Integrating Cultural Natural Heritage and Disaster Risk Management with a Dynamic Approach and Learning from the Past

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There is an urgent need to integrate the perspective of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into the understanding and management of cultural heritage through a systemic and dynamic approach. This contribution proposes a multi-layered methodology that addresses this challenge by developing a 'Cultural Natural Heritage (CNH)' perspective within DRM and shaping a dynamic approach to learn from past disasters. This methodology has been developed by the authors within the H2020 project SHELTER for the characterisation of Historic Areas. With this paper, we aim to analyse how the knowledge of past disasters and history can help us shape a dynamic approach integrating CNH management in DRM.

Historical knowledge, despite its high value in DRM, is difficult to obtain mainly because it includes a wide range of heterogeneous information with various grades of impacts and reliability. There is a lack of a coherent system for measuring and providing precise information from different time periods and countries. Accurate and reliable data are crucial for establishing a baseline, while the methodology for data collection itself can create difficulties. To address these challenges, it is essential to identify existing data sources and ensure interoperability among databases to facilitate information collection across different systems for measuring, collecting, and identifying Historic Areas. To confront this challenge, the integration of CNH in DRM requires a dynamic, holistic, and systemic approach. Accordingly, the proposed paper frames clusters of information and data to account for the diversity and specificity of diverse scales: CNH asset ID_Risk, Data and Information Resources, Equipment, Tools and Procedures, and Human Resources.

Focusing on learning from historical disasters and developing methodologies to understand and enhance resilience in Historic Areas, the contribution proposes a methodology for gathering historical data developed with a dynamic, holistic, and systemic approach to bridge these gaps and support the effective integration of DRM and CNH management.

References

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