

Inputs from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to the 2019 HLPF under the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

A number of key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” have been taken by the World Heritage Committee and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (as the Secretariat for the 1972 World Heritage Convention) for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development include protecting cultural and natural heritage as contributing transversally across a number of goals and targets.

1. International cooperation and global partnerships to address global inequalities and enhance protection of the world’s cultural and natural heritage
 - a. Supporting international cooperation and intergovernmental decision-making and governance of cultural and natural heritage:
 - i. The adoption and implementation of strategic resolutions and decisions of the intergovernmental governing bodies of the 1972 Convention
 - ii. 1,121 World Heritage sites are included on the World Heritage List providing for a global network in 167 States Parties (i.e. only 26 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). 178 States Parties have submitted national Tentative Lists of sites they may decide to nominate in future years;
 - iii. Specific support for sites in post-conflict countries. Among the achievements was the submission of the Tentative List entry for Mosul, Iraq, a UNESCO flagship activity in heritage conservation in post-conflict regions;
 - iv. Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List that face imminent and ongoing threats are placed on List of World Heritage in Danger. With focused technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and efforts by State Parties, World Heritage properties such as Belize Barrier Reef, Belize (2018), Humberstone, Santa Laura Saltpeter Works, Chile (2019), and Bethlehem, Palestine (2019) were removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.
 - b. Africa is a Global Priority for UNESCO: for the first time, in 2019 a working document on the African region, World Heritage and sustainable development highlighted to the World Heritage Committee the alignment of activities in the region with the 2030 Agenda and the African Union "Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want".
 - c. International cooperation through international assistance: States Parties submitted 77 International Assistance requests for funding from the World Heritage Fund in 2018-2019 of which 35 were approved, including 59% from the Africa region and 6% from SIDS. In all regions, most of the funded projects concern management activities or conservation works. In parallel, 6 Emergency Assistance requests have been approved in 2018-2019: 3 for conservation works at Mexican World Heritage sites in the aftermath of the September 2017 earthquake, one for a recovery plan for Bosra in Syria, one for fire-fighting at Simien Mountains, Ethiopia, and one for minimizing the impacts of an invasive ant at Vallée de Mai, Seychelles.
 - d. Supporting and promoting transboundary and transnational cooperation:

The World Heritage Convention has proven to be a powerful tool to strengthen international cooperation on shared heritage resources and promoting sustainable development by combining a global standard framework with the development of operational projects and concrete collaboration.

- i. Improving transboundary cooperation and biodiversity conservation in Central Africa through the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative: Support provided to States Parties in Central Africa (Cameroon, Central African Republic and Republic of Congo) through the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) has reinforced on-ground surveillance in an area of 225 000 km² (approximately the area of the United Kingdom) includes three World Heritage sites (Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon, Lopé-Okanda in Gabon, and Sangha Trinational in Central African Republic, Cameroon and Republic of Congo). Support provided has also enabled to improve site management in the area through the rehabilitation of infrastructure, the promotion of eco-tourism, training and inclusive involvement of local communities (more than 1000 people) and the update/production of inventories of biological resources (e.g. large mammals). Such inventories have highlighted a remarkable stability in wildlife density and deforestation linked to development activities.
- ii. After over 10 years of cooperation between Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and since the inscription in 2014 of the *Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System*, a serial transboundary cultural itinerary, these six States Parties have consolidated the participatory management structure for this complex and innovative property. With the continued guidance of the World Heritage Centre, between 2017 and 2019, these 6 countries have established joint conservation and monitoring strategies, defined a plan for safeguarding intangible aspects, and for disaster risk management of the property, as well as creating a management structure based fundamentally on community participation and opportunities for local development, including of indigenous peoples, and the social appropriation of heritage.
- iii. Strengthening the Governance of the Shared Transboundary Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid region (Albania/North Macedonia) strengthening management and governance systems by raising national awareness and building institutional capacity for managing cultural and natural heritage. The project generated positive results in relation to building local capacities and skills and promoting cooperation between key actors in Albania and North Macedonia. Some of the more remarkable achievements and long-term results of the project include the successful inscription of the Albanian part of the site on the World Heritage List in 2019, the World Heritage Supplement to the Management Plan for Pogradec Protected Landscape 2017-2027 and the highly visible waste awareness campaign set up by the project, endorsed by Government of Albania.

2. Enhancing environmental resilience with an interdisciplinary approach to protection of World Heritage properties:

- a. The World Heritage Centre has developed a close cooperation with the other 7 biodiversity-related conventions. Through the Biodiversity Liaison Group, regular meetings are held to discuss how to ensure synergies and a common messaging on the need to urgently address the global biodiversity crisis. Currently, the emphasis is on providing inputs into the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will define the mission, goals and targets of the global effort to conserve biodiversity for the next decade. The World Heritage Centre also developed a close bilateral cooperation with the Convention on

Migratory Species (CMS) to promote ecological connectivity. With CITES, the development of an MoU is under discussion to further formalise the existing cooperation on sites which harbour endangered species victim of the illegal wildlife trade (such as the Vaquita, a porpoise species endemic to the Gulf of California World Heritage sites). There is also enhanced cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and the Man and Biosphere programme to improve the conservation of sites with common designation. The secretariats of the 8 biodiversity-related conventions jointly organized a side event during the 2018 HLPF.

- b. The World Heritage Convention recognizes, from the outset, linkages between nature and culture. Along with the “mixed sites,” i.e. sites fulfilling both natural and cultural criteria, safeguarding of cultural landscapes has contributed significantly to enhance well-being and resilience of communities while maintaining rich biological and cultural diversity. Defined as the combined work of nature and people, 114 properties on the World Heritage List are categorized as cultural landscapes as of March 2020. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre is serving as the Secretariat of the *UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes* to reward outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world’s major cultural landscapes. The Prize was awarded in November 2019 to Instituto do Património Cultural (Cabo Verde) for its outstanding contribution to the safeguarding, management and sustainable development of the Natural Park of Cova, Paul and Ribeira da Torre. In addition, efforts have been made to further recognize and strengthen the linkage between people, nature and culture through a joint programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity between UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat since 2010, to contribute to achieve the global vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature” by 2050.
- c. Within the framework of the Biosphere and Heritage of Lake Chad (BIOPALT) project led by the Science Sector, several studies on ecosystems fed into the nomination dossier of Lake Chad as a Biosphere Reserve and potential World Heritage site. Training activities enhanced management capacities, promoted green activities and strengthened cross-border collaboration for the preservation of the Lake Chad Basin.
- d. Decoupling growth from environmental degradation, and achieving sustainable development for future generations: In 2018, various international stakeholders such as banks, insurance companies, the World Rowing Federation and the International Finance Corporation have put in place policies and/or international standards to protect World Heritage sites from damaging activities. In October 2019, a pioneering insurance industry practical guide was launched to prevent/reduce the risk of insuring/investing in companies or projects whose activities could damage World Heritage sites. This major breakthrough endorses the “No Go commitment” well beyond extractive industries, setting a new global environmental standard. The “No Go commitment” with the private sector is to ensure natural World Heritage sites are off limit from extractive and other activities, which could impact their OUV. In spite of the fact that the World Heritage Committee has taken a clear position that extractive activities are incompatible with the World Heritage status, studies have shown that over half of all natural and mixed World Heritage sites are threatened by extractive activities and large-

scale development projects. The World Heritage Centre and its partners have intensified their efforts to create greater buy in from the private sector to integrate a No Go policy as part of Corporate Social responsibility policy. This had led to some significant results: Several new energy companies (including ENGIE and ENI) have subscribed to a No Go policy. With support from WWF, the World Heritage Centre was able to secure major commitments from the financial and banking sector to integrate into their sustainability policies, provisions for ensuring that they are not financing projects that may negatively impact World Heritage properties and that the companies they are investing in subscribe to the “No-go commitment”. These include The Church of England National Investing Bodies, ABN Amro, Barclays, BNP Paribas, Crédit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Royal Bank of Scotland, Societ  G n rale, Standard Chartered, Swiss Re and UBS. In addition, the World Heritage Centre has engaged with the UNEP Finance Initiative Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI) in view of developing an insurance industry commitment for the conservation of World Heritage properties. A commitment was launched in July 2019, covering the insurance industry’s risk management, insurance and investment activities and commits signatories to take various actions in order to prevent or reduce the risk of insuring and investing in companies or projects whose activities could damage World Heritage Sites.

3. Addressing the impacts of Climate Change and furthering Climate Action with World Heritage:

- a. On 21 February 2020, on the eve of the 52nd session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), experts from across the globe came together at UNESCO Headquarters to highlight the crucial role of culture in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Noting that climate change represents one of the greatest threats facing culture today, with increasing fires, floods, droughts, desertification and ocean acidification threatening both cultural and natural heritage, the experts also stressed that there is another side to this story – namely the role of culture as a resource for climate change mitigation and adaptation. They noted indeed that intangible cultural heritage practices, including traditional land and water management practices, traditional food security strategies, and the use of traditional architecture and building materials, can help communities mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.
- b. A global online consultation was carried out by the World Heritage Centre in 2019-20 to assist in updating the Policy Document on the impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties (2007). This consultation involved all stakeholders, e.g. States Parties, site managers, local communities, indigenous peoples and civil society and more than 366 responses have been lodged, from 97 countries. The suggestions and comments made will be crucial to inform the revision of the Policy Document.
- c. In collaboration with an international consortium of partners, climate adaptation strategies are now being built in an initial 5 coral-containing World Heritage sites. The project is highly innovative and funds the establishment of a climate resilience officer in each of the sites, tasked with designing an integrated climate vulnerability and adaptation strategy + projects specific to each site that can help build resilience. The project is done in response to the first global scientific assessment of the impacts of climate change on World Heritage listed coral reefs published by UNESCO in 2017 (and updated in 2018) which indicated that all 29 World Heritage Listed coral reefs might cease to function as ecosystems before 2100 under a business as usual climate scenario.
- d. The *Belize Barrier Reef System* in this SIDS was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2018 after the approval of an offshore oil exploration moratorium (or 'No-Go' zone) and improved conservation efforts for the delicate reef ecosystem.
- e. *Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works* was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2019 after almost 15 years of strengthened investment in addressing the property's inherent fragility and vulnerability to climate change and other risk factors.

4. Supporting Member States to integrate SDGs in implementing the 1972 Convention

The World Heritage Convention aims at providing support to the countries, especially the most vulnerable ones, in developing relevant policies and programmes to facilitate the integration of the sustainable development perspective in the broader framework of heritage management. This has a particular focus on the implication of communities in the life and management of World Heritage sites and their long-term aspirations for sustainable development at a time when cultural and natural heritage are increasingly exposed to a variety of threats. The World Heritage relevant SDGs are mainstreamed in the

conservation and management of at least 108 World Heritage properties, including 29 in Africa and 4 SIDS in the last couple of years.

- a. World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (2015) continued to be applied by States and at sites.
- b. Implementation guide (draft) of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy has been aligned with the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy with the UN 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, Africa 2063, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Action Plan, UNESCO Culture;2030 Indicators, and the Sendai Framework.
- c. A draft Toolkit has been developed for a Preliminary Scorecard for World Heritage and Sustainable Development aligned with the 2030 Agenda that allows sites, Site Managers, and countries, to carry out a quick assessment on the sustainability 'score' of their World Heritage properties that could inspire and motivate them to take policies and actions to improve their 'scores'.
- d. A draft Toolkit has been developed for a quick assessment of proposed projects and interventions in and around World Heritage properties aligned with the 2030 Agenda that allows sites, Site Managers, and countries, to carry out a quick assessment on the potential impact on the sustainability 'health' of their World Heritage properties. Such an early and quick assessment could permit adjustments in the design of projects and interventions to contribute more directly to sustainable development goals and targets.
- e. Development pressure, globalization, conflicts and natural disasters represent the main threats to the cultural and natural heritage and can affect its ability to contribute to sustainable development as well as inclusiveness and equality.

5. Bolstering Local Action for sustainable and people-centred cities and settlements integrating heritage conservation with sustainable development

- a. Through the Member State Implementation Survey on the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (HUL), 55 States responded that they have taken various initiatives to implement the Recommendation from establishing laws and policies to protect historic cities to integrating it into their management plans.
- b. As a result of the methodological recommendations and technical assistance provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for example, in Georgia, Mtskheta self-governing town has been merged with the Mtskheta municipality resolving the management issue of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. The elaboration of a comprehensive set of mapping and planning documentation for the preparation of the Urban Master Plan has been achieved. On the basis of updated databases and site surveys by the Technical Assistance project, the borders of built-up regulation zone areas, archaeological zones, the historical landscape protection zone were corrected, and a sustainable tourism strategy developed.
- c. Following the development of the Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Florence (approved in 2016), the site management organization of the property (UNESCO Office of the Municipality of Florence), undertook a process to prepare

a strategic instrument for the effective implementation of the Action Plan included in the management document. The objective of this strategic tool (the 'Monitoring of the Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Florence', approved by the City Council in 2018) is to measure progress in implementing the objectives of the Management Plan and to enhance its periodic revision. The approach taken is informed by the need to integrate a sustainable development perspective into the implementation of the World Heritage Convention to promote sustainable and quality tourism, and include policies that aims to improve the management of the site.

- d. Strengthening the capacities of Member States in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties and historic cities. Various activities at regional level raised awareness and built capacities on the integrated management of cultural and natural resources as drivers for sustainable development at site level, in line with the 2030 Agenda. These activities focus mainly on heritage conservation, risk preparedness and sustainable management, with the involvement of site managers, experts and local communities, including women. In 2018-2019, the conservation and management capacities at 122 World Heritage properties have been enhanced, of which 46 are in Africa and 8 in SIDS. Various projects dealt with the management of historic cities, for example in Latin America where a system of indicators set up for the Historic Centre of Salvador de Bahia (Brazil) enables the monitoring of the proposals implemented by the Municipal Government in their relation with the urban, cultural and social sustainability of the territory.
- e. The UNESCO Cities platform, which includes the World Heritage Cities Programme adopted by the World Heritage Committee, allows for a strategic comprehensive vision through coordinated action, and reinforces the linkages between all areas of action of UNESCO

6. Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive livelihoods with World Heritage conservation

The conservation and wise management of cultural and natural heritage has tremendous potential to address many of the key sustainable development challenges facing the poorest and more vulnerable, including by providing shelter, access to food, water and other means of livelihood as well as stable and decent employment. In addition, well-preserved heritage is an essential component to the dignity and resilience of disadvantaged communities, notably in disasters situations and other complex emergencies. It may also contribute directly to alleviating poverty and inequalities. The impact achieved for SIDS by World Heritage was mainly through technical and financial support for the sites danger, e.g., East Rennell, Solomon Islands, Nan Madol, Federated States of Micronesia, including for improvement of sustainable livelihoods of communities and building capacity of site management. Initiatives have helped revitalise income-generating handicrafts and building techniques linked to the conservation of heritage sites among local communities in Pakistan (Makli, Lahore) and Bangladesh (Paharpur), and Sri Lanka (Kandy, Anuradhapura). Activities went to the root of the essential link between communities and their heritage and show-cased how their involvement in the upkeep and restoration of sites can bring about not only significant material benefits for communities, but also a sense of purpose and ownership of their heritage. In Pakistan, activities focused on underprivileged local communities, especially women and youth, who found work and purpose through the creation of a tile atelier.

7. Promoting World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

World Heritage properties are important assets for economic and regional tourism development. In this regard, the contribution of sustainable tourism to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the positive impact it can have on local communities and the protection of World Heritage properties is recognized. However, negative effects of inadequate visitor management and tourism infrastructure development should be avoided.

- a. Adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2012, the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme provides an international framework for the planning and sustainable management of tourism at World Heritage properties by fostering the awareness, the capacity and equal participation of local stakeholders <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/>.

The goal of this programme is twofold: to protect World Heritage properties and their *Outstanding Universal Value*, while, at the same time, ensuring that tourism contributes to the sustainable development of local communities. With an approach founded on dialogue and stakeholder cooperation, the programme encourages World Heritage and tourism stakeholders to share in the responsibility of achieving sustainable development and in conserving our common cultural and natural heritage. The programme concentrates its efforts on capacity building in the areas of visitor management, policy and marketing, promotion and communication.

- b. **World Heritage Journeys:** Supported by the European Union, and in collaboration with National Geographic the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme developed an online platform featuring trans-European itineraries that link iconic and lesser-known World Heritage sites under four themes: 'Romantic Europe', 'Ancient Europe', 'Royal Europe' and 'Underground Europe'. This project aims to increase sustainable tourism at World Heritage sites, while encouraging visitors to stay longer and support local culture and the creative industries. The project is expanding in East Asia and Thailand to include a Buddhist heritage route with the support of KOICA and the Expedia Group. Marketing and communication tools have been developed to help site managers more effectively communicate and market the World Heritage properties through the project. www.visitworldheritage.com.
- c. **Policy advocacy.** With the aim of building and strengthening partnerships between the tourism and culture sectors and enhancing their role in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNESCO and UNWTO jointly organize annual international conferences on Tourism and Culture. The 2018 conference was held in Istanbul (December 2018) and the 2019 conference was held in Kyoto Japan (December 2019). The events brought together Ministers of Tourism and Ministers of Culture as well as private sector stakeholders and experts with the objective of building and strengthening partnerships between the Tourism and Culture sectors. The main output was the Kyoto Declaration on Tourism and Culture: Investing in future generations, which called for the strengthening of capacities geared towards the sustainable development of cultural tourism and a better understanding of shared values; a redefinition of tourism management to advance local community empowerment and responsible tourism; an enrichment of tourism through the transmission of cultures and mutual understanding; and the implementation of innovative policy and governance models reflected in cutting-edge cultural tourism. These events build on strengthened interagency collaboration between UNWTO and UNESCO.

- d. **Tourism management tools.** The WHST Programme created an innovative Visitor Management Assessment Tool to enable World Heritage site managers to rapidly and efficiently assess how tourism is being managed according to a set of sustainability indicators. By helping site managers establish a tourism management baseline, the tool will support proactive management to develop and implement tourism strategies and other appropriate planning and management frameworks to protect heritage values by engaging a broad set of stakeholders, empowering and providing benefits to local communities. The tool is applicable for all types of World Heritage sites. The tool has undergone a period of testing in various sites in South East Asia and Europe. It is currently being further refined based on the feedback received from the pilot sites and will be made publically available in April 2020.
- e. **Partnerships with the private sector.** Engaging with the private sector is a key aspect of the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme. Through our longstanding partnership with Seabourn Cruise Line, UNESCO is strengthening collaboration and dialogue between heritage and tourism stakeholders and building the capacity to develop a type of tourism that values and protects World Heritage properties. The partnership provides the needed extrabudgetary resources for the programme and has been recently renewed for another five-year term. In October 2019 UNESCO and Expedia Group signed a global agreement to promote sustainable tourism and heritage conservation through an industry-first Sustainable Tourism Pledge whose pilot phase will be launched in Thailand this year before going global. It is the first collaboration between UNESCO and a global online travel agency.

8 . Promoting Social inclusion and empowering local communities, women and youth in and through the conservation of World Heritage properties, as well as educate youth on cultural diversity for sustainable development

Experience gained by UNESCO over many years has shown how cultural and natural heritage have played a critical role in empowering the poorest and more vulnerable in developing countries as well as ensuring inclusiveness and equality. Key lessons learnt include the inherent ability of heritage to ensure ownership and participation in development processes, as well as to facilitate dialogue and mutual understanding among diverse groups within society. Numerous activities in the framework of World Heritage management worldwide have successfully contributed to the involvement of local communities in several properties' management and their long-term aspirations for sustainable development. They further demonstrated the essential link between communities and their heritage, and showcased how the involvement of local communities in the upkeep and restoration of sites can bring about not only significant material benefits, but also a sense of purpose and ownership. At times of crisis, for example, access to and care for heritage may help vulnerable people recover a sense of identity, continuity, dignity and empowerment. In conflict and post-conflict situations, in particular, the acknowledgment and conservation of heritage, based on shared values and interests, may foster mutual recognition, tolerance and respect among different communities, which is a precondition for a society's peaceful development.

- a. Around 2,810 civil society stakeholders, including young people and women, have contributed to the conservation of World Heritage properties and to World Heritage education within the framework of UNESCO-related projects and initiatives. Various civil society stakeholders also actively participated in plenary debates and side-events during the 42nd and 43rd sessions of the Committee in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

- b. The International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage was launched in June 2018 during the 42nd session of the Committee and met again during its 43rd session, with a view to strengthening the capacities of indigenous peoples for their effective participation in World Heritage processes.
- c. Direct involvement of women in World Heritage conservation is growing gradually, whether as site managers (24% of them being women), custodians, rangers or heads of heritage offices. In Makli World Heritage property in Pakistan, a traditional tile-making atelier was set up and served as a training centre for women from the surrounding villages, bringing local women a sense of pride in addition to socio-economic benefits.
- d. The 2018 and 2019 World Heritage Volunteers campaign took place at more than 50 World Heritage properties worldwide, providing enriching opportunities to young national and international volunteers through hands-on and awareness-raising activities for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage. The World Organization of the Scout Movement produced in collaboration with World Heritage Centre the "World Scouting-UNESCO World Heritage Recognition Programme Guidelines" to empower young people worldwide to take the initiative to protect World Heritage in synergy with local communities.
- e. In cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and Canada, the World Heritage Centre with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service organized an exchange programme for young participants from Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia at two World Heritage Volunteers camps in Morocco in July 2018. It resulted in the sharing of experiences and reflection on alternatives to extremist ideologies. The Arab World Heritage Young Professionals Forum (Tunis, December 2019) enabled young professionals from the Arab region to discuss how heritage can be leveraged to contribute to a future of peace for the region.

9. Measuring and Monitoring Culture's contribution to the 2030 Agenda

Investing in data and statistics for measuring Culture in the SDGs and strengthening statistical capacities to address gaps in data on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to allow countries to provide high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics and to fully integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in monitoring and reporting systems. UNESCO has developed the Culture|2030 Indicators to measure the role and contribution of Culture to the 2030 Agenda including the role and contribution of cultural and natural heritage at the national and local levels. Member States consultation on the Culture|2030 Indicators to measure culture's role in the 2030 Agenda, received close to unanimous support with responses demonstrating increasing efforts by States to collect cultural statistics and develop indicators to measure and monitor the benefits of cultural heritage and creativity. *Culture|2030 Indicators* as an innovative methodology was launched during the UNESCO Forum of the Ministers of Culture in November 2019.

All of these actions have helped to fill critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Policy recommendations for the HLPF on ways to accelerate progress in empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and equality, and achieving SDGs.

- a. A key area where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required is the integration of a concern for cultural and natural heritage within sustainable development policies and plans at national and

local levels taking into account the explicit reference in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to the need to enhance the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage.

- b. Bolstering local action including to more effectively integrate cultural and natural heritage and resources in the implementation of the SDGs to engage in effective, evidence-based and inclusive participatory management of cultural and natural heritage
- c. Identifying the relationship of World Heritage to Climate Change both in terms of the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties and also the solutions for Climate Action that World Heritage properties offer
- d. Promoting the implementation of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy in alignment with the 2030 Agenda as a policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the Convention that was adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in 2015. This new policy revolves around the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely environmental sustainability, inclusive social development and inclusive economic development, complemented by the fostering of peace and security. In the context of inclusive social development, the policy invites notably states parties to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls with a view for attaining sustainable development.
- e. The UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators will be pursued to support Member States in measuring the contribution of culture to the SDGs and the impact of the conventions to inform national policy. Within the framework of the conventions' conceptual tools and mechanisms to assess their contribution to the 2030 Agenda, efforts will also be deployed to maximize impact through systematizing the collection and analysis of data and good practices aligning to the SDGs, generated by the implementation of each of the Culture Conventions with a view to strengthening their global impact.