



The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO



Announcement

Workshop on Heritage/Environmental Impact Assessments for the Pacific Island States 20 – 28 November, 2017, Suva and Levuka, Fiji

Date

20 – 28 November 2017

Place

Suva and Levuka, Fiji

Application deadline

31 August 2017

Organizers

UNESCO World Heritage Center

World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO, Shanghai Centre (WHITRAP, Shanghai)

Host

Ministry of Education, Department of Heritage and Arts of Fiji Government
Pacific Heritage Hub

Support

IUCN

ICOMOS

ICCROM

Background

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are some of the most culturally and naturally diverse places on Earth, with indigenous traditions and knowledge being expressed through distinctive cultural landscapes, seascapes and intangible assets. However, they are increasingly vulnerable in the face of numerous threats due to their remoteness, reduced size, and relatively scarce resources. The region is being challenged by issues such as climate change, environmental threats, financial instability, globalization, poor governance, the lack of awareness, as well as limited resources, capacities and knowledge.

Under the umbrella of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted in 2015 by the United Nations, UNESCO has highlighted the crucial role of cultural and natural heritage in driving sustainable development and has launched a call for “strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”. Within this framework, it is important to note that conserving and managing cultural and natural resources in the Pacific SIDS can contribute to their sustainable development, can foster the revitalization of their settlements, and can ensure their resilience in the face of threats. Numerous efforts have been made in the last decade centered on raising awareness with regards to the important role of safeguarding heritage in the Pacific SIDS, and building capacity in the region towards ensuring the successful and sustainable achievement of this goal. Moreover, the *Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016 – 2020* and recent State of Conservation Reports from the region, highlight that further capacity building is needed in order to increase the skills and expertise needed to ensure the protection, conservation and valorization of heritage resources in the region.

Course Aims

- Provide understanding of Environmental/Heritage Impact Assessments in order to ensure the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage and the resilience of Pacific SIDS communities.
- Inform participants about the World Heritage Convention and other normative texts, management, monitoring and reporting requirements including State of Conservation Reports as applicable to designated World Heritage sites.
- Address the synergies between natural and cultural heritage conservation and management methods.
- Provide understanding of management planning processes and to enhance the ability to develop policies and strategies, to create management plans.
- Promote the exchange of experiences and information among participants and institutions.

Participants

The course is designed for participants with a professional background of cultural and/or natural heritage conservation and management in the field, as well as those who evaluate a planning application in a respective sector.

The following Member States to UNESCO will recommend one cultural and one natural heritage manager or practitioner in the field to participate in this training course (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).

Working Language

English

Certificate

A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants who satisfactorily complete the course.

Travel, accommodation and living expenses

Expenses related to the workshop will be sponsored by UNESCO, the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust at the WHC and WHITRAP, including international airfare, accommodation (19 – 29 Nov.), daily allowance (19 – 29 Nov.).

Application

- Application form
- Endorsement letter from the National Commission of UNESCO
- One page of A4 report to describe the existing management system, conservation challenges and opportunities for cultural and/or natural heritage sites in the participants' respective countries

Correspondence

Please send all application documents with the **subject of "2017 Pacific Workshop"** by email. All correspondence concerning the above course should be addressed in English to:

Contact: Ms. Hong LI

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