



HACA Recommendations on Culture and Heritage-Related Indicators for Climate Change Adaptation

Heritage Adapts to Climate Alliance

- ❑ The new **UN Global Goal on Adaptation Framework** includes **breakthrough recognition of culture**, heritage, Indigenous Knowledge, traditional knowledge and values in **international climate policy**.
- ❑ This recognition offers a path to **scaling up adaptation of culture and heritage** as well as **enhancing adaptation outcomes** by taking account of the socio-cultural dimension.
- ❑ The **Heritage Adapts to Climate Alliance** has been launched to ensure that this potential is realized through **robust, timely engagement by diverse heritage advocates in the implementation of the GGA**.

HACA is Led by Preserving Legacies



- Preserving Legacies (PL) project aims to empower communities to safeguard their cultural and natural heritage against climate change.
- PL includes 30+ pilot sites around the world, supporting and spotlighting science-based, values-driven, locally-led adaptation for heritage.
- Funded by National Geographic Society.
- PL aims to help thousands of communities assess risk and plan adaptation for their heritage places and cultural practices via a new Heritage Adapts Community of Action (launching in 2025).

HACA is a part of the CHN “Imaging Futures” Project

Climate Heritage Network’s new “Imaging Low Carbon, Just, Climate Resilient Futures Through Culture and Heritage” Project:

- Aims to leverage culture and heritage as powerful catalysts for effective climate action
- Initial Focus on North America and Africa
- Seeded by \$1.25M Mellon Foundation Grant
- 30-month project (thru Jan 2027)
- Includes HACA plus:
 - Africa and North America regional Secretariats
 - Race to Resilience Culture (RTRC)
 - Decarbonizing Built Environment Through Heritage (DBTH)



HACA Strategies

Empowering Heritage Adapts Leaders

Lift up CLC members to amplify their voices as climate and culture leaders from local to international scales.

Creating and Leveraging Supportive Climate Policy and Finance Systems

Engage with climate adaptation policy and leverage results to support local action



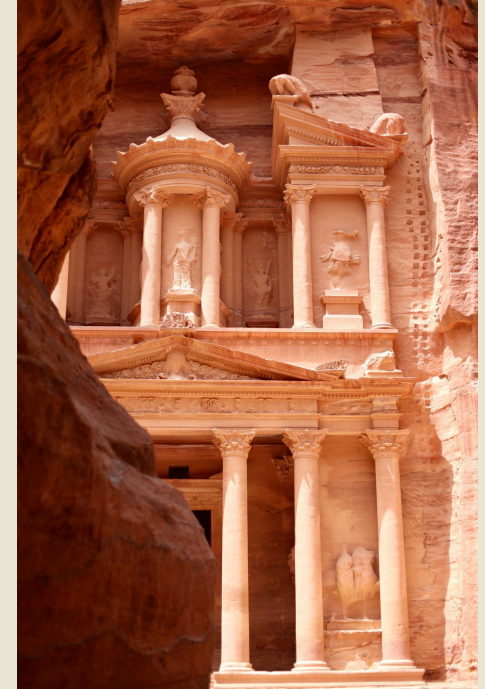
Scale up Culture and Heritage-based Climate Adaptation Work

Build on UAE GFCR indicator outcome via a global campaign inviting 1000s of communities to pledge to take action to protect their culture and heritage from climate change. Support via Community of Practice

GGA Framework Thematic Targets

The final GGA Framework (known as the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience adopted at COP28) includes the following seven thematic targets:

- ❑ Water
- ❑ Food and Agriculture
- ❑ Health
- ❑ Nature, Biodiversity
- ❑ Infrastructure and Human Settlements
- ❑ Poverty Eradication and Livelihoods
- ❑ **Cultural Heritage**



UFGCR Culture Heritage Thematic Target

“By 2030 ... 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”

– UAE FGCR Para 9(g)

Heritage is a Gap

HACA collaborators consider that cultural and natural heritage and the closely linked concepts of traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge, and local knowledge systems represent an area in which the development of new indicators for measuring adaptation progress is needed.

HACA-Proposed Indicator Under UAE FGCR Target 9(g) #1

“For the relevant period, the observed number of heritage elements (including natural and cultural heritage sites and cultural practices, as well as Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge systems) effectively covered by national, local or site/element-specific adaptive strategies for preservation and protection from the impacts of climate-related risks that are (a) inclusively developed, (b) integrated into wider territorial, landscapes, or seascapes adaptation strategies, and (c) where applicable, recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories ... has

- ☐ **Substantially Increased**
- ☐ **Increased**
- ☐ **Remained the Same**
- ☐ **Decreased**
- ☐ **Substantially Decreased**

✓ *Check one*

Features of 9(g) Proposed Indicator #1

- ❑ One, relatively simple “direction of travel” quantitative indicator for ease of collection
- ❑ Covers heritage sites and cultural practices
- ❑ Covers natural and cultural heritage
- ❑ Avoids reductive “denominator” issue, further improving ease of data collection
- ❑ Addresses qualitative issues of inclusivity and Indigenous Peoples’ rights



HACA Proposed Indicator #2

Measuring progress towards designing climate-resilient infrastructure guided by traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems:

- Number of initiatives implemented to build infrastructure decision makers' competence and capacity to receive, comprehend, and value insights from Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) in the development of infrastructure, both at the individual and institutional levels.
- Number of mechanisms adopted to uphold Indigenous Peoples' Rights (as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007) in infrastructure development, which involves comprehensive and continuous consultation and Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) before establishing any policies for climate adaptation that affect their territory.
- Rate of inclusion of representatives of IPs and LCs and incorporation of their holistic knowledge at all levels of infrastructure decision making.
- Number of mechanisms adopted to ensure that IP & LC have a leading role in deciding where adaptation funding is used.
- Number of infrastructure plans that include strategies that prioritise contextualised, integrated local solutions that address all drivers of change and the needs of vulnerable groups (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, women, children, landless people).

UFGCR Dimensional Targets

UFGCR Para 10 includes four “dimensional” targets tied to the iterative adaptation cycle concept embedded in National Adaptation Frameworks:

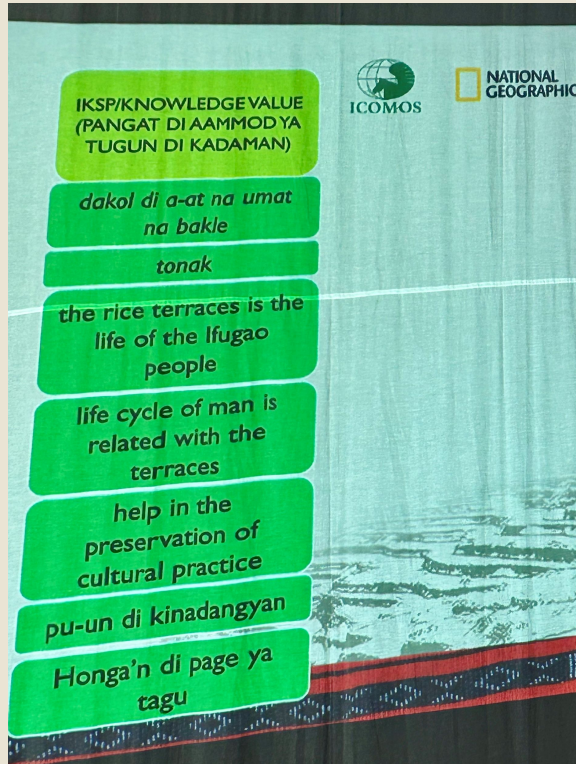
- ❑ Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment
- ❑ Planning
- ❑ Implementation
- ❑ Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)



UFGCR Cross-Cutting Issues

UFGCR also includes several cross-cutting issues which elaborate on the concepts of cultural heritage, Indigenous Knowledge and traditional knowledge referenced in Paragraph 9(g). These include:

- ❑ Adaptation action should be **guided by** traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, local knowledge systems (Para 14)
- ❑ **Ethical and equitable engagement** with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and **application of** traditional knowledge, the knowledge, wisdom and values of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems in UFGCR Implementation (Para 22)
- ❑ Empower people with the **knowledge, skills, values and attitudes** necessary for climate action. (Para 23)



Indicators Must Unlock Synergies Between the Cultural Heritage Target and the Dimensional Targets

UFGCR paragraphs 14, 22 and 23 highlight cross-cutting aspects of culture and heritage that are crucial to achieving progress on each UFGCR target. Additional indicators applicable to the 4 dimensional targets should be developed to address these aspects.

Indicator for measuring ethical and equitable engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities in each dimensional target of paragraph 10

Primary Indicator: Number of mechanisms included to make adaptation governance subject to UNDRIP and adoption of systems to monitor the level of recognition and implementation of UNDRIP in each dimension of the iterative adaptation cycle, including impact, vulnerability and risk assessment; planning; implementation; and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The following supplemental indicators could be used:

- Amount of public funds (from central/local government) allocated to Indigenous Peoples' self-government institutions for work on climate adaptation including impact, vulnerability and risk assessment; planning; implementation; and monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- Number of consultations with local communities and Indigenous Peoples' autonomous institutions before approval of measures and projects around climate adaptation action that may affect them and their heritage
- Number of times local community and Indigenous languages were used in systems of signposting, documentation and official communications for climate action and planning
 - Percentage of climate projects that may affect local communities' or Indigenous peoples' lands, territories or resources, with the participation of local communities and Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions where social, spiritual, cultural and environmental impact assessments undertaken **prior to approval**.
- Percentage of climate education programs that are managed by Indigenous Peoples' autonomous institutions.
- Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources in national climate legislation.

Indicator for measuring application of traditional knowledge, the knowledge, wisdom and values of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems in each dimensional target of paragraph 10

Primary Indicator: Indigenous knowledge and frameworks are meaningfully represented within national climate adaptation legislation and planning, yes or no?

Supplemental Indicators:

- **Strengthen capacity of indigenous peoples' representative institutions in the climate space.**

Number of:

- Indigenous peoples' self-governing institutions to aid in the development of climate action plans
- Special measures to promote capacity building and strengthen leadership of indigenous within the climate action space
- Persons devoting time to selected cultural, spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies, as supported through climate actions
- Instances of use of indigenous languages in systems of signposting, documentation and official communications for climate action and planning
- Instances of land use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs) that supports climate action

Indicator for measuring application of traditional knowledge in each dimensional target of paragraph 10 (continued)

- **Issues concerning land and resource use when developing and implementing climate actions are handled by indigenous peoples' autonomous institutions.**

Indicators

- Number of Indigenous peoples' self-governing institutions and territories recognized
- Percentage of national climate legislation elements that include recognition of indigenous peoples' right to self-government
- Percentage of climate measures that received free, prior, and informed consent of affected indigenous peoples' autonomous institutions before approval
- Number of instances where procedures or mechanisms for State consultation with indigenous peoples at national, sub-national and local levels



HERITAGE ADAPTS TO CLIMATE ALLIANCE

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Adaptation.

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