



Cultural heritage solutions for water challenges.

Introduction

At the ICOMOS General Assembly in Delhi, India in December 2017 the ICOMOS Scientific Council encouraged ICOMOS Netherlands to initiate the establishment of an International Scientific Committee on Water and Heritage (ISCWH). Subsequently, at the Water as Heritage International Conference held in Taiwan in 2019, a Task Force was formed for this purpose. The Task Force prepared a Mission Statement and a Statement of Significance, and in 2020, organised a survey to gauge interest for the establishment of an ISCWH among National Committees and ICOMOS members. Of those surveyed globally, more than 80% recognized the absence of a group within ICOMOS that focused sufficiently on water-related heritage and almost 80% felt that the creation of the ISC would complement ICOMOS' mission. Over 90% of survey respondents felt that the existence of a Water and Heritage ISC could encourage National Committees to organize National Scientific Committees for Water and Heritage. Building on the survey respondents' strong support, the creation of the new ISCWH was to be included on the agenda for the ICOMOS General Assembly scheduled for October 2020. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the event will not take place in Sydney.

As an encouragement for the ICOMOS ISCWH, the International Symposium on Water and Culture was held in Tokyo, Japan on February 3rd 2020, organised in cooperation with the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP). At this symposium, the Chair of (HELP), Dr. Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, issued a statement titled 'Learning from Water Heritage to Innovate Regional Development'. Dr. Seung-soo's statement encouraged ICOMOS to develop narratives on the significance of water-related cultural heritage for the future through cooperation with water professionals.

At this time, the ISCWH Task Force seeks to establish Working Groups or National Scientific Committees (NSCs) on Water and Heritage, comprised of heritage experts and water professionals, at a national level. The Task Force also encourages ICOMOS National Committees, in cooperation with water management institutions, to develop a portfolio of case studies, as well as methodologies to assess the significance of these examples and manage them in the light of present and future water management challenges. Since the inception of the Water and Heritage initiative in 2012, several related publications have been prepared, including 'Water & Heritage: Material, Conceptual and Spiritual Connections'

¹ ICOMOS NL or ISCWH awareness shield. Blue represents cultural water heritage, Red represents water management challenges, White represents the inspiration of cultural water heritage for water management challenges.

(Sidestone Press, 2015) and 'Adaptive Strategies for Water Heritage: Past, Present and Future' (Springer, 2019).

To stimulate the development of national working groups of water professionals and cultural heritage experts, 3 webinars will be held, as follows:

Webinar 1:

Wednesday 16 September: 2020 from 12.00 to 13.30 CET:

Objectives, activities and modalities including cooperation with water organisations and experts for the International Scientific Committee on Water and Heritage.

Webinar 2:

Wednesday 14 October 2020 from 12.00 to 13.30 CET

A tour d'horizon of water related heritage activities and organisations in international water institutions

Webinar 3:

Tuesday 17 November 2020 from 12.00 to 13.30 CET

Presentation of telling examples and assessment methodologies of water related cultural heritage for present and future water management planning and policies.

Objectives, programmes and speakers

The overall aim of the webinar series is to inform water professionals and heritage experts about the Water and Heritage initiative and involve them in its activities aimed at achieving recognition by water managers that water related heritage can contribute significantly toward water challenges. The specific objective of the webinars is to encourage national working groups and NSCs to be initiated with the longer-term objective of mobilizing support to have Water and Heritage discussed at the UN International Water conference to be held in New York in 2023 (see the Chair's Statement of the symposium 'Water and Culture' held on February 3 in Tokyo).

Webinar 1:

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of Webinar 1 are:

- to inform the participants about the Water and Heritage initiative, and the objectives, modalities and activities of the ISC WH.
- discuss the development of Water and Heritage activities through the ICOMOS NCs and complementarities as well as cooperation with other ICOMOS ISCs

Programme

0 - 2 Welcome and programme by Henk van Schaik, moderator

2 - 7 Introduction on the motivation to start the Water and Heritage initiative to bridge the divides between water management and cultural heritage by Sir Diederik Six, former President of ICOMOS Netherlands and Water Heritage Envoy, ICOMOS Netherlands.

7 - 14 Film *Protecting delta's, heritage helps*

14 - 20 Growing international interest, including UNESCO Water conference and Tokyo symposium Henk van Schaik, Water and Heritage Ambassador, ICOMOS NL.

20 - 30 Introduction of the ISC WH and the questionnaire by Ian Travers, ICOMOS Australia and Chair of the Task Force for the ISCWH and Tino Mager, Vice Chair of the ISC WH Task Force.

30 – 40 Research issues and challenges on Water and Heritage, Carola Hein, TU Delft

40 - 90 Discuss activities such as:

- a. Publication of articles in ICOMOS Newsletters as well as journals of Water organisations presenting the IWH initiative including a call to start a collaborative activity at national level

- by Toshiyuki Kono (ICOMOS, Japan), Meisha Hunter (ICOMOS USA) and Nupur Prothi Khanna (ICOMOS India)
- b. Strategies and activities to attract interest at national level for a collaborative working group of heritage experts and water professionals.
 - c. Discuss the relations with other ICOMOS ISCs including ISC CL (Steve Brown).

Documentation:

1. Chairs Statement symposium 'Water and Culture'.
2. The film 'Protecting delta's, heritage helps.
3. Articles in ICOMOS Japan, ICOMOS France and ICOMOS US newsletters.
4. ICOMOS questionnaire, Mission Statement and Statement of Significance.

Webinar 2.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives are to inform the participants about the objectives and activities on water related cultural heritage by international water organisations including World Water Heritage Systems programme, the Specialist Group for Water and Waste water in Ancient Civilizations, The Ramsar Culture Network, the Global Water Museums Network, the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Centre for Transdisciplinary Water Research, CIRAT and discuss collaboration.

Programme

- 0 – 2 Opening and welcome, Henk van Schaik, Ambassador Water and Heritage, ICOMOS NL.
- 2 – 10 Presentation Objectives, Mission Statement and Statement of Significance of the ISC WH by Ian Travers or Tino Mager.
- 10 – 20 Introduction WWHS programme ICID and a reflection on the complementarity of the ISCWH Mission and Statement of Significance and interests/modes of cooperation by Dr. Sahdev Singh, Research Director, ICID (tbc).
- 20 – 30 Introduction Specialist Group for Water and Waste Water in Ancient Civilizations and a reflection on the complementarity of the ISCWH Mission and Statement of Significance and interests/modes of cooperation by Ioannis Kalavrouziotis, IWA, (tbc).
- 30 – 40 Introduction activities Dave Pritchard, Ramsar Culture Network and a reflection on the complementarity of the ISCWH Mission and Statement of Significance and interests/modes of cooperation by Dave Pritchard (tbc).
- 40 – 50 Introduction Water Museums Network and a reflection on the complementarity of the ISCWH Mission and Statement of Significance and interests/modes of cooperation by Eriberto Eulisse (tbc).
- 50 – 60 Introduction of the GWP and a reflection on the complementarity of the ISCWH Mission and Statement of Significance and interests/modes of cooperation Jerry delli Priscoli, Global Water Partnership (tbc).
- 60 – 70 Introduction of CIRAT and a reflection on the complementarity of the ISCWH Mission and Statement of Significance and interests/modes of cooperation by Sergio Ribeiro, DG of CIRAT.
- 70 – 90 minutes discussion:
- a. Interests and strategy to raising Water and Cultural Heritage on the international water agenda e.g. through water events such as WWF, Stockholm Water Week, IWA and ICID conferences etc.
 - b. Developing a research agenda

Webinar 3.

Specific objectives

To have selected cases on water and heritage presented and methodologies (such as handbooks, guidelines, hydro biographies, mapping and inspirational walks) to inform and inspire water managers, leaders and the public about the significance of water related heritage.

Programme

- 0 – 2 Opening and welcome Henk van Schaik, Ambassador Water and Heritage, ICOMOS Netherlands.
- 2 – 10 Presentation Objectives, Mission Statement and Statement of Significance of the ISC WH by Ian Travers or Tino Mager.

10 – 20 Presentation examples of significant water related heritage for water management challenges today and tomorrow by Sunite Yu, TIIWE, Taiwan (tbc).

20 – 30 Presentation of significance of spate irrigation for contemporary water management challenges by Karim Nawaz, MetaMeta (tbc).

40 – 50 Presentation Handbook on Brooks, Jan Neefjes (tbc).

50 – 60 Presentation of concept of Water heritage management as asset management, Maarten Ouboter, WaterNet, Amsterdam(tbc).

60 – 70 Presentation of the Historic Urban Landscape methodology of UNESCO in India by Nupur Prothi (tbc).

70 – 80 Presentation of the hydrobiography by Hans Bleumink (tbc).

80 – 90 Presentation of the concept of Drinkable Rivers by Li An Phoa, Drinkable Rivers (tbc).

Invitations and Participants:

Invitees to participate in the webinars include:

- ICOMOS members
- ICOMOS National Committee members
- Members of the ICOMOS ISCs
- Members of the ICOMOS Scientific Board
- Members of international water organisations such as the International Water Organisation (IWA), the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), the Ramsar Culture Network, the Global Network of Water Museums, CIRAT (Brazil), the World Water History Association, members of the Global Water Partnership, members of the World Water Council.
- UNESCO IHP programme
- Universities and research institutions.