

Living heritage and disaster risk reduction

Training Programme for the Global Facilitators' network

Item 2: Introduction to the topic 'Climate Action for Living Heritage'

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Intangible Heritage
Convention

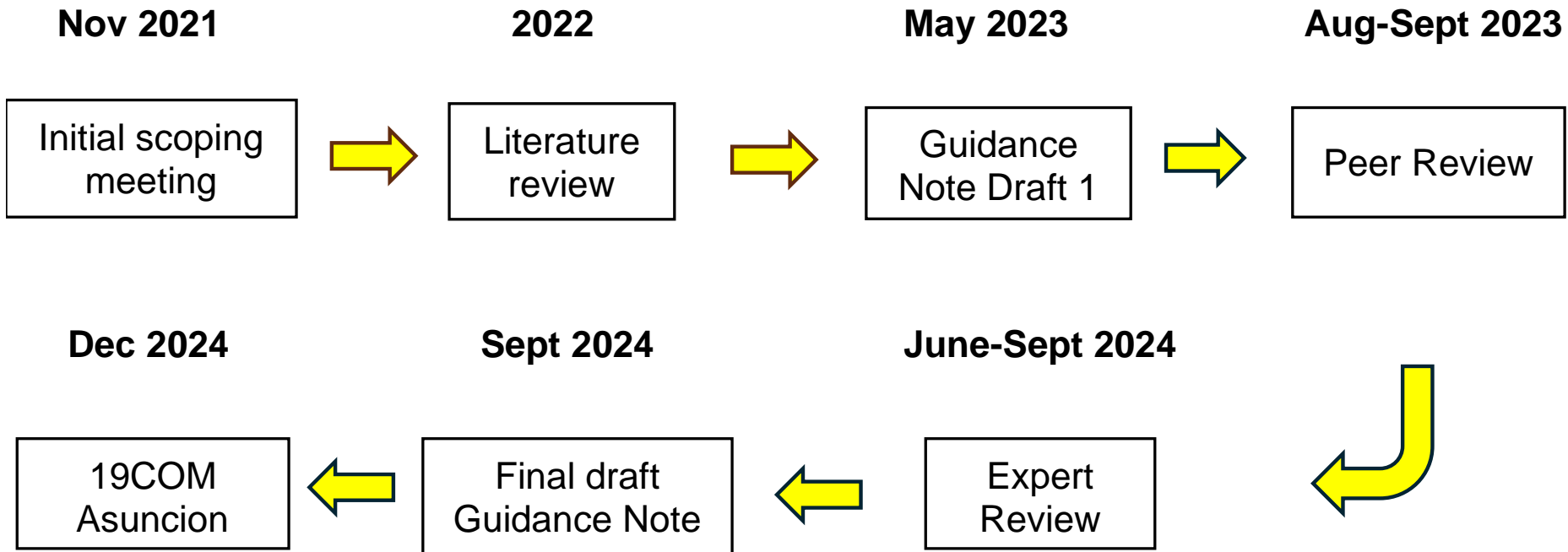
Session I: 27 March 2025, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Paris time)

Session II: 28 March 2025, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Paris time)

Guidance Note on Climate Action for Living Heritage

- Living heritage has real value and substance to contribute to the conversation around climate change adaptation.
- Climate change as a field has only recently begun to take note of culture more broadly.
- Little direct dialogue between living heritage and climate change so far, but the conversation has the potential to be profoundly transformative, on both sides.
- Intergovernmental Committee and the thematic initiatives – economic, climate and urban
- The Secretariat of the 2003 Convention has been working since 2021 at developing a Guidance Note on Climate Action for Living Heritage.

Development of the Guidance Note on Climate Action for Living Heritage (2021-2024)





Climate change

- refers to changes in average temperature at a global scale
- actual human experience of climate change is always local
- climate change impacts can be experienced either as hazard emergencies or slow onset transformations

Climate change adaptation

- our response to climate change impacts
- adaptive choices influenced by local culture, ecology and history
- adaptation on a local scale will be implemented largely by local or regional entities
- local knowledge is thus essential to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Living Heritage

- encompasses and embraces the practices and aspects associated with all knowledge systems (local, Indigenous, urban, TEK etc)

The dynamism of living heritage is essential for adaptation:

- living knowledge and practices that draw on the past but address the future
- not an archive of past knowledge and practices, but a repertoire for present and future action, and a source of inspiration for adaptation
- powerfully capable of responding to changing future scenarios





Risks of climate change for living heritage

- Threats from climate change and related emergencies are multiple and connected to and compounded by other forms of emergency (pandemics, conflict) in complex ways
- Both immediate and slower processes
- Loss or transformation of place and displacement
- Impacts to resources and livelihoods
- Research, intervention and aid can also be threats

Roles for living heritage in climate change adaptation

- **Identifying, assessing, monitoring and modelling climate change and its impacts**
- **Supporting societal and natural adaptation to climate change**
risk reduction, land and water management, subsistence strategies, alternative energy sources, sustainable livelihoods
- **Mitigating carbon emissions**
scaling up traditional fire management, low carbon agricultural heritage systems, management of natural carbon sinks
- **Alternative visions of climate change adaptation**
climate change as potentially beneficial for living heritage – reviving interest, stimulating transmission, new strategies

