

INTRODUCING THE ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL CHARTER AND GUIDANCE ON SITES WITH INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

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ICICH BUREAU (India, Nigeria, México, China, Chile)



**International Council on
Monuments and Sites**

**Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites**



ICH NGO FORUM MAY 7 2025

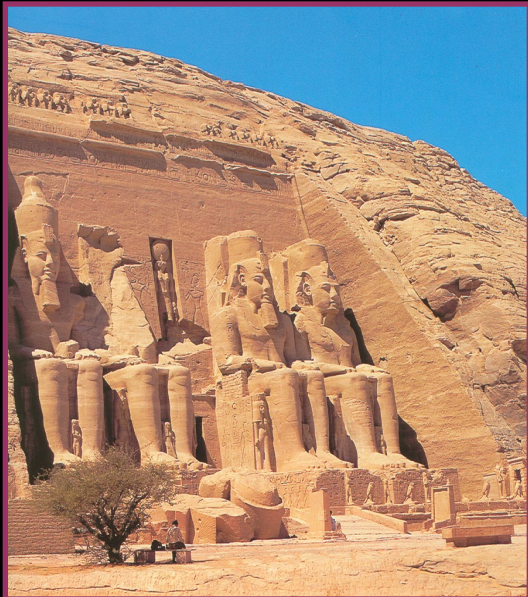


ICOMOS Venice Charter (1964)
World Heritage Convention (1972)
Convention on the Safeguarding of the
Intangible Heritage (2003)

To promote the scientific study of the conservation and valuation of monuments and sites.

To support the interest of the authorities and citizens in the preservation, conservation, restoration and enhancement of monuments and sites of universal value.

Supporting UNESCO in the identification, assessment and management of World Heritage.



EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF HERITAGE IN THE TWENTIETH-FIRST CENTURY

HIGHER RATING

OBJECT - SITE – PEOPLE - COMMUNITIES

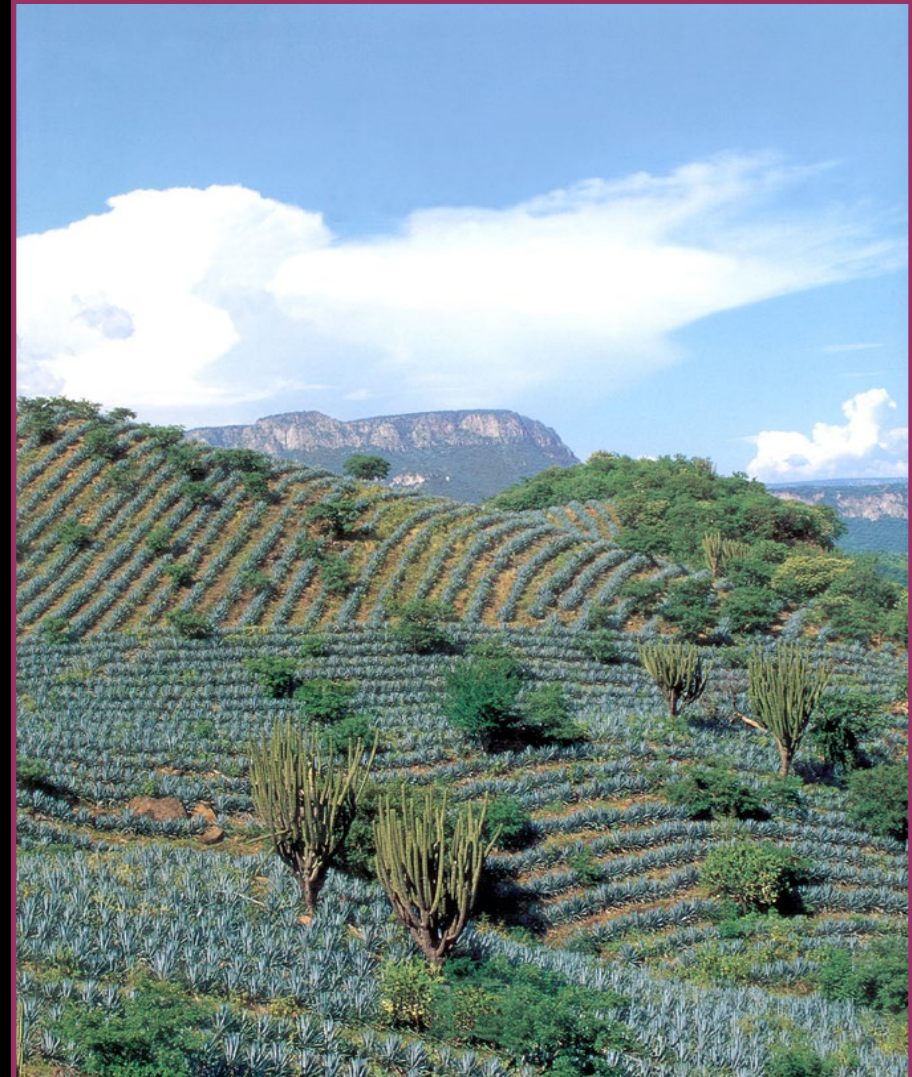


INTEGRATION WITH NATURAL HERITAGE

Species Conservation
Ecosystem Conservation



HUMAN BEINGS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT



INTANGIBLE VALUES



HERITAGE IS MEMORY - IDENTITY - COHESION - DEVELOPMENT - DIVERSITY



International Conventions and Charters

UNESCO

- *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)*
- *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)*
- *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)*
- *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2007)*
- *Recommendation for the Safeguarding of Traditional and Folk Culture (1989)*
- *Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (1997)*

UNESCO with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- *Nara Document on Authenticity (1994).*
- *Yamato Declaration on Integrated Approaches to Safeguarding Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage (2004).*

ICOMOS

- *Declaration on Ethical Commitment (Madrid, 2002).*
- *ICOMOS Principles for the Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage (2003).*
- *ICOMOS Charter on Vernacular Built Heritage (1999).*
- *Donkey's Charter (ICOMOS Australia Charter for Places of Cultural Significance) (1999).*
- *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Sites of Cultural Heritage Value (1992).*
- *Deschambault Charter (Commitment to the Preservation of Québec's Heritage) (1982).*
- *Charter of Cultural Itineraries (Quebec, 2008).*
- *International Charter on Heritage Tourism (Thailand 2022).*
- *International Charter and Guidelines for Sites with Intangible Cultural Heritage (Ouro Preto 2024).*

International Context XXI century

- **Rediscovery of Heritage**
- **Conflict between conservation and development**
- **Globalization v/s Local Identities**
- **Traditional Heritage v/s Emerging Heritage**
- **Extension of the concept of Heritage**
- **Social appropriation**
- **Human rights**
- **Decolonization**
- **Invasive tourism**
- **Diversities**



Development with Identity *Recognizing our Diversity* *Conserving our Heritage*



ICOMOS Intangible Heritage History

Zimbabwe 2003



Sudáfrica: Durban 2005, Kimberley 2007

Establishment of the International Committee on Intangible Heritage

Key goals:

- **Relevance of Intangible Heritage**
- **Fully incorporate it into World Heritage**
- **Develop ethical principles for the identification, conservation, management and dissemination of Intangible Heritage**
- **ICOMOS Quebec General Assembly 2008 "Finding the Spirit of Place"**
- **ICICH Technical Meeting in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia, 2023**
- **ICICH ICOMOS CHARTER APPROVED IN THE 2024 OURO PRETO ASSEMBLY OF ICOMOS.**

ICOMOS International Committee on Intangible Heritage ICICH

India – Australia – Chile – Sudáfrica

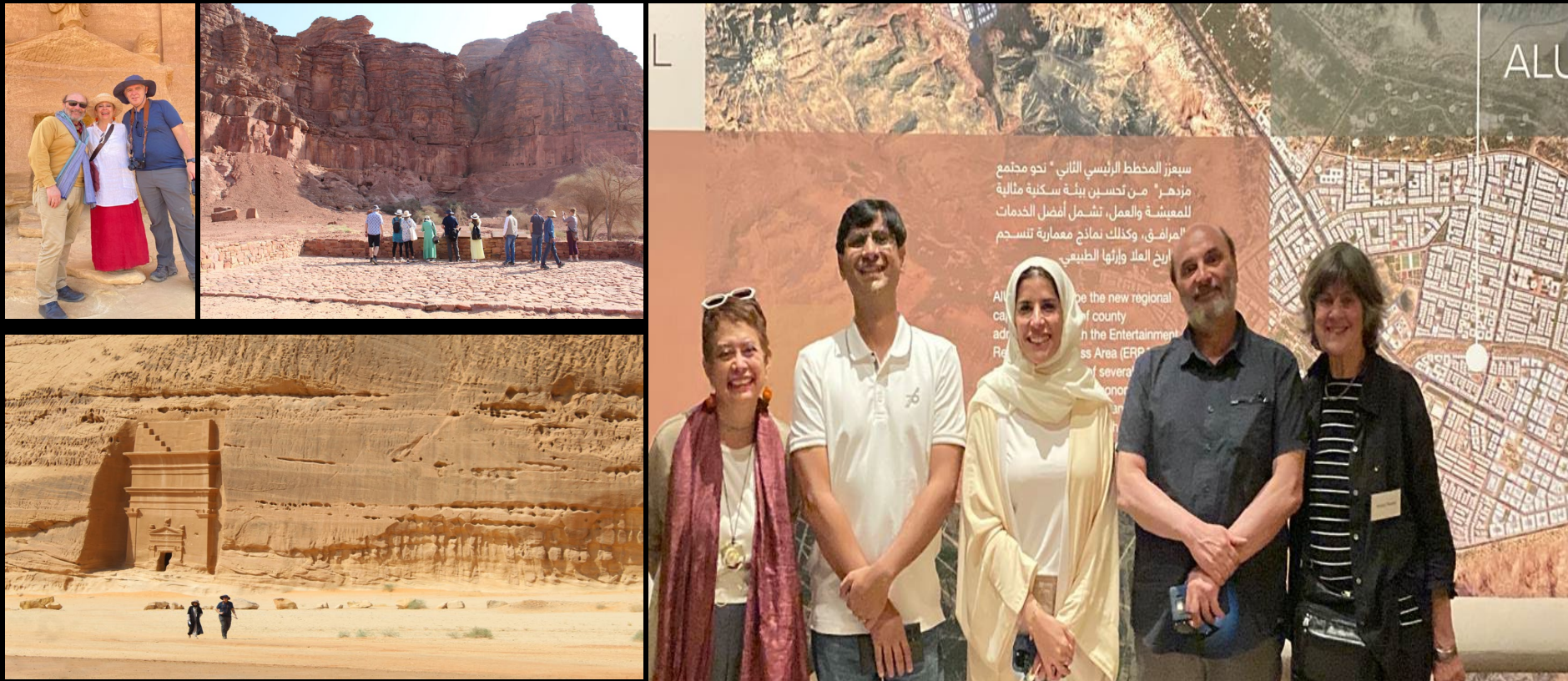
Teemaneng Statement, Kimberley, 2007



ICOMOS International Committee on Sites with Intangible Heritage, Alu-la, Saudi Arabia, 2023

India – Australia – Chile – Sudáfrica – Arabia Saudita - México

Draft ICICH Charter of ICOMOS



ICOMOS International Committee on Sites with Intangible Heritage, Alu-la, Saudi Arabia, 2023

India – Australia – Chile – Sudáfrica – Arabia Saudita - México

Final Draft ICICH Charter of ICOMOS



ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER AND GUIDANCE ON SITES WITH INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Section I: CHARTER

1. PREAMBLE

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is an important aspect of cultural heritage in all societies around the world. Intangible and tangible heritage is inextricably linked as traditional, social or cultural practices and knowledge that are transmitted from generation to generation and which provide an understanding of and give meaning, value and context to objects, sites and other physical spaces. It is constantly evolving in response to a community's environment, its interaction with nature and its history.

The purpose of the ICOMOS Charter on Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereafter the "Charter") is to advocate for the recognition of intangible cultural heritage as an integral part of site based heritage and to support and guide ICOMOS members to a more integrated tangible-intangible heritage practice and to align their work with the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Charter is a reminder that intangible cultural heritage often co-exists with aspects of tangible heritage.

Intangible cultural heritage includes practices, representations, expressions, knowledge systems skills and associated objects, archives and documents. The value of such living cultural expressions is related to identity; memory and remembrance; belief and symbolism; nature and the environment; knowledge systems and sites. Such intangible cultural heritage is enacted, transmitted and revived within communities in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history. Communities may move elsewhere, maintaining a continuity of their intangible cultural heritage expressions at a site in another location. Often these sites are shared spaces between different cultural groups.

The Glossary includes key terms used in this Charter. Please refer to the Glossary to understand how these terms are used here. For example, the term "communities" includes groups and, as appropriate, individuals, and "site" includes place and space, as appropriate. Other important terms include: custodians, conservation, protection, cultural and intellectual property rights.

2. WHO IS THE CHARTER FOR?

The Charter is primarily aimed at supporting and guiding ICOMOS members. It defines standards and principles on how to acknowledge and engage with intangible cultural heritage in relation to cultural and natural tangible heritage. It is also aimed at supporting and guiding heritage professionals in general.

ICOMOS

consejo internacional de monumentos y sitios

CARTA INTERNACIONAL Y DIRECTRICES DE SITIOS CON PATRIMONIO CULTURAL INMATERIAL

Sección I: LA CARTA

1. PREÁMBULO

El patrimonio cultural inmaterial (PCI) es un aspecto importante del patrimonio cultural en todas las sociedades del mundo. Entre el patrimonio inmaterial y el material hay un nexo indisoluble cifrado en prácticas y conocimientos tradicionales, sociales o culturales que se transmiten de generación en generación, al proporcionar comprensión e infundir significado, valor y contexto a objetos, sitios y otros espacios físicos. Este patrimonio está en constante evolución en respuesta al entorno de la comunidad, así como su interacción con la naturaleza y su historia.

El propósito de la Carta del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial del ICOMOS (en adelante, la "Carta") es abogar por el reconocimiento del patrimonio cultural inmaterial como parte integral de los sitios patrimoniales, así como apoyar y guiar a los miembros del ICOMOS hacia una práctica más integrada del patrimonio material e inmaterial y alinear su trabajo con la Convención para la Salvaguardia del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de 2003. La Carta recuerda que el patrimonio cultural inmaterial coexiste a menudo con aspectos del patrimonio material.

El patrimonio cultural inmaterial incluye prácticas, representaciones, expresiones, sistemas de conocimiento, técnicas y herramientas asociadas a objetos, archivos y documentos. El valor de estas expresiones culturales vivas está relacionado con la identidad, la memoria y el recuerdo, las creencias y el simbolismo, la naturaleza y el medio ambiente, los sistemas de conocimiento y los sitios. Este patrimonio cultural inmaterial se representa, promulga, transmite y revive dentro de las comunidades en respuesta a su entorno, su interacción con la naturaleza y su historia. Las comunidades pueden trasladarse a otros lugares, manteniendo la continuidad de sus expresiones del patrimonio cultural inmaterial en un sitio ubicado en otro lugar. A menudo, estos sitios son espacios compartidos entre diferentes grupos culturales.

El Glosario incluye términos clave utilizados en esta Carta. Consulte el Glosario para entender cómo se utilizan estos términos aquí. Por ejemplo, el término "comunidades" incluye grupos y, en su caso, según corresponda, individuos, y "sitio" incluye lugar y espacio, según concierna. Otros términos importantes son: custodios, conservación, protección, derechos culturales y de propiedad intelectual.

2. ¿A QUIÉN VA DIRIGIDA LA CARTA?

La Carta está dirigida principalmente a apoyar y orientar a los miembros del ICOMOS. Define normas y principios sobre cómo reconocer y tratar el patrimonio cultural inmaterial en relación con el patrimonio cultural y natural. También está dirigida a apoyar y orientar a los profesionales del patrimonio en general.

ICOMOS ICICH BUREAU

2024-2027

Nigeria
India
China
México
Chile

Ouro Preto, Brazil
2024

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- Recognizing the indivisible nature of heritage
- Respecting cultural diversity and changing intangible cultural heritage over time
- Recognize that intangible cultural heritage gives meaning, value and context to objects and sites



TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE ARE LINKED

- **Recognize that in each cultural space many values and meanings coexist**
- **Values relate to emotional, intellectual, historical, physical, and sensory experiences**
- **The meanings associated with a cultural space include identity, culture, traditions, memory and memories, beliefs and symbolisms, nature and environment**



PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GUIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTION

- **Communities are the custodians of their intangible heritage and its use and knowledge**
- **Communities must have control over access to and dissemination of their intangible cultural heritage**



- **When more than one community has intangible values associated with a cultural space, the coexistence of these values should be recognized, respected and encouraged**
- **All aspects of the patrimonial significance of each value must be emphatically considered without underestimating others**



- **Traditional protection and management systems will form the basis of any conservation system developed for sites with intangible value**
- **Heritage legal measures must provide mechanisms for the traditional protection and management of cultural space**
- **The condition of a site directly influences the integrity of its associated intangible cultural heritage**



PROFESSIONAL ROLE

- **We are not the first experts in intangible culture**
- **Respect the cultural protocols of each community**
- **Facilitating the continuity of intangible cultural heritage**
- **Help the community assert their rights to their estate**



IDENTIFICATION

- Facilitate the primary role of the community in the identification of intangible cultural heritage
- Recognize and respect the intellectual property rights of the community
- To form a multidisciplinary team that can interact with the community in all areas of intangible heritage



- **Encourage the documentation of all possible and relevant information, including oral objects and traditions, that provide context to the intangible heritage and cultural space.**
- **Make the information generated available in a culturally appropriate manner, ensuring that material records are kept and confidentially respected.**



PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Complement traditional protection and management systems with legal protection and management measures, rather than replace them**
- **Protect and manage heritage as a whole – tangible and intangible – including site, object, custom and meaning and the connections between them**



- Fully involve the community in the protection and management of their cultural space
- Encourage the transfer from generation to generation.



- Encourage heritage authorities to value intangible heritage as part of their responsibility
- Ensure that sites with intangible values are not subject to uses that damage or compromise those values



SHARE

- **Raise awareness of ethical issues regarding intangible heritage**
- **To foster awareness and appreciation of the values of intangible heritage by younger generations**



CHANGE

- Encourage the community to control the natural pace of change
- To help the community mitigate internal or external threats that cause rapid or untimely change, such as globalization, development pressure, tourism, environmental change



- **To help the community maintain the relevance of intangible heritage to its social and spiritual cohesion and the economic viability of the community**



- Assist the community in identifying and documenting change in intangible heritage, with the aim of analysing the causes and speed of evolutionary processes and to formulate responses



FINAL REMARKS

- **WE MUST BUILD A PRODUCTIVE AND LASTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ICICH AND NGO FORUM BECAUSE WE HAVE COMMON OBJECTIVES IN RELATION TO INTANGIBLE HERITAGE.**
- **WE MUST CREATIVELY ADDRESS THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF COMMUNITIES BECAUSE IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF THEIR IDENTITY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD.**
- **RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLIES IMPORTANT CHANGES IN CERTAIN ANCESTRAL PRACTICES. WE MUST ALL COLLABORATE IN THIS PROCESS ACCORDING TO THE VALUES AND TIMES NECESSARY FOR IT IN EACH COMMUNITY.**
- **INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM ARE A THREAT AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTANGIBLE HERITAGE. THIS DEPENDS ON THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE THIS PROCESS AND ON THOSE WHO CONTROL THIS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY. WE MUST BE UNITED IN THIS CHALLENGE IN FAVOR OF THE COMMUNITIES.**
- **NGOS DEDICATED TO THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN VERY IMPORTANT IN VALUING THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE. ICOMOS THROUGH ICICH CAN AND SHOULD COLLABORATE WITH YOU IN THIS PROCESS.**



THANKS YOU