Submission by ICOMOS on behalf of the
Climate Heritage Network

This Submission is made in response to the following Call for Submissions:

Issue: The first global stocktake

Title: Call for inputs from Parties and observer States, UN Agencies and other international organizations and non-Party Stakeholders and observer Organizations, to the first global stocktake.

Session Name: SBI 56

Mandate: Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 19: requested the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to issue a call for the inputs referred to in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the same decision, taking into account that such inputs should be submitted at least three months before their consideration in the technical assessment;

Date of Submission: 5 June 2022

Introduction

The Climate Heritage Network (CNH) appreciates this opportunity to share the views of its members regarding these matters.

The CHN is a global network whose members are committed to mobilising arts, culture and heritage to address climate change and support communities in achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. Its members are united in the believe that arts, culture and heritage constitute an invaluable resource to help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen adaptive capacity, even while the risks to those resources from climate impacts must also be addressed.

Launched in 2019, the CHN seeks to scale up culture-based climate action and to foreground the cultural dimensions of climate policy through coordination and cooperation among its members. CHN members work with all types of culture including arts and music; museums and libraries; landscapes, heritage sites and archaeology; and intangible heritage, traditional knowledge, and Indigenous ways of knowing. CHN members include public and governmental bodies from local, regional and national levels; universities; museums, heritage sites, libraries, and other cultural institutions; Indigenous People's organisations; civil society/NGOs; climate science; and artists and creative and design firms.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), which is an organisation with observer status before the UNFCCC, is making this submission on behalf of and for the CHN.

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Background

It has been argued that a pervasive failure in industrial, modern societies to imagine desirable ways of living not wedded to the carbon economy has been critical to the persistence of current business as usual approaches. Several dimensions of culture and heritage are well equipped to help dismantle the 'epistemological monoculture' they argue has impoverished the collective global capacity to imagine and realize forms of living not dependent upon exploitation of people and natural resources.

- Culture heritage, including traditional knowledge that pre-dates (or worked independently of) the era when fossil fuel combustion and extractive land-use change have underpinned economic development, can point the way to post-carbon living at scale.
- The worldviews and endogenous interpretations of development of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities that were never co-opted by modern take-make-waste approaches provide a counterpoint perspective to modernization that offer openings toward an enriched social imagination.
- Artistic and imaginative tools support a profound examination of inherited assumptions and desires that hold the potential to transformatively reinterpret today's carbon-scape and its accompanying mindsets.

The IPCC has identified culture as a key enabling condition for achieving sustainable development in a 1.5°C warmer world, especially linked to governance. The power of culture and heritage-based strategies to drive and enable Climate Resilient Development Pathways (CRDPs) is also well document. Climate science increasingly indicates that inattention to cultural dimensions can result in maladaptation and mal-mitigation.

Views of the CHN

This submission responds to Guiding Questions 4, 5, 10, 19, 21 and 22 (as revised) prepared by the SB Chairs for the Technical Assessment component of the first Global Stocktake,

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Current mitigation and adaptation efforts are inadequate, and their effectiveness is limited by the failure to adequately address the socio-cultural systems responsible for climate change and the cultural enabling conditions for climate action

Current shortfalls in achieving both the mitigation and the adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement are attributable, in part, to the fact that current climate modeling, action, policy, and science tends to be dominated by technocratic forms of modelling and cost-benefit analyses, to the detriment of people-centred, rights- and place-based, and demand-side approaches. Systemic, uncertain, or contested aspects—often relating to socioeconomic structures and cultural, political, and ethical issues and trade-offs between different mitigation measures—are more likely to be excluded.[1]
Attention to the social-cultural enabling conditions for transformative climate action is similarly lacking. The social-cultural dimension is generally recognised as a key enabling conditions, along with finance, technological innovation, institutional capacity, and multilevel governance.[2] Even so, it is often treated only superficially in climate science and policy texts, especially when compared to finance or technology.

[1] Isak Stoddard, Kevin Anderson, Stuart Capstick, Wim Carton, Joanna Depledge, Keri Facer, et al., "Three Decades of Climate Mitigation: Why Haven't We Bent the Global Emissions Curve?," Annual Review of Environment and Resources 46:1 (2021): 653-689, accessed 20 February 2022, https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-environ-012220-011104.
[2] See, for example, Allen, M.R., et al., 2018: Framing and Context. In: Special Report on 1.5°, 56 ('The feasibility of staying within 1.5°C depends upon a range of enabling conditions with geophysical, environmental–ecological, technological, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional dimensions.').

Confirmation Bias in the Global Stocktake Itself May Cause the GST to Miss the Critical Issue of Inadequate Attention to the Social and Culture Dimensions of Climate Change

The Global Stocktake itself and the Guiding Questions prepared by the SB Chairs for the Technical Assessment component replicate the prevailing trend of overlooking the socio-cultural systems responsible for climate change and cultural enabling conditions.

The words society," "culture," "heritage," "art," and "traditional" do not appear in the Guiding Questions. The word "social," appears only once, and that is in the section on Response Measurers, which addresses the social "consequences" of mitigation policies. Similarly, the word "people" and the word "local" appear in only two sections of the Guiding Questions. Question 19, for example, presents the rights of "indigenous peoples" and "local communities" as an obligation which climate action must respect. While this is surely true, what is missing from the GST is attention to how respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is a vector for transformative adaptation and mitigation action.

This issue is amplified by the failure to address Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement in the Guiding Questions. Article 7.5 states, in part, that adaptation action should, be based on and guided by, as appropriate "traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate." Ascertaining what further action is required to implement Article 7.5 is in fact key to understanding the barriers and challenges to achieving Article 2.1(b) – as well as 2.1(a).

Action to Address the socio-cultural systems responsible for climate change and the cultural enabling conditions for climate action is required

Failure in industrial, modern societies, and in the prevailing models of climate action in these societies, to imagine desirable ways of living not wedded to the carbon economy or dependent upon exploitation of people and natural resources has bolstered business as usual approaches. Colonialism and globalism have resulting in enduring inequity and injustice and spread take-make-waste culture across the earth. These historical, cultural and socio-economic forces must be challenged. At the same time, culture, from arts to heritage can also be used to empower people to imagine and realise low carbon, just, climate resilient futures:

- Culture heritage, including cultural landscapes and traditional knowledge, that pre-dates (or works independently of) the era of fossil fuels and extractive land-use, can point the way to post-carbon living at scale.
- The worldviews and endogenous interpretations of development of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities that were never co-opted by modern take-make-waste approaches provide a counterpoint to unsustainable paradigms of "progress."
- Artistic, creative and imaginative tools support a profound examination of inherited assumptions and desires that hold the potential to transformatively reinterpret today's carbon-scape and accompanying mindsets.[3]

The historic experience and holistic perspective of nature-culture relationships of Indigenous Peoples and many local communities makes them key agents in developing climate solutions. Respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights and ensuring sufficient legal and financial support in their customary laws and governance system, traditional knowledge and cultural expression, while avoiding extractive approaches to Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, is a necessary first step. The role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as guardians of nature, culture, knowledge holders, and agents of change must be amplified. Arts, cultural and heritage

[3] Stoddard, supra note __.

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institutions, organisations, and public bodies, as well educational and social organisations can become important allies and accomplices in achieving these aims.

Action for Climate Empowerment

More attention is also required to the UNFCCC's Action for Climate Empowerment programme, which seeks to empower all members of society to engage in climate action, through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues. Decisions 18/CP.26 and 22/CMA.3 recognise that ACE plays a key role in promoting the changes in lifestyles, attitudes and behaviours needed to foster low-emission, climate resilient and sustainable development. These decisions also reaffirm the key role that regional and local governments, educational and cultural institutions, museums, teachers, youth, women and Indigenous Peoples play in ACE.

Existing educational and cultural infrastructure (e.g., schools, libraries, museums, galleries, archives, heritage sites) provide platforms, networks and resources that can help deliver on the six elements of ACE. Many such institutions are operated and/or supported by local governments and municipal authorities.

The failure to resource and emphasis ACE and ACE-topics in climate policy at all levels is thus another barrier to achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement. The new 10-year Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment is not ambitious enough. More focus on climate justice and the role of education, society and culture in tackling climate change and helping people to imagine and realise just, climate resilient futures is needed.

Gaps in Knowledge About the Socio-Culture Dimensions of Climate Change and the failure to valorise Diverse Knowledge Systems Are Barriers to Effective Climate Action

The International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change was held in December 2021 to take stock of the state of knowledge regarding connections of culture and heritage with anthropogenic climate change and to establish gaps in knowledge regarding these connections. The meeting was co-sponsored by the IPCC, UNESCO, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI).

Specific Meeting outputs and resources include three White Papers commissioned for the Meeting as well as a forthcoming Global Research and Action Agenda on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change (GRAA CHC), outlining key knowledge gaps and themes to help expand global capacity in connecting culture, heritage and climate action.

Opportunities, good practices, lessons learned and success stories

There is increasing evidence that attention to these cultural dimensions of climate change and to the cultural enabling conditions of climate action improve effectiveness of climate policy.[4] In the area of mitigation, the 2018 UNEP Emissions Gap report, for example, concluded that changes to underlying social and cultural norms are more difficult to accomplish than transitory behavioural changes, but once established they are likely to be more durable and to support a

[4] ICOMOS Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Working Group. 2019. The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action, July 1, 2019. Paris: ICOMOS. https://adobeindd.com/view/publications/a9a551e3-3b23-4127-99fd-a7a80d91a29e/g18m/publication-web-resources/pdf/CCHWG_final_print.pdf; Julie's Bicycle. 2021. Culture: The Missing Link to Climate Action, Summary Report, October 2021. https://juliesbicycle.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Climate-Connection-Report.pdf.

wider range of low-carbon lifestyles.[5]

Culture is equally important to adaptation and resilience, as attested to by the inclusion of the Climate Heritage Network in the Race to Resilience – the first time culture has been holistically included in such a UNFCCC campaign. This is in line with the recent IPCC WGII report which concluded that "Responses to ongoing sea level rise and land subsidence ... are more effective if ... aligned with sociocultural values and development priorities, and underpinned by inclusive community engagement processes."[6] It also found that "Inclusive planning initiatives informed by cultural values, Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, and scientific knowledge" are keys to helping to prevent the growing problem of maladaptation.[7]

The role of culture and heritage in climate resilient sustainable development is addressed in the report "*The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development,*"[8] which includes a compendium of case studies. Also noteworthy is the Rome Declaration of the G20 Ministers of Culture. Implementation of the Global Research and Action Agenda produced by the IPCC's International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture Heritage and Climate presents an important opportunity to achieve the goals defined in the Paris Agreement by better understanding and engaging with people-centred approaches, the socio-cultural enabling conditions of climate action and with local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

[5] The "Bridging the gap – the role of equitable low-carbon lifestyles," Capstick, S. et al. In: UNEP (2020). The Emissions Gap Report 2018. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. 75..
[6] SPM C.2.8.
[7] Id. at TS.C.8.2.
[8] Potts, Andrew (2021) "The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development", UCLG Committee on Culture Reports, nº10, and Climate Heritage Network (Working Group 5), Barcelona, 5 November 2021.(https://climateheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/Report-10-Culture-and-climate-resilient-development-EN.pdf).