



Climate Heritage N E T W O R K

Climate Heritage Network Race to Resilience Commitment

The Climate Heritage Network commits that by 2030 no less than 200,000,000 people from vulnerable groups and communities will, directly or indirectly, be made more resilience to climate risks as a result of new and existing culture-based strategies. To achieve and track this commitment, the CHN aims to gather a community of local governments, cultural institutions and organisation from 200 cities and regions committed to enhanced culture-based actions for resilience and adaptation, showcasing innovative actions, and reporting on achievements.

Background of Commitment

The goal of the Race to Resilience (RTR) is to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks. Race to Resilience participants must commit to

translate new and existing targets, directly or indirectly, into the number of people from vulnerable groups and communities who will be made more resilience to climate risks

such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise.

Culture-based strategy can strengthen resilience in a number of ways, including by supporting redundancy of social networks and diversity of knowledge systems; balancing interconnectedness with local self-sufficiency; promoting equity and distribution of capabilities; and leveraging creativity to support adaptive learning. Identification of climate-related risks, decisions about responses, and means of implementation are all mediated by culture. Overlooking these cultural dimensions not only fails to realise the potential of culture-based resilience strategies but can lead to maladaptive outcomes, that potentially undermine the resilience of communities.

Notwithstanding the relationships between culture and resilience, climate action methodologies, policy frameworks, financing mechanisms and networks have similarly sometimes not engaged cultural heritage. The relationship of cultural heritage to climate action is similarly not well developed in climate literature. At the same time, the role, impact, and contribution of culture are often not readily quantifiable.¹ Indeed, the complexity in quantifying the cultural dimension of climate action may help explain its marginalisation in climate policy.²

¹ Culture 2030 Indicators, Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda (UNESCO 2019), page 16. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371562/PDF/371562eng.pdf.multi>.

² Adger et al, for example, argue that the methods for studying culture tend to be narrative-based and qualitative, often including ethnography and participant observation, and data from these methods do not sit comfortably with the quantitative approaches prevalent in other social and natural science on climate change. Adger, W. & Barnett, Jon & Brown, Katrina & Marshall, Nadine & O'Brien, Karen. (2013). Cultural Dimensions of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation. *Nature Climate Change*. 3. 112-117. 10.1038/nclimate1666.



The Climate Heritage Network was formed in part to overcome the barriers to mainstreaming culture into climate policy and climate action. The conviction of the CHN was that for the cultural dimension of climate action to be widely recognised, it needed to be mainstreamed into the formal structures of climate policy and climate action. The CHN has thus resolved to work creatively to formulate appropriate indicators and metrics that would allow for inclusion of the culture-based commitments in the RTR.

In addition to strengthening the resilience for the millions of initial beneficiaries of the initiative, this effort will catalyse follow-on work that scales up and out the use of culture based strategies for climate action. In this regard, the initiative will³:

- Strengthen advocacy for culture. By strengthening the visibility of culture in climate adaptation and resilience, this RTR Initiative will help build a coherent and strong narrative that can directly support advocacy efforts at the global, national or local levels, with a view to convincing decision-makers and partners to include culture across their resilience policies and programmes.
- Provide evidence-based results to inform policies and actions. Evidence gathered will inform policies and decisions as well as operational actions, both within the cultural sector, and across other sectors transversally.
- Build a knowledge base for action. Once the initiative is implemented in a city or region, each dataset becomes a valuable source of information that can be analysed to create profiles at the local and national levels, as well as to identify major trends on the contribution of culture to resilience. Analytical material and good practices will help to build a better understanding.

Methodology for Calculating the Contribution of Culture-Based Strategies to Achieving the RTR's 4 billion person target

In order to support mainstreaming of culture-based strategies into the Race to Resilience, the CHN is committing to a methodology for projecting and then tracking the number people from vulnerable groups and communities who will be made more resilient to climate risks as a result of culture-based strategies. The key steps in this process are as follows:

- (1) Establish a common definition of what counts as a "culture-based strategies for making people more resilient."
- (2) Establish a common definition of what counts as "people from vulnerable groups and communities."
- (3) Establish a target of 200 cities, regions, organisations and institutions (Target Contributors) that will commit to systematically catalysing climate change adaptation and strengthening resilience

³ Cf. Culture 2030 Indicators, page 16-17.



(and tracking progress) by continuing, expanding or adding “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient” to their work.

- (4) Estimate the number of people benefitting from “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient” undertaken by Target Contributors and institutions by extrapolating the populations characteristics of the cities and regions served by existing CHN members to the Target Contributor pool.
- (5) Ascertain the subset of people benefitting from “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient” that are from “vulnerable groups and communities” by extrapolating the population of vulnerable groups and communities served by existing CHN members to the Target Contributor pool.
- (6) Producing annual reports to track progress, refining methodologies based on performance and other relevant factors.

Definition of “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient.”

Resilience science tells us that the concept has 3 key components: (1) Capacity to transform, (2) capacity to persist, and (3) capacity to adapt. A key focus is the ability to live with change. Resilience science also suggests some of the characteristics of resilient systems. As an initial matter, for purpose of the CHN RTR Initiative, culture-based programs, project and initiatives that strengthen the following elements of resilience will be considered “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient”:

- Redundancy, which is to say the multiplicity of pathway that results in people having multiple options. Redundancy is true for species but it is also true for social networks. Social factors of community resilience, such as trust, social capital, and place attachment, all play roles in a community system’s ability to cope with stress and change
- Diversity – diversity of knowledge systems, livelihoods, functions, and of course biodiversity. Culture-based strategies for making people more resilient can include those that focus on knowledge (local, traditional and indigenous knowledge); traditional technologies, including techniques and innovation through practice and adaptation; languages; modes of subsistence; resource—based livelihoods; land/sea use sustainable management approaches; unique and diverse worldviews and belief systems and related rites and rituals, sacred natural sites, mythologies, cosmologies, spiritualities, and values.
- Modularity, which is a system property that measures the degree to which a network’s interconnections can be decoupled into separate communities or clusters. Culture provides both the capacity for inter-cultural dialogue and exchange, which fosters interconnectedness, but also embodies endogenous capacities of communities that promote local self-sufficiency, use of local materials and know-how.
- Equity and Justice, which includes how widely capabilities are distributed within a society. Culture-based approaches can address gender considerations; social roles in resource use, sharing and management; and political and economic relations and legal institutions. This



element also speaks to cultural rights and approaches rooted in human rights and the mobilization of values and methodologies that support the practice of justice and inclusion.⁴

- Adaptive learning and the ability to navigate diversity, including the role of creativity and inspiration in adaptation and innovation.

The CHN will continue to monitor and refine the types of programs it will credit as culture-based strategies for making people more resilient.

Definition of “people from vulnerable groups and communities.”

Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concept and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt. Through inclusive and people-centred approaches and participatory methodologies -- arts, culture and heritage promote a focus on vulnerable and marginalised populations. The RTR does not provide a definition of ‘vulnerability’, but it provides the following examples:

- Urban: Transform urban slums into healthy, clean and safe cities.
- Rural: Equip smallholder farmers to adapt and thrive.
- Coastal: Protect homes and businesses against climate shocks.

As an initial matter, the CHN will use these measures of vulnerability in designing its RTR initiative. Additional metrics of vulnerability may be added.

Target Contributors

In order to establish an evidentiary basis for its RTR initiative, the CHN will establish a target of 200 cities, regions, organisations and institutions that will commit to systematically catalysing climate change adaptation and strengthening resilience (and tracking progress) by continuing, expanding or adding “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient” to their work. Contributors would not be limited to CHN members but would be identified and enrolled via the CHN and its network of networks.

In order to ensure the systematic engagement needed to strengthen the resilience of populations, arts, culture and heritage units of government or cultural institutions at municipal and regional levels will be asked to incorporate cultural sectoral plans for continuing or adding culture-based strategies for making people more resilient.

In order to support this outcome, the CHN will pursue an additional target that arts, culture and heritage stakeholders are included in climate resilience planning and action at all levels, using culture, heritage and traditional knowledge to emphasise equitable, and people-centred approaches and locally led solutions. Target: By 2025: Globally, managers and stewards of monuments, heritage

⁴ See Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Report on climate change, culture and cultural rights (10 August 2020)(Presented to the General Assembly at its 75th session, 22 October 2020, A/75/298).
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/CulturalRights/Pages/ClimateChange.aspx>.



sites, museums, archives, and sacred sites trained/taking action to safeguard these places from the current and projected adverse impacts of climate change, both rapid and slow onset, by undertaking vulnerability and risk assessments; monitoring, and by implementing appropriate, climate change adaptation strategies and risk-informed, disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery strategies.

Lastly, culture, art, music, heritage, and design sectors engaged to use culture, heritage and creativity to promote inclusion, cohesion and knowledge targeted to inspire and guide transitions to low carbon, climate resilient cities and settlements. Target: By 2030, 1000 arts, culture or heritage civil society organisations; design firms, artists and SMEs; and other cultural institutions are taking measures to inspire and guide transitions to climate resilient cities, settlements and rural communities.

Estimate of the number of people benefitting from “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient”

In view of the complexity of quantifying behaviour and actions generated by culture, UNESCO has alternatively recommended an indicator framework for culture that documents ways in which cultural values are enshrined in policies, pro-programmes, and actions.⁵ The CHN has adopted this approach to measuring the number of people who will, directly or indirectly, be made more resilience to climate risks as a result of new and existing culture-based strategies. The starting point for this analysis is to determine the number of people found in the cities and regions included in the Target Contributor pool (that is to say, in jurisdictions that are committed to systematically catalysing climate change adaptation and strengthening resilience by continuing, expanding or adding “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient”).

For purposes of this analysis, classification of city size was made using the city size classification system used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Urban areas in OECD countries are classified as: large metropolitan areas if they have a population of 1.5 million or more; metropolitan areas if their population is between 500 000 and 1.5 million; medium-size urban areas if their population is between 200 000 and 500 000; and, small urban areas if their population is under 200 000. This indicator is measured as a percentage of the national population.⁶

The existing CHN membership of regionally based local and regional governments and cultural institutions was evaluated in terms of the population of the jurisdiction served. That yielded the following analysis:

Population Band	% of Existing CHN Members Representing this Band	Percentage Applied to CHN RTR Target of 200 Cities	Number of Impacted Cities x Mean Population of Band =
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⁵ Culture 2030 Indicators, Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda (UNESCO 2019), page 16. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371562/PDF/371562eng.pdf.multi>

⁶ OECD (2021), Urban population by city size (indicator). doi: 10.1787/b4332f92-en (Accessed on 14 June 2021)



5,000,000 or more (e.g., Los Angeles, Flanders, Scotland, Maryland)	30%	60	300,000,000
1,500,000 to 5,000,000 (e.g., Wales; San Antonio, Kosovo)	15%	30	112,500,000
500,000 to 1.5 million (Krakow, Edmonton, Glasgow, Montana, Cornwall, San Francisco)	22%	44	44,000,000
200,000 to 500,000 (Cuenca, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, New Orleans)	11%	22	7,700,000
Under 200,000 (Cotonou, Nantucket, Shetland)	22%	44	4,400,000
People, directly or indirectly, made more resilience to climate risks as a result of new and existing culture-based strategies.			468,600,000

Ascertain the subset of people benefitting from “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient” that are from “vulnerable groups and communities”

This subset was obtained by extrapolating the population of vulnerable groups and communities served by existing CHN members to the Target Contributor pool, using the following methodology:

Urban Slum Dwellers	Approximately half of the world’s population lives in urban areas. ⁷ While about 23.5 per cent of urban populations live in slums, 80 per cent is attributed to three regions: Eastern and South- Eastern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia. ⁸	18,744,000
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⁷ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision (ST/ESA/SER.A/420). New York: United Nations.

<https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf>.

⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/goal-11/>.



	Weighting these factors accordingly, it is estimated that people, directly or indirectly, made more resilience to climate risks as a result of new and existing culture-based strategies in CHN RTR Target Group will equal 4%.	
Smallholder Farmers	The CHN reviewed various statistical analyses of the incidence of smallholder farms ⁹ but was unable to extrapolate a sufficiently accurate percentage of the people, directly or indirectly, made more resilience to climate risks as a result of new and existing culture-based strategies in CHN RTR Target Group who constitute smallholders. At the same time, a number of CHN members to operate programs aimed at the resilience of small and family farmers. A placeholder number has been included for now with better metrics to be developed over time.	1,000,000
Coastal	Presently about 40% of the world's population lives within 100 kilometres of the coast. ¹⁰	187,440,000
People from vulnerable groups and communities that will, directly or indirectly, be made more resilience to climate risks as a result of new and existing culture-based strategies		207,184,000

Track progress

The CHN is developing a mix of qualitative and quantitative assessment tools to measure progress towards fulfilling its RTR commitment. Information collected as part of voluntary surveys of Target Contributors provides a valuable baseline from which to measure progress in addition to directing actions at the local and national levels. The data also contributes to the formation of a global overview of the state of progress of the contribution of culture to the RTR and provides evidence-based and analytical material to support the develop of even more broadly utilised reporting mechanisms related to climate resilience. An example is the UNESCO “Checklist for the climate adaptation framework,” which is an indicator that aims to assess measures taken to foster climate change adaptation and enhance resilience.¹¹

⁹ See, e.g., Sarah K. Lowder, Jakob Skoet, Terri Raney, The Number, Size, and Distribution of Farms, Smallholder Farms, and Family Farms Worldwide, World Development, Volume 87, 2016, Pages 16-29, ISSN 0305-750X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2015.10.041>.

¹⁰ Indicators of Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies, October 2007, Third Edition. https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es/papers/Coastal_Zone_Pop_Method.pdf

¹¹ Culture 2030 Indicators, Page 42.