



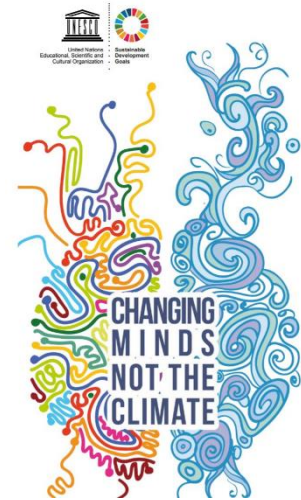
An Overview of UNESCO's Action on Climate Change and the Role of Cultural Heritage

Giovanni Boccardi
Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit
Culture Sector, UNESCO

June 2019

Athens, Greece

UNESCO's Work on Climate Change



5 Sectors:

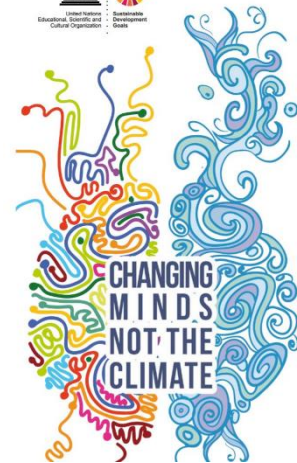
- Education
- Natural Sciences
- Social & Human Sciences
- Culture
- Communication

To make the most of the *interdisciplinary* profile specific to UNESCO's mandate

→ UNESCO Task Force



UNESCO's Work on Climate Change



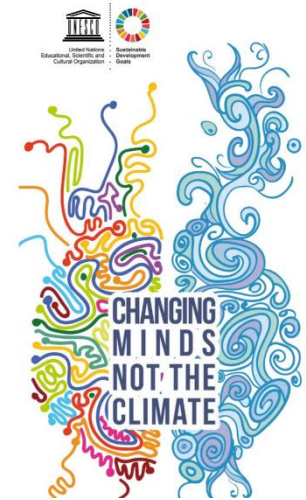
→ UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (2008)

→ **Revised** UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change (2018-2021)

- Adopted by the 39th UNESCO's General Conference at its 39th Session in November 2017
- Takes into account the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda



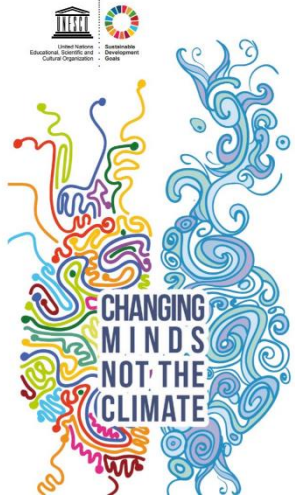
UNESCO's Work on Climate Change



4 Thematic Focus Areas for Action:

- 1) Climate change **education** and public awareness programmes and policies;
 - 2) Climate knowledge and **scientific** cooperation;
 - 3) **Cultural** diversity and cultural heritage safeguarding;
 - 4) Inclusive **social** development, intercultural dialogue and ethical and gender equality principles
- + Priority **Africa** and **SIDS**

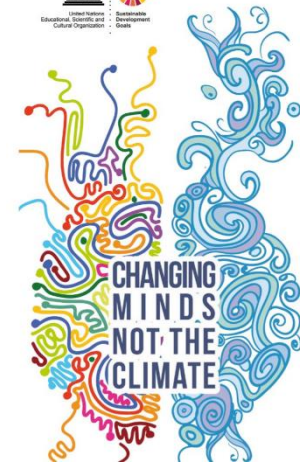
UNESCO's Work on Climate Change



Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change

- Adopted by the 39th UNESCO's General Conference at its 39th Session in November 2017





What is the Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change about?

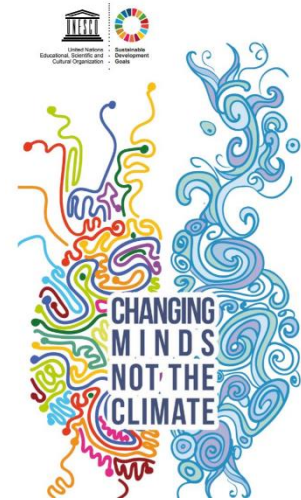
The Declaration speaks to the responsibility to address the challenge, and reinforces ethics at the centre of the discussion on climate change and sets out **six ethical principles**:

- Prevention of harm;
- Precautionary approach;
- Equity and justice;
- Sustainable development;
- Solidarity;
- Scientific knowledge and integrity in decision-making.

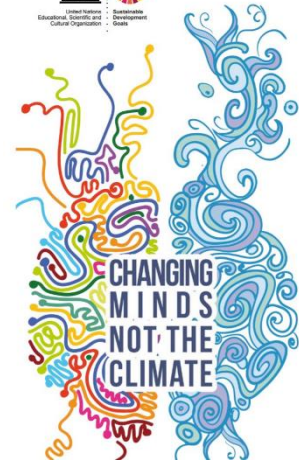


Ayutthaya, Thailand

The UNESCO Culture Conventions: Celebrating a harmonious interaction between humans and nature



→ fundamental need to preserve that balance

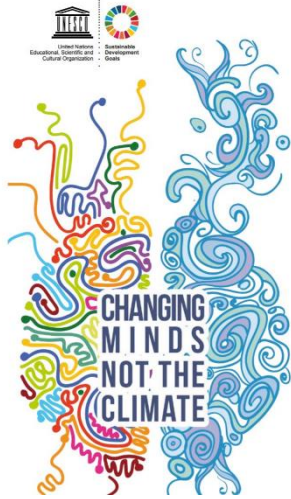


Climate Change: a major threat to that balance

- 2007-2017: 154 reports on 38 World Heritage properties located in 33 States Parties refer to CC
- + High/Very high threat on 62 Natural properties



Strategy on WH and CC (2007)



Preventive actions

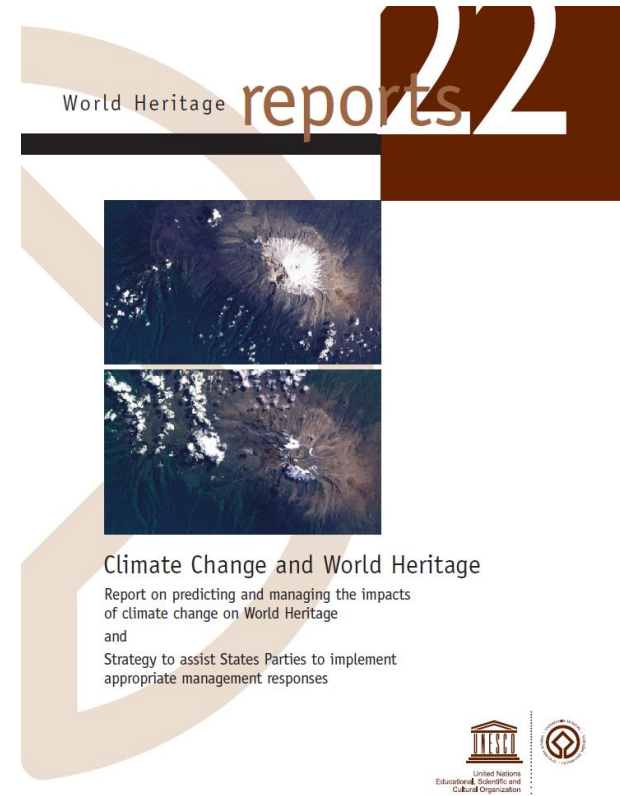
(monitoring, reporting, mitigation)

Corrective actions

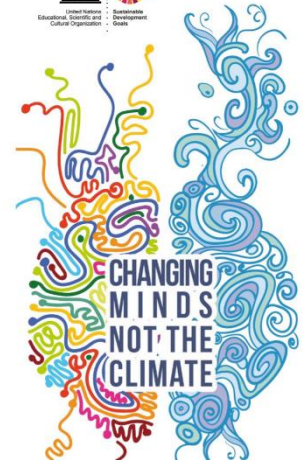
(adaptation and risk management)

Sharing knowledge

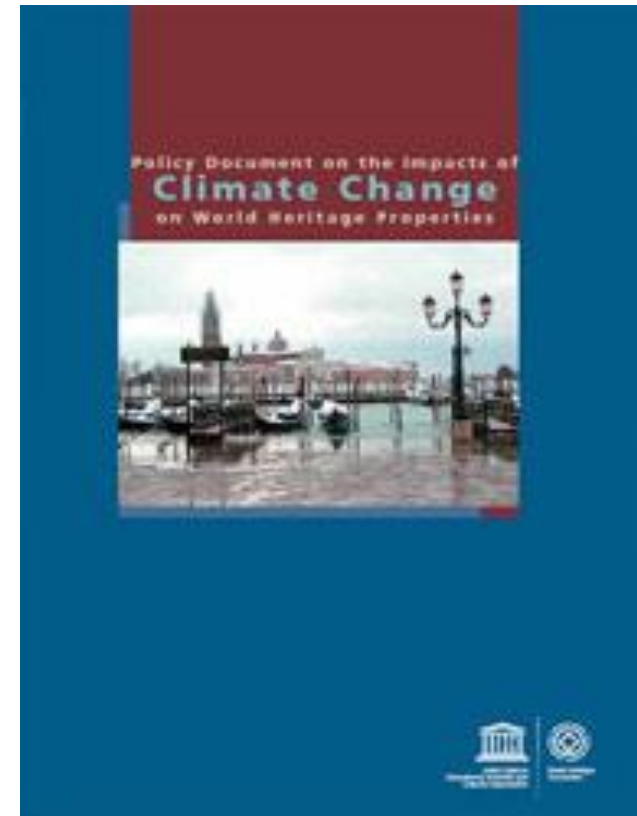
(research, education, training, awareness-raising)



World Heritage Policy on Climate Change (2007)

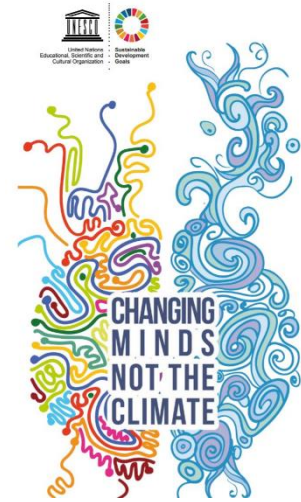


- Research priorities and how it should be framed
- Legal implications of CC in provisions of the Convention
- Mitigation at WH properties



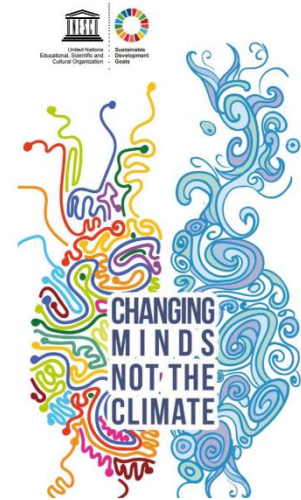
Role of World Heritage properties In Climate Change

- Global field observatories for climate change, where information on the impacts of climate change can be gathered and disseminated
- Iconic character of World Heritage sites: important asset for raising public concern and enthusiasm
- Local and indigenous knowledge: critical assets for a holistic, effective and sustainable climate change response

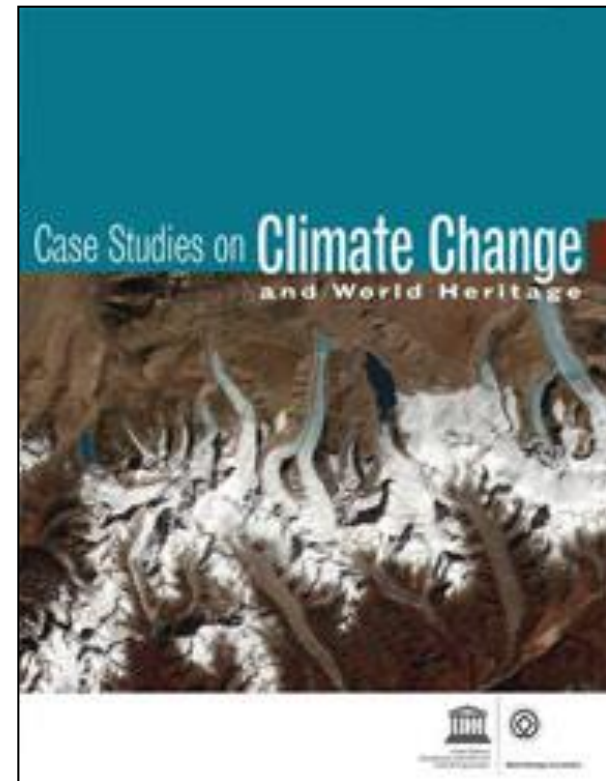


Timbuktu, Mali

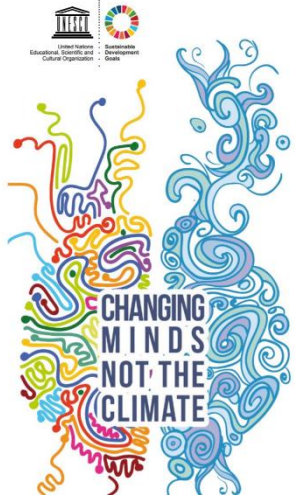
World Heritage Case Studies (2009)



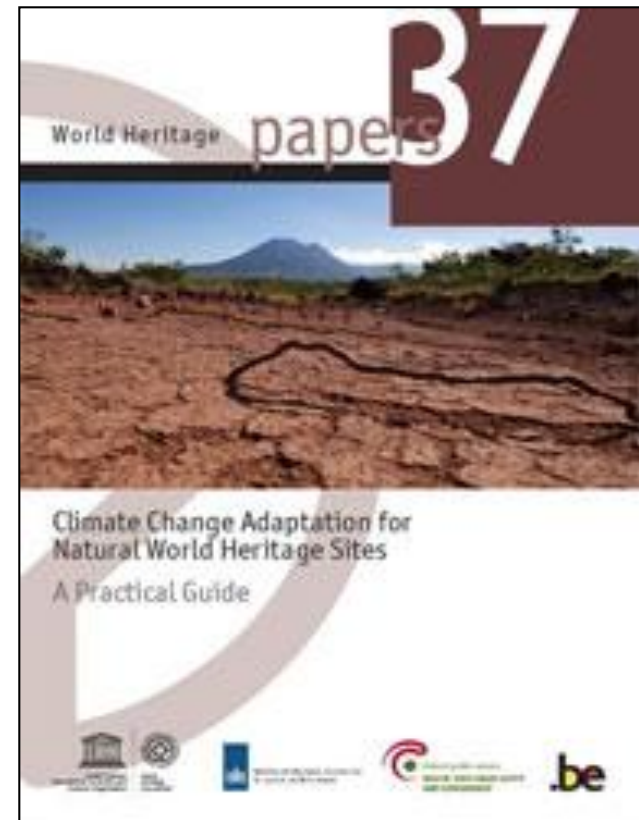
- 26 Natural and cultural heritage sites
- Physical and social impacts
- Possible responses



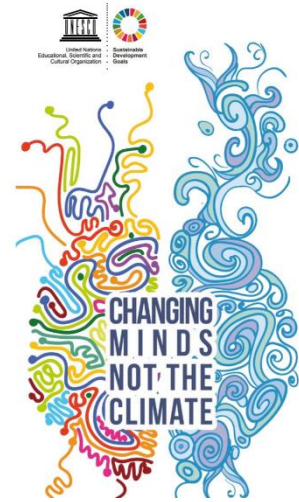
Capacity-building tools and programmes



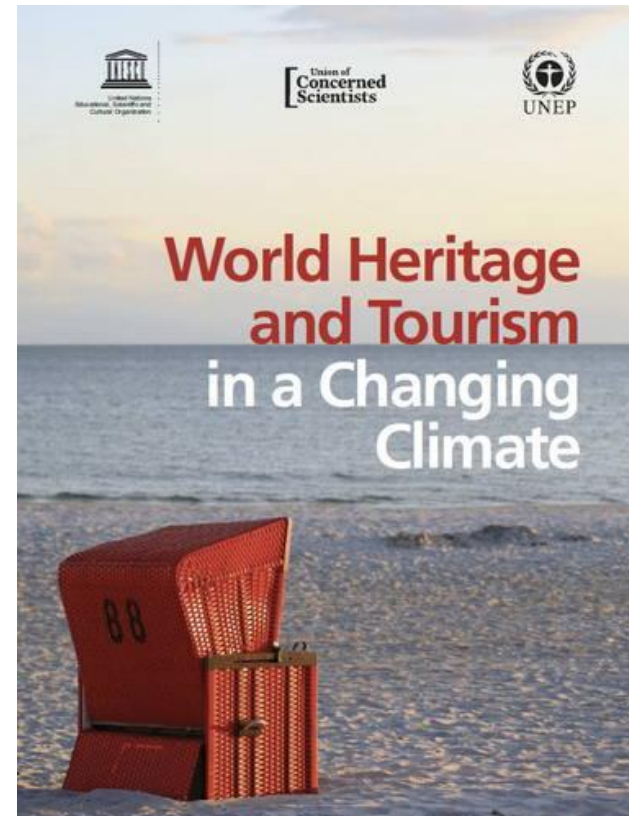
- Practical Guide to CC adaptation for WH natural sites (2014);
- WH Leadership Programme, bringing culture and nature together (2017-ongoing)



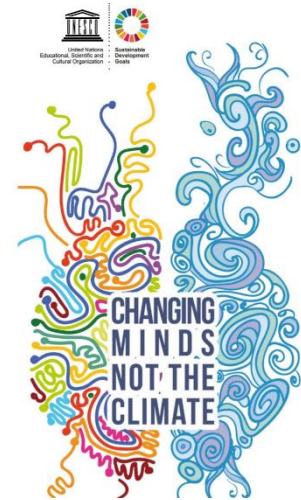
Capacity-building tools and programmes



World Heritage, Climate
Change and Tourism;



Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development (2015)



Climate Change is an integral part of the policy:

*“In the face of increasing disaster risks and the impact of **climate change**, States Parties should recognise that World Heritage represents both an asset to be protected and a resource to strengthen the ability of communities and their properties to resist, absorb, and recover from the effects of a hazard.”*

Recent Decisions by World Heritage Committee

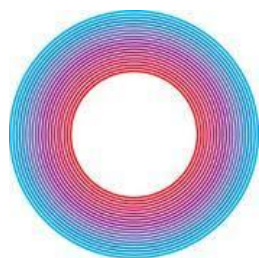
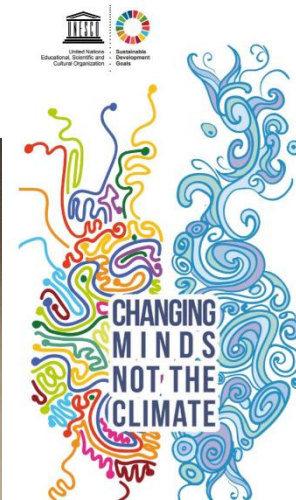


Decision 41 COM 7 and 42 COM 7 (2017 and 2018):

- Reiterates importance for States to undertake the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- Recommended the WH Centre to strengthen its relations with UNFCCC and IPCC, and requested to work with the latter with the objective of including a **specific chapter on natural and cultural World Heritage in future IPCC assessment reports.**



H.E. Pdt of Kiribati – UNESCO Pavilion – COP21, 2015



LIMA COP20/CMP10
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2014



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11



MARRAKECH
COP22/2016/CMP12
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



COP23 FIJI
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017

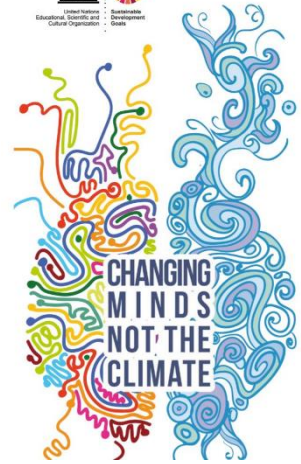


COP24 KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Other UNESCO Conventions

2001 Convention – Underwater Cultural Heritage

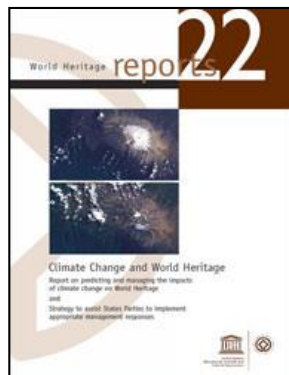
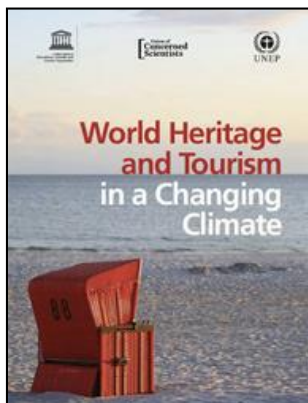
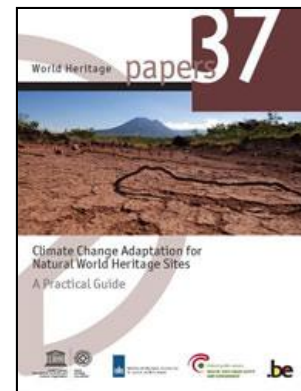
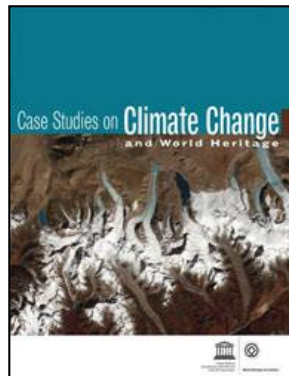
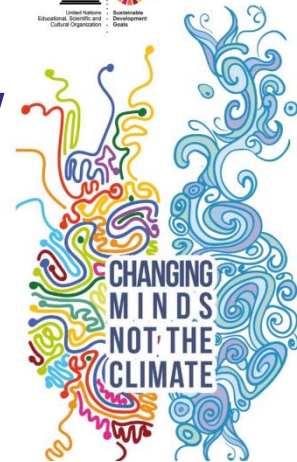
- Prehistoric and historic evidence is submerged and provides an important source of information about the first human civilizations, human origins and also about climate change and its impacts.

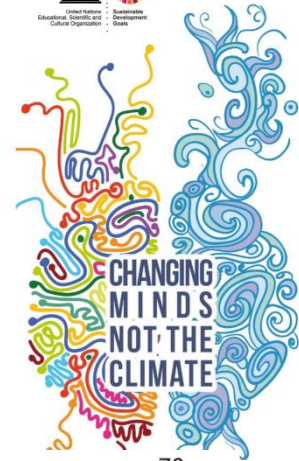


2003 Convention – Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH adopted in 2015 a new chapter in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the 2003 Convention:
 - Reflects intergovernmental negotiations for the *2030 Agenda*;
 - Includes provisions dealing with *community-based resilience* to natural disasters and climate change;
 - Emphasizes the role of living heritage in mitigating climate change e.g. through the *recognition of communities and groups as bearers of traditional knowledge* about geoscience, particularly the climate.

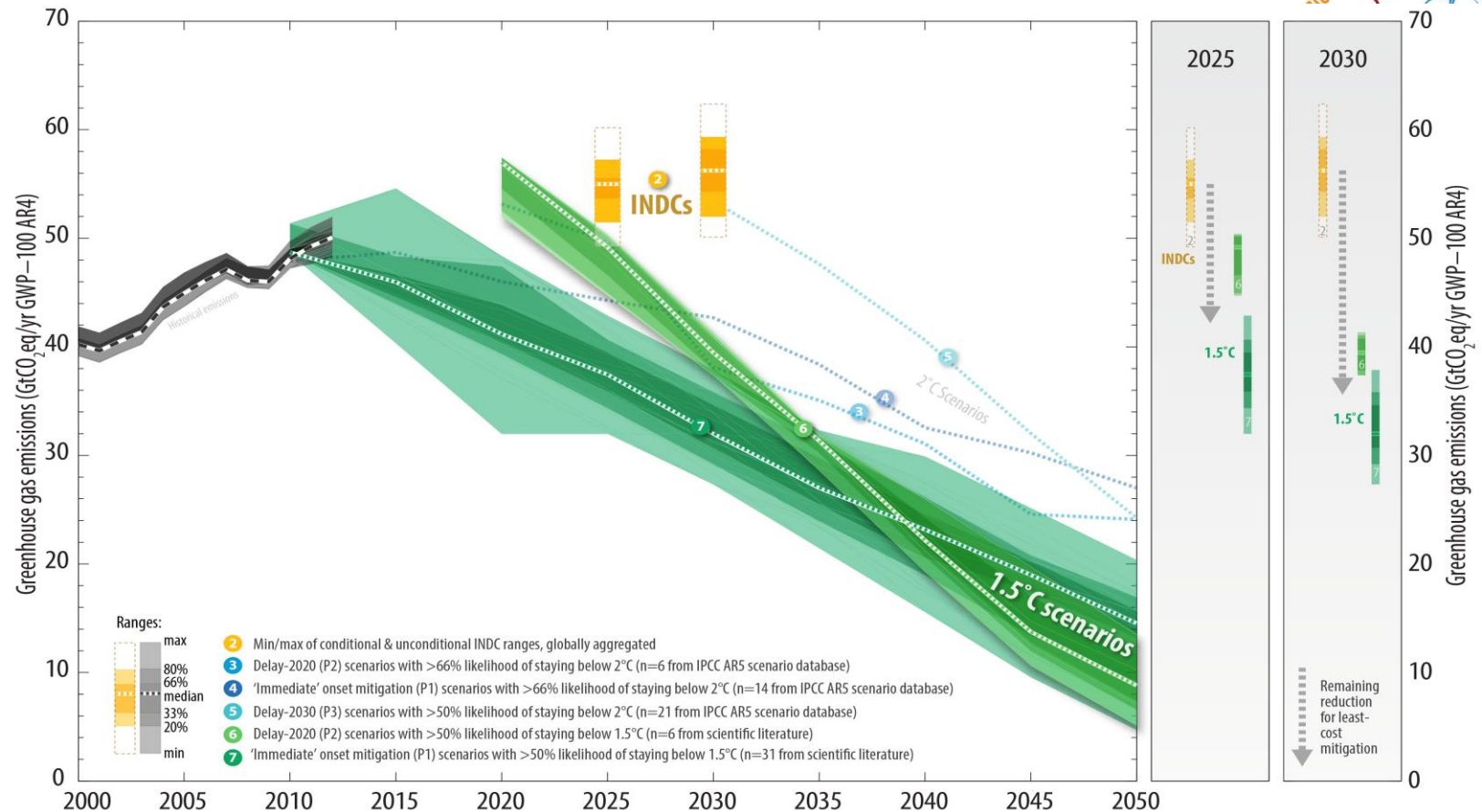
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange/>





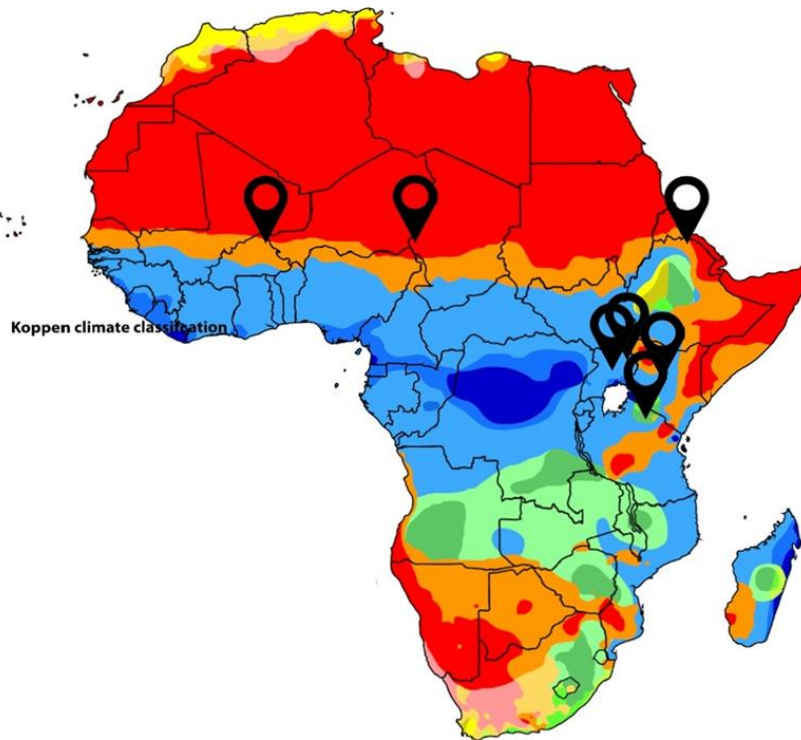
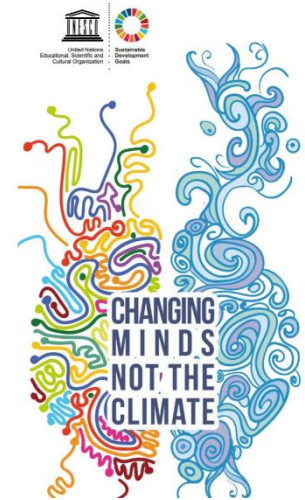
Other relevant initiatives/processes/1

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions



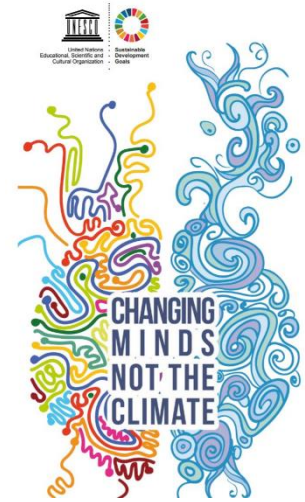
Other relevant initiatives/processes/2

Communicating Indigenous Knowledge in Adaptation

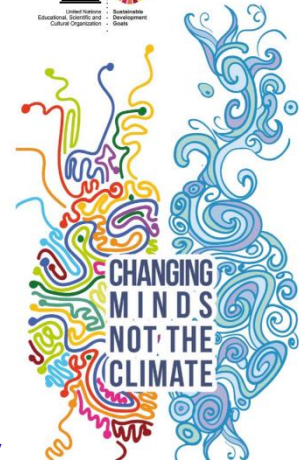


Other relevant initiatives/processes/3

A new tool: The Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CVI) applied to World Heritage properties



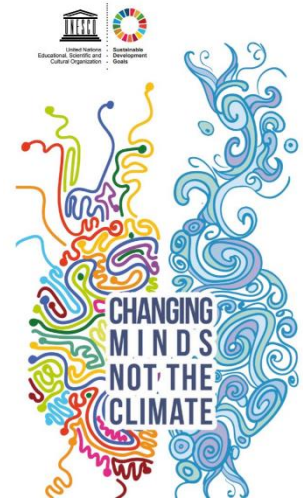
New perspectives



From « properties » to people:
Protecting the cultural rights of people affected by
climate change



New perspectives



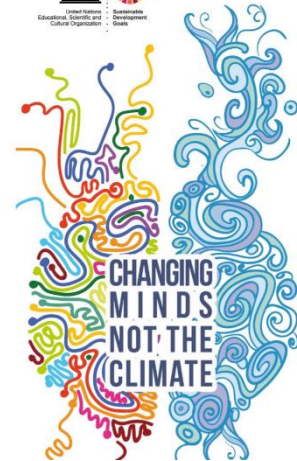
Cultural adaptation as a strategy for resilience

Haroon Mirza's Stone Circle



Masdar City Masterplan, Abu Dhabi





Thank you