

ICOMOS 2018 CULTURE: Conserving it Together

**NOVATEL Suva, Lami Bay, Fiji
1-5 October 2018**

**Heritage at Risk
Climate Change and Disasters**

**Integrity of Cultures at Global Risk
Our Duties, Our Rights, Our
Responses**

**The Hon. Acting Justice
Simon R Molesworth AO QC**

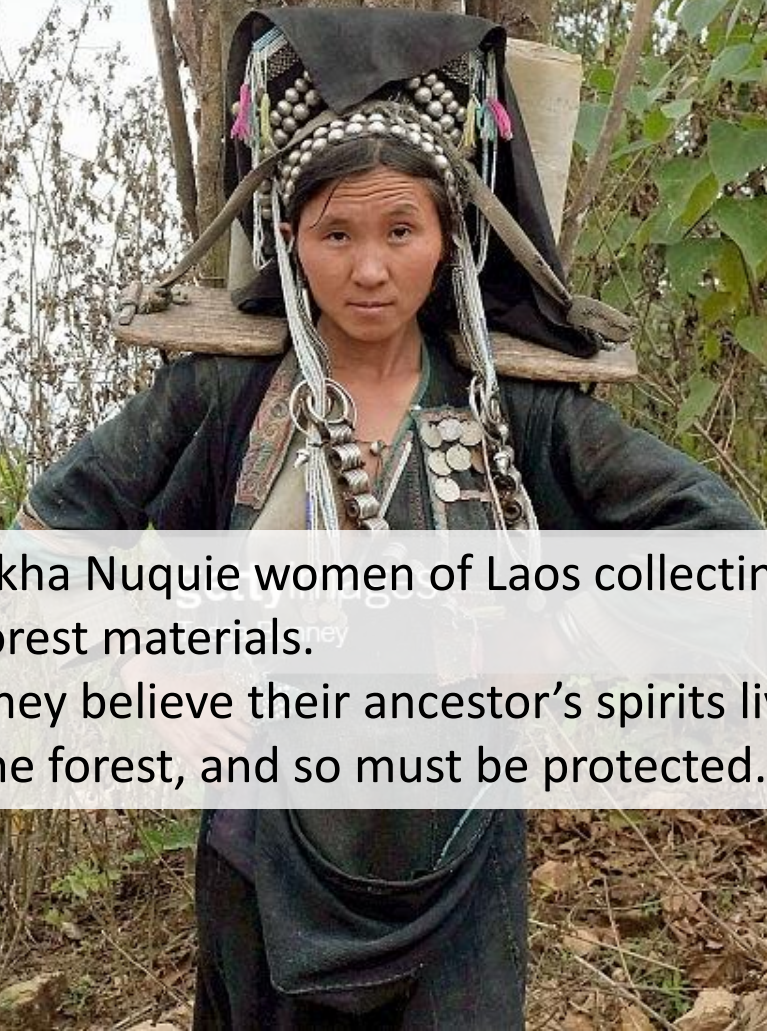


Outline

This address explains:

- How the cultural stability of societies, globally, has always been attuned to climate and is now fundamentally jeopardised by climate change & related consequential risks.
- **The need to sustain the integrity of cultural heritage is a Universal human rights concern**
- That concepts of sustainability, particularly intergenerational equity and the precautionary principle, apply with equal force to cultural heritage
- **That human society depends on safe, resilient and sustainable social systems – so the need to sustain cultural integrity is of fundamental importance**
- **With human rights and the principles of sustainability setting the context, the professional heritage practitioner and heritage organisations must acknowledge, and work within, that evolving dynamic framework**

Climate and landscapes influence all that we do and all that we have done in the course of human existence.



Akha Nuquie women of Laos collecting forest materials.

They believe their ancestor's spirits live in the forest, and so must be protected.

Over the centuries our responses to climate have moulded our societies, influenced our cultural development and influenced our societal identities.



A Sami reindeer herder – a semi nomadic people of Sapmi (Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia) – who have 180 words for ‘snow’.



Communities migrated to new territories – to survive and thrive
Prompted by scarcity of resources and the desire to secure better places.



Drought in Syria the worst in 900 years

Between 2006 – 2010

60% of fertile land turned to desert

75% of farms failed

85% of livestock died

1.5 million rural Syrians migrated to urban cities





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Umayyad Mosque – Damascus, Syria





INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK

CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific



Mismanagement of the planet has altered the proper function of our shared home.





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Now that we understand these changes,
there is no room for excuses.



Scientists attribute 15-40% of the epic rain of Hurricane Harvey to climate change.

It's 50 years since climate change was first reported. Now time is running out.



Island nations like Vanuatu may be underwater in as little as 50 years

The pressures of climate change demand we act now to sustain the integrity of people and their cultures.





Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1948)

”Recognition of the inherent dignity and
of the equal and
inalienable rights of all members of the
human family is the
foundation of freedom, justice and peace
in the world”



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1948)

“Disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in **barbarous acts** which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people”



Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1948)

Article 18: Freedom of thought.

Article 19: Freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 22: **Cultural rights** indispensable to dignity.

Article 26: Right to education.

Article 27: Participation in **cultural life**.



1992 Rio Declaration on Environment & Development Principles of Sustainable Development

Principle 3 – *Intergenerational Equity*

“The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations”



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
an ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



THE VICTORIA DECLARATION ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(Oct 2011)



Victoria Declaration Clause 4:

The destruction of culture is a fundamental breach of the principle of intergenerational equity, in that a culture destroyed or diminished within the time of the current generation will deprive members of future generations of their right to their cultural inheritance.

In failing to act on human-induced climate change, we are neglecting the rights of the next generation.





1992 Rio Declaration on Environment & Development Principles of Sustainable Development

Principle 5 – *Precautionary Principle*

“Nations shall use the precautionary approach to protect the environment. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, scientific uncertainty shall not be used to postpone cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

Heritage organisations play a critical role, and must embrace the Precautionary Principle.





“The opportunity to understand, celebrate and cherish one’s culture is an inherent component of social stability of all nations, of all people –
the protection of cultural integrity is therefore a **fundamental human right**”



Victoria Declaration, clause 5

(As confirmed in UNESCO Conventions.)



UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Article 25: “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard”.

Article 8:

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;



It is instructive to reflect on the Council of Europe's

Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society.

“Faro Convention”

[Faro, Portugal, October 2005]



Faro Convention

Article 1 – the Aims of the Faro Convention:

- (a) recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (b) recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage;
- (c) emphasis that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality life as their goal;



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030

Goal 11 :

Make cities and human settlements **inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Goal 11 Targets:

Target 4 - strengthen efforts to **protect and safeguard** the world's **cultural and natural heritage**

Target 11(b) - by 2020 substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans toward inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters and develop and implement ... **holistic disaster risk management** at all levels.



Reflecting on SDG11

Protecting culture and heritage is essential to creating and sustaining cities and human settlements which are both **resilient** and **inclusive**



Reflecting on SDG11

Within all cities and human settlements it is the culture of each individual and groups of individuals which provides a sense of **belonging - connectivity**. Culture is the glue that binds groups of people together.

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Within the terminology of heritage there is a conceptual phrase

"a sense of place"

which highlights the essence of its importance to people and their communities.

It is a concept that can combine all the elements of recognition, familiarity, comfort, identity, beliefs and association - inclusivity

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



If the integrity of the world's cultures is undermined by climate change then **social dislocation and social instability** will follow. Such implications are likely to be experienced at all levels of society: locally, nationally and globally.

Victorian Declaration, Clause 3

With climate change, climate refugees are **inevitable**

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



History has shown that the obliteration of a culture leads to social annihilation, for instance where the connectivity between a people and their place and their history has been destroyed.



The intangible importance of cultural relationships, such as “a sense of place” of a people, is critical to their social identity, diversity and sustainability.

Victorian Declaration, Clause 6



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Kasubi Tombs of the Bugandan Kingdom - Uganda





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



“For the sake of **future generations**, we must collectively tackle climate change not just because of changes in the physical environment, not just for reasons of sustaining human health and welfare, but to recognise that the **core strength** and connectivity of all the socio-economic systems of humankind, is **maintaining cultural identity, diversity and sustainability**”

Victoria Declaration, clause 8



INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



“If the global community acts too slowly in response to climate change, or acts insufficiently, the cultural legacy for those that follow the current generation will be **irreparably diminished**”.

Victoria Declaration, clause 9

“Cultural heritage holds not only the record of past successes and failures to adapt to climate change but also **the record of successful ways of minimising greenhouse gas emissions** and thereby shows how climate change may be mitigated”.

Victoria Declaration, clause 10



INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Climate change is the greatest challenge of our times – most probably of the millennium, **if not of all time.**

Climate change is as much an issue about sustaining cultural integrity and social stability as it is about environmental survival. Survival involves more than just sustenance.

In terms of SDG 2030 Goal 11 - making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - **demands urgent action in response to climate change**



Addressing climate change must be a first order priority for all those focussed on culture - demanding the development of adaptation practices.

Climate change is a heritage conservation issue.

With the cultural heritage, the essence of adaptation is to find the means to sustain it, to ensure continuity – even if relocated.



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
 Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
 An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Yaqaga villager Akosita Marama on a heap of stones the villagers had put to control the rising sea level. Picture: LUKE RAWALAI



Relocating village difficult

By LUKE RAWALAI

DESPITE being instructed by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama to move inland because of rising sea level, villagers on the island of Yaqaga off Bua insist that they have a sea wall.

Yaqaga villager Ame Busa said since Government was funding the construction of sea walls

land of Galoa, the 70-year-old Yaqaga native said it was hard and an expensive exercise to move.

Mr Busa said even though the idea sounded easy, it was hard for villagers.

"To move inland would need money and it is not a good idea because we have our houses," he said.

"If Government is funding sea walls like that in

there is nothing that can be done."

Eighty-one-year-old Elena Qeque said during her lifetime, she had witnessed the sea claim a large portion of the village.

Ms Qeque said as the eldest villager, she was worried about the future of their children.

During his conversation with villagers, Mr Bainimarama had warned vil-



Relocating village difficult

The Fiji Times – Monday, October 1, 2018

“It is sad that we continue to watch waters inundate the village and despite seeking assistance, there is nothing that can be done”.

Eighty-one-year-old Elena Qege said during her lifetime, she had witnessed the sea claim a large portion of the village.

Ms Qege said as the eldest villager she was worried about the future of their children.

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

DISCONNECTION WITH THEIR HERITAGE - THEIR CULTURE ROOTS; IMPACTS OF DISLOCATION; DISORIENTATION IN A NEW PLACE; LOSS OF ‘SENSE OF PLACE’



Understanding the vulnerability of heritage is essential

Being conscious of irreplaceability
– “once gone, gone forever”

Protective measures must be for the long-term, not compromised by short-term economic gain from competing interests



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



Addressing deterioration and potential change in buildings, structures, collections and cultural landscapes

A changing climate will **undoubtedly** impact upon the **physical condition** of heritage **buildings, structures, collections and cultural landscapes**

In response heritage practitioners and heritage organisations should, **within the context of the precautionary principle:**

- develop comprehensive strategies to **analyse the possible and probable physical changes** resulting from climate change;
- commission **recurrent condition reports**, prepared by appropriately trained professionals, to identify and monitor the deterioration of heritage buildings, structures, collections and landscapes; and
- **expand monitoring capacity** by encouraging appropriate **community involvement** in recording and monitoring the environmental change particularly so as to understand implications for intangible heritage.



The failure to communicate the threat of climate change in terms which describe the **dire implications for cultural identity, diversity and sustainability** and consequential **social degradation** fundamentally weakens the prospects for global reform to combat climate change.

A comprehensive 'toolkit' of climate change strategies must be developed and thereafter proactively implemented.

A solar panel on a thatched roof in Africa.

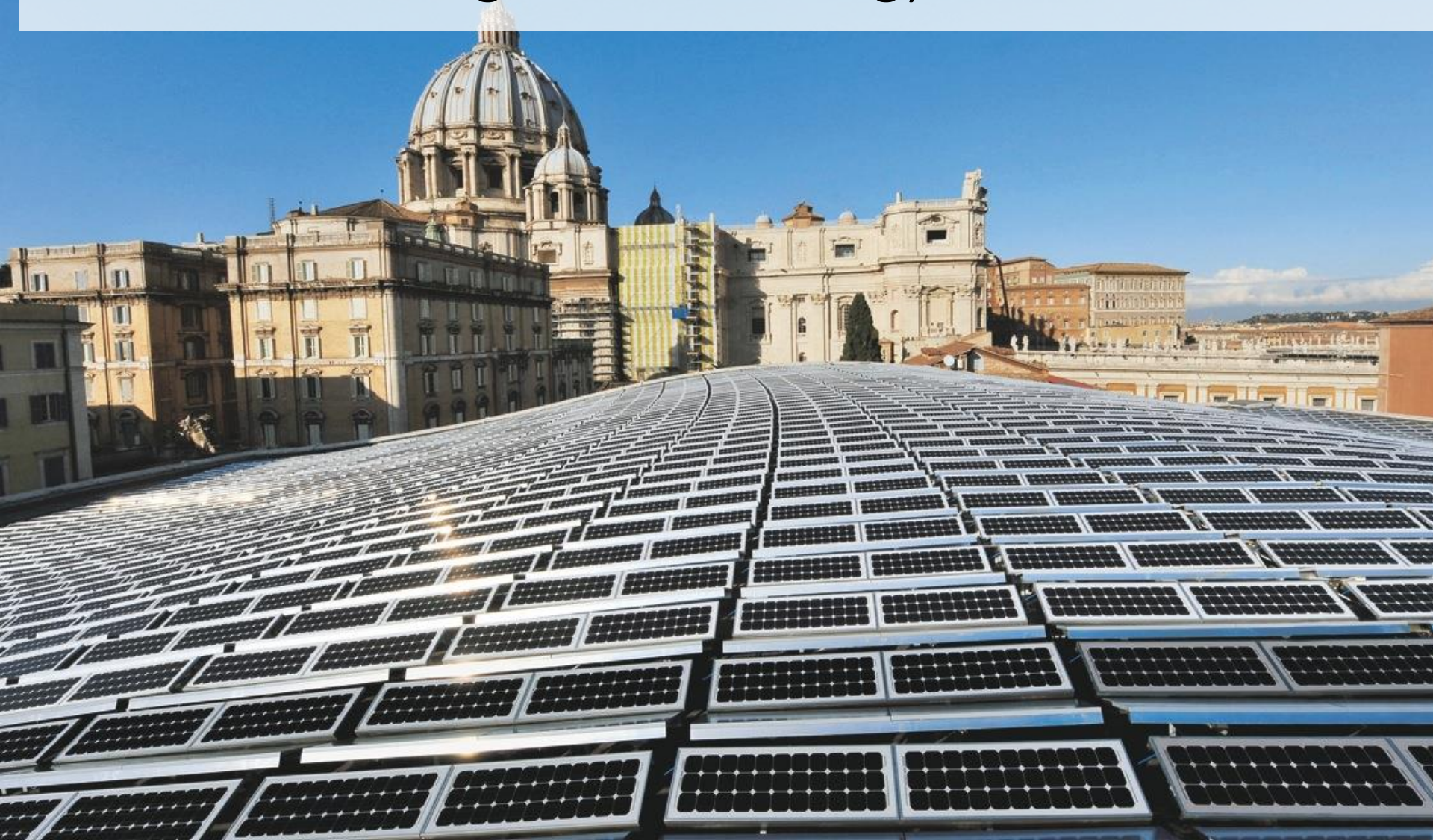


Australian mining town Broken Hill
– the BH in BHP Billiton –
is **Australia's first heritage listed city**,
celebrating its past but embracing the
future 'mining the sun'.



The Vatican.

Culture and heritage protected by adoption of best available knowledge and technology.



The toolkit must include adaptation and mitigation responses.



Students of Jakarta plant mangroves for coastal protection from storms.

Seed – Australia’s Indigenous youth climate network.

“We are building a movement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people for climate justice.”





THREE STRATEGIC DUTIES

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK





1. The duty to advocate

Heritage professionals and heritage organisations, as custodians of significant cultural heritage and knowledge, have a **duty to be a proactive advocate for responsible climate change action.**

To fulfil this duty:

- **talk** about cultural sustainability,
- **write** about cultural sustainability, and
- adopt **effective communication strategies** to promote cultural sustainability objectives and strategies.
- For instance, the National Trust (UK) has created a webpage, in partnership with the renewable energy provider Goodenergy, which provides the public with information on “[t]en ways to be greener”.

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



The National Trust (UK) has created a webpage, in partnership with the renewable energy provider Goodenergy, which provides the public with information on “Ten ways to be greener”.





2. The duty to shape the law and policies

Heritage professionals and heritage organisations should also become proactive advocates for **responsible climate change action** at a macro level, having a key perspective of cultural implications.

The **lobbying** of legislators and governments to introduce or strengthen laws, regulations and policies concerning climate change should be seen as central to their guiding objectives.

Heritage professionals and heritage organisations should similarly participate in the **international deliberations** which could lead to the eventual enactment of consequential **national laws**.

Achieving reforms globally through effective and persuasive influence is in the interests of the global heritage movement and the cultures they seek to safeguard.



The Urgenda Climate Change case

Photo credit: Urgenda





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK



3 – The duty to protect intangible cultural heritage

Given the inevitability of change the world now faces due to climate change - of disruption, of relocation, of loss of connectivity and of loss of originals:

Heritage professionals and heritage organisations now have a **paramount duty to protect and conserve intangible cultural heritage** associated with places.

A critical and all too often over-looked consequence of climate change is the loss of **cultural knowledge, cultural connectivity and the “sense of place”** derived from the **intergenerational affinity** of a people to their locality.

Heritage professionals and heritage organisations must marshal their resources to **safeguard and interpret cultural heritage legacies**.

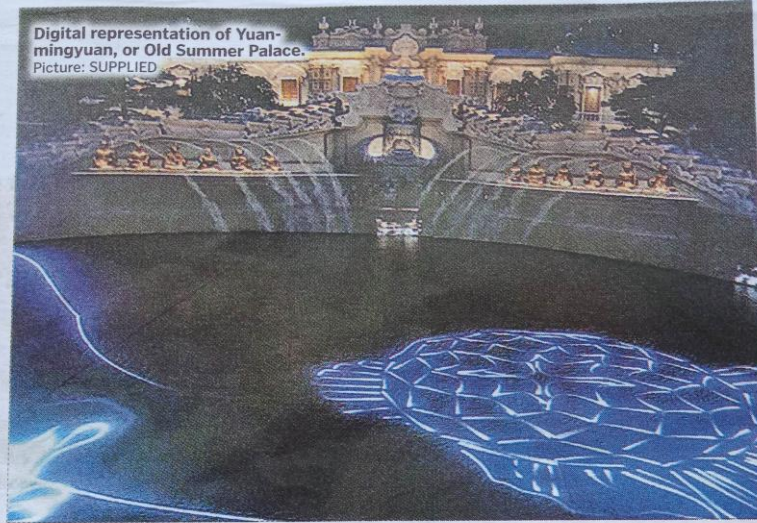
So, if a people are relocated from the coast to the mountains or from an island to a mainland, from their homeland to a new host country: it is the **fraternity** of heritage professionals and heritage organisations that will be uniquely placed to assist disorientated peoples to **foster, celebrate and understand their cultures**.

This heritage fraternity will ensure that **dynamic and ‘living’ repositories** are established which, overtime, may become an essential cultural resource for successive generations.



NATIONAL DAY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Digital representation of Yuanmingyuan, or Old Summer Palace.
Picture: SUPPLIED



Digital innovation adds vitality to cultural heritage

By wearing virtual reality (VR) glasses and operating hand-held controllers, visitors can “walk” into the Mogao Grottoes and get a dynamic 360-degree panorama image of the sculptures and murals inside.

This system is based on a high-definition virtual reconstruction of the current state of Cave 159 of the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang. It is part of the projects on show in the exhibition “Renaissance of Traditional Culture” held at Tsinghua University this week.

The exhibition features digital innovations of Chinese cultural heritage conducted by teachers and students from the Academy of

Arts and Design, Tsinghua University.

“We hope to use digital innovation and modern interactive technologies to preserve and showcase China’s ancient cultural heritage, offering viewers an immersive experience,” said Lu Xiaobo, dean of the Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University.

Mr Lu said the digital representation of the Mogao Grottoes is also part of a national-level research project.

The project involves large-scale historical research as well as on-the-spot investigation.

“The images of feitian, or flying apsaras, depicted in the murals, have weathered with time and their faces are almost

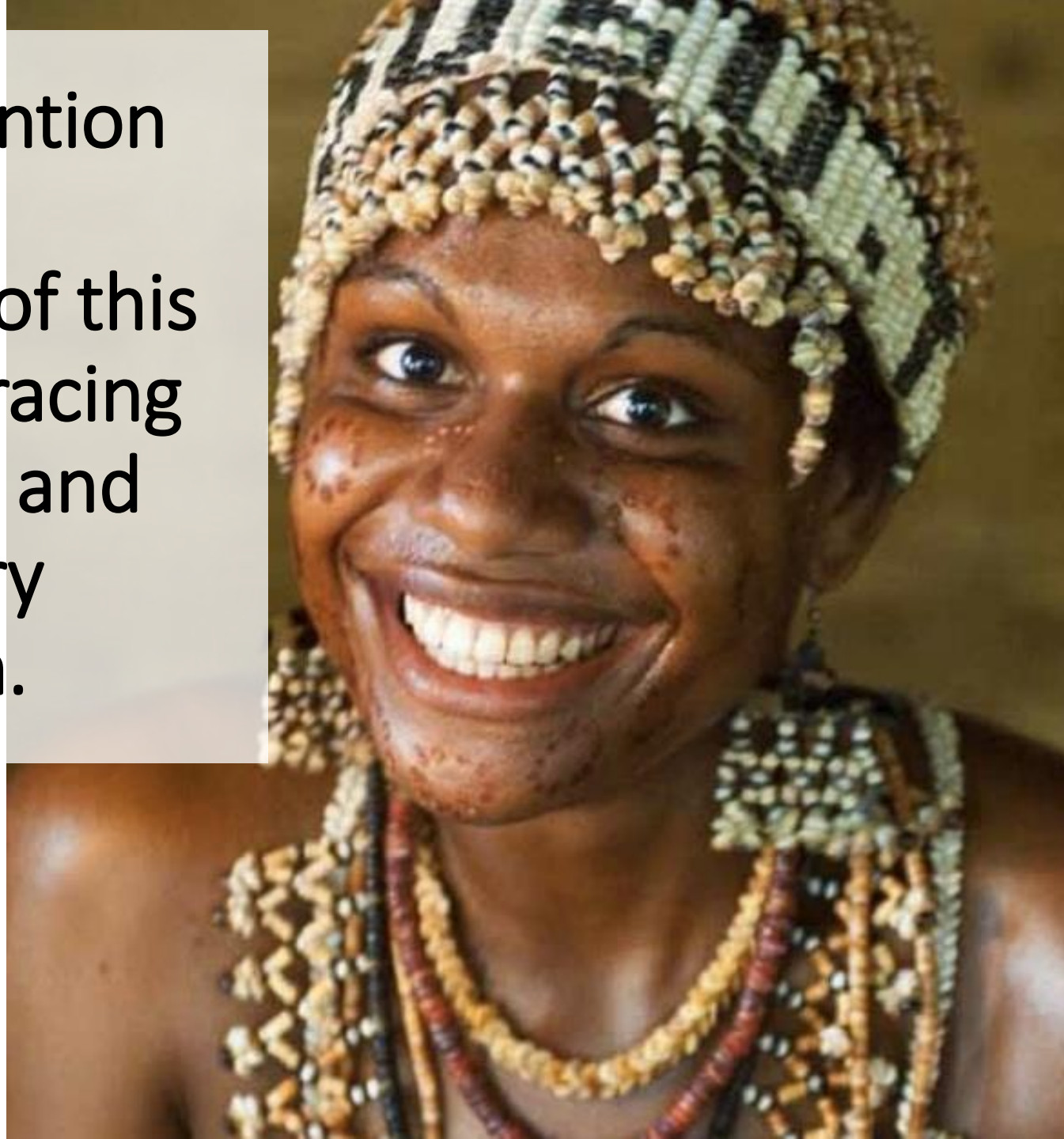
black. In

have to
als and
mural p


Accor
digital r
combin
heritag

In fr
can wa
the ele
“We
type in
tion te
life, en

Cultural retention must be centrepiece of this toolkit, embracing preservation and precautionary conservation.



The future is in your hands.

A photograph of three young children of African descent. The child on the left is a girl with curly hair, wearing a pink shirt, making a peace sign. The child in the middle is a girl with curly hair, wearing a light blue tank top, also making a peace sign. The child on the right is a boy with short hair, wearing a yellow tank top, making a peace sign. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a blue structure.

By becoming exemplars; by advocating for responsible and necessary action in accordance with sustainability principles; ensuring that a precautionary approach is central to your advice; and ensuring that, beyond the tangible aspects of heritage, sustaining intangible cultural heritage is an ever-present consideration.



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK





CULTURE: Conserving it Together
Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

INTEGRITY OF CULTURES AT GLOBAL RISK

