

# UCLG Culture Committee report on Climate Resilient Development

## “The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development: Strategies for Strengthening Sustainable Development While Promoting Transformative Climate Action.”

### 1. Background

Increasingly, the world cannot afford divergent ‘sustainable development’ and ‘climate action’ agendas but rather these two must be fully integrated.

UCLG reaffirms its solid commitment to increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change on a local level, and to the implementation of a sustainable, green transition agenda to mitigate and adapt to those impacts. This commitment is guided by the prominent role given to environmental, biodiversity and climate change measures in the Agenda 2030; the guiding principles set out by the [Climate Heritage Network](#); the principle of ecological transition in the UCLG [Durban Political Declaration](#) and in the UCLG manifestos “Ecology for the Future”, “The Future of Culture” and “The future of Resilience” and the commitments of the [Pact for the Future](#), to be shaped by UCLG in 2021-2022.

In this context, and also in line with [Culture 21 Actions](#) (which includes a full Commitment devoted to “cultural factors as accelerators of environmental responsibility”) the UCLG Committee on Culture is promoting research on “the Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development,” providing ground breaking policy evidence for the role culture and heritage can play in integrating the sustainable development and climate action agendas.

This research work will be led by Andrew Potts, coordinator of the Climate Heritage Network - CHN. The CHN links organisations around the world that share a commitment to the role arts, culture and heritage can play in tackling the climate emergency. The report will be informed by UCLG and UCLG Culture Committee policy documents and resources, and by contributions of UCLG members and consultation mechanisms, as well as the CHN’s Working Group 5, on the latest elements of the international debate on Climate Resilient Development. A draft report will be presented at the [4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir](#) and the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

## **2. Outline of the report**

This report will explore the role of culture and heritage in pathways, known as Climate Resilient Development Pathways, that pursue the dual goal of transformative climate action while strengthening sustainable development. It will also examine synergies (i.e., positive interactions) and trade-offs (i.e., negative interactions) of adaptation and mitigation options with the promotion and safeguarding of culture and heritage. It will conclude with insights into how cultural actors can support climate-resilient development pathways towards a 1.5°C warmer world. It will include:

- A brief analysis of existing knowledge on the linkages between culture and climate resilient development, including interdisciplinary studies that connect the social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development with achieving low emissions, climate-resilient transformations.
- A collection of case studies (25-30 localities, well balanced around the world), which illustrate culture-based, sustainable development strategies that also advance transformative climate action. Each case study will correlate to at least one SDG and at least one area of climate action (greenhouse gas reduction, climate adaptation, heightening capacity and ambition, planning for loss and damage). The case studies will generally feature synergistic interactions with the promotion of culture but trade-offs may also be present.
- A list of 6-7 relevant policy areas to be considered by cities and local governments in their local policies, as well as recommendations to all stakeholders that are active in this field.

## **3. How to contribute to this Initiative?**

UCLG Culture Committee welcomes the contributions of cities and local and regional governments, as well as partners, of one or more case studies that illustrate culture-based strategies that pursue the dual goals of transformative climate action and strengthening sustainable development. Case Studies can represent a wide variety of strategies, including 'bricks and mortar' development (e.g. real estate, infrastructure); management and planning projects; legislation, policy, financing, or city-to-city cooperation; or public participation, awareness-raising, education or training.

For example, a project to promote craft and creative industries in a region whose employment base is dependent on carbon-intensive industries could support SDG 8 and 9, while also advancing decarbonisation and just transition. Policies that focus on cultural dimensions of urban space can advance SDG 11 while helping build operational frameworks to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change.\*

**We invite you to send your contribution via [this survey](#) before 28 June 2021 at the latest.**

\* For further reading on Climate Resilience Development, see the following resources:

- <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/chapter-5/>. Roy, J., P. Tschakert, H. Waisman, S. Abdul Halim, P. Antwi-Agyei, P. Dasgupta, B. Hayward, M. Kanninen, D. Liverman, C. Okereke, P.F. Pinho, K. Riahi, and A.G. Suarez Rodriguez, 2018: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.
- [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-Chap20\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-Chap20_FINAL.pdf). Denton, F., T.J. Wilbanks, A.C. Abeyasinghe, I. Burton, Q. Gao, M.C. Lemos, T. Masui, K.L. O'Brien, and K. Warner, 2014: Climate-resilient pathways: adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1101-1131.
- [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-57938-8\\_2#Sec9](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-57938-8_2#Sec9). Chan S., Iacobuta G., Hägele R. (2021) Maximising Goal Coherence in Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Development? Polycentricity and Coordination in Governance. In: Chaturvedi S. et al. (eds) The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-57938-8\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-57938-8_2).
- [https://adobeindd.com/view/publications/a9a551e3-3b23-4127-99fd-a7a80d91a29e/g18m/publication-web-resources/pdf/CCHWG\\_final\\_print.pdf](https://adobeindd.com/view/publications/a9a551e3-3b23-4127-99fd-a7a80d91a29e/g18m/publication-web-resources/pdf/CCHWG_final_print.pdf). "Heritage, Climate Action and the Sustainable Development Goals." In: ICOMOS Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Working Group. 2019. The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action, July 1, 2019. Paris: ICOMOS.