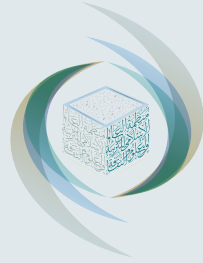


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ICESCO

*Strategy of the  
Islamic World to  
Enhance the Role of Culture  
and Heritage in Facing  
Climate Change* ،







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***Strategy of the Islamic World  
to Enhance the Role of Culture and  
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# Introduction

Culture and heritage (both natural and cultural) are among the most distinguishing elements of societies. With accelerating environmental transformations and the exacerbation of climate change, protecting and managing this heritage has become vital to maintaining cultural identity for current and future generations. Therefore, the strategy to enhance culture and heritage in addressing climate change is a fundamental step to tackle these challenges and preserve the cultural identity of societies.

Amidst the increasing environmental challenges facing the world, there is a growing interest in protecting cultural and heritage assets, as they have become essential pillars of national identity and social cohesion. In this context, cultural institutions play a vital role in addressing the challenges of climate change and safeguarding culture and heritage for current and future generations.

The strategy of the Islamic world to enhance the role of culture and heritage in facing climate change is a direct response to these global challenges. Confronting the ongoing threats of climate change, cultural institutions are tasked with protecting heritage assets, raising awareness about their importance, and promoting cultural dialogue to enhance international solidarity and cooperation.

This strategy aims to achieve a sustainable balance between technological innovation and cultural practices. It relies on the utilization of modern technology and artificial intelligence to develop innovative solutions to mitigate the rapid effects of climate change. Through international cooperation and partnerships with relevant entities, this strategy seeks to enhance global understanding and solidarity in facing the challenges of climate change and achieving sustainable development of cultural and heritage worldwide.



# Strategy Concept

The strategy consists of a set of steps and measures aimed at enhancing the role of culture and heritage in combating climate change and providing sustainable solutions for their protection and management, particularly regarding sustainable cultural policies. This is within the framework of the initiative of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) on the importance of incorporating a culture-related goal within the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy adopts a range of methods and technologies that combine innovation with cultural traditions to safeguard heritage in the face of climate challenges.

## Strategy Objectives

1. Enhance public awareness of the importance of culture and heritage in addressing climate challenges and promote understanding and rapprochement between cultures.
2. Protect and manage important cultural and heritage assets from the adverse effects of climate change, ensuring their continuity for current and future generations.
3. Encourage innovation and the use of modern technology and artificial intelligence in developing mitigation solutions to protect and manage culture and heritage against climate challenges.
4. Enhance international cooperation and partnerships with institutions and organizations to exchange experiences and develop joint strategies for protecting cultural heritage.
5. Support local initiatives and projects aimed at protecting and enhancing culture and heritage, fostering community participation in this effort.
6. Enhance research and development in the field of culture and heritage protection, developing sustainable and effective solutions to address climate challenges.
7. Secure necessary funding and provide the necessary resources to implement projects and initiatives aimed at protecting and preserving cultural heritage in the face of climate change.
8. Foster interaction and communication among various stakeholders, including governments, academic institutions, local communities, and non-governmental organizations, to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy.

# Components of the Strategy

## 1. **Awareness and Education:**

Enhance awareness of the importance of culture and heritage in facing climate challenges through educational and awareness campaigns.

## 2. **Preservation and Maintenance:**

Implement effective measures to protect important cultural and heritage assets from negative environmental impacts and develop sustainable maintenance techniques.

## 3. **Technological Innovation:**

Utilize technology and artificial intelligence to monitor climate change and develop effective solutions for managing culture and heritage.

## 4. **Partnerships and International Cooperation:**

Strengthen international cooperation and partnerships with relevant institutions to exchange experiences and develop joint strategies for protecting cultural heritage.

## 5. **Encouraging Local Initiatives:**

Support community-based initiatives to preserve cultural heritage and encourage community participation.

## 6. **Public Awareness:**

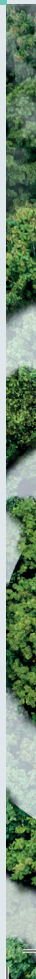
Promote public awareness of the importance of culture and heritage in addressing climate challenges and the role of individuals in this context.

## 7. **Research and Development:**

Support research in the field of cultural heritage protection and develop innovative solutions to address climate challenges.

## 8. **Funding and Resources:**

Provide necessary funding and resources to implement projects and initiatives aimed at protecting cultural heritage against climate change.



# Implementation within National Policies in Islamic World Countries

- 1. Integration with National Cultural and Environmental Policies:** Guide Islamic countries to integrate this strategy into their national cultural and environmental policies by preparing executive plans and programs that align with their specific goals in protecting culture and heritage and addressing climate challenges.
- 2. Regional and International Cooperation:** Encourage Islamic countries to cooperate with each other and with regional and international organizations, such as the European Union and UNESCO, to exchange experiences and develop joint strategies for protecting culture and heritage.
- 3. Training and Education:** Enhance educational and training programs in Islamic countries to encourage experts to apply the principles of this strategy in their fields related to culture, heritage, and the environment.
- 4. Awareness and Community Engagement:** Encourage local communities and cultural institutions to participate actively in managing culture and heritage through awareness campaigns, workshops, and cultural events.
- 5. Legislation and Environmental Policies:** Develop legislation and environmental policies in Islamic countries to enhance the preservation of cultural and environmental heritage, aligning with climate change mitigation requirements.



# Research Program by ICESCO

To strengthen our strategy, ICESCO will initiate a comprehensive Research Program aimed at understanding the multifaceted impacts of climate change on cultural heritage assets within the Islamic World. This program will focus on both the threats posed by climate change and the potential for traditional and innovative mitigation measures.

## *Key Objectives of the Research Program*

### **1. Impact Assessment:**

- ◆ Conduct in-depth studies to evaluate how climate change affects various types of heritage assets, including historical sites, artifacts, and intangible cultural heritage.
- ◆ Identify specific vulnerabilities of cultural heritage to climate-related phenomena such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise.

### **2. Regional Studies:**

- ◆ Collaborate with member states and a network of experts to prepare detailed studies for each operational region.
- ◆ Analyze indicators, statistics, and risks associated with climate change that could impact heritage sites, providing a comprehensive overview of vulnerabilities across the Islamic World.

### **3. Mitigation Strategies:**

- ◆ Explore traditional methods of heritage preservation used historically within different cultures in the Islamic World.
- ◆ Investigate contemporary technological solutions, including artificial intelligence and digital tools, to enhance the resilience of cultural heritage against climate change.

### **4. Best Practices and Case Studies:**

- ◆ Compile case studies of successful heritage management practices in the face of climate change, both within the Islamic World and globally.
- ◆ Highlight examples where cultural heritage preservation efforts have effectively integrated climate adaptation measures.

### **5. Community Involvement:**

- ◆ Engage local communities in the research process to gather traditional knowledge and practices related to heritage preservation.
- ◆ Foster a collaborative environment where community input informs research findings and recommendations.

### **6. Policy Recommendations:**

- ◆ Develop actionable policy recommendations based on research findings to guide Islamic countries in integrating climate resilience into their cultural heritage policies.
- ◆ Ensure that these recommendations align with broader sustainable development goals and frameworks.



# Implementation Plan

## 1. Collaboration with Experts:

- ◆ Partner with universities, research institutions, and heritage organizations to leverage expertise in climate science, heritage conservation, and community engagement.
- ◆ Establish an advisory committee comprising scholars, practitioners, and community representatives to guide the research agenda.

## 2. Funding and Resources:

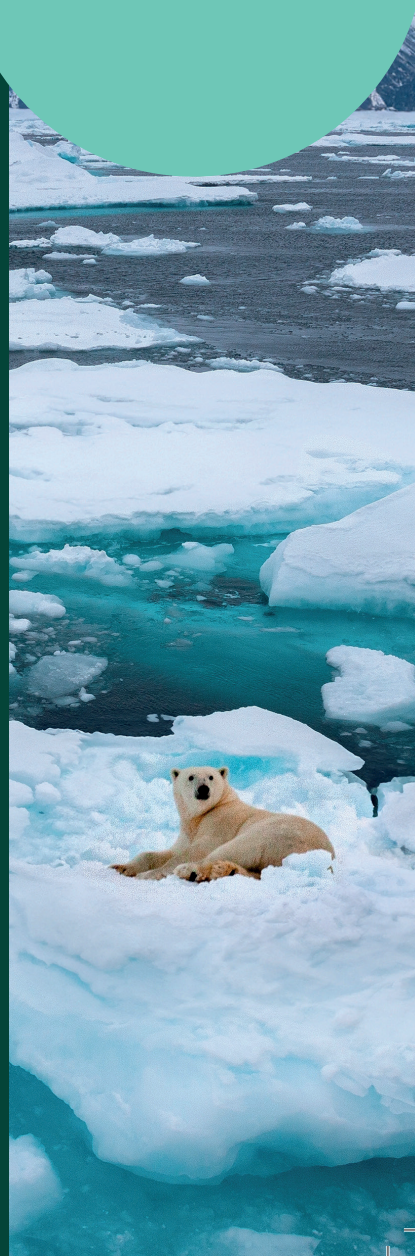
- ◆ Seek funding from international bodies, governmental agencies, and private sector partners to support research activities and initiatives.
- ◆ Allocate ICESCO's resources to facilitate workshops, seminars, and training sessions that build capacity among researchers and practitioners.

## 3. Dissemination of Findings:

- ◆ Organize annual conferences to present research findings, share best practices, and foster dialogue among stakeholders.
- ◆ Publish reports and research papers detailing findings and recommendations, making them accessible to policymakers, cultural institutions, and the general public.

## 4. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- ◆ Implement a monitoring framework to assess the effectiveness of the research program and its impact on cultural heritage management practices.
- ◆ Continuously update the research agenda based on emerging climate data and heritage needs.



# Reporting

The outcomes of the Research Program will be compiled into a comprehensive report, which will be presented at the next COP conference. This report will not only highlight the challenges faced but also showcase successful strategies and collaborative efforts, reinforcing the importance of cultural heritage in climate change discussions.

# Identifying Experts from the Three Regions

Experts can be identified through coordination with member countries of ICESCO in the different regions. Meetings can be arranged with universities, chairs and research centers in each region to identify academic figures and specialties that are suitable for covering each region.

# Timeline

## ***March 2025:***

- ◆ Identify experts from the three regions (Arab region, African region, Asian region).
- ◆ Coordinate with local universities and research institutions.
- ◆ Begin collecting preliminary data on cultural heritage and climate impacts.

## ***April 2025:***

- ◆ Conduct field studies in collaboration with local experts.
- ◆ Collect and analyze initial data.

## ***May - June 2025:***

- ◆ Complete field studies and continue analyzing data.
- ◆ Develop a detailed report on the potential impacts of climate change on cultural heritage.
- ◆ Formulate preliminary recommendations for adaptation strategies and protection solutions.

## ***July - August 2025:***

- ◆ Review and coordinate the report with experts.
- ◆ Begin the translation process.

## ***September 2025:***

- ◆ Finalize the translation and finalize the report.
- ◆ Prepare the report for printing and publication.

## ***October 2025:***

- ◆ Prepare for the presentation of the final report at COP30 in Brazil.
- ◆ Coordinate with international partners and participate in the event preparations.

## ***Final Dates:***

- ◆ ***November 2025:*** Present the final report and recommendations at COP30.





        
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