

ICOMOS NORWAY: REPORT ON TRAINING COURSE

Heritage Management And Human Rights Pilot Training Course, Oslo, March 2016



Participants of the RBS-HR Training Course in Oslo, March 2016 © ICOMOS Norway

Following a period of planning during the autumn of 2015 with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) of the University of Oslo, ICOMOS Norway received funding from the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway (the Ministry), to develop and arrange a Pilot Training Course on Heritage and Rights (human rights, HR and rights-based approaches to project programming, HRBA) for heritage management practitioners.

The Pilot Course was held in Oslo from the 14-18 of March, 2016 at the NCHR, University of Oslo conference facility. ICOMOS Norway and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights have collaborated since 2007 with the aim to build knowledge and understanding on human rights and heritage management.

The Pilot Course aimed to provide an introduction to the international human rights system related to UNESCO's work on World Heritage and the 1972 Convention. Twenty-two heritage professionals from the Nordic and Baltic region participated in the course, representing Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Norway. Most participants represented or had a background as ICOMOS members, with some coming from IUCN and ICCROM. The majority of participants worked with cultural heritage, while others worked with cultural landscapes and protection of the natural environment.

All participants presented their own case studies as part of the wider discussion on concepts, terms, challenges and dilemmas that may be met in World Heritage work. The presentation of case studies from India and South Africa underscored how practice, methodology and dilemmas confronted in heritage management can be universal and are independent of geo-cultural regions.

Based on discussions during the ICOMOS General Assembly in Florence, Italy in November 2014, ICOMOS Norway collaborated on the topic of rights issues and heritage management with ICOMOS India, ICOMOS South Africa and ICOMOS Australia. Representatives from ICOMOS India and ICOMOS South Africa joined the course in Oslo presenting case studies from their own countries.

The participants' response to the course was highly favourable, according to a *Questback* evaluation carried out by the NCHR about one month after the course, confirming a very high degree of participant satisfaction. Details of the evaluation will be included on the website and available for reference.

Evaluations, however, also provide opportunities for improvement and a common reflection was that a training course such as this could benefit from being held geographically closer to the participants' professional or home environments. Lessons learned from the pilot course are that there is significant need for knowledge in the combined fields of human rights and heritage management, and that heritage professionals are very eager for more knowledge on this complex topic. As such, courses should be offered as a permanent study opportunity for the international heritage management environment.

Picking up on responses and comments, discussions concluded with the intention to arrange a second course, hopefully in early 2017, in South Africa, with support from ICOMOS Norway and the NCHR. It is also hoped that a course can be arranged in connection with the ICOMOS General Assembly in New Delhi, India in November 2017.

ICOMOS Norway, Oslo, 25 June 2016

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NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT ON TRAINING COURSE

Heritage Management And Human Rights Pilot Training Course, Oslo, March 2016

In response to a call by various UN agencies and UNESCO in particular to address the growing need for incorporating technical and practical knowledge about human rights in heritage work, a working group from ICOMOS Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and the Environment (the Ministry) and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) was established. In August 2014, this group, together with external advisors¹, decided to develop a Pilot Training Course in human rights (HR) approaches to project programming (HRBA) for mid-career heritage management practitioners. With funding from the Ministry confirmed in November 2015, a pilot version of the course was developed, and the workshop itself was held in March, 2016 targeting Nordic and Baltic region professionals.

The Pilot Training Course had the following learning goals:

- General introduction to the international human rights system, including its institutions and mechanisms;
- Specific introduction to relevant conventions and texts (cultural rights and natural and cultural heritage), as well as the UN and UNESCO institutional framework;
- HRBA planning tools for heritage management.

Course lecturers from the NCHR gave an overview of the international HR system with particular emphasis on the elements that specifically relate to culture and heritage. The work of the key institutions in this regard - UNESCO and ICOMOS (as one of the three advisory bodies to the 1972 world Heritage Convention) - was presented by representatives of these institutions. Consultants with experience in rights-based approaches to development discussed the particularities of managing heritage projects not having HR-based approaches. A central feature of the course was to involve the participants as active co-authors of the future standard course by inviting them to bring cases from their own work that in one way or another involved HR dilemmas. The course programme reflected this through the inclusion of group work and interactive sessions every afternoon.

Moreover, the course included detailed discussions of two complex cases from India and South Africa, presented by ICOMOS leaders from the two countries in question.

Including representatives of ICOMOS Norway, South Africa and India, there were 21 participants from Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Iceland, Great Britain and Norway. Data obtained through a questionnaire distributed after the course suggests that the participants were generally satisfied with the workshop. The criticism most commonly voiced was that the cases could have been more directly linked to specific heritage sites, which was also relevant for the cases presented by the participants themselves.

Considering the favourable participants' evaluation and the constructive and positive atmosphere at the course, ICOMOS Norway and NCHR concluded that the Pilot Training Course was successful and should be offered regular continuous education on this topic.

The NCHR suggests that a course worth 10 study credits (10 ECTS) for heritage management practitioners be established in collaboration with universities and ICOMOS National Committees in other countries and regions.

A 10 ECTS diploma course designed to fulfil the above-mentioned learning goals would involve hiring competent teaching staff to present the areas that were covered in Oslo in March 2016, namely:

- general knowledge about the International HR System
- general knowledge about the particularities of cultural rights and the relevant parts of the International HR system
- general and specific knowledge about the work of UNESCO and Advisory Bodies ICOMOS-IUCN-ICCROM
- general and specific knowledge about project planning and HR-based approaches to such planning and management
- specific practice-based knowledge in the form of case discussions, including cases presented by the course participants.

In addition to lectures, group work, case discussions and site excursions (if possible), awarding a 10 ECTS diploma would also require the active study of supporting reading material of around 800 pages, to include:

- fundamental international human rights treaties
- treaties and soft law documents relevant for understanding HR in the area of cultural rights and heritage
- UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM basic documents and policy documents
- a selection of academic work on the issue²;
- a selection of guides or manuals in HRBA planning
- a selection of case material

Based on our experience with the Pilot Training Course of March 2016, the NCHR would be motivated to collaborate with ICOMOS Norway and other institutions to develop the course further, as outlined above.

STENER EKERN

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¹ independent advisor to ICOMOS and IUCN Dr. Peter Bille Larsen of Lucerne University, Switzerland, Bénédicte Selfslagh, Vice President of ICOMOS Belgium, and Professor Emeritus Hans Christie Bjønness, NTNU Norway.

², such as Harrison, Rodney, Understanding the Politics of Heritage, Manchester University Press, 2010

**PILOT TRAINING COURSE PROGRAMME - NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO AND ICOMOS NORWAY**

Monday 14 March	Tuesday 15 March	Wednesday 16 March	Thursday 17 March	Friday 18 March
INTRODUCTION	HERITAGE, CULTURE	HUMAN RIGHTS- BASED APPROACHES	CASE STUDIES	IMPLEMENTATION
09.00-10.45:	09.00-10.45:	09.00-10.45:	09.00-10.30:	09.00-10.30:
Welcome • Presentation of participants ("autoscanning") • Hist/Phil/Pol Intro to HR / Stener Ekern • Juridical intro to HR / Gentian Zyberi	What is culture? Stener Ekern The Work of UNESCO Ingunn Kvisterøy	What is HRBAD? Bård Anders Andreassen	A Case from South Africa	Group work: Applying HRBAD to participant's cases
10.45-11.00: Short Break	10.45-11.00: Short Break	10.45-11.00: Short Break	10.30 - 10.45 Short Break	10.30-10.45: Short Break
11.00-12.30:	11.00-12.30:	11.00-12.30:	10.45-13:00:	10.45-12.45:
International Human Rights Law Gentian Zyberi	The heritage concept Peter Bille Larsen Statutes and work of ICOMOS Bénédicte Selfslagh	Working with HRBAD in heritage management Peter Bille Larsen	A Case from India	Group work continued: Applying HRBAD to participant's cases
12.30-13.30: Lunch	12.30-13.30: Lunch	12.30-13.30: Lunch	13.00-14.00: Lunch	12.45-13.30: Lunch
13.30-14.45:	13.30-15.00:	13.30-15.00:	14:00-15.00:	13.30-15.00:
Case presentations – What are the dilemmas?	Current ICOMOS challenges Bénédicte Selfslagh and Amund Sinding-Larsen	Summing up: What are the typical dilemmas in applying HR in heritage management Peter Larsen and Stener Ekern	A Case from Australia	Closing session
14.45-15.00: Short Break	15.00-15.15: Short Break	15.00-15.30: Short Break	15.00-15.15: Short Break	
15.00-16.00: Group work	15.15-16.30: Group work	15.30-16.45: Group work	15.15-16.15: Plenary: Human rights in WH work	