

THE ITKI COMMITMENT TOWARD THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The ITKI for the 2030 UNSDGs

In September 2015, the UN adopted the milestone document titled “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (#Global Goals) for the period of 2015-30. Among the SDGs, Goal 11 (the ‘Urban Goal’) to “*make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”, is where UNESCO and ICOMOS has been focusing advocacy efforts during the past few years.

The ITKI (International Traditional Knowledge Institute) was part of this process organising meeting and thematic working group to promote the relevance of Traditional Knowledge in the protection of landscape, promote creativity and sustainable techniques.

The major steps have been:

The ITKI Foundation 2009

The *International Conference on Traditional Knowledge and Living Heritage* was held in Florence in July 2009. With the presence of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Director Francesco Bandarin and personalities worldwide as Vandana Shiva and Paul Polack the most topical issues of heritage conservation as a value and living common good for all communities were discussed. The goal of the International Conference organized by the ITKI founders with the participation of the Municipality of Florence was to create a shared platform for organizing and conducting projects ideas and visions for a sustainable future. The gathered experts from over 30 countries of the world have had the opportunity to present proposals and pilot projects; foundations presented their operational programs; international organizations action strategies; companies innovative solutions. The strategy and shared vision has spread internationally through the worldwide database of knowledge, Traditional knowledge World Bank (WWW.TKWB.ORG). Following the conference was the signing of the Declaration of Intent for the ITKI constitution with the ITKI founders Maria Nobrega Foundation, IPOGEOA, Comune di Bagno a Ripoli and the Regione Toscana and the Comune di Firenze.

The UNESCO Florence declaration 2012

The *International Protection of Landscapes meeting* was organized by UNESCO and the International Traditional Knowledge Institute and held in Florence, Italy from 19 to 21 September to mark the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The Florence Declaration on Landscape 2012 was produced during the session.

HRH The Prince of Wales delivered the keynote message. Cultural heritage is an evolving historical category subject to constant revision over time. In forty years, the UNESCO convention has afforded a continuous conceptual reflection and an enormous amount of experiences that have involved scientists and experts of the entire world. The evolution has gone from considering heritage as a work of art independent of its context, an original outcome of individual ingenuity, to viewing a monument as a choral architectural achievement. The participants examined this evolution and the Florence Declaration was a direct result of this event. The statement was issued in the major world conferences and has become an international benchmark in the development of UNESCO problematic from initial

conception limited to the monuments to the wider current view, which includes landscapes, knowledge and communities.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/943/>

The Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries 2014

In Florence, the 2-4 October 2014 it was held the Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries. Devoted to the theme, “Culture, Creativity and Sustainable Development: Research, Innovation, Opportunities”, the Forum analysed culture’s crucial role in forging a sustainable future for societies through its potential to add value and stimulate employment, growth and innovation while also promoting social cohesion, identity, human dignity and inclusion. In the forum ICOMOS presented the ITKI program of the realisation of the Traditional Knowledge World Bank (TKWB). One of the most prominent aims is constituted by transforming traditional knowledge into a resourceful tool for encouraging the sustainable development of involved communities. This consists of developing traditional industries (such as cultural tourism or the creation of traditional products) through the formation of inter-sectorial partnerships, the enhancement of artisanal expertise, the empowerment of communities in order to generate sustainable income.

The ICOMOS Florence declaration 2014

At the 18th General Assembly (Florence, Italy, November 2014), the Scientific Symposium "Heritage and Landscapes as Human Values" wanted to promote a broad discussion able to provide insights for improving the intercultural dialogue and placing the human being at the centre of the cultural debate, where heritage and landscape values represent a shared synthesis. Following presentations by 170 speakers and debates, the General Assembly adopted the *The Florence Declaration on Heritage and Landscapes as Human Values regarding the values of Cultural Heritage in building a peaceful and democratic society*. In the Symposium Declaration was affirmed:

We acknowledge that landscapes are an integral part of heritage as they are the living memory of past generations and can provide tangible and intangible connections to future generations. Cultural heritage and landscape are fundamental for community identity and *should be preserved through traditional practices and knowledge* that also guarantees that biodiversity is safeguarded. Landscapes currently face unexpected threats that need be managed by applying new approaches to safeguarding the relationship between cultural and natural heritage by sharing practical experiences. An approach is needed that is based on the protection of human rights and on strengthening **new and traditional knowledge** and local governance.

In the recommendations, the following action was indicated:

A typology identification system for traditional knowledge should be created, as should a database of case studies and best practice.

<http://www.icomos.org/en/about-icomos/image-menu-about-icomos/173-governance/general-assembly/3479-18th-general-assembly-the-florence-declaration>

The WWAP- ITKI convention, the ICOMOS – ITKI convention and the TKW develop 2015

On July 3rd, 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ITKI and UNESCO-WWAP, the scope of ITKI’s Traditional Knowledge World Bank project it is focus on what are the primary three needs for human existence: Water, Food and Shelter. In the face of unrestrained socio-economic

transformations and climate change, urban and rural communities need effective adaptive strategies for ensuring resilience in the face of increasing environmental variability, changing weather patterns, intensifying strains on food systems and deteriorating water resources. In this sense, on a more specific and practical level, the TKWB Project wishes to align itself to the mission of the World Water Assessment Programme through a series of actions aimed at raising awareness on imminent water-related challenges, responding to the needs of water resource managers and communities, promoting equality, and identifying alternative futures and solutions for achieving the sustainable use of water resources. In this contest, common actions will be developed. In the same contest a convention centred on culture and TK as source of identity, adapted techniques of preservation and driver of sustainability was signed with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

At this stage, the Traditional Knowledge World Bank Project (TKWB) is available in a prototype form at www.tkwb.org, where users can register at <http://web.tkwb.org/tkwb/register>. The project evolves around what could be categorized as five principal strategic pillars of action aimed at documenting traditional knowledge systems, developing strategies for its preservation and application in a broad range of contexts and fostering sustainable development.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) 2016

In October 2016 at Habitat III was adopted the document Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) a new framework that lays out how cities should be planned and managed to best promote sustainable urbanization. The New Urban Agenda acknowledges that culture and cultural diversity are sources of enrichment for humankind and provides an important contribution to the sustainable development of cities, human settlements, and citizens, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives and listed the transformative commitments for sustainable urban development. In the Para. 38 states: We commit to sustainably leverage natural and cultural heritage in cities and human settlements, as appropriate, both tangible and intangible, through integrated urban and territorial policies and adequate investments at the national, sub-national, and local levels, to safeguard and promote cultural infrastructures and sites, museums, indigenous cultures and languages, as well as *traditional knowledge and the arts, highlighting the role that these play in the rehabilitation and revitalization of urban areas, and as a way to strengthen social participation and the exercise of citizenship*. And in Para. 125: We will support leveraging cultural heritage for sustainable urban development, and recognize its role in stimulating participation and responsibility, and promote innovative and sustainable use of architectural monuments and sites with the intention of value creation, through respectful restoration and adaptation. *We will engage indigenous peoples and local communities in the promotion and dissemination of knowledge of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and protection of traditional expressions and languages, including using new technologies and techniques.*

<https://www2.habitat3.org/bitcache/97ced11dcecef85d41f74043195e5472836f6291?vid=588897&disposition=inline&op=view>

The Florence G7 of culture March 2017

Since the adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (the post-2015 development agenda) in September 2015 and of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at Habitat III in October 2016, ICOMOS has been chosen for the implementation of Agenda 2030- SDGs and the NUA from the perspective of cultural and natural heritage, within the framework of the ICOMOS mandate and collaboration with strategic partners. Under this mission, activities include:

- Identifying, disseminating and encouraging tools of implementation
- Developing additional indicators

- Developing methods for monitoring progress based on SDGs. 11.4.1 and other indicators
- Applying the methods for monitoring, through conducting studies and other activities
- Identifying best practice case studies
- Disseminating study results, for the UN's first thematic review of SDG 11 in July 2018

The ITKI mission on Traditional Knowledge matches these topics. In the next meeting of G7 culture in Florence March 2017 ITKI will develop the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA. A workshop will be organised with UNESCO, WWAP, ICCROM, ICOMOS, Regione Toscana, Comune di Firenze to apply and disseminate in this framework the TKWB.