

Call for Candidatures:

Focal Point for the ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group (2024-2027)

Deadline for applications 22 September 2024

Since the ICOMOS General Assembly first addressed climate change at its 15th session (Xi'an 2005), climate change has become one of the most significant and fastest growing threats to people and their heritage worldwide.

The ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG) was formed by the Director-General in the summer of 2017, initially to aid the ICOMOS Headquarters (its World Heritage Units) in addressing a series of climate change-related requests made of ICOMOS by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) at its 40th and 41st sessions.

Later in 2017, the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly adopted Resolution 19GA 2017/30, 'Mobilizing ICOMOS and the Cultural Heritage Community to Help Meet the Challenge of Climate Change,' in order to take account of the adoption in 2015 of the landmark Paris Agreement.

In 2019, the CCHWG published its seminal *The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action* report, which, among other things, sought to establish a comprehensive framework for engagement by ICOMOS on climate change.

In 2020, the CCHWG spearheaded the adoption of Resolution 20GA 2020/15, 'Cultural Heritage and the Climate Emergency,' which updated and expanded the aims of ICOMOS's climate action work, including by incorporating key concepts from *The Future of Our Pasts*, as well as the imperatives established in the landmark 2018 Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 'Global Warming of 1.5°C.'

In 2021, the CCHWG was renamed the Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) and its remit extended to implement the 2021–2024 ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan. As part of this process, its membership was increased from an initial group of 24 members to a broader group with Focal points in ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees. This includes members from other Working groups and the ICOMOS Board. Since 2021, the CAWG has focused on education and resource creation including the creation of toolkits and ongoing efforts to establish a support website of climate action. It has also been involved in the management and delivery of key projects including the 2021 International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change, the National Geographic-funded Preserving Legacies Project, and ongoing efforts by the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO to develop a Climate Action Toolkit for World Heritage.

Modalities for candidatures and engagement

The work of the CAWG is managed by a volunteer Focal Point. William Megarry, who has served as the CAWG Focal Point since 2021, has indicated his intention to step down from the post in Autumn 2024. He remains committed to the Working Group and to supporting his successor during the initial months of their tenure. ICOMOS is therefore seeking candidates to take on this volunteer Focal Point position for the period from November 2024 through to November 2027.

Specific modalities for candidatures and engagement are:

- Open to all ICOMOS members – being a member of the CAWG is seen as an advantage;
- The candidate's CV (max 2 pages) and motivation letter (max 1 page) in English should be **sent by 22 September 2024** to [secretariat\[at\]icomos.org](mailto:secretariat[at]icomos.org);
- Period of appointment: November 2024–November 2027 (3 years);
- This is a volunteer position, not based at the ICOMOS Headquarters, that requires a minimum commitment of 1-2 days per week. Note that work is not evenly distributed throughout the year – and so peaks with more days required occur especially related to ongoing projects or reporting requirements;
- ICOMOS may be able to cover some travel expenses (based on prior agreement and consultation with the Director General);
- Considering the scope and complexity of the issue and tasks to be covered, and to ensure continuity and a smooth handover, the outgoing Focal Point, Will Megarry, will continue to work in tandem with the new Focal Point for the first 6 months of their appointment, especially in what concerns external relations with

other stakeholders. He will provide information, guidance and advice as needed to bring the new Focal Point up to speed with various aspects of the position and introduce the new Focal Point to major contacts in partner institutions.

Scope of Work

- Coordinate the activities of the CAWG and its task teams working on ongoing projects and commitments, under the supervision of the ICOMOS Director General and in close coordination with the ICOMOS Headquarters and the Board representatives. At present, key ongoing projects include:
 - The Climate Action Toolkit which is a collaboration between the ICOMOS World Heritage Units, ICCROM, IUCN, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
 - The National Geographic-funded Preserving Legacies Project which is engaged in training, methodology development and climate literacy efforts in ICOMOS and across the heritage sector.
- Liaise as needed with other ICOMOS entities, i.e., the Board, Headquarters, Scientific Council, Advisory Committee, other Working Groups, National Committees and International Scientific Committees (primarily through their representatives on the CAWG) to ensure coherence across ICOMOS with regards to CAWG-related activities;
- Coordinate ICOMOS engagement (through its CAWG liaison) with the Climate Heritage Network (CHN);
- Coordinate the production and dissemination of outreach and communication material, including toolkits; social media presence, for the wider public and the policy community outside the heritage sector;
- Manage the CAWG website including liaising with members to keep content and resources up-to-date;
- Network and develop collaborations with external stakeholder organisations; with the support of the ICOMOS Board;
- Report on CAWG progress and activities to the ICOMOS Board, Advisory Committee and Scientific Council on a regular basis.

Qualifications

Required

- A background (training and minimum 3-5 years of work experience) in the climate change-related aspects of cultural heritage conservation and management, i.e. the intersection of heritage and climate change (e.g. climate vulnerability assessment for cultural heritage; adaptation interventions; greenhouse gas reduction efforts like energy efficiency and the historic built environment or climate smart agriculture and traditional knowledge; learning from past environmental change; climate resilient sustainable development, climate justice and working with the heritage of communities on the frontlines of climate change; nature-based solutions; using cultural heritage to inspire action or communication about climate change);
- Familiarity with the Paris Agreement, UN Agenda 2030 (e.g. SDG13) and the research agenda of the IPCC;
- Willingness to help coordinate ICOMOS participation in the CHN and other international and regional climate change efforts - the ability to think strategically, self-motivate and take initiative as appropriate;
- Excellent diplomatic, organising and communication skills;
- Flexibility and willingness to learn new skills, interact with new domains and stakeholders;
- A flexible time schedule allowing participation at necessary meetings and events (online and in-situ, involving travel);
- A very good command of written and spoken English;
- A working knowledge of following IT tools (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Whatsapp, Skype, Zoom and equivalents, etc).

Desired

- Familiarity with ICOMOS governance procedures;
- Membership or involvement with one or more of the ICOMOS Working groups;
- Fundraising experience and skills;
- Experience working with international organisations in administrative, policy-making, advocacy roles;
- Fluency in French would be an advantage, and other languages would be desirable.

Paris, August 2024