

Cultural Heritage Thematic Target: Progress Report

Cultural Heritage Expert Group (in alphabetical order)

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Cultural Heritage Target

Protecting cultural heritage from the impacts of climate-related risks by developing adaptive strategies for preserving cultural practices and heritage sites and by designing climate-resilient infrastructure, guided by traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems

Progress to date

- Reviewed indicators based on their relevance to 12(a) and to 12(b) (YES, NO, MAYBE)
 - *12(a) The relevance of the indicators to measuring progress towards one or more of the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5;*
 - *12(b) The specific relevance of the indicators to adaptation, including enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.*

Approach

- Online meetings held among the 5 experts
- Indicators for Cultural Heritage were identified and duplicated on a separate spreadsheet
- In total 234 indicators were identified after removing the duplicates
- Experts reviewed the indicators and cross-checked each other's analysis on the categorisation + explanation of why YES, NO, MAYBE.

Key findings

- Statistics / numbers of indicators reviewed: 234
- Numbers categorized as Yes/No/Maybe for 12a and 12b:

12a	Yes	97
	No	80
	Maybe	57
12b	Yes	76
	No	65
	Maybe	93

Additional high-level observations, including examples

- Direct Cultural Heritage indicators are very underrepresented in this process: there were only 233 indicators (after removing duplicates) on Cultural Heritage compared to the 5000 indicators that were submitted.
- Some indicators are not directly relevant to Cultural Heritage but indirectly do impact on cultural heritage. For example land tenure or water management. Lack of progress in other targets will in the end impact on cultural heritage.
- New proposed indicators often lack the level of detail needed to estimate whether they could globally report on progress in climate adaptation specific to Cultural Heritage Thematic target or GGA overall. Some new indicators that are suggested for example by ICOMOS (e.g ‘Adoption of mechanisms to ensure that IP & LC have a leading role in deciding where adaptation funding is used’, ID 4908) have not been worded in detail to capture cultural heritage elements, yet have extensive associated information that would enable to do so.
- Many Indicators proposed are worded as broad objectives or as targets rather than indicators. While one may agree with the overall objective, it seems the expert group would need to formulate an indicator for it.
- Indicators proposed by States Parties are also quite specific to some contexts such as ‘preservation of mountain heritage.’ This does not seem useful.
- Other indicators proposed seem to be specific to certain types of cultural heritage. It seems such an approach would result in a very large number of indicators.
- Other indicators proposed are only applicable at the local community level which raises questions about how the indicators will be eventually implemented.

Common reasons for deciding relevance in relation to 12a and 12b

Common Reasons for 'Yes'

Common reasons to categorise an indicator under 'Yes' included direct relevance for Cultural Heritage and that aligns with 12a and 12b. For example, 'SDG 11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government' (ID 2872) was categorised as 'Yes'.

Many 'Yes' indicators are related to UNESCO's Indicator '3 that aims to assess measures taken to foster climate change mitigation and adaptation and enhance resilience through sustainable safeguarding and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as natural heritage. In addition to Indicator 3, the *UNESCO Culture/2030 Indicators* framework includes several other indicators very relevant to the objectives of 2 /CMA.5 Decision para 9. A number of these indicators have been suggested by multiple organisations and in some cases broken down to smaller indicators to track e.g 'Sustainable Management of heritage' (ID 4875) since the UNESCO methodology proposes a checklist of qualitative indicators where data has already been gathered globally. The Expert Group would need to look at all these inter-related indicators in detail to ensure coherence and enable global tracking.

Other 'Yes' indicators included indicators that referenced Indigenous knowledge and Youth (ID 3197) in relation to cultural heritage, and indicators that imply potential *increases* in vulnerability and *reduced* resilience and adaptive capacity of cultural heritage (e.g 'Damages to or losses of ecosystems and infrastructure that are considered cultural heritage caused by climate-related hazards', ID 3304).

Common reasons for 'No':

Too broad - some indicators are measuring worldwide climate impacts e.g 'Land surface temperature' (ID 1405), which does have implications for CH but this is hard to measure unless such indicators are adjusted to be CH specific.

Unclear definition and scope - some indicators are not clearly defined e.g "Number of cultural practices" (ID 1671) and are unclear in what exactly would be included and how this would enable measuring progress towards adaptation at a global scale. There is often also no information regarding the source of the indicator. Where the overall objectives are in line with the 2/CMA.5 Decision para 9, some experts have put them in the 'maybe' category though they would require the formulation of actual indicators as opposed to an overall idea of a goal.

Potential mis-categorization - some indicators do not appear relevant to cultural heritage; these might have been marked to CH by mistake.

Some indicators are about risk and impact of climate change but not indicators to measure the progress or adaptation strategies. These are likely relevant however across thematic and dimensional targets and should be looked at more broadly.

Common Reasons for 'Maybe'

Indicator would need adjustments - Indicators are generally relevant to cultural heritage and adaptation, however it would require some adjustments to more easily measure and track progress. For example, 'Number of monuments' (ID 1548) could give some baseline information on cultural heritage (physical assets) but would need to be connected to the 3 elements of GGA or more specifically adaptation of cultural heritage (monuments).

Partially clear definition - Indicators are generally relevant to cultural heritage, however the descriptions are not clear enough in terms of measurement/metric used, the underlying relevance to adaptation, or would require very clear assessment and monitoring guidance for certain concepts. For example, 'Traditional knowledge and practices index' (ID 1555) could be a proxy on inclusivity of Indigenous knowledge in adaptation and specifically align with GGA's increasing adaptive capacity component. This is likely a qualitative indicator or it could be quantified by eg number of plans/strategies that mention traditional/indigenous knowledge.

Some indicators were not agreed by all experts. For example, 'Existence and implementation of inclusive, locally-led processes for identifying/inventorying cultural practices/values and heritage sites' (ID 4929) was 'Yes' for some but 'Maybe' for others given that these types of processes were seen as occurring before climate adaptation is taking place.

Insights on cross-cutting nature of the target, as well as links between thematic and dimensional targets, including examples

- Some indicators for CH are broad and would better sit with other targets. For example, 'Ecosystems relevant for cultural heritage protected from climate change impacts' (ID 3303) is defined very broadly and would be better under Ecosystem protection indicators in the Ecosystem Target. It can also be interpreted as an objective or overall goal and could be put under 'maybe'.

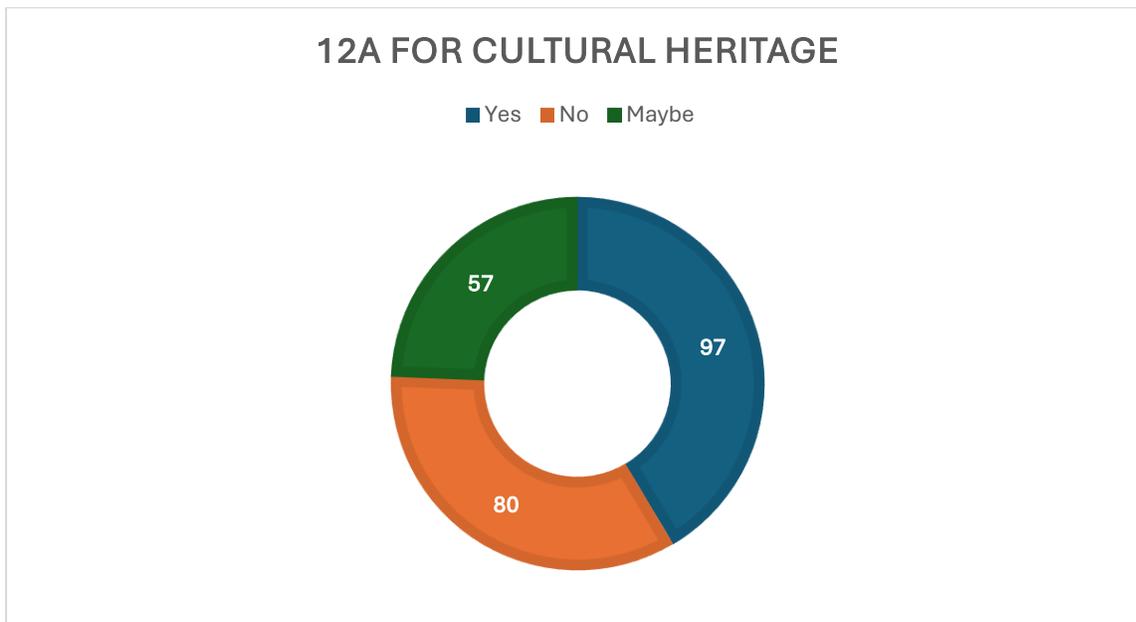
- Similarly, broad targets that mainly note building adaptive capacity for climate adaptation or increasing education and awareness might be better applied under targets in 10 as they are not directly focused on Cultural Heritage when written in broad terms.

Suggestions for next steps post-COP and into 2025

- CH experts to review all indicators especially in 'Yes' and 'Maybe'
- CH experts to continue identifying gaps and potential new indicators based on gaps

Specific questions for Parties to address at COP 29

- When could the unclear indicators be re-worded/reformulated by experts?
- For a given thematic area, is the objective to have a coherent group of indicators or to simply work through on keeping individual workable ones?
- How many indicators per target would be expected?



12B FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

