

## **Climate-change related Transformation and Effects of cultural tourism at Heritage Sites**

### **Round Table**

In the last decade, the meta challenge of climate change has become from an issue of years ahead of us to one with very immediate and strong effects on our daily life and our cultural practice. Heritage sites, including archaeological sites, had to deal with climate change impacts, either through climate change adaptation or prevention strategies or measures, but also with specific physical influences that are caused by it. The objective of this Round Table is to examine and understand better how the primal and secondary impacts of climate change (from changes in weather patterns, and rapid onset events, to a change in travel behaviour etc.) are causing changes and transformation at cultural heritage sites including archaeological monuments. Viewing cultural heritage as a system that is made of physical fabric, intangible practices but also people, processes, values etc. these changes and transformations can show up in various ways and phenomena. They can be related to the protection of the physical fabric from heat, heavy rain, drought, etc. or to (sustainable) tourism practices, the reduction of negative impacts from tourism.

We are keen to learn on:

Case studies with specific examples

- Strategies and practices for how cultural heritage sites are responding to these challenges.
- Related problems and challenges
- Needs and ideas on how to approach these issues.
- More broad concepts, for example, how cultural heritage sites and heritage-related tourism are addressed in urban climate change strategies and practices.
- Solutions and concepts on how climate change effects on the physical heritage are mitigated or prevented.
- The related use of digital tools and computer technology
- Related Monitoring, and Balancing concepts and tools
- The use of Nature-based solutions as a response to these challenges

### **Motivation**

Cultural Heritage is a system and process. It is much more than a collection of physical objects. The concept of cultural heritage has evolved to become fluid and dynamic in modern times. It is now seen as a holistic understanding that encompasses places, artefacts, and cultural expressions inherited from the past. These elements are considered valuable because they reflect and validate our identities as nations, communities, families, and individuals, thus deserving respect and protection. Initially, heritage was viewed from an object-based perspective, but it is now recognized as a diverse system that places increasing emphasis on communities and their varied use of heritage over time. This systemic view – recently sometimes associated with the term “new heritage” is a

valuable starting point when looking at - also systemic-challenges like climate change and resulting change and transformation pro-cesses. Tourism can be viewed as a process that is part of the cultural heritage system. With the re-cent decline of tourism due to COVID-19, today when tourism activity is regaining speed and intensity, we have an increasingly intense discussion if just going back to the pre-COVID-19 situation is the way to go. While we see more and more urgent and immediate effects of climate change on almost all parts of the cultural heritage system (objects, people, processes, values, practice, resources, etc.) the more sustainable forms of tourism, CO2 effects of tourism have been increasingly part of this debate. While often in the cultural heritage sector climate change effects on the physical fabric are at the centre stage of the debate, here we want to open the discussion also on other challenges, change and transformation.

### **Target Audience**

The target audience includes Heritage Managers, Site Managers of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Site managers as well as Archaeologists, architects, tourism experts, sustainability managers and urban practitioners in general with an interest in the field. We also welcome students and scholars who work on climate change issues related to cultural heritage, archaeology and or heritage-related tourism. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the subject, we want to encourage exchange and mutual understanding between different disciplinary approaches.

### **Keywords**

#heritage #climatechange #tourism #urbantransformation