

2025 HeritAP Announcement

In 2023, the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITR-AP, Shanghai Center) launched the "World Heritage Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals" project (2023-2028). The overall goal of the project is to facilitate the understanding of the 2015 UNESCO Policy document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Process of the World Heritage Convention and to create appropriate tools for heritage practitioners to streamline recommendations for the effective use of heritage as a driver for sustainable development, in line with the Regional Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific developed based on the 3rd Periodic Reporting cycle. The project includes multiple activities, including the recognition of Good Practices from heritage practitioners on how heritage conservation and management contribute to sustainable development.

The 2025 HeritAP Annual Meeting was organized around three main areas: (1) current international and national policies and actions that incorporate heritage into the Sustainable Development Goals; (2) announcement of the 2025 Good Practices in Prosperity & Livelihood; and (3) call for practices in 2026 focusing on "Knowledge & Skills". WHITR-AP's HeritAP Sustainable Development project aligned with UNESCO's Promoting Tangible-Intangible Synergies at UNESCO Designated Sites in Asia-Pacific project. An intended outcome for integrating both projects was the identification of cases that illustrate good practices in the sustainability dimensions and that exemplify avenues for bridging the artificial divide between tangible and intangible heritage, effectively creating synergies between UNESCO Conventions and priorities. These cases served to underpin the development of guidelines for streamlining sustainable development in heritage practices and for enhancing integrated approaches to tangible and intangible heritage. This presented a valuable opportunity for collaboration among Centers under the auspices of UNESCO in both tangible and intangible heritage fields. Future publications within the framework of this collaboration, including the selected good practice cases, will be broadly disseminated at international events.