Years of the World Heritage Convention 1972-2012*

IUCN

IUCN, *World Heritage and Evaluation Processes Related to Communities and Rights: An Independent Review*, P.B. Larsen (2012)

OTHER

World Heritage and Human Rights: Preserving our common dignity through rights-based approaches to site management, SPECIAL ISSUE International Journal of Heritage Studies 18:3 (2012)



Cooperation between ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM on Rights-Based Approaches

The *Our Common Dignity Initiative* (OCDI) was a joint initiative of the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) involving collaborative consultation, meetings, independent reports and joint documents.

The first public presentation of the cooperation was a special issue of the *International Journal of Heritage Studies* (IJHS) vol 18, no 3, May 2012, entitled *World Heritage and Human Rights: Preserving Our Common Dignity through Rights-Based Approaches*. The journal published case studies and papers presented at the founding OCDI workshop held in Oslo in 2011. The publication reflects the diversity of the discussion at the time, presenting articles discussing Rights-Based Approaches, offering site-based case study reports, and discussing the context and issues for rights in World Heritage management and heritage management generally.

The independent review of the *Advisory Body evaluations of World Heritage Nominations in relation to community and rights concerns* (Larsen 2012) provided an overview of the policy and practical experiences relating to heritage and rights. The review illustrated how the task of addressing and integrating community and rights concerns in heritage management requires long-term processes, and it recommended a systematic screening process to identify rights issues in heritage management. Furthermore, the report illustrated that critical rights concerns cannot be expected to appear or be identified without a concerted focus on the kinds of issues concerned. The review recommended an integrated and inclusive recognition of rights-holders in the processes of World Heritage and heritage management generally.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

Amund Sinding-Larsen was the brain behind ICOMOS Norway's special focus on heritage and rights, starting in 2007. He approached Larsen to undertake the independent review and under his leadership the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* expanded from a national project into an international initiative in 2011. It united representatives from academic institutions and the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, all of which had worked extensively on issues of heritage and rights.

Amund Sinding-Larsen was the first ICOMOS Focal Point of the OCD-RBA Working Group and was for many years the ICOMOS spokesman on heritage and rights. Peter Bille Larsen, as an advisor to IUCN, contributed to the development of the joint initiative and the cooperation between the three Advisory Bodies. He also contributed through his independent reviews, academic research and case study projects.

OCDI activities in these years were generously funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment. The support of Ingunn Kvisterøy must be acknowledged as the Ministry's representative. Kvisterøy's experience on heritage and rights within UNESCO bodies contributed significantly to supporting and maintaining the global focus of the initiative.

More Information

- *World Heritage and Human Rights: Preserving our common dignity through rights-based approaches to site management, SPECIAL ISSUE International Journal of Heritage Studies 18:3* (2012)
- *Advisory Body evaluations of World Heritage Nominations in relation to community and rights concerns* (2012)

Building Capacity and Learning from Practice

The World Heritage Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) met for a workshop in Oslo 1-3 April 2014, entitled *Building capacity to support rights-based approaches in the World Heritage Convention: Learning from practice*.

After more than three years of consultations among representatives of the three Advisory Bodies, this expert meeting and workshop in 2014 was a milestone in the progress of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*. Attended by more than 30 experts from all continents, the meeting and workshop pointed to the way forward for what was later, in 2017, to become the *World Heritage Leadership Programme*.

The 2014 workshop highlighted the need for capacity building on rights issues among heritage practitioners. Case studies displaying 'good practice' were used to illustrate the resilience of Rights-Based Approaches.

The workshop report provides evidence of how individuals and communities could contribute to sustainable heritage management by ensuring that their rights are considered.

The *Statement from the Participants* adopted at the end of the workshop sums up the workshop, recommending actions to "Raise awareness and build support for a vision of World Heritage that models the highest international standards in benefitting people's rights, dignity and aspirations".

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The workshop was organised by IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM through the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* coordinated by ICOMOS Norway and received funding from the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway. The ICOMOS focal point, Amund Sinding-Larsen, leading the network, successfully reached out to colleagues in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. He was supported by Peter Bille Larsen throughout the workshop and afterward in providing the workshop report.

More Information

- World Heritage and Rights-Based Approaches - Report from workshop in Oslo 1-3 April 2014. Building capacity to support rights-based approaches in the World Heritage Convention: Learning from practice
- Statement from the Participants - Workshop in Oslo 1-3 April 2014



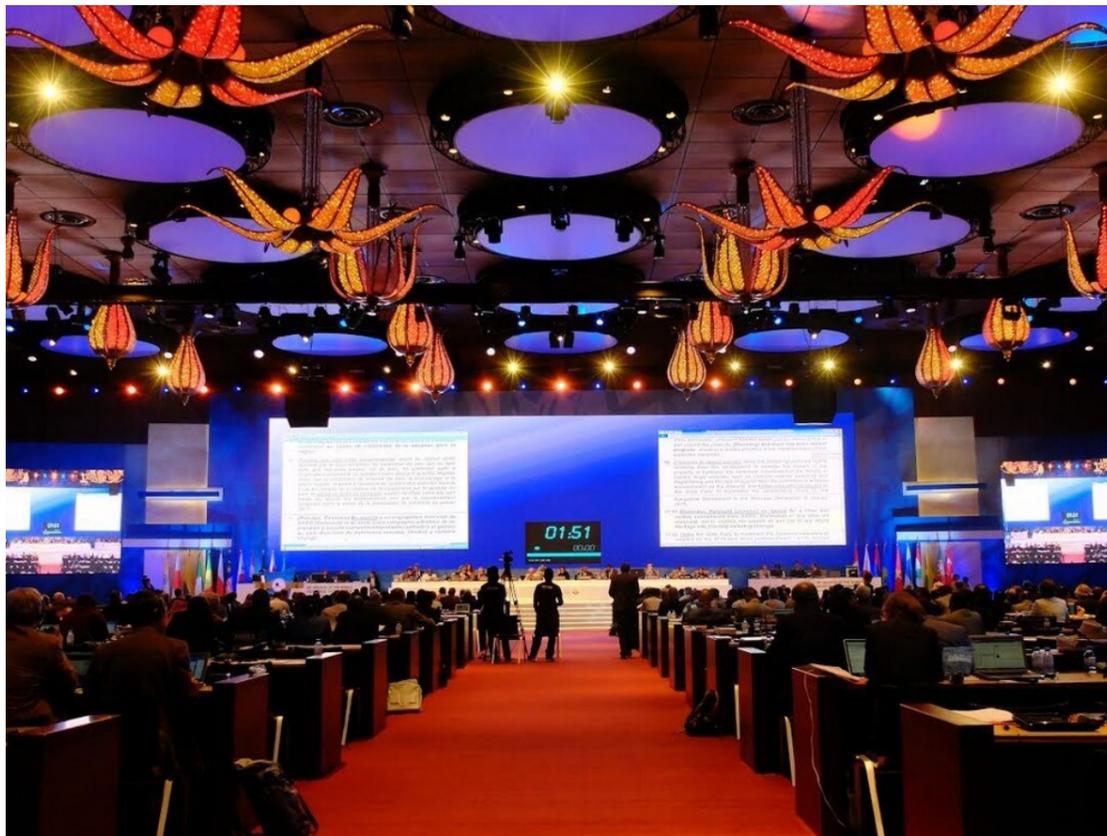
Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting

This side event during the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in (Doha, Qatar) June 2014, was entitled *Learning from practice* and it shared and discussed the outcomes of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* from 2011-2014.

The session started by presenting the results from the founding workshop of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* in 2011. It then discussed the lessons learnt as a result of the cooperation of the Advisory Bodies, which led to the second workshop in 2014. The report from the workshop held in Oslo, Norway 2014 was distributed to those attending the side event together with the workshop statement. The recommendations were the starting point for a discussion during the side event.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The side event was organised by Amund Sinding-Larsen and Peter Bille Larsen, supported by representatives from IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS.



More Information

- [World Heritage and Rights-Based Approaches - Report from Workshop Oslo 1-3 April 2014](#)

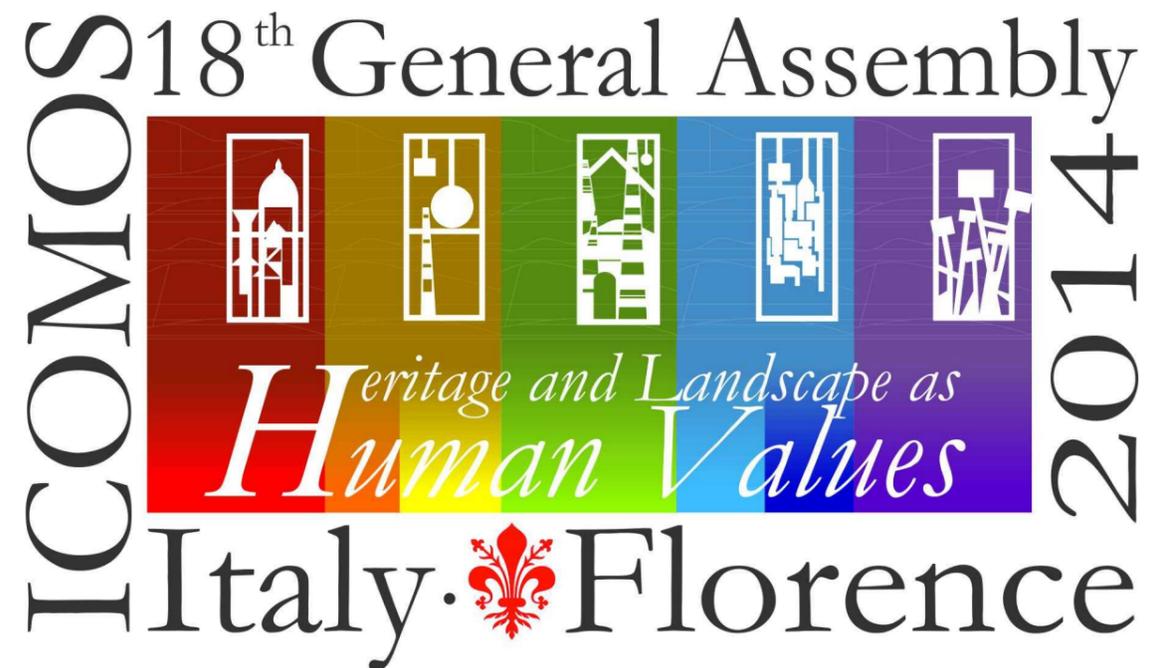
Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the ICOMOS General Assembly

The side event during the ICOMOS 18th General Assembly in (Florence, Italy) November 2014, was entitled *Our Common Dignity. Rights-Based Approaches* and offered an update of the ongoing work by ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM in addressing Rights-Based Approaches.

The session started by presenting the results from the workshop and expert meeting held in Oslo in April 2014. An updated overview report was distributed to the participants and served as the basis for discussions.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The *Our Common Dignity Initiative* hosted the event, which was chaired by Kristal Buckley (Australia) and offered presentations by Amund Sinding-Larsen (Norway), Peter Bille Larsen (Switzerland) and Rohit Jigyasu (India).



More Information

- [World Heritage and Rights-Based Approaches - Report from Workshop Oslo 1-3 April 2014](#)

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2014)

ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2020)

Article 3 Ethical Principles related to the public and communities

a ICOMOS members acknowledge that they have a general moral obligation to conserve cultural heritage and to transmit it to present and future generations, and a specific obligation for activities conducted under their own authority.

b ICOMOS members use their best endeavours to ensure that the public interest is taken into account in decisions relating to cultural heritage.

c ICOMOS members acknowledge the value of community involvement in cultural heritage conservation. They engage in a dialogue and collaborate with people and communities associated with cultural heritage.

d ICOMOS members recognise the co-existence of cultural values provided that these do not infringe human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or other international instruments.

e ICOMOS members support the promotion of public awareness, participation and stewardship including appreciation of, for the identification of, access to, enjoyment of and support for cultural heritage, at the local and global level.

Annotations on the left margin:

- or: "an open and supportive dialogue"?
- no changes; the wording = based on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention
- 'public' encompasses both communities and individuals
- 'stewardship' and other additions < Farid Shaheed
- isn't this sentence too complicated now?

ICOMOS Ethical Principles

The *ICOMOS Ethical Principles* were adopted by the 18th General Assembly of ICOMOS in Florence in 2014. The new document replaced the earlier *Ethical Commitment Statement* which had been adopted by ICOMOS at the 13th General Assembly in Madrid in 2002. The Ethical Principles provided the basis for the 2018 *Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Subsequently, the *Ethical Principles* were revised by the 20th General Assembly, which was held online in 2020.

The *Ethical Principles* set out the responsibilities of ICOMOS members and its bodies towards cultural heritage, the public and communities, ICOMOS and its members, and what is expected from them in terms of best practices and ethical conduct. All ICOMOS members are required to adhere to the *Ethical Principles* and must sign a declaration to this end when they become ICOMOS members.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

2014

Whilst based on the principles of the 2002 *Ethical Commitment Statement*, the *ICOMOS Ethical Principles* are more comprehensive. For the first time a formal reference was made to the *UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The wording of the *Ethical Principles* was based on the approach adopted by the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* of 2003.

2016

During the pilot Rights-Based Approaches (RBA)-training organised in Oslo (Norway), Bénédicte Selfslagh presented an analysis of how ICOMOS official texts, charters and other inspirational documents touched upon human rights issues. The discussions following on from this pilot training led to the idea to further reinforce the wording in the *ICOMOS Ethical Principles*.

2019

The need to further strengthen references to human rights, heritage communities and the concept of sustainable development was further reinforced at a 2019 RBA-training workshop which was held in Estonia.

2020

In 2020, the OCD-RBA Working Group made a proposal for amendments to Article 3 of the *Ethical Principles*. The proposed revisions included an increased emphasis on principles of participation and stewardship in relation to the identification, access to, enjoyment of and support for cultural heritage. The revisions to the *Ethical Principles* submitted by the OCD-RBA Working Group were presented as *Amendments to the ICOMOS Ethical Principles* and approved by the 20th General Assembly held online in 2020.

More Information

- ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2014)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
- Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2018)
- ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2020)

2011 2012 2013 2014 **2015** 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2199 condemning destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria (2015)

UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 11 Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2015)

World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 5D World Heritage and Sustainable Development (2015)

World Heritage Committee Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015)

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

ICOMOS

50th Anniversary of ICOMOS (2015)

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase I (2015)

OTHER

World Heritage Leadership Programme



A Milestone for Sustainable Development and Rights-Based Approaches

Sustainable development depends on human support, engagement and participation.

By contributing to the documents that informed the text of the *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* in 2015, the three Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) emphasised the importance of including and implementing human rights standards to support sustainable development.

The adopted policy can be regarded as an important support for the development of an overarching rights framework within World Heritage. The 2015 revisions of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* were another important step forward as it included local communities and Indigenous Peoples as partners in World Heritage management.

The adopted policy and the revised guidelines created a strengthened mandate for human rights within heritage management. It also opened up the process to further examining operational ways forward for rights issues. It was time to summarise the findings of *Our Common Dignity Initiative* to date, and to share the results widely with the aim of encouraging further development and actions.

Lessons learnt

Main lessons learnt from the early years of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* were summed up in the *Statement from the Participants* adopted by the Advisory Bodies workshop in 2014. The Statement offers 10 recommendations covering rights-based policy development and tools, capacity building and case studies. A key recommendation was capacity building events for World Heritage specialists, State Party agencies, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The ICOMOS OCD-RBA Focal Point Amund Sinding-Larsen, supported by Peter Bille Larsen, undertook the considerable task of collating the findings of the initiative up until 2015. These efforts resulted in two reports published in 2017: *Taking stock and looking forward* and *Case Studies* from Australia, India, South Africa, Niger and Norway.

Together with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and ICOMOS Norway developed an academic training programme for heritage practitioners in 2015. The first pilot capacity-building course on heritage management and human rights was held in Oslo, Norway in 2016. The pilot programme has since served as a model for the development of regional training programmes in the following years, and includes events by ICOMOS South Africa, ICOMOS Estonia, and by ICOMOS national committees within Latin America.

IUCN and ICCROM contributed to the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* from 2011 onwards through Tim Badman and Joseph King, who in 2015 were further developing the *World Heritage Leadership Programme*.



2011 2012 2013 2014 **2015** 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2199 condemning destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria (2015)

UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 11 Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2015)

World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 5D World Heritage and Sustainable Development (2015)

World Heritage Committee Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015)

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

ICOMOS

50th Anniversary of ICOMOS (2015)

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase I (2015)

OTHER

World Heritage Leadership Programme



A Milestone for Sustainable Development and Rights-Based Approaches

Due to a government policy change in Norway, the funding of *Our Common Dignity* activities through ICOMOS Norway came to an end. However, the Government of Norway was willing to support the Leadership programme. The first *World Heritage Leadership Programme* course developed by IUCN, ICCROM and the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, was held in Røros, Norway in 2017, with the active participation of ICOMOS.

More Information

- Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015)
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2015 version)
- Statement from the Participants - Workshop in Oslo 1-3 April 2014
- The Advisory Body "Our Common Dignity Initiative" on Rights-based approaches in World Heritage: Taking stock and looking forward (2017)
- Case Studies Carried out within the 'Our Common Dignity Initiative 2011-2016: : Rights-Based Approaches in world Heritage' (2017)
- World Heritage Leadership Programme

2011 2012 2013 2014 **2015** 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2199 condemning destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria

UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 11 Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 5D World Heritage and Sustainable Development

World Heritage Committee Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

ICOMOS

50th Anniversary of ICOMOS

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase I

OTHER

World Heritage Leadership Programme



Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting

This side event held during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in (Bonn, Germany) July 2015, was entitled *Rights-Based Approaches in Heritage Management*.

The session shared information on the ongoing development of Rights-Based Approaches by the Advisory Bodies. It invited open discussion on case studies, established and developing collaborative initiatives and capacity-building.

In its plenary session, the World Heritage Committee unanimously endorsed the proposed draft *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* – in which the principles of Rights-Based Approaches underpin one of the central and major dimensions of the policy (*Decision 39 COM 5D*).

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The side event was organised by ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, within the framework of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and it was chaired by ICCROM.

More Information

- Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015)
- World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 5D World Heritage and Sustainable Development (2015)

Pilot Capacity-Building Course on *Heritage Management and Human Rights* in Norway

In 2016, a five-day pilot training for heritage managers on the topic of *Heritage Management and Human Rights* took place at the University of Oslo in Norway, hosted by ICOMOS and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo. There were 23 participants from a range of countries, including members of ICOMOS and IUCN.

The course provided participants with knowledge of the institutions and mechanisms of the international human rights system, including the protection which they grant to cultural rights. It also outlined the relevant UN, UNESCO and ICOMOS institutional frameworks, including the work of the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee. This brought in an overview of the challenges that ICOMOS faces with respect to issues concerning heritage and human rights. The course further provided knowledge of project planning and Rights-Based Approaches to heritage management. Participants were invited to present case studies, which raised discussions on rights and people-centred approaches.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The academic training was based upon the lessons learnt since the first *Our Common Dignity* workshop, which took place in Oslo in 2008. The training was set up by Stener Ekern, who also contributed to the first *Our Common Dignity* workshop in 2008 and has been a longtime collaborator with the OCD-RBA Working Group. Similarly, one of the lecturers in the programme was OCD-RBA member Bénédicte Selfslagh, who has contributed substantially to the Working Group since 2011.

Lessons learnt

Participants expressed a need for regional capacity building in the combined fields of human rights and heritage management, in particular, regional capacity building close to the participants' professional and home environments.



More Information

- [Heritage Management and Human Rights - ICOMOS Norway: Report on Training Course](#)

Lessons from Asia-Pacific and the Global Arena

In January 2016, 26 heritage practitioners met in Caux, Switzerland for an international dialogue on *Understanding rights practices in the World Heritage system: lessons from the Asia-Pacific and the global arena*. The meeting was organised by the University of Lucerne in cooperation with ICOMOS and IUCN, and with support from the Swiss Network for International Studies, ICOMOS Norway and the Swiss National Science Foundation. Participants included researchers from Australia, Norway, Philippines, Switzerland, India, Belgium, the United States and Vietnam as well as institutional representatives from the World Heritage Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM), from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Caux science policy dialogue was conceived as a forum to bring together key players in the World Heritage system involved in addressing rights, sharing policy findings from research projects and stimulating further dialogue to strengthen the integration of Rights-Based Approaches at the international level.

Findings from research projects in Australia, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam offered important inputs for further discussion of engaging with country-level discussions, and institutional representatives presented undertaken research and activities with a rights-angle.

The meeting was summed up in a *Caux Call for Action* with 10 recommendations for operationalising the human rights aspects of the *World Heritage Committee Decision 39COM 5D World Heritage and Sustainable Development*.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The Caux science policy dialogue was initiated by Peter Bille Larsen, who contributed to the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* led by ICOMOS Norway. Other contributors to the Caux meeting from the *Our Common Dignity* network were Marie Louise Anker and Hans Bjønnes (Norway), Kristal Buckley (Australia), Gurmeet Shanga Rai (India), Bénédicte Selfslagh (Belgium), Kirsti Kovanen (Finland), and Tim Badman and Gonzalo Oviedo from IUCN.

More Information

- [World Heritage Committee Decision 39 COM 5D World Heritage and Sustainable Development \(2015\)](#)
- [Understanding rights practices in the World Heritage system: lessons from the Asia-Pacific and the global arena \(2016\)](#)
- [Caux Call for Action \(2016\)](#)



Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting

A side event was held during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in (Istanbul, Turkey) July 2016, to provide a project update.

The *Our Common Dignity Initiative* had examined the human rights aspects of the *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*. The *Policy Document* was adopted the year before by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* in November 2015.

The *Policy Document* provides assent to human rights as an overarching principle in the *World Heritage Convention* and calls for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights as a prerequisite for the integration of sustainable development perspectives and actions within World Heritage processes and management.

The side event discussed the central policy dimensions contributing towards inclusive social development, environmental sustainability and inclusive social development. It followed the debate that had taken place at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015).

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The side event was organised by ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM and hosted by ICOMOS Norway through the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*. A flyer with updates of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* was handed out.



More Information

- [Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention \(2015\)](#)

Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) Side Event at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

The side event and workshop during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in (Hawai'i, US) September 2016, was entitled *Scaling-up Partnerships on Rights-Based Approaches and Equitable World Heritage Conservation*. The aim of the event was to discuss the following questions:

- What progress has been made on working with rights in World Heritage?
- What can be done to scale-up partnerships on rights-based and World Heritage conservation?

The questions were examined in a panel discussion chaired by Peter Bille Larsen. Panellists were Mechtild Rössler (World Heritage Centre), Joseph King (ICCROM) Peter Shadie (IUCN), Peter Phillips (ICOMOS), Terence Hay-Edie (UNDP), Sophia Rabliauskas (Poplar River First Nation and Pimachiowin Aki), Justin Kenrick (Forest Peoples Programme), Kristal Buckley (Deakin University and ICOMOS), Gakemotho Satau (Kuru Family of Organisations, Botswana and Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee - IPACC), Ingunn Kvisterøy (Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment), Ben Boer (IUCN) and Mat Jacobson (Pew Charitable Trust).

The event is summed up in the report *Scaling-up Partnerships* which recommends a holistic, bottom-up approach to heritage management.

Several *Nature-Culture Journey* events within ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM were also held, supporting holistic, people-centred approaches.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The side event was organised by the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* with ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, along with the University of Lucerne (Switzerland), the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee and the Forest Peoples Programme.



©IUCN/ Eric McNatt

More Information

- [Scaling-up Partnerships on Rights-Based Approaches and Equitable World Heritage Conservation](#)

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 **2017** 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2347 condemning the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage as well as the looting and smuggling of cultural property

UNESCO

International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase II



OCDI Milestone: *Taking Stock and Looking Forward*

In 2017 the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* produced a comprehensive report entitled *Taking stock and looking forward*, edited by Amund Sinding-Larsen and Peter Bille Larsen. The report was launched during the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Krakow, Poland, in July 2017. The report was handed out to the delegates, and presented during a side event hosted by ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, Indigenous Peoples and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

This seminal report documents work carried out between 2011 and 2016 and the key results of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* on rights and World Heritage. From the founding workshop in 2011, through six years of training efforts, debates, analysis, pilot studies, and numerous activities, the report summarises the key events and lessons of the initiative and looks forward towards current and future challenges and opportunities.

Key findings documented in the report include; the importance of providing a dialogue platform for information sharing, capacity building, and policy discussions, of raising awareness and providing clarity on the role of rights in heritage, and of the need to shift from individual case treatment towards larger systems and policy change. The initiative found that rights concerns resulting from World Heritage processes have been subject to inconsistent treatment and, when acknowledged, dealt with in a reactive mode. Noting that more must be done to engage with rights-holders in a systematic manner at all stages of the World Heritage process, the report presents a possible set of key advances and future steps for each stage. These steps are from tentative listing, through nomination, evaluation and listing, to management and monitoring.

Following the outline of key principles and proposals for a way forward, the report documents project activities, notably the Pilot Training Course arranged by the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and ICOMOS Norway (Oslo, 2016). The training course confirmed the need for capacity-building on Rights-Based Approaches among heritage practitioners and managers. The course introduced the international human rights system, relevant cultural rights and heritage conventions and texts, the UN and UNESCO institutional framework, and human rights-based approach planning tools for heritage management. Twenty-two heritage professionals from the Nordic and Baltic region participated in the course, presenting their own case studies as part of the wider discussion. The report notes that such courses should be offered as a permanent study opportunity for the international heritage management environment.

Other key activities of the *Initiative* documented in the report include; the production of a bibliography of literature related to rights and heritage management, a review of existing ICOMOS policy on rights begun in 2015, as well as identification of opportunities for strengthening policy language to enhance effective Rights-Based Approaches. There was a roundtable on Rights-Based Approaches to heritage management (Melbourne, Australia, 2015), pilot projects with ICOMOS India and ICOMOS South Africa, and various workshops.

The report concludes with a review of ICOMOS resolutions on Rights-Based Approaches and recommendations for the continuation of this critical work.

More Information

- [The Advisory Body “Our Common Dignity Initiative” on Rights-based approaches in World Heritage: Taking stock and looking forward \(2017\)](#)

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2347 condemning the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage as well as the looting and smuggling of cultural property

UNESCO

International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase II



**Case Studies Carried out within the Our Common Dignity Initiative
2011-2016: Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage**

Published in parallel with the *Taking stock and looking forward* report in 2017, this document, edited by Amund Sinding-Larsen and Peter Bille Larsen, summarises a selection of *Case Studies* initiated by ICOMOS Norway and its partners to illustrate rights issues being discussed in heritage management in various geo-cultural regions.

The *Tasmanian Wilderness and Wet Tropics World Heritage Area* are case studies from Australia summarised by Chrissy Grant, which reviewed how efforts to engage Indigenous Peoples differ across two World Heritage Areas (WHA) in Australia. Grant found a lack of consistency of legislation or practice across the Australian Commonwealth, and a need for improved dialogue to empower Aboriginal communities to participate in management processes.

The *Western Ghats World Heritage Areas* is a case study from India summarised by Gurmeet Sangha Rai, which documents the tribes living in and around the World Heritage Site that are dependent on the landscape in various ways. It documents the shift towards participatory approaches in forest management and biodiversity conservation, and policies requiring local community involvement.

Richtersveld World Heritage Area – Exploring Aspects Of Rights is a case study from South Africa summarised by Ntsizi November, which reviews legal precedence and restitution of land rights. The Richtersveld area became the first community-owned and managed World Heritage Property in South Africa, and highlighted the significance of entrenching human rights in the Constitution of a country.

Human Rights In The Aïr and Ténéré World Heritage Area is a case study from Niger summarised by Nigel Crawhall, which explores how the Tuareg Indigenous People might continue to express a right to self-determination in governance and protect the continuity of their traditional pastoralism and related economic and cultural activities in the Nature Reserve. It also questions the role of the international community in promoting peace and accountability, and providing assistance to protect the site and mitigate threats during conflict and instability.

Negotiating Sami Rights And Heritage In Røros World Heritage Area is a case study from Norway summarised by Erlend Gjelsvik, which argues that the nomination process leading up to the 2010 World Heritage extension inscription failed to recognize Sami issues and rights concerns in the Røros region, including the omission of Sami heritage and history in its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and as part of the official Røros World Heritage narrative. A common recognition of the injustices inflicted on the population would constitute an important part of current reconciliation processes.

More Information

- [Case Studies Carried out within the 'Our Common Dignity Initiative 2011-2016: Rights-Based Approaches in world Heritage' \(2017\)](#)

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2347 condemning the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage as well as the looting and smuggling of cultural property

UNESCO

International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase II



Capacity-Building Course on *Heritage and Rights* in South-Africa

In 2017, a five-day regional pilot training on the topic of *Heritage and Rights* took place at Ditsong Museum in Pretoria, South Africa. The training was hosted by ICOMOS South Africa. There were 21 participants from a range of African countries: Benin, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

The course provided participants with an introduction to international human rights and its institutions and mechanisms, with a particular focus on cultural rights and the institutional framework of the UN and UNESCO. Participants were introduced to human rights-based approach planning tools for heritage management, and were given the opportunity to present case studies relevant to the theme of the training. The training also included a field excursion to Lilieslief Farm, the Hector Pieterse Monument, and Vilakazi Street in Soweto, as well as Constitution Hill in Johannesburg.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The training was supported by the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and followed up on lessons learnt from the organisation of a pilot capacity-building course in Oslo in 2016. It was facilitated by Stener Ekern (University of Oslo), Peter Bille Larsen (Lucerne University), Shireen Said (UNDP), Leburu Andrias (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee - IPACC), Ntsizi November (Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa/ICOMOS South Africa).

Lessons learnt

A number of recommendations arose from the course. These included the need to:

- 1 Develop innovative practical steps to follow up on this training course
- 2 Follow up on case studies presented at the training
- 3 Compile a list of potential funders for further possible heritage and rights work
- 4 Foster partnerships and mobilisation of resources for rights and heritage initiatives
- 5 Promote and encourage networks on rights and heritage
- 6 Initiate and support student exchange initiatives and programmes
- 7 Noting that rights and heritage are moving targets and are not absolute, consider integrating alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms to resolve challenges
- 8 Design networking webpage, e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp, etc., to promote sustained interactions on heritage and rights
- 9 Investigate linkages with heritage course that was offered in South Africa by the Department of Arts and Culture and the National Heritage Council
- 10 Investigate inclusion of community representatives in similar future initiatives
- 11 Encourage sharing of lessons in home countries (each one teach one)
- 12 Encourage setting up of national chapters of ICOMOS

More Information

- [Heritage and Rights, African Regional Pilot Training Course, Ditsong Museum, South Africa](#)

UN

UN Security Council Resolution 2347 condemning the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage as well as the looting and smuggling of cultural property

UNESCO

International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase II



**Joint Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM)
Side Event at the World Heritage Committee Meeting**

A side event held during the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in (Krakow, Poland) July 2017, shared the progress of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*.

Organised under the title *World Heritage and Human Rights: Global Recommendations and Next Steps?* the side event had eight speakers representing ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, Indigenous Peoples and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. About 60 people attended and were invited to comment and discuss.

Two reports summing up lessons learnt and recommendations of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* were launched at this event. The reports were also distributed to Committee members and State Party delegations during the following day of the Committee session.

The following main observations were presented through the reports:

- 1 Rights-Based Approaches offer concrete opportunities for both global and local actions
- 2 Effective Rights-Based Approaches need a supportive global World Heritage system
- 3 The pillars of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) should include human rights and social equity

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The side event was organised by ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, IPACC (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee) and hosted by ICOMOS Norway through the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*.

More Information

- The Advisory Body “Our Common Dignity Initiative” on Rights-based approaches in World Heritage: Taking stock and looking forward
- Case Studies Carried out within the ‘Our Common Dignity Initiative 2011-2016: Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage’

UN

UN Human Rights Council Resolution 37/17 Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage

UNESCO

UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples

EUROPEAN UNION

European Year of Cultural Heritage



Knowledge Café at the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium

Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development was the theme of the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in December 2018. At this occasion, the OCD-RBA Working Group hosted a knowledge café entitled *Our Common Dignity: Training World Heritage professionals in Human Rights Based Approaches*. The event was an opportunity to present the results from the training sessions in Rights-Based Approaches for heritage practitioners that were organised in Oslo (2016) and South-Africa (2017), and the planned training sessions in Estonia.

As the knowledge café occurred one day after the ICOMOS annual Advisory Committee meeting adopted the *Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the implications of the Declaration became the main focus of the discussion with the approximately 30 participants in attendance. A key question posed was how may ICOMOS “offer all possible assistance so that communities and rights-holders are consulted and invited to actively participate in the whole process of identification, selection, classification, interpretation, preservation and safeguarding of, as well as the stewardship of and development of cultural heritage”?

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The knowledge café was hosted by the OCD-RBA Working Group. Riin Alatalu (Estonia) chaired the event, and Bente Mathisen (Norway), Laura Robinson (South Africa) and Ave Paulus (Estonia) presented the training sessions. National committees were invited to join the OCD-RBA Working Group and to contribute to the development of Rights-Based Approaches within ICOMOS.

More Information

- Knowledge café Our Common Dignity: Training World Heritage professionals in Human Rights Based Approaches
- Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 **2018 2019 2020** 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council Resolution 37/17 Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage (2018)

UNESCO

UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples (2018)

EUROPEAN UNION

European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)



European Quality Principles

In the framework of the *European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018* and at the request of the European Commission, ICOMOS developed *European Quality Principles for EU-funded interventions with potential impact on cultural heritage*. It was one of the ten flagship initiatives launched by the European Commission to ensure that the European Year would have a lasting impact.

The main objective of the *Quality Principles* document is to provide guidance on for all stakeholders directly or indirectly engaged in EU-funded interventions that could impact on cultural heritage, mainly built heritage and cultural landscapes. Stakeholders cover European institutions, managing authorities, international organisations, civil society and local communities, the private sector, and experts.

The *Quality Principles* document focuses on the core issue of quality, providing a summary of key concepts, international charters, European and international conventions and standards as well as changes in understanding and practices of heritage conservation. Environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits resulting from the application of quality principles are outlined. Whilst the recognition of cultural heritage as a common good and responsibility is a precondition of quality, quality objectives must be taken into account at every stage of the processes and life-cycle, from the conception of funding programmes to end-of-project evaluation.

ICOMOS made 40 recommendations to increase the quality of EU-funded interventions and proposed seven selection criteria to assess the quality of projects with potential impact on cultural heritage.

The *2020 revised edition of the Quality Principles* document, which replaces the preliminary 2019 version, has benefited from additional feedback received from partners and stakeholders, in particular following expert meetings held during the Romanian and German EU Presidencies. The basic principles and messages have not changed, but references to accessibility, human rights, regional diversity and crafts have been made more explicit.

ICOMOS hopes that the *Quality Principles* and the *selection criteria* will become a useful tool for EU institutions, Member States and others to ensure and even improve the quality of interventions on our common heritage.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The *Quality Principles* document stems from the work of an expert group set up by ICOMOS, under the mandate of the European Commission. It also took into account discussions from a workshop held with experts and decision-makers in Paris in May 2018, and comments and suggestions received after the conference *Cherishing Heritage* convened in Venice in November 2018 to launch the public debate on this issue.

The OCD-RBA Working Group provided feedback to strengthen references to Rights-Based Approaches in heritage practices. In addition, members of the OCD-RBA Working Group were



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 **2018 2019 2020** 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council Resolution 37/17 Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage (2018)

UNESCO

UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples (2018)

EUROPEAN UNION

European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)



European Quality Principles

involved in the expert group that produced the *Quality Principles* and its selection criteria, Bénédicte Selfslagh was one of the editors of the revised 2020 edition, and Riin Alatalu and Gráinne Shaffrey are promoting the implementation of the *Quality Principles*, which are now already available in more than a dozen languages.

More Information

- European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)
- European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Revised edition November (2020)
- European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Recommendations & Selection Criteria, November (2020)

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2019)

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 43 COM 11A Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2019)

ICOMOS

The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in Climate Action (2019)
The Culture 2030 Goal Campaign, Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2019)

IUCN

A landscape for everyone: Integrating rights-based and landscape governance approaches (2019)



Monthly Virtual Meetings

The *Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was submitted by the OCD-RBA Working Group for adoption by the ICOMOS Advisory Committee in 2018. The *Declaration* encourages ICOMOS members, Committees and groups to “offer all possible assistance so that communities and right holders are consulted and invited to actively participate in the whole process of identification, selection, classification, interpretation, preservation and safeguarding of, as well as the stewardship of and development of cultural heritage.”

To follow up on the *Declaration* and the discussions in Buenos Aires, the OCD-RBA Working Group decided to meet monthly. The working group had already met virtually several times in 2018 to prepare contributions for the meetings in Buenos Aires, but wanted to establish a regular meeting point for its members.

The idea was to work transparently, inviting all OCD-RBA Working Group members to regular on-line meetings. Minutes of the meetings and results of activities carried out by the working group were shared through email. Task Teams were created to deliver on projects.

The monthly OCD-RBA Working Group meetings were an established arena for discussions by March 2020, when Covid-19 lock-downs closed much of the globe. The membership of the working group increased during this challenging time, with the regular meetings providing opportunities to check-in and support each other through global friendship.

The monthly meetings have become the backbone of the OCD-RBA Working Group. They guarantee continuity and the ability to respond when new challenges arise.

Ideally the measure for success of a ‘human rights working group’ within ICOMOS is that it should make itself redundant.

More Information

- [Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(2018\)](#)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2019)

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 43 COM 11A Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2019)

ICOMOS

The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in Climate Action (2019)
The Culture 2030 Goal Campaign, Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2019)

IUCN

A landscape for everyone: Integrating rights-based and landscape governance approaches (2019)



Amendments to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The *World Heritage Convention* (1972) is ratified by 194 States Parties. The possibility to amend the *Convention* was investigated by the UNESCO Secretariat about 20 years ago and at the time the States Parties concluded that it was not a realistic option. All States Parties to the *Convention* would have to ratify the proposed amendments and during this period there would be two parallel World Heritage systems. As a result, the inclusion of a human rights article in the *Convention* itself is not feasible. However, the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (OG) are dynamic and being revised regularly.

The *Operational Guidelines* adopted during the first session of the World Heritage Committee in 1977 are periodically revised. The revisions reflect the actual policy of the Committee and represent requirements and guiding tools for States Parties to the *Convention*.

The 2005 revision of the *Operational Guidelines* was significant and the result of thorough discussions by the World Heritage Committee at its 6th Extraordinary Session in 2002. The revision integrated the *Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention adopted at the occasion of its 30th anniversary* (the 4 C's presented in the Budapest Declaration). It also restructured the *Operational Guidelines* and included a revised format for the submission of World Heritage nominations.

The 2007 revision of the *Operational Guidelines* added 'Communities' as the 5th Strategic Objective, recognising the need to respect and include communities in heritage management (OG para 26).

The 2015 revision of the *Operational Guidelines* was another important milestone, emphasising the role of local communities and Indigenous Peoples as partners in the protection and conservation of World Heritage (OG para 40, 117).

The *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2015, had an impact on the overall approach to heritage management policy. The *Policy Document* is seen as a major contribution to supporting rights dimensions in World Heritage.

The 2019 revision of the *Operational Guidelines* followed up with further specific recommendations as a result of the *Policy Document* on sustainable development. The 2019 revision introduces for the first time the term 'rights-holders' and recommends "States Parties to adopt a human-rights based approach, and ensure gender-balanced participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination, management and protection processes of World Heritage properties" (OG para 12). The role of traditional societies, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and rights-holders were included in the 2019-revision through several paragraphs (OG para 12, 14bis, 64, 90, 110, 111, 119, 123 and 211).

More revisions were needed to operationalise the principles the World Heritage Committee agreed upon in 2019. The 2021 revision of the *Operational Guidelines* addressed this, e.g. *Annex V* with the format for nomination dossiers was amended to include a section on *Indigenous Peoples* and on *Participation*. Likewise, since the World Heritage Committee approved the principle of a two-step assessment procedure of nominations to the World Heritage List, the process and format for such requests were spelled out in the *Operational Guidelines*.



UN

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2019)

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 43 COM 11A Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2019)

ICOMOS

The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in Climate Action (2019)
The Culture 2030 Goal Campaign, Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2019)

IUCN

A landscape for everyone: Integrating rights-based and landscape governance approaches (2019)



Amendments to the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The 2021 *Operational Guidelines* form a comprehensive manual of nearly 200 pages, setting up requirements, procedures, recommendations, and principles for good practice. The diverse requirements showcase the diversity of World Heritage, and the requirements reveal the challenges of dealing with distinct Outstanding Universal Values in addition to local values. The *Operational Guidelines* establish procedures from nomination through to the daily management of World Heritage sites.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The 2011 founding workshop of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* discussed the possibility of inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the *Operational Guidelines*. At the time, the possibility of getting acceptance for a human rights-based approach in the *Operational Guidelines* was considered premature.

To promote rights issues in heritage management, the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* held side events at World Heritage Committee meetings in 2014, 2015 and 2017. These side events presented lessons learnt from good practices of ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, and encouraged States Parties to adopt Rights-Based Approaches.

The 2014 side event informed about the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* in 2011 and the following ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM cooperation on heritage and rights. In 2015, the side event focused on integrating rights issues into the draft *Policy Document* and to support the decisions with regards Indigenous Peoples. The 2017 side event summed up lessons learnt from the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*. Two reports *Taking stock and looking forward* and *Case Studies* were handed out to World Heritage Committee members and States Parties.

For the 2019 revision of *Operational Guidelines*, the OCD-RBA Working Group proposed to encourage a human rights-based approach and to include rights-holders in the wording of several paragraphs. The proposals were sent through the Norwegian Delegation to the World Heritage Committee, along with all other relevant bodies involved in the 2019-revision of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It was with great pleasure that the OCD-RBA Working Group noted that the final 2019 revision of the *Operational Guidelines* adopted wording that encourage “States Parties to the Convention to adopt a human rights-based approach” (OG para 12). The 2019-revision of the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* is a milestone for the OCD-RBA Working Group.

More Information

- World Heritage Convention (1972)
- Current version of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2021)
- Different versions of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
- Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015)
- The Advisory Body “Our Common Dignity Initiative” on Rights-based approaches in World Heritage: Taking stock and looking forward (2017)
- Case Studies Carried out within the ‘Our Common Dignity Initiative 2011-2016: : Rights-Based Approaches in world Heritage’ (2017)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 43 COM 11A Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

ICOMOS

The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in Climate Action
The Culture 2030 Goal Campaign, Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

IUCN

A landscape for everyone: Integrating rights-based and landscape governance approaches



Knowledge Café at the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium

Rural Heritage – Landscapes and beyond was the theme of ICOMOS Scientific Symposium held in Marrakesh (Morocco) in October 2019. The OCD-RBA Working Group hosted a knowledge café which studied *Rights-Based Approaches in Rural Heritage - Principles and Practice*. Given that the symposium had four parallel sessions, the OCD-RBA knowledge café was part of the *Climate Change, Sustainability and Rights* track.

Participants were invited to a discussion and to contribute to the development of a bottom-up approach to heritage management in rural settings. The café started with an introduction of general principles of Rights-Based Approaches, referring to statutory documents. Case studies from Estonia, Ireland and India explored examples of rights issues in heritage management.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The knowledge café was hosted by the OCD-RBA Working Group and in particular by its members: Bente Mathisen (Norway), Gráinne Shaffrey (Ireland), Riin Alatalu and Ave Paulus (Estonia). ICOMOS International Scientific Committees and National Committees were invited to join the OCD-RBA Working Group and to contribute to the development of Rights-Based Approaches within ICOMOS.

More Information

- Knowledge Café: Rights-Based Approaches in Rural Heritage - Principles and Practice

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Cultural rights: tenth anniversary report. Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2019)

UNESCO

World Heritage Committee Decision 43 COM 11A Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2019)

ICOMOS

The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in Climate Action (2019)
The Culture 2030 Goal Campaign, Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2019)

IUCN

A landscape for everyone: Integrating rights-based and landscape governance approaches (2019)



Capacity-Building Workshops on *Heritage, Communities and Rights* in Estonia

From 2019 to 2022, several one week Nordic-Baltic workshops on the themes of heritage, communities and rights were organised in Estonia. The workshops were dedicated to the interrelationships between communities, heritage and climate change, with a specific focus on human rights and heritage communities (2019), community rights and traditional livelihoods (2020), and coastal heritage and climate change (2021-2022).

More than 500 individuals participated in the workshops, including representatives of ICOMOS, states, local communities, universities, and other partners from more than 20 countries across the globe. Each of the workshops also included sessions which sought to involve local communities; the goal of the workshops was to empower heritage communities and promote a dialogue on how to implement people-centred approaches to heritage management. The workshops were multi-layered, targeted not only to the cooperation of regional experts working on contemporary challenges related to heritage protection, but also to ensuring the inclusion of communities, and facilitating the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The workshops consisted of open conferences, site visits and thematic closed workshops mainly in Tallinn and Lahemaa National Park. All workshops were carried out in hybrid format enabling remote participation. The main seminars and lectures were recorded.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The workshops were made possible through the commitment of Riin Alatalu and Ave Paulus of ICOMOS Estonia, who have contributed significantly to the development of the capacity-building initiatives within the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*.

The OCD-RBA Working Group was one of the partners involved in the organisation of the workshops, together with ICOMOS Estonia in cooperation with heritage communities, IUCN, ICCROM, the Estonian Academy of Arts, Oslo University, Tartu University, the Environmental Board of Estonia, the National Heritage Board of Estonia, the ICOMOS Nordic-Baltic Network, and the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees on Water and Heritage and on Wood Heritage.

Lessons learnt

The workshops concentrated on holistic approaches to heritage – tangible and intangible, movable and immovable heritage, landscapes and spaces, land and water. The workshops have empowered heritage communities and helped to facilitate dialogue on how to implement people-centred approaches to cultural heritage management.

More Information

Recordings from the workshops, seminars and courses

- Tallinn and Lahemaa National Park, Heritage and Rights (2019)
- Heritage Communities and Human Rights (2020)
- Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 workshop was turned into a Heritage Thursday webinar on Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate (2021)
- Tallinn and Lahemaa National Park, Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate hybrid workshop (2022)

Social media accounts dedicated to the capacity-building workshops

- ICOMOS Estonia and Lahemaa National Park
- Workshop photos by Tõnu Noorits (2019), by Toomas Tuul (2022-1) and by Toomas Tull (2022-2)

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 **2020** 2021 2022 2023

UN

Open Letter by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, David Boyd, on 'The imperative of a uniform and concerted effort to protect World Heritage Sites by prioritizing rights-based climate action'

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on climate change, culture and cultural rights

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2020 version)

European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Revised edition

European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Recommendations & Selection Criteria

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase III

OTHER

Interpret Europe Web Conference Fostering Heritage Communities



Gazzola Prize awarded to Amund Sinding-Larsen

"As ICOMOS experts, we do represent elites, and we need to strengthen our links to people, give a voice to people not always heard. In other words, work towards people-centred approaches."

Amund Sinding-Larsen

Amund Sinding-Larsen received the highest honour of ICOMOS, when he was awarded the Gazzola Prize at the 20th General Assembly.

Four decades of service and fieldwork in Africa, the Middle East and Asia brought home to Amund the importance of the rights of people to heritage, and of the need to involve local communities from the recognition of heritage sites through to management and caretaking.

This mission inspired Amund (with the help of a group of like-minded colleagues), to establish the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* in 2007. Under Amund's leadership, this group would soon become a permanent working group of ICOMOS.

The *Piero Gazzola Prize* was established in 1979 in memory of the founding President of ICOMOS. It is awarded every three years during the Triennial General Assembly to an individual ICOMOS member, or a group of members, who have contributed with high distinction to the aims and objectives of ICOMOS.

More Information

- Amund Sinding-Larsen awarded Gazzola Prize at ICOMOS 20th General Assembly (2020)
- ICOMOS honors and awards

UN

Open Letter by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, David Boyd, on 'The imperative of a uniform and concerted effort to protect World Heritage Sites by prioritizing rights-based climate action'

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, on climate change, culture and cultural rights

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2020 version)

European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Revised edition

European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Recommendations & Selection Criteria

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase III

OTHER

Interpret Europe Web Conference Fostering Heritage Communities



Capacity-Building Workshop on *Human Rights and Heritage Management* in Latin America

In 2020, ICOMOS Brazil hosted a five-day virtual workshop for heritage practitioners from Latin America on the topic of human rights and heritage management, the first of its kind in the region. The workshop focused on how to understand the concept of 'culture' from a human rights perspective and discussed the human rights-based approach to cultural heritage. It also tackled questions such as how to deal with tensions between the fulfilment of individual and collective human rights, and potential conflicts between competing sets of collective rights belonging to different communities.

Several speakers, both from within Latin America and beyond, gave presentations on these topics and discussed related case studies. The case studies subsequently formed the subject of active discussions amongst the participants, allowing them to apply the principles outlined in the workshop to concrete situations and to consider the utility of a human rights-based approach for each case study.

The keynote speech was delivered by Stener Ekern (Norway); other presenters included Alberto Martorell (Peru), Alicia Castillo (Spain), Graciela Mota (Mexico), Camila Vaqueiro Badim (Brazil), Desirree dos Reis Santos (Brazil), Rafael Winter Ribeiro (Brazil), Marcus Vinícius Garcia (Brazil), Pedro Delheye (Argentina), Alejandra Naftal (Argentina), and Bente Mathisen (Norway).

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The workshop constituted the first Spanish speaking event organised by the OCD-RBA Working Group. The programme was put together by several OCD-RBA Working Group members, namely: Adriana Careaga (Uruguay), Graciela Mota (Mexico), Pedro Delheye (Argentina), Eduardo Romero de Oliveira (Brazil), Jaqueline Custodio (Brazil), and Alicia Castillo (Spain), with the support of the OCD-RBA Focal Point Bente Mathisen.

Lessons learnt

The workshop illustrated the need to include people-centred approaches to heritage management on a more permanent basis and to reflect on the strategic social function of World Heritage sites. It also demonstrated the need for an interdisciplinary approach to issues concerning human rights in the context of heritage resource management, particularly in light of the requirement set out by the UN Sustainable Development Goals to ensure the participation and involvement of the individuals and communities directly affected by heritage conservation practices.

More Information

- Human rights and cultural heritage training, November 2020

UN

Open Letter by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, David Boyd, on 'The imperative of a uniform and concerted effort to protect World Heritage Sites by prioritizing rights-based climate action' (2020)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, on climate change, culture and cultural rights (2020)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights (2021)

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Ethical Principles (2020 version)

European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Revised edition (2020)

European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with potential impact upon Cultural Heritage: Recommendations & Selection Criteria (2020)

ICOMOS-IUCN

Connecting Practice Phase III

OTHER

Interpret Europe Web Conference Fostering Heritage Communities



Submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights solicited submissions from interested parties to inform her *Report on climate change, culture and cultural rights* (2020) and her *Report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cultures and cultural rights* (2021).

How was OCD-RBA involved?

In 2020, the OCD-RBA Working Group prepared a submission for the Special Rapporteur's report on climate change and cultural rights in collaboration with the ICOMOS Climate Change Working Group and the ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals Working Group. The submission identified how the work of ICOMOS is addressing climate change. It provided examples of situations where climate change was impacting cultural practices and heritage places, and where successful practices were being utilised to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. The submission noted the lack of interaction between cultural heritage experts and climate change experts and it emphasised the close correlation between protecting culturally significant places and protecting cultural rights.

Also in 2020, the OCD-RBA Working Group contributed to the ICOMOS submission for the Special Rapporteur's report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICOMOS submission highlighted how heritage monuments, landscapes and town squares around the world were empty as a result of the pandemic. It expressed the hope of ICOMOS that the pandemic should become an agent for positive change and sustainable practices which could help to support the security and resilience of cultural heritage communities. The ICOMOS response was informed by the reflections of the OCD-RBA Working Group which drew attention to examples of fragile heritage communities and urged authorities and citizens to ensure that support was being given to ensure that peoples' dignity and human rights were being respected. The Special Rapporteur's report was published in February 2021.

More Information

- UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, on climate change, culture and cultural rights (2021)
- ICOMOS Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and Climate Change
- UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights (2021)
- ICOMOS response to Joint Questionnaire by Special procedure mandate holders: Protecting human rights during and after the COVID-19

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights
UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on cultural mixing and cultural rights

ICOMOS

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors
ICOMOS and Europa Nostra, European Cultural Heritage Green Paper “Putting Europe’s Shared Heritage at the Heart of the European Green Deal”

ICOMOS-IUCN

Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature: Guidance for Protected and Conserved Area Governance and Management

IUCN

Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Faro Convention’s Role in a Changing Society: Building on a decade of advancement 2011-2021

EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, The Right to Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development, September 2011

OTHER

ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage



The OCD-RBA Working Group Guidelines

The OCD-RBA Working Group is one of the international working groups of ICOMOS. Its *Guidelines* were produced with the aim of presenting the Working Group and its work to ICOMOS members and those in the conservation sector who may be interested. Its mission includes reaching out to possible partners outside ICOMOS with an interest in human rights issues, including the wider United Nations system, NGOs, international organisations such as the European Union, national and regional governments and aid agencies, etc.

The *OCD-RBA Working Group Guidelines* were the first guidelines produced for an ICOMOS international working group. They have served as a model and inspiration for other international working groups and have also been helpful in developing the *Principles for ICOMOS Working Groups* (2022).

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The OCD-RBA Working Group felt a need to develop a document describing its aims and objectives/functions, membership, governance and communication. Its purpose includes: “exploring, disseminating and promoting rights issues in heritage management, and integrating rights-based approaches in all aspects of ICOMOS’s work.”

The *OCD-RBA Working Group Guidelines* were adopted in February 2021 and list a number of key documents at the end. The key documents have played a significant role in developing the Working Group’s mandate.

More Information

- [OCD-RBA Working Group Guidelines](#)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on cultural mixing and cultural rights

ICOMOS

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors

ICOMOS and Europa Nostra, European Cultural Heritage Green Paper "Putting Europe's Shared Heritage at the Heart of the European Green Deal"

ICOMOS-IUCN

Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature: Guidance for Protected and Conserved Area Governance and Management

IUCN

Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Faro Convention's Role in a Changing Society: Building on a decade of advancement 2011-2021

EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, The Right to Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development, September 2011

OTHER

ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage



Living Heritage and Climate Change ICOMOS Virtual Scientific Symposium 2021

ICOMOS scientific symposia are annual events, normally aligned with annual general assemblies and advisory committee meetings. In 2021, these meetings were virtual, due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of the lack of travel opportunities in the face of the global pandemic and the possibility of not holding physical meetings for a second consecutive year, the Advisory Committee officers decided to fill the deficit by promoting the first online ICOMOS Scientific Symposium (2021). The symposium was entitled *Living Heritage and Climate Change*, and its programme was devised to incorporate human rights issues and perspectives. The Advisory Committee tasked the OCD-RBA Working Group with leading the organising committee for the symposium.

The key issues considered during the symposium included:

- How is the climate emergency changing living heritage in the regions?
- How may living heritage, the connection of people with places, culture and nature, contribute to addressing the challenges of climate change, sustainability and community development?
- Can regional and local responses to risks posed by climate change to livelihoods and cultural heritage become models for climate action and resilience?
- In our heritage practice, can we develop responses to climate change impacts that strengthen the connections of people with heritage places - contributing to well-being and building resilience.
- What shifts in local, national, and international heritage policies and practice are in progress or are needed to activate heritage as a tool in developing effective responses to the climate emergency.

The symposium was hosted online at strategic time slots in the hopes of reaching wide international audiences, and the recorded sessions were subsequently made available on YouTube. The online format of the symposium facilitated increased participation to almost double the normal attendance, with a very wide geographic spread of participants from across the world. The symposium presentations highlighted diversity and resilience, as well as the imperative for serious and responsible climate awareness and actions. The E-proceedings of the symposium describe the results and the lessons learnt by providing relevant links to publications, videos, and other resources, as well as embedded links to the presentations and, where available, the written papers.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The event was the first online symposium organised by ICOMOS Advisory Committee officers, led by the OCD-RBA Working Group and assisted by the Assisting Advisory Committee Volunteers, Emerging Professionals, Climate Action, Culture-Nature Journey and Indigenous Heritage Working Groups and the Underwater Heritage and Intangible Heritage International Scientific Committees.

The organisation of the symposium was a great undertaking. It included: the preparation of the call for submissions in English, French, Spanish and Arabic; development of symposium sub-themes, programme and timetable; management of the abstract review process; assignment of sessions to respect participants in different global time zones; prior recording of keynote addresses; coordination with all session chairs, moderators and translators assisted by the Emerging Professionals working group, coordination of online hosting; participation in the preparation of a *Book of Abstracts (BoA)* in three languages; reissue of the BoA with video recordings embedded; preparation of the *E-proceedings* with significant assistance from the Secretariat.

More Information

- [Living Heritage and Climate Change](#)
- [Book of Abstracts with embedded video links](#)
- [E-proceedings of the Symposium](#)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on cultural mixing and cultural rights

ICOMOS

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors

ICOMOS and Europa Nostra, European Cultural Heritage Green Paper “Putting Europe’s Shared Heritage at the Heart of the European Green Deal”

ICOMOS-IUCN

Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature: Guidance for Protected and Conserved Area Governance and Management

IUCN

Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Faro Convention’s Role in a Changing Society: Building on a decade of advancement 2011-2021

EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, The Right to Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development, September 2011

OTHER

ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage



Submission to the International Criminal Court on their Draft Policy on Cultural Heritage

In 2021, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, solicited submissions to inform her consultation on the ICC Draft Policy on Cultural Heritage.

Through the *Consultation response*, ICOMOS made some suggestions for the cultural heritage definitions and terminology, commented on possible sanctions and dispute resolutions, and confirmed a willingness to cooperate with the ICC.

The *ICC Policy on Cultural Heritage* was published in June 2021. The *Policy* presents the regulatory framework of ICC covering war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and crimes of aggression. Guidelines for investigations and prosecutions are provided and the *Policy* states that “*Wilful attacks on cultural heritage constitute a centuries-old practice that remains a feature of modern conflict.*” The ICC considers cooperation to be crucial in conducting effective investigations and prosecutions.

Most significantly, the *Policy* draws important connections between people, communities and heritage, noting that when cultural heritage is at risk, people are at risk.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The OCD-RBA Working Group prepared the submission after seeking input from its ICOMOS colleagues. It received valuable inputs from members of the International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), the Syria/Iraq Working Group and an international human rights law specialist.

More Information

- [ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage](#)
- [ICOMOS response to the consultation on the ICC-Draft Policy on Cultural Heritage](#)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights
UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on cultural mixing and cultural rights

ICOMOS

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors
ICOMOS and Europa Nostra, European Cultural Heritage Green Paper “Putting Europe’s Shared Heritage at the Heart of the European Green Deal”

ICOMOS-IUCN

Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature: Guidance for Protected and Conserved Area Governance and Management

IUCN

Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

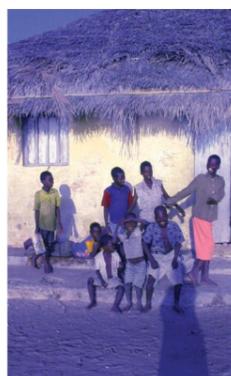
The Faro Convention’s Role in a Changing Society: Building on a decade of advancement 2011-2021

EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, The Right to Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development, September 2011

OTHER

ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage



Heritage Thursdays
Jueves de Patrimonio
Les jeudis du patrimoine

ICOMOS | Our Common Dignity
rights-based approaches



Heritage Thursdays 2021

Heritage Thursdays is a webinar series created by the OCD-RBA Working Group that forms part of the wider ICOMOS Webinar Series.

Six webinars inspired by the ICOMOS *Resolution 20GA 2020/19 People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage* were held in 2021. People-centred approaches recognise communities at the heart of heritage management. They promote taking a wide consideration that relies not only on experts, but opens up heritage management to the participation and decision-making of the people whose heritage is being cared for.



The first *Heritage Thursday* webinar on 27 May, introduced the OCD-RBA Working Group and the *People-Centred Approaches Resolution*. ICOMOS President, Teresa Patrício, joined representatives of the OCD-RBA Working Group to share news and insights, and a roundtable session considered the resolution. Case studies from Latin America were examined and there was an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the presenters.



The second *Heritage Thursday* webinar on 24 June explored *Gender and Cultural Heritage*. It was held in Spanish with short video clips and included news on heritage and human rights in the media. Also discussed were: new trends and research on visibility and imbalances in different parts of the world, the exclusion of minorities, stereotyping and positions of power. Speakers explored urbanism and the way that city designs can reveal gender imbalances, women entrepreneurs in the cultural heritage sector, and the work of ICOMOS concerning LGBTQ+. The webinar participants, made up of a large number of emerging professionals, were engaged in debate on the necessity to continue fighting for gender rights and how cultural heritage is a good channel to introduce new values.



The third *Heritage Thursday* webinar on 26 August explored *Trauma and Cultural Heritage*, and was led by the ICOMOS Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG). The EPWG presented news and case studies, followed by a roundtable that closely examined the challenges of post-conflict recovery in Mosul, the legacy of past abuses in Bosnia through heritage restoration and the recovery of a traditional Syrian village after violent battles.



The fourth *Heritage Thursday* webinar on 30 September considered *Africa: the Right to Heritage*. It was held in English and French, and touched on the vast size and diversity that exists within the great continent of Africa. Presenters from Kenya, Benin and Côte d’Ivoire examined opportunities for tourism to generate socio-economic development, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and community involvement in heritage management. The webinar showcased an original short film by a Moroccan documentary filmmaker to encourage debate on the topic of the restitution of cultural heritage to Africa, examining colonial and post-colonial perspectives.



UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on cultural mixing and cultural rights

ICOMOS

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors

ICOMOS and Europa Nostra, European Cultural Heritage Green Paper “Putting Europe’s Shared Heritage at the Heart of the European Green Deal”

ICOMOS-IUCN

Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature: Guidance for Protected and Conserved Area Governance and Management

IUCN

Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

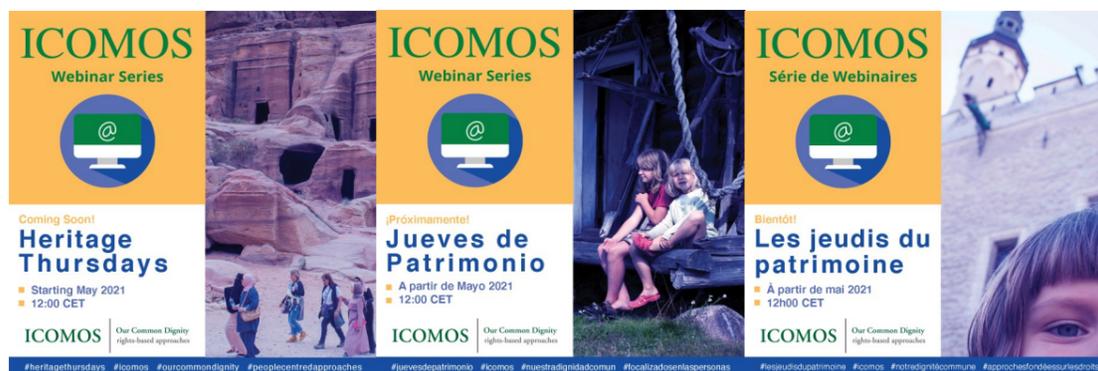
The Faro Convention’s Role in a Changing Society: Building on a decade of advancement 2011-2021

EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, The Right to Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development, September 2011

OTHER

ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage



Heritage Thursdays 2021



The fifth *Heritage Thursday* webinar on 28 October introduced *Inspirational Documents* that support the management of heritage around the globe. The *Impact Assessment Guidance for World Heritage*, the draft *ICOMOS International Cultural Heritage Tourism Charter*, the *European Quality Principles* and the *Faro Convention* were explained and analysed, with some time for Q+A discussion at the end.



The final *Heritage Thursday* webinar of 2021, on 25 November, covered the topic of *Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate*. Presenters concentrated on holistic approaches to coastal heritage - tangible and intangible, movable and immovable heritage, landscapes and spaces, land and water. The webinar was also fortunate to have an intervention from the ICOMOS Focal Point for Climate Change and Cultural Heritage, who provided observations from the recent UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

Heritage Thursday webinars are usually held on the last Thursday of the month. The OCD-RBA Working Group is committed to offering linguistic diversity, and with the help of its working group, supporting presenters to provide translations in English, Spanish and French wherever it is possible.

More Information

- Have you heard of Heritage Thursdays?
- HT 1 webinar video link Introduction to the OCD-RBA Working Group and the People-Centred Approaches Resolution
- HT 2 webinar video link Gender and Cultural Heritage
- HT 3 webinar video link Trauma and Cultural Heritage
- HT 4 webinar video link Africa: the Right to Heritage
- HT 5 webinar video link Inspirational Documents
- HT 6 webinar video link Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate
- ICOMOS Resolution 20GA 2020/19 People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage (2020)
- Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022)
- European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with Potential Impact on Cultural Heritage (2020)
- Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 **2021** 2022 2023

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on COVID-19, culture and cultural rights

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, on cultural mixing and cultural rights

ICOMOS

Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors

ICOMOS and Europa Nostra, European Cultural Heritage Green Paper “Putting Europe’s Shared Heritage at the Heart of the European Green Deal”

ICOMOS-IUCN

Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature: Guidance for Protected and Conserved Area Governance and Management

IUCN

Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Faro Convention’s Role in a Changing Society: Building on a decade of advancement 2011-2021

EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, The Right to Heritage as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development, September 2011

OTHER

ICC International Criminal Court Policy on Cultural Heritage



Capacity-Building Course on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Norwegian World Heritage

In 2021, ICOMOS Norway invited practitioners from the eight Norwegian World Heritage sites to a capacity-building course to explore rights issues in the domestic context.

The capacity-building started with keynote presentations by Stener Ekern, Peter Bille Larsen, Ingunn Kvisterøy and Katri Lisitzin presenting an international and a national human rights framework.

There were a total of 21 participants, who were invited to present and assess rights issues at the World Heritage site where they worked, and to furthermore identify the duty-bearers, rights-holders and main rights issues. This exercise revealed diversity amongst the practitioners, who interpreted the concepts of cultural rights and the responsibilities of duty-bearers and rights-holders differently.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The training was organised by ICOMOS Norway and the Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage through the Focal Point of the OCD-RBA Working Group, Bente Mathisen.

Lessons learnt

During the course, the human rights-based approach was applied to analyse rights issues at World Heritage sites. In summing up Peter Bille Larsen provided a check-list, a *Human Rights Barometer* published as *Annex* in his article ‘Capacity building for Rights-Based Approaches: Lessons and insights from the OCDI-seminars’. The check-list is a tool presenting generic questions concerning heritage and rights.

One of the key outcomes of the course was the recommendation to revise the Norwegian *Cultural Heritage Act* in order to include a rights perspective, aiming to develop a consistent commitment to safeguard cultural rights in the context of heritage management.

UN

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzayin, on Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations (2022)

UNESCO

50 Year Anniversary World Heritage Convention (2022)
UNESCO & Advisory Bodies Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022)

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group Climate Justice and Equity Toolkit (2022)
ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism (2022)

OTHER

European Investment Bank Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (2022)



Consultation on the European Investment Bank Group's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the lending arm of the European Union. It invests in projects in over 160 countries offering financial products such as loans, guarantees, equity investments and advisory services.

Promoting sustainable and inclusive development is at the heart of the EIB objectives and its lending strategy. Therefore, and because it is one of the largest providers of climate finance, the EIB adopted in 2022 the *EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework*. This overarching policy framework outlines the Group's vision on how to address the environmental and social challenges the world is facing and how to uphold human rights in all of its activities. It includes a set of 11 environmental and social standards establishing the requirements promoters and projects must meet throughout an EIB-project life-cycle.

The *EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework* was adopted following a wide-ranging public consultation held in 2021.

How was OCD-RBA involved

ICOMOS participated in the global consultation through its Climate Change and OCD-RBA Working Groups. In its response, ICOMOS invited the EIB to make its human rights and cultural heritage concerns more explicit in the *Framework* and the *11 Associated Standards*. The suggestion was taken up in the final EIB documents. E.g. Article 1 of *Standard 1 - Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks* refers explicitly to human rights in addition to climate change, environmental and social aspects and requests that human rights considerations be fully integrated. The Standards also provide cross-referencing to *Standard 10 - Cultural Heritage*.

More Information

- EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (2022)
- EIB Environmental and Social Standards Overview (2022)
- EIB Environmental and Social Standards (2022)

UN

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzayin, on Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations

UNESCO

50 Year Anniversary World Heritage Convention
UNESCO & Advisory Bodies Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group Climate Justice and Equity Toolkit
ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism

OTHER

European Investment Bank Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework



Communities, Participation, and Rights Issues in World Heritage Nomination Dossiers

The 2019 and 2021 revisions of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* led to a better recognition of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and of their rights. The revisions also brought important changes to the procedure for nominating sites to the World Heritage List. The participation of local communities and issues related to Indigenous Peoples must now be explained in the nomination dossiers for all sites that the World Heritage Committee will consider from 2024 onwards. This in turn has an impact on the evaluation process by the Advisory Bodies.

ICOMOS recognises the importance of people-centred approaches and it considers ownership, traditional protection and/or management systems and the involvement of local populations in its evaluations of World Heritage nominations when relevant. From 2007, these topics were addressed in specific subsections of the ICOMOS evaluations. However, in the past not all nomination dossiers have provided the same level of information on community involvement and rights issues. As a result of the changes to the format for the nomination dossiers, this should not be the case anymore.

With a view to preparing the methodology for a review of the information on communities and rights contained in the nomination dossiers, ICOMOS conducted a pilot study based on desk reviews. The fifteen nominations that the World Heritage Committee will consider at its 45th session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2023 have been reviewed in the framework of this pilot study. The initiative was well received by ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICCROM. ICOMOS will pursue the screening for the nominations that will be considered by the World Heritage Committee in 2024 in order to fine-tune the methodology and to share lessons learnt with States Parties.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The idea of a pilot study was submitted by the OCD-RBA Working Group to the ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation Unit given that this was the very origin of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and the OCD-RBA Working Group. The methodology and questionnaire developed were the result of a collaborative effort between the OCD-RBA Working Group, the World Heritage Evaluation Unit and the ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors. The first screening was conducted in 2022 by members of the OCD-RBA Working Group who worked in teams. The World Heritage Evaluation Unit invited the members of the Working Group to conduct a similar screening in 2023.

More Information

- [Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)

UN

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzayin, on Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations

UNESCO

50 Year Anniversary World Heritage Convention
UNESCO & Advisory Bodies Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group Climate Justice and Equity Toolkit
ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism

OTHER

European Investment Bank Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework



Heritage Thursdays 2022

The OCD-RBA Working Group held a *Heritage Thursday* webinar on 30 June 2022 in order to mark the 50th anniversary year of the *World Heritage Convention*. The main aim of the webinar was to examine and promote the role of communities and build awareness of rights issues in World Heritage.

The webinar began by reporting back from the *Achievements and Challenges in Europe World Heritage* conference, Kraków, 9-10 June 2022. Chrissy Grant presented a keynote paper on the role of Indigenous communities from her perspective as Chair and founding member of the International Indigenous People’s Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH).

Invited panellists each shed light on the challenges and opportunities for communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. Panellists provided perspectives from their experiences at a long-established World Heritage site (Tongariro National Park, New Zealand, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990), a more recent World Heritage site (Okavango Delta, Botswana, inscribed in 2014), and from a collective that is currently preparing a World Heritage nomination (Central Victorian Goldfields, Australia).

The discussion included representatives from the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM), who reflected on the main themes discussed and considered future issues and opportunities for rights and communities in World Heritage.

The webinar was chaired by Peter Bille Larsen, Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva, who has a long career investigating the intersection between conservation and social equity concerns, and who has worked closely with the OCD-RBA Working Group and the Advisory Bodies on Rights-Based Approaches. The *Heritage Thursday* webinar was an initiative of, and organised by, the OCD-RBA Working Group.

More Information

- [Heritage Thursdays webinar: Becoming World Heritage 50 years on: the role of rights and communities](#)

UN

UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzayin, on Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations (2022)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, on Cultural rights and migration (2023)

Call for inputs to a report by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to the UN General Assembly, on cultural rights and the governance of development (2023, call closed)

UNESCO

50 Year Anniversary World Heritage Convention (202)

UNESCO & Advisory Bodies Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022)

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group Climate Justice and Equity Toolkit (2022)

ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism (2022)

OTHER

European Investment Bank Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (2022)



Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and Migration

In 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, solicited submissions to inform her report *Cultural Rights and Migration* to the Human Rights Council.

The report was published in February 2023.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The OCD-RBA Working Group prepared a response on behalf of ICOMOS. The response was in the format of a collection of comments provided by individual members, referring to circumstances in the European Union, Germany, Belgium Ireland, India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The comments identified relevant regulations, programmes and services seeking to integrate migrants into host countries. It noted measures relating to cultural rights, giving examples, such as the *Towards a City of Equals: Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy 2005-2008*. The *Strategy* was notable because it was the first of its kind in Ireland and established Galway as a leader in taking effective action on cultural rights and racism.

Some of the problems and obstacles that migrants confront were highlighted, as there can exist misconceptions, fear of the unknown, and concerns for the loss or dilution of the cultural identity of a host country. Yet the response also referenced positive examples of cultural projects that enable host societies to engage with migrants.

More Information

- UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, on Cultural rights and migration (2023)
- Response by ICOMOS through the Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights - Call for inputs for a report on cultural rights and migration
- Towards a City of Equals: Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy 2005-2008 (2005)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, on Cultural rights and migration (2023)
Call for inputs to a report by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to the UN General Assembly, on cultural rights and the governance of development (2023, call closed)



Reflections on Heritage & Gender

With the Post-2015 Development Agenda, there has been a strengthening in the recognition of the role of culture and heritage in promoting inclusive social development. The role of women and diverse genders in leadership, community development, inclusive economic development, and environmental sustainability has been highlighted as part of this shift. Considering that heritage influences society’s sense of identity, ethics, and world views, it is a significant tool to empower the transformation of gender dynamics and provide an inclusive participatory platform at all levels of decision-making. On the other side of this discourse, heritage can also be considered discriminatory with gender stereotypes rooted in centuries-old traditions and practices. ICOMOS believes that heritage can be a driver and enabler of the *UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs).

An ICOMOS Joint Heritage and Gender Task Team was established in August 2021 to highlight the gender intersection in heritage work and engage with relevant actors to establish and enable gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-transformative policies and practices in the heritage field. This is work in progress that includes some significant joint initiatives.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The focal points of two working groups, Gabriel Caballero of the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group and Bente Mathisen of the Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group, as well as members from ICOMOS India and Spain, came together to form the Joint Heritage and Gender Task Team. Members of this joint Task Team are drawn from the ICOMOS membership and include representatives from Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, India, the Philippines, Spain, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

When ICOMOS was approached to contribute to an upcoming publication on gender equity in 2022, the members of the Task Team decided to investigate heritage and gender issues from different perspectives. The chapter, which they produced for the upcoming publication provides an overview of heritage policies and research by ICOMOS pertaining to gender in part 1. Part 2 showcases the evolution of the membership according to gender and the contributions made by women both in leadership roles and as demonstrated through awards of excellence, throughout the history of ICOMOS. Part 3 demonstrates the perspectives of ICOMOS and its national committees on gender diversity through case studies from ICOMOS India, the United States and Spain. Members of the OCD-RBA Working Group contributed to the book chapter through original research and extensive editorial work. The publication will be available in 2024.

The Task Team's reflections have also led to the submission of a draft resolution to the 21st General Assembly in Sydney in 2023 and the organisation of a workshop at this occasion. The joint Task Team has also contributed to publications on white and blue papers, participation at the UCLG in Turkey, and discussions with the UN Women group and British Council to explore future collaborations.

More Information

- [UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals \(2015\)](#)
- [ICOMOS Heritage and the Sustainability Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors \(2021\)](#)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, on Cultural rights and migration

Call for inputs to a report by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to the UN General Assembly, on cultural rights and the governance of development



Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights on Cultural Rights and the Governance of Development

In 2023, the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, solicited submissions to inform her report to the UN General Assembly on the topic of the global governance of development and its impact on cultural rights.

The *Call* was sent in the form of a questionnaire in a similar approach to the 2022 Special Rapporteur’s consultation on *Cultural Rights and Migration*. The *Call* sought input on four key areas which ICOMOS responded to: the integration of human rights into policy programmes, the provision of examples of implementation of cultural rights, the provision of examples of commitments and the monitoring of policies on cultural rights.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

The OCD-RBA Working Group prepared the draft text of the response made on behalf of ICOMOS, also seeking input from the ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals- and Climate Action Working Groups.

The response allowed ICOMOS to describe the gradual integration of human rights perspectives in ICOMOS’ policies, inspirational texts such as charters and guidelines, and good practice guidance and work over the past 20 years. It described how ICOMOS, as one of the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, has worked internally and transversally with partner organisations, in the integration of People-Centred and Rights-Based Approaches to the management of cultural heritage including the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* in World Heritage.

It described the development of the OCD-RBA and other ICOMOS working groups and initiatives that have dealt with sustainable development, climate action, gender equity and Indigenous Peoples, identifying the specific publications, programmes, policies, inspirational texts and other relevant ICOMOS documents to illustrate responses made to specific questions and themes in the questionnaire.

More Information

- [Call for inputs to a report on cultural rights and the governance of development \(2023, call closed, report pending\)](#)
- [Submission by ICOMOS to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights. Call for contributions: cultural rights and the governance of development \(extended deadline 28 April 2023\)](#)
- [UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, on Cultural rights and migration \(2023\)](#)

UN

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Alexandra Xanthaki, on Cultural rights and migration

Call for inputs to a report by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to the UN General Assembly, on cultural rights and the governance of development

ICOMOS Responsible Practice Toolkit

In 2019, ICOMOS declared its recognition of the climate emergency and the need to take action to adapt heritage management practices to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when travel was restricted, the ICOMOS community was forced to make use of alternative means of working, communicating and supporting its vital meeting activities. Online/virtual meeting technology was swiftly applied with an unanticipated degree of success. It was widely welcomed and enabled unprecedented geographic participation and membership inclusion.

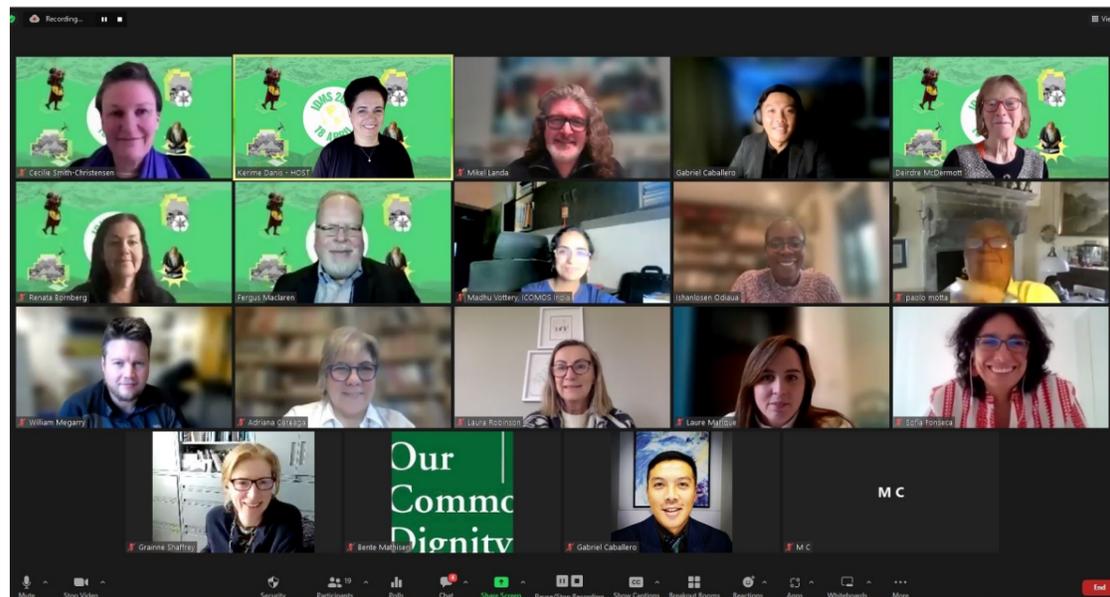
Post-pandemic, and in response to the climate emergency, it is timely to carefully re-consider the previous traditional organisation of attendance in-person at ICOMOS events globally and the need for travel to be physically present at these events. Post-pandemic it is clear that digital and hybrid methods can maximise the inclusive participation of ICOMOS members globally, while facilitating communication, leadership and succession. ICOMOS can avoid reverting to a travel (carbon) intensive and exclusive *modus operandi*.

The *ICOMOS Responsible Practice Toolkit* was developed by the Sustainability and Communications Task Force. The Toolkit includes a proposed *Carbon Reduction Strategy* and *ICOMOS Responsible Meetings and Events Checklists*.

The *Carbon Reduction Strategy* and *ICOMOS Responsible Meetings & Events Checklists* aims to help ICOMOS members at all levels globally to control their carbon emissions by adapting their traditional travel and meeting practices to a choice between personal attendance and the use of hybrid and digital meeting platforms and interfaces.

How was OCD-RBA involved?

Members of the OCD-RBA Working Group - Deirdre McDermott and Cecile Smith Christensen are key members of the Task Force. The *ICOMOS Responsible Practice Toolkit* was presented through an introductory webinar in April 2023, where OCD-RBA Focal Point, Laura Robinson, shared the perspective of the Working Group.





Acknowledgements and Thanks

This E-publication summarises more than 10 years of the ICOMOS Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approaches Working Group, which grew out of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*. It is intended as a living document that can be updated in the years to come. The aim is to share the outcomes of the activities of the Working Group and we hope to inspire others.

This E-publication is available on the ICOMOS Open Archive. The first edition is in English, with the intention being to provide a translation into French and Spanish, and hopefully also into Arabic in the future.

The project manager for the publication has been Bente Mathisen, supported by members of the OCD-RBA Working Group. Paulette Wallace collected the reference material and uploaded them in the ICOMOS Open Archive. Editors have been Paulette Wallace, again, and Bénédicte Selfslagh, with the support from Margaret Gowen, Laura Robinson and Sophie Starrenburg - all of whom contributed with texts on various events as well. Other contributors to the texts are: Amund Sinding-Larsen, Stener Ekern, Peter Bille Larsen, Nils Ahlberg, Riin Alatalu, Diane Archibald, Adriana Careaga, Angela Curmi, Saranya Dharshini, Deirdre McDermott, Graciela Mota, Ave Paulus and Gráinne Shaffrey.

The idea for summarising the outcomes of more than 10 years of operation for the OCD-RBA Working Group originated from Bénédicte Selfslagh. The OCD-RBA Communication Task Team, led by Paulette Wallace, has collected the photos and artworks for the E-Publication and conveys special thanks to Graciela Mota for providing contact with photographers Adalberto Ríos Szalay, Ernesto and Adalberto Ríos Lanz and their Tres Ríos Shared Archives, as Memory of the World (UNESCO) - readers will be able to enjoy their beautiful photos throughout the E-publication. Thank you to Laure Marique for the cover and *Heritage Thursdays* webinar artworks. And last but not least, a big thank you to Yasemin Sarıkaya Levent who has designed this E-publication, which we proudly present.

Very special thanks go to Amund Sinding-Larsen who, despite some reluctance at the beginning, was the brains behind, and founder of, the *Our Common Dignity Initiative*. Amund established the vital collaboration, which brought together ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, contributing to the development of Rights-Based Approaches within the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee.

For the contribution to capacity-building we are grateful to Stener Ekern and Peter Bille-Larsen, who have transferred knowledge through numerous human rights-based approach courses since 2016. Nearly 500 World Heritage practitioners have attended the courses, reaching out to many institutions. The training sessions have been organised by ICOMOS National Committees, and we owe special thanks to Brazil, Estonia, Norway, Mexico, South Africa, and Uruguay. Many ICOMOS national committee members have been involved in carrying out the training exercises, reporting back to their national boards or to International Scientific Committees.

For the publishing, thanks must be extended to the Secretariat of ICOMOS and the support of Bertrand Bellet, Documentation and Archive Manager, in particular.

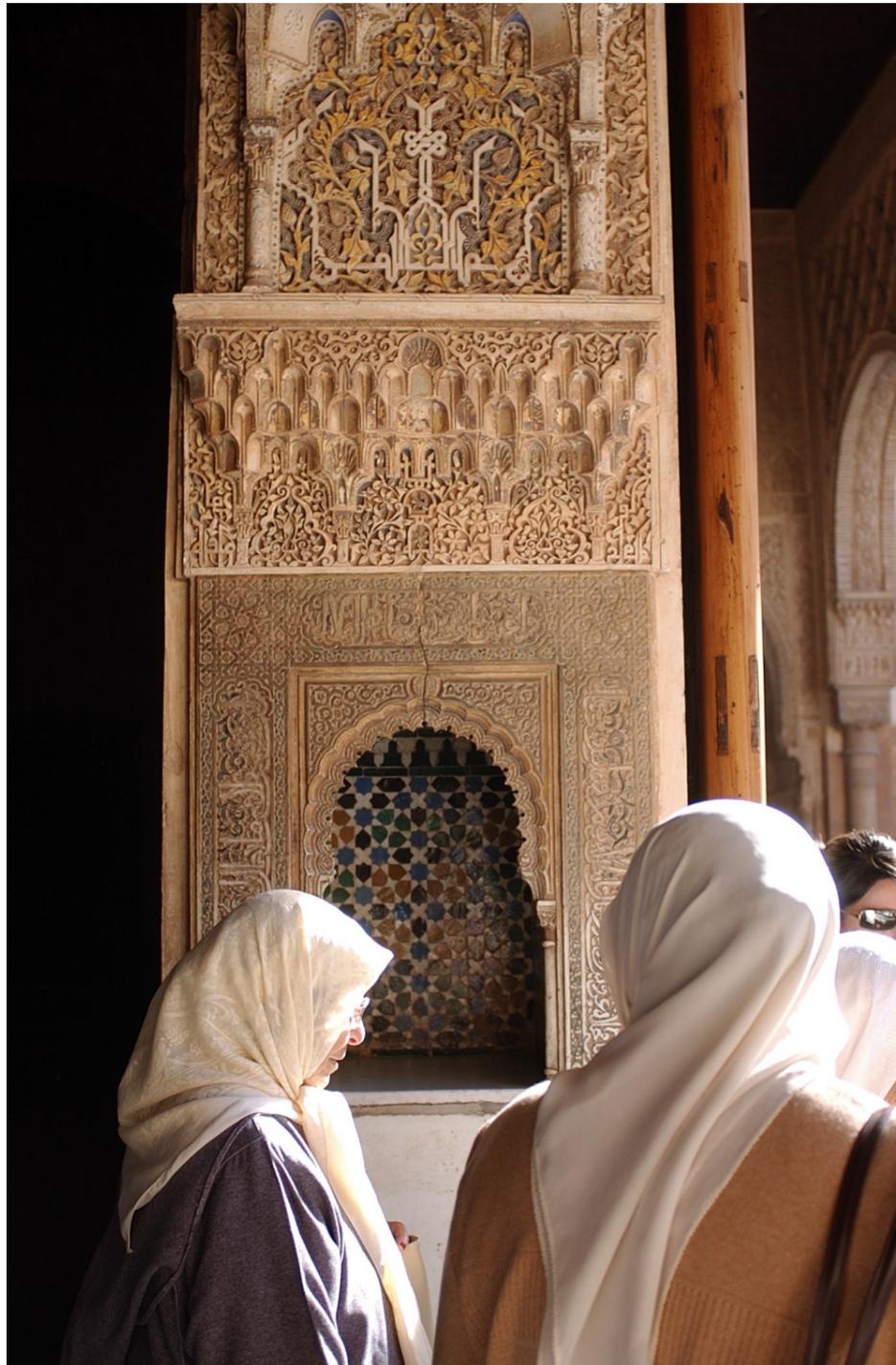
Finally, this publication would not have been possible without the different individuals, groups, communities and institutions who use and take care of the many World Heritage sites around the world. It is the collective efforts of all of these people that inspires and generates a resilient, living heritage.

August 2023

**Bente Mathisen
Laura Robinson**

Appendix: Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

in relation to Rights, Communities and Indigenous Peoples



§12

States Parties to the Convention are encouraged to adopt a human-rights based approach, and ensure gender-balanced participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination, management and protection processes of World Heritage properties Decision 43 COM 11A

§14bis

States Parties are encouraged to mainstream into their programmes and activities related to the World Heritage Convention the principles of the relevant policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee, the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention and the UNESCO Governing Bodies, such as the Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples, as well as other related policies and documents, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and international human rights standards. Decision 43 COM 11A

§26

The current Strategic Objectives (also referred to as “the 5 Cs”) are the following:

1. Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List;
2. Ensure the effective Conservation of World Heritage Properties;
3. Promote the development of effective Capacity building in States Parties;
4. Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication;
5. Enhance the role of Communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

In 2002 the World Heritage Committee revised its Strategic Objectives. The Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (2002) is available at the following web address: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/budapestdeclaration> Decision 31 COM 13B

§40

Partners in the protection and conservation of World Heritage can be those individuals and other stakeholders, especially local communities, indigenous peoples, governmental, nongovernmental and private organizations and owners who have an interest and involvement in the conservation and management of a World Heritage property. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) Decision 39 COM 11

§64

States Parties are encouraged to prepare their Tentative Lists with the full, effective and gender-balanced participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, indigenous peoples, NGOs and other interested parties and partners. In the case of sites affecting the lands, territories or

resources of indigenous peoples, States Parties shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before including the sites on their Tentative List. Decision 43 COM 11A

§90

For all properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), bio-physical processes and landform features should be relatively intact. However, it is recognized that no area is totally pristine and that all natural areas are in a dynamic state, and to some extent involve contact with people. Biological diversity and cultural diversity can be closely linked and interdependent and human activities, including those of traditional societies, local communities and indigenous peoples, often occur in natural areas. These activities may be consistent with the Outstanding Universal Value of the area where they are ecologically sustainable. Decision 43 COM 11A

§110

An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal. Impact assessments for proposed interventions are essential for all World Heritage properties.

§111

In recognizing the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include:

- a) a thorough shared understanding of the property, its universal, national and local values and its socio-ecological context by all stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous peoples;
 - b) a respect for diversity, equity, gender equality and human rights and the use of inclusive and participatory planning and stakeholder consultation processes;
 - c) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback;
 - d) an assessment of the vulnerabilities of the property to social, economic, environmental and other pressures and changes, including disasters and climate change, as well as the monitoring of the impacts of trends and proposed interventions;
 - e) the development of mechanisms for the involvement and coordination of the various activities between different partners and stakeholders;
 - f) the allocation of necessary resources;
 - g) capacity building;
 - h) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.
- Decision 39 COM 11 Decision 43 COM 11A

§117

States Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property. States Parties should do so in close collaboration with property managers, the agency with management authority and other partners, local communities and indigenous peoples, rights-holders and stakeholders in property management, by developing, when

appropriate, equitable governance arrangements, collaborative management systems and redress mechanisms. Decision 43 COM 11A

§119

World Heritage properties may sustain biological and cultural diversity and provide ecosystem services and other benefits, which may contribute to environmental and cultural sustainability. Properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable and which may enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of communities concerned. The State Party and its partners must ensure their use is equitable and fully respects the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. For some properties, human use would not be appropriate. Legislation, policies and strategies affecting World Heritage properties should ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, support the wider conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and promote and encourage the effective, inclusive and equitable participation of the communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders concerned with the property as necessary conditions to its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation. Decision 43 COM 11A

§123

Effective and inclusive participation in the nomination process of local communities, indigenous peoples, governmental, non-governmental and private organizations and other stakeholders is essential to enable them to have a shared responsibility with the State Party in the maintenance of the property. States Parties are encouraged to ensure that Preliminary Assessment requests involve appropriate stakeholders and rights-holders engagement. They are also encouraged to prepare nominations with the widest possible participation of stakeholders and shall demonstrate, as appropriate, that the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples has been obtained, through, inter alia, making the nominations publicly available in appropriate languages and public consultations and hearings. Where appropriate, States Parties are also encouraged to consult potentially concerned States Parties, including neighbouring States Parties, to promote consensus, collaboration and to celebrate cultural diversity. Decision 39 COM 11 Decision 43 COM 11A

§211

The objectives [of encouraging support for the World Heritage Convention] are:

- a) to enhance capacity building and research;
- b) to raise the general public's awareness, understanding and appreciation of the need to preserve cultural and natural heritage;
- c) to enhance the function of World Heritage in the life of the community; and
- d) to increase equitable, inclusive and effective participation of local and national populations, including indigenous peoples, in the protection and presentation of heritage.

Article 27 of the World Heritage Convention Decision 43 COM 11A

§214 bis

States Parties are encouraged to develop educational and capacity building programmes that harness the reciprocal benefits of the Convention for heritage and society. The programmes may be based on innovation and local entrepreneurship, and aimed in particular at medium/small/micro scale levels, to promote sustainable and inclusive economic benefits for local communities and indigenous peoples and to identify and promote opportunities for public and

private investment in sustainable development projects, including those that promote use of local materials and resources and foster local cultural and creative industries and safeguarding intangible heritage associated with World Heritage properties. Decision 43 COM 11A

§215

The Committee develops and coordinates international cooperation in the area of research needed for the effective implementation of the Convention. States Parties are also encouraged to make resources available to undertake research, since knowledge and understanding are fundamental to the identification, management, and monitoring of World Heritage properties. States Parties are encouraged to support scientific studies and research methodologies, including traditional and indigenous knowledge held by local communities and indigenous peoples, with all necessary consent. Such studies and research are aimed at demonstrating the contribution that the conservation and management of World Heritage properties, their buffer zones and wider setting make to sustainable development, such as in conflict prevention and resolution, including, where relevant, by drawing on traditional ways of dispute resolution that may exist within communities. Decision 43 COM 11A

Annex 3 Request Format for a Preliminary Assessment of a Potential Nomination to the World Heritage List

7.c

Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities

If the potential nominated property might affect the lands, territories or resources of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, explain how they are represented, and in how far they have participated in the preparation of the Tentative List and the Preliminary Assessment request (see paragraphs 64 and 123). Demonstrate, as appropriate, that the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples has been obtained, through, inter alia, making the planned nomination publicly available in appropriate languages and public consultations and hearings.

Annex 5 Format for the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List

5.a

Stakeholders Identify stakeholders, including owners, inhabitants, indigenous peoples and local communities, governmental, non-governmental and private stakeholders and rightsholders, as applicable.

5.a (i)

Ownership and inhabitants Indicate the major categories of land ownership (including State, Provincial, private, community, traditional, customary and non- governmental ownership, etc.), and give the best available statistics or estimate of the number of inhabitants living within the nominated property and any buffer zone(s). Indicate the year this estimate or count was made.

Estimated population located within:

the nominated property _____ Year _____
the buffer zone _____ Year _____

5.a (ii)

Indigenous Peoples If the nominated property might affect the lands, territories or resources of indigenous peoples, demonstrate whether their free, prior and informed consent to the nomination has been obtained, through, inter alia, making the nomination publicly available in appropriate languages and public consultations and hearings (Paragraph 123). Demonstrate the extent of consultation and collaboration with indigenous peoples, as applicable, in the management of the nominated property (Paragraphs 111 and 117).

5.a (iii)

Participation Demonstrate the extent of participation in the nomination process of stakeholders and right-holders through, inter alia, making the nomination publicly available in appropriate languages and through public consultations and hearings. Equally demonstrate the extent of consultation and collaboration with stakeholders and right-holders in the management of the nominated property (see Paragraphs 12, 119, 123 and 211).



Further Readings

Alatalu, R. (2020) 'Dignity of the Heritage and the Heritage Communities', *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, 11(2), pp 146-154.

Bielefeld, H. (2012) 'Philosophical and Historical Foundations of Human Rights', in C. Krause and M. Scheinin (eds.) *International Protection of Human Rights*, Turku: Åbo Akademi, pp. 3-17.

Boccardi, G., and Scott, L. (2018) 'A view from the inside: An account of the process leading to the adoption of the policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective within the World Heritage Convention', in P.B. Larsen and W. Logan (eds.) *World Heritage and Sustainable Development*, London: Routledge.

Disko, S., and Sambo Dorough, D. (2022) "We are not in Geneva on the Human Rights Council": Indigenous peoples' experiences with the World Heritage Convention', *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 29, pp. 487-530.

Disko S., and Tugendhat, H. (2014) *World Heritage Sites and Indigenous People's Rights*, Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs.

Ekern, S., and Larsen, P.B. (2023) 'Introduction: The Complex Relationship Between Human Rights and World Heritage', *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, 41(1), pp. 1-9.

Ekern, S., Logan, W., Sauge B., and Sinding-Larsen, A. (2012) 'Human rights and World Heritage: Preserving our common dignity through rights-based approaches to site management', *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 18(3), pp. 213-225.

Ekern, S., Logan, W., Sauge, B., and Sinding-Larsen, A. (eds.) (2015) *World Heritage Management and Human Rights*, London: Routledge.

Fagan, A. (2017) *Human Rights and Cultural Diversity. Core Issues and Cases*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Francioni, F., and Lixinski, L. (2017) 'Opening the Toolbox of International Human Rights Law in the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage', in A. Durbach and L. Lixinski (eds.) *Heritage, Culture and Rights: Challenging Legal Discourses*, Oxford: Hart Publishing, pp. 11-34.

James, W. (1896) *The Will to Believe*.

Kraak, A-L., and Aykan, B. (2018) 'Editorial: The Possibilities and Limitations of Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Practice', *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 25(1) pp. 1-10.

Langfield, M., Logan, W., and Nic Craith, M. (eds.) (2010) *Cultural Diversity, Heritage and Human Rights: Intersections in Theory and Practice*, London: Routledge.

Larsen, P.B. (2018) 'Human rights, wrongs and sustainable development in World Heritage', in P. Larsen and W. Logan (eds.), *World Heritage and Sustainable Development: New Directions in World Heritage Management*, London: Routledge.

- Larsen, P. B. (ed.) (2018) *World Heritage and Human Rights: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific and Global Arena*, London: Routledge.
- Larsen, P.B. (2023) 'The Lightness of Human Rights in World Heritage: A Critical View of Rights-Based Approaches, Vernaculars, and Action Opportunities', *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, 41(1), pp. 70-86.
- Larsen, P. B., and Buckley, K. (2018) 'Approaching Human Rights at the World Heritage Committee: Capturing Situated Conversations, Complexity, and Dynamism in Global Heritage Processes', *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 25, pp. 85–110.
- Larsen P.B., and Logan W. (eds.) (2018) *World Heritage and Sustainable Development: New Directions in World Heritage Management*, London: Routledge.
- Larsen, P.B., and Sinding-Larsen, A. (2019) 'Heritage, human rights and Norwegian development cooperation: The Our Common Dignity initiative and World Heritage', in S. Labadi (ed.), *The Cultural Turn in International Aid: Impacts and Challenges for Heritage and the Creative Industries*, London: Routledge.
- Larsen, P.B., and Wijesuriya, G. (2015), 'Nature–Culture Interlinkages in World Heritage: Bridging the Gap', *World Heritage*, 75, pp. 4-15.
- Logan, W. (2006) 'Limiting the List: Human Rights and Intangible Cultural Heritage', in S. Silaphacharanan and J.W. Campbell (eds.) *Asian Approaches to Conservation: Research Conference Proceedings 3-5 October 2006*, Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University, pp. 80-6.
- Logan, W. (2007) 'Closing Pandora's Box: Human Rights Conundrums in Cultural Heritage Protection', in H. Silverman and D. Ruggles Fairchild (eds.) *Cultural Heritage and Human Rights*, New York: Springer, pp. 33-52.
- Logan, W. (2008) 'Cultural Heritage and Human Rights', in B. J. Graham and P. Howard (eds.) *Ashgate Research Companion to Heritage and Identity*, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing Ltd, pp. 439-54.
- Logan W. (2009) 'Playing the devil's advocate: protecting Intangible cultural heritage and the infringement of human rights', *Historic Environment*, 22(3), pp. 14-18.
- Logan, W. (2012) 'Cultural diversity, cultural heritage and human rights: towards heritage management as human rights-based cultural practice', *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 18(3), pp. 231-44.
- Logan, W. (2013) 'Australia, Indigenous Peoples and World Heritage from Kakadu to Cape York: State Party Behaviour under the World Heritage Convention', *Journal of Social Archaeology*, 13(2), pp. 153-76.
- Logan, W. (2013) 'Learning to engage with human rights in heritage education' in M.-T. Albert, R. Bernecker and B. Rudloff (eds.) *Understanding Heritage: Perspectives in Heritage Studies*, Frankfurt am Main: IKO - Verlag für Interkulturelle Kommunikation, pp. 35-48.

- Logan, W. (2014) 'Collective Cultural Rights in Asia: Recognition and Reinforcement', in A. Jakubowski (ed.) *Cultural Rights as Collective Rights: An International Law Perspective*, Leiden and Boston: Brill Nijhoff, pp. 180-203.
- Logan, W. (2018) 'Ethnicity, Heritage, Human Rights and Governance the Union of Myanmar', in J. Rodenberg, and P. Wagenaar, (eds.) *Cultural Contestation: Heritage, Identity and the Role of Government*, New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 37-60.
- Logan, W. (2022) 'Interpreting World Heritage Cultural Sites to meet UNESCO Principles: New Responsibilities at the Workforce', in N. Silberman (ed.) *World Heritage: 50 Years and Moving Forward*, Seoul, South Korea: WHIPIC, pp. 38-71.
- Mathisen, B., Paulus, A., Shaffrey, G., Sangha Rai, G., and Alatalu, R. (2019) 'KC 1.2: Rights-Based Approaches in Rural Heritage - Principles and Practice', *Rural Heritage - Landscapes and Beyond / PATRIMOINE RURAL: Paysages et au-delà*, 3.
- Nickel, J. (2017) *Making Sense of Human Rights*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Paulus, A. and Alatalu, R. (2020) 'Empowering Heritage Communities. Rights-Based Approaches - Principles and Practice', in *Interpret Europe Web Conference 2020: Fostering Heritage Communities Proceedings, 2nd edition, 8-11 May 2020*, Witzzenhausen: Interpret Europe, pp. 85–98.
- Shaheed, F. (2011) 'Report of the independent expert in the field of cultural rights', Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly GE.11-12204. Available at: <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-17-38/>
- Sinding-Larsen, A. and Larsen, P.B. (eds.) (2017), *The Advisory Body "Our Common Dignity Initiative" on Rights-based approaches in World Heritage: Taking stock and looking forward*, Oslo: ICOMOS Norway.
- Vrdoljak, AF. (2018) 'Indigenous Peoples, World Heritage, and Human Rights', *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 25(3), pp.245-281.
- Vrdoljak, AF. (2022) 'UNESCO, World Heritage and Human Rights', *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 22(4), pp. 459-486.
- Vrdoljak, AF., Liuzza, C., and Meskell, L. (2021) 'UNESCO, World Heritage, and Human Rights Compliance', Duke Global Working Paper Series No. 44. Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3984329
- Xanthaki, A., Valkonen, S., Heinämäki, L., and Nuorgam, P. (eds.) (2017) *Indigenous Peoples' Cultural Heritage: Rights, Debates, Challenges*, Leiden: Brill Nijhoff.

Image Credits



- 4 Dancers of the Ballet Folklorico de Oriente, Cuba. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2018.
- 6 Hands of a Purépecha artisan with her cococha vessel in Charapan, Michoacán, Mexico. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2007.
- 8 Amund-Sinding Larsen. Photo provided by Amund-Sinding Larsen.
- 12 Stener Ekern. Photo by [University of Oslo](#), 2023.
- 20 Peter Bille Larsen. Photo by Fabien Scotti, 2023.
- 28 Logo of [ICOMOS Norway](#).
- 32 (left top) ICOMOS General Assembly, Paris. Photo by ICOMOS France, 2011.
(left bottom and right) Our Common Dignity Initiative Founding Workshop Oslo, Norway. Photos by Bente Mathisen, 2011.
- 34 Hands of Mixtec peasants in a tequio labor (collective solidarity work). Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2014.
- 36 Members of the Barong dance putting on make-up in Bali, Indonesia. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2010.
- 38 Ingunn Kvisterøy. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2021.
- 40 OCDI Workshop Oslo, Norway. Photo by Kirsti Kovanen, 2014.
- 42 Qatar National Convention Centre. Photo by [UNESCO](#), photographer Juan Gaviria, 2014.
- 44 Logo of the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Florence, Italy, 2014.
- 46 Amendments to the ICOMOS Ethical Principles. Artwork by Yasemin Sarıkaya Levent.
- 48 Paulette Wallace. Photo by Florian Ludwig, 2020.
- 50 Paulette Wallace. Photo by Florian Ludwig, 2020.
- 52 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. Photo by [German Commission for UNESCO](#), photographer Kolja Matzke, 2015.
- 54 Participants of the Rights-Based Approaches and Human Rights Training Course in Oslo, Norway. Photo by Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo, 2016.
- 56 The participants of the Understanding Rights Practices in the World Heritage System: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific and the Global Arena Meeting, Caux, Switzerland. Photo by Peter Bille Larsen, 2016.
- 58 The 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, Istanbul, Turkey. Photo by [UNESCO](#), photographer Eric Esquivel, 2016.
- 60 Keiki (kids) dancing during the IUCN congress Opening Reception, Oahu, Hawaii. Photo by [IUCN](#), photographer Eric McNatt, 2016.
- 62 WHC Meeting Krakow, Poland. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2017.
- 64 WHC Meeting Krakow, Poland: Launch of the OCDI reports. Photo by Peter Bille Larsen, 2017.
- 66 Participants for African Regional Pilot Training Course, Ditsong Museum, South Africa. Photo by Ditsong Museum, 2017.
- 68 WHC Krakow Poland: Side Event Our Common Dignity Initiative. Photos by Bente Mathisen, 2017.
- 70 Knowledge Café AGA, Buenos Aires. Photo by ICOMOS Norway, 2018.
- 72 Restorers working in the convent of San Juan Bautista, Tetela del Volcán, Morelos, Mexico. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2019.



- 74 Restorers working in the convent of San Juan Bautista, Tetela del Volcán, Morelos, Mexico. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2019.
- 76 Monthly ZOOM meetings.
- 78 Bolivia. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2008.
- 80 Dance of the Toritos, Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2021.
- 82 Goats, Morocco. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2019.
- 84 The Sayones, the Holy Week celebrations in Tetela del Volcan Morelos. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2011.
- 86 Gazzola Prize Medal. Images from [ICOMSO 20th General Assembly, 2020](#).
- 88 Poster of Human rights and cultural heritage training, November 2020. Image from [ICOMOS, 2020](#).
- 90 Singapore. Image from [ICOMOS "Our Common Dignity" Initiative Facebook](#), photographer Florian Ludwig, 2020.
- 92 People in front of Taj Mahal World Heritage site, India. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2021.
- 94 Logo of the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium 2021. Artwork by Yolo Lucio, 2021.
- 96 ICOMOS General Assembly, Paris. Photo by ICOMOS France, 2011.
- 98 Heritage Thursdays. Poster by Elle Lepik, 2021.
- 99 Heritage Thursdays. Artworks by Laure Marique, 2021.
- 100 Heritage Thursdays. Poster by Elle Lepik, 2021.
- 101 Heritage Thursdays. Artworks by Laure Marique, 2021.
- 102 Workshop ICOMOS Norway: Heritage and Rights, Bergen. Photo by Gudrun Mathisen, 2021.
- 104 Image from [ICOMOS "Our Common Dignity" Initiative Facebook](#).
- 106 Purépecha master cooks contemplating the city of Morelia, Michoacán. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2019.
- 108 Heritage Thursdays. Poster by Laure Marique, 2022.
- 110 India GA 2017, Taj Mahal World Heritage site, India. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2017
- 112 Image from [ourcommondignity Instagram post](#).
- 114 AGA 2019 Morocco, Essouira. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2019.
- 116 ICOMOS Responsible Practice Toolkit Webinar, 2023.
- 118 Bryggen World Heritage site, Bergen, Norway. Photo by Bente Mathisen, 2012.
- 120 Muslim women visiting the Alhambra, Granada, Andalusia, Spain. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2019.
- 126 Grinding cocoa in a metate to produce chocolate, Uruapan, Michoacán, Mexico. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2020.
- 130 Practicing Tai Chi, Shanghai. Photo by Archivos Compartidos Tres Ríos (Adalberto, Ernesto y Adalberto Ríos Lanz) Memoria del Mundo (UNESCO), 2010.
- 132 Adalberto Ríos Szalay, Ernesto and Adalberto Ríos Lanz, with the appointment of Tres Ríos Shared Archives, as Memory of the World (UNESCO), 2023.