

Session Proposal

Heritage Management Planning Systems: Challenges, Lessons Learned and Potential New Approaches

(proposed by ICOMOS ICAHM)

Chair: Dr. Matthias Ripp (World Heritage Coordinator, Regensburg / OWHC / ICOMOS ICAHM & CIVVIH)
Co-Chair: Dr. Matt Whincop (Secretary General ICAHM and Director, Whincop Archaeology)

SPEAKERS

1. Dr. Matt Whincop (Secretary General ICAHM and Director Whincop Archaeology) - Management of archaeological heritage - international examples and lessons learnt
2. Dr. Jon Day (Adjunct Principal Research Fellow at James Cook University (JCU), Queensland, Australia) – Adaptive management and an integrated nested planning system for more effective management of protected areas
3. Professor Aylin Orbasli (Oxford Brookes University, London) – Urban heritage contexts and planning frameworks
4. MSc. Giorgia Cesaro (Heritage Commission of the Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia) – Planning in heritage landscapes and archaeological contexts, link with social and community engagement strategies, case studies
5. MSc. Leslie Friedman (Getty Conservation Institute, J. Paul Getty Trust) – Institutional perspectives, capacity building, and case studies (to be confirmed)
6. Dr Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy, Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. ICOMOS International Vice President, Asia Pacific Region. (title to be confirmed)

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

Heritage management plans have become an internationally recognised tool intended to facilitate the safeguarding of cultural, natural, archaeological, urban, and intangible heritage. Yet, the growing challenges of climate change, rapid urban expansion, tourism pressures, disasters, conflicts, unstable geopolitical contexts and changing governance are putting these plans and related processes to the test. Many plans quickly become outdated, overly detailed without real implementation, or fail to consider cumulative impacts, Indigenous knowledge, or community values. These issues affect various heritage sites—whether expansive protected landscapes, fragile archaeological sites, historic urban areas, or living cultural traditions—underscoring the need for a more dynamic, effective and implementable protection and planning approach.

This session will examine the shortcomings of current heritage management planning approaches and introduce a new prototype framework designed to boost adaptability, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability. The first part of the session will discuss current challenges for heritage and obstacles for the effective implementation of management plans. In the second part, international examples - like adaptive area-based planning and the advantages of an integrated management system of nested plans, risk-response strategies for archaeological landscapes, and modular urban heritage frameworks in rapidly evolving cities will be introduced and analysed. Here the focus will be on successful strategies that embrace flexibility, shared governance, and regular prioritised monitoring.

In the third part, potential ways forward will be introduced including a prototype for a modular, layered management system developed by a small Expert Group within ICAHM. This prototype proposes a system with a core strategic vision with prioritised objectives, supported by thematic modules (such as risk, tourism, conservation, community engagement, climate change), modular work packages, and regularly updated action plans. This structure aims to better respond to changing conditions, incorporate diverse cultural perspectives, and enable more effective coordination among institutions and communities.

Ultimately, the session aims to discuss the current state of management planning for a variety of heritage typologies based on a modern systemic understanding of heritage following a new and more comprehensive approach. The purpose is not only to analyse the existing state but also introduce specific and practical ways forward including a new more flexible and implementable model for management planning.