

Concept Note
HERITAGE AND CLIMATE MOBILITY

A Proposed COP22 Side Event

Application Window: 19 July 2016 at 10 a.m. Central European Time (CET) until Friday, 22 July 2016 at 5 p.m. CET

More Information: https://seors.unfccc.int/seors?session_id=COP22

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US/ICOMOS and the Arctic Institute are looking for partners to help organize a side event at 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC (COP22). The event is scheduled to take place from 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. During COP 22, parties will, among other things, begin preparations for entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

The proposed session will focus on the intersection of culture, heritage, and climate mobility. The impacts of the Earth's changing climate are an abstraction for many people. But as these changes continue at rates now exceeding many scientific forecasts, communities around the world are already suffering its effects – including being forced to leave their homes, historic livelihoods, and in many cases tangible cultural assets in search of safer places to live. With whole communities now being displaced, the importance of climate mobility issues cannot be ignored. The Paris Agreement produced at COP21 in 2015 recognized this and assigned one branch of the UN climate change organization, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, “to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”

As entire populations lose their lands, what becomes of their historic and sacred sites? When not just individuals but communities are displaced, how can their cultures be conserved and their traditional knowledge retained? Equally important, how can cultural heritage be used to facilitate the emplacement of these communities. These questions squarely implicate the expertise of the cultural heritage community and local and traditional knowledge holders; yet, cultural heritage considerations have been largely absent from the climate mobility conversation to date.

This panel aims to present the multiplicity of ways in which cultural heritage intersects with climate mobility. Presentations and case studies on any of the following, and related topics, are welcome:

1. The role of cultural heritage as a tool for resiliency, integration, and social cohesion

The recognition of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge as an important tool in adaptation and resiliency to a changing climate and the use of heritage to help displaced communities, whether temporary or permanent, to create a sense of the familiar and maintain familiar practices and social relationships; and

use of the heritage associated with the place of relocation to help create inclusion for new arrivals,

2. *The need to preserve where possible and/or document and memorialize the tangible heritage left behind by displaced communities*

Strategies for reducing the rate of deterioration, recording , minimizing loss of important scientific information, preservation of examples of past technologies, and commemorating, representing and interpreting for future generation the sites , places and cultural land and seascapes left behind, *and*

3. *The need to conserve the Intangible Heritage, Traditional Knowledge, and movable heritage of displaced persons' and communities*

Strategies for conserving and perpetuating the collective scientific and intangible heritage values of displaced communities amidst relocation and diaspora.

Two types of participation from partners are possible. The first would include providing a speaker. The speaker would need to be able to present in Marrakech. Unfortunately, ICOMOS cannot provide travel. The second possibility is serving as a promotional sponsor. Promotional sponsors endorse the event in exchange for being listed as a sponsor and agree to promote the event through the organization's customary means.