



## World Heritage Leadership programme

# Heritage Place Lab

### **We are looking for 5 researchers and their research institutes to join the next edition of the Heritage Place Lab!**

The ICCROM-IUCN World Heritage Leadership (WHL) programme is launching a second edition of the Heritage Place Lab (HPL), focused on strengthening networks across research and site management in the context of the World Heritage Convention.

We invite researchers who are interested in establishing collaborations with World Heritage management institutions to contribute to the improvement of their management processes and decision-making. The Heritage Place Lab 2024-2025 will consist of a series of online and in-person workshops to be held between September 2024 and April 2025. The expected outcome of this second edition is to develop tools to facilitate the exchange between site managers and researchers, establishing working methodologies with managers and management institutions on how to design research agendas, projects and strategies to support World Heritage site management. Through the Heritage Place Lab, universities and research institutes will be connected with site management institutions to analyse and elaborate on World Heritage property's research needs.

### **Heritage Place Lab as a Learning Network and the pilot phase**

In its Article 5, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention calls on State Parties to develop and encourage research for the protection of their cultural and natural heritage, placing on science an important role on its implementation. Even though the World Heritage system provides such space for exchange and collaboration between researchers and practitioners, this has not been sufficiently and systematically explored. Strengthening the interlinkages between site managers and researchers can assist the conservation of natural and cultural heritage by building capacities on researchers to understand how their work research can support managers and have an impact on the ground.

Between September 2021 and April 2022, WHL implemented a pilot edition of the Heritage Place Lab bringing together eight Research-Practice Teams in a series of six incubator online workshops focused on strengthening collaboration between site

management teams and researchers to design joint Research Agendas for World Heritage properties.

The results of the pilot phase are published as PANORAMA Nature-Culture Solutions, in a Special Issue of the Journal on Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development, and in a forthcoming ICCROM publication presenting the report of the activity and the teams' research agendas.

### Heritage Place Lab 2024-2025

For the Heritage Place Lab 2024-2025, we are looking for **5 researchers and their research institutes or universities**. The WHL will act as a knowledge broker, and will endeavour to match research institution with World Heritage site managers to respond to the specific knowledge and expertise needed, and initiate long-term research-practice cooperation.

The World Heritage properties that will participate in this edition of the Lab are:

- Al-Ahsa Oasis, an Evolving Cultural Landscape, Saudi Arabia
- Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork, Poland
- Cultural Sites of Al Ain (Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas), United Arab Emirates
- Port Arthur Historic Site, Coal Mines Historic Site, components of the Australian Convict Sites, Australia

A model for collaboration developed from the pilot phase will be consolidated through this new edition utilizing in particular the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 (2023) and the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022). The HPL 2024-2025 will then work on defining research areas that can be used by World Heritage site managers and researchers to better address the needs of the World Heritage property.

HPL will have three work components to be implemented in a maximum of 9 months duration (September 2024-April 2025):

1. A 5-day inaugural workshop to be held in-person between 19 and 23 October 2024 in Beijing, China (excluding travel dates);
2. three 2-hour online mentoring sessions with individual World Heritage sites and two 3-hour online workshops with all World Heritage sites selected;
3. a closing workshop to be possibly held in-person, online or in hybrid modalities in April 2025.

Besides their participation in online and in-person workshops, researchers should also take into consideration that additional meetings and coordination with the partner site management team will be required. During these time they will work together to

strengthen their collaboration, carry out tasks assigned between workshops, and advance in the preparation of research agendas.

### Incentives for participation

- Developing sound institutional relationships for long-term engagements between the WHL, research institutions and World Heritage properties.
- Promoting partnerships between site managing and research institutions in order to initiate and/or sustain a long-standing partnership, thereby building bridges between research institutions and World Heritage properties.
- Promoting research-practice partnerships that can generate funding applications for research grants as well as to support the implementation and application of research.
- Promoting networking and professional growth among collaborating World Heritage places, institutions, researchers and practitioners.

### What are the Heritage Place Lab priority issues?

In this edition, we are looking for researchers with interest and experience on the following priority issues being faced by World Heritage properties.

- **Development pressures**  
World Heritage places are facing development pressures which include, rapid urbanisation, tourism and renewable energy infrastructure development, among others. Means to protect heritage and proactively address development needs will be explored.
- **Climate change impacts**  
Climate change and the more frequent extreme weather events and hazards related to it are recognised as one of the main threats to World Heritage properties. However site managers lack the tools to understand and confront the impacts of climate change-related factors at their heritage places. Developing climate action for World Heritage properties will be addressed.
- **Improvement on buffer zone(s)**  
Development pressures and climate change impacts demonstrate the need for an added layer of protection to World Heritage properties. As many properties do not count with a buffer zone(s), designing, planning and implementing buffer zones to support World Heritage management require further research.
- **Governance: rightsholders and stakeholders involvement**

The timely and adequate involvement of rightsholders and other stakeholders into the management system of World Heritage properties, in particular, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, remains a challenge. Methods for balancing power between different managing organisations, for collaborating among different actors in the World Heritage place, and for understanding who needs to be involved will be explored.

- **Integrating Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge into management**

The integration of diverse knowledge systems, in particular, traditional ways of managing heritage places, into current management planning is a recurrent need. Current challenges such as climate change are requiring other than scientific knowledge systems for developing adequate management measures. Methods for integrating these into the management system and management planning will be explored.

### Who can apply

The Heritage Place Lab is looking for researchers with proven experience in relation to the priority themes identified. Researchers interested in the Heritage Place Lab should be part of or connected to a research institution and/or university.

Researcher or research team leaders, in the case of research teams, should have completed a doctoral degree.

### How to apply for the Heritage Place Lab

Applications should be submitted to the World Heritage Leadership per email at [whl@iccrom.org](mailto:whl@iccrom.org) by 10 August 2024.

The application process includes the submission of the following documents:

- Complete application form in English in pdf format
- A brief version of the curriculum vitae et studiorum of the main researcher applicant.
- Official endorsements by the research institute or university (can be signed by your supervisor, the head of department or faculty) .

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

Pre-selected researchers will be contacted via email and invited for an online interview with the World Heritage Leadership that will take place in mid-August 2024, dates to be agreed with the researcher.

If you encounter any issues submitting your application or if you have any questions concerning the Heritage Place Lab, please email us at: [whl@iccrom.org](mailto:whl@iccrom.org).

### What are the selection criteria?

- Relevant experience/knowledge to address the priority issues proposed by the Heritage Place Lab, this should be presented succinctly, responding specifically to the issues proposed in the call;
- Present clearly why and what type of research has been conducted in relation to the priority issue selected;
- Interest in partnering with a site management institution and previous experiences of research-practice collaboration (if any);
- Time to work and commit to the Heritage Place Lab activities;
- Basic knowledge on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.