



The Gianyar Declaration 2017

Cultural Sustainability and Climate Change

The 17th International Conference of National Trusts was held in Bali from 11-15 September 2017. It was jointly hosted by the Indonesian Heritage Trust/ Badan Pelestarian Pusaka Indonesia (BPPI), the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) and the Gianyar Regency.

The 200 delegates from 31 countries representing the global heritage community supported the following statement, drawn up by BPPI in consultation with INTO, of which it is a member.

1. OUR MISSION

- 1.1 Badan Pelestarian Pusaka Indonesia / Indonesian Heritage Trust (BPPI) is a Non-Governmental Organisation, founded in 2004, with the objective 'to safeguard and conserve the sustainability of the Indonesian heritage'.
- 1.2 The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) also an NGO was founded in 2007 'to promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of all nations for the benefit of the people of the world.'
- 1.3 BPPI recognizes that in Indonesia, local wisdom and indigenous traditions have been passed down in each community from their ancestors. This includes strategies to maintain the sustainable nature and culture of the country from the threats of climate change, other natural disasters and man-made decay.
- 1.4 There is general concern by BPPI and other member organisations of INTO, and among the many conservation, management and education agencies of the world at the lack of preparedness for coping with the predicted climate change. There is however increasing international research published on the facts of climate change. Our mission is to outline actions required to mitigate and to safeguard the tangible and intangible heritage from the impacts of climate change.
- 1.5 BPPI in association with INTO and its member organisations have adopted notable declarations at Edinburgh (2003), Dublin (2009), Victoria (2011) and Entebbe (2013), where the principles for considering conservation and climate and the supporting objectives have been set out.

- 1.6 BPPI and delegates at the 17th ICNT recognize the scientific economic, social and cultural impacts of climate change, on geography, rainfall, roads and services infrastructure, energy use and conservation, demographic patterns in urban and rural areas, land use and vegetation, employment and skills requirements, the need for education and research, and above all for educated leaders who can plan at all levels of government for the management of our changing world.
- 1.7 BPPI and ICNT delegates recognize that multinational understanding and support is required to face these wide-ranging challenges with respect for the extremely diverse cultural identities beliefs and customs found in this world that must also engage over time with the new scientific realities. These realities also include new communications and access to information by everyone, new employment markets, new trading patterns and competition, and traditional belief, language, and custom, being invaded by a new world. They are concerned that the diversity of human culture should be respected and that change in the tangible environment must respect and assist the intangible character of identities, customs and beliefs.
- 1.8 BPPI and ICNT delegates recognize that the natural and man-made environment and biodiversity of land and sea is a precious resource, and that if abused through waste and pollution, ignorance and exploitation, will not render its potential values to mankind. Climate change (of rising sea levels, storm and drought, erosion, variation in solar exposure, extremes in temperature humidity and insect damage) is a serious threat to the natural and man-made environment. Such threats will not be the same everywhere, so government planners and conservation organisations must understand and monitor such threats and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

Now by this Gianyar Declaration, BPPI and delegates at the 17th ICNT, representing cultural and natural heritage organisations from around the world, gathered in Bali in September 2017, encourage the global community and its leaders to accept the following propositions and thereafter to modify their actions and strategies accordingly:-

2. ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Strategy 1 – Understanding and recording decay mechanisms and threats to the natural and man-made environments, to heritage collections, and to their materials.

The global heritage community and Government at all levels, assisted by professional experts, should make every endeavour to define and predict environmental and physical changes resulting from climate change. Climate change should itself be recorded, and condition assessment and change in the decay mechanisms of the natural and man-made environment and its materials recorded at regular intervals. Participation by the community in these monitoring processes will raise knowledge, awareness and understanding and will influence grass roots education and commitment.

Strategy 2 – Initiating and maintaining training programmes

Training programmes should be established to appropriately train inter alia, environmental and physical planners, project managers, architects, builders, material conservators, restoration trades and horticulturalists. Education and training programmes would equip these professionals with the competency and knowledge required to work together, especially where surveys and recording identifies climate change and conservation related issues.

Strategy 3– Adopting sustainable urban and rural landscape, garden and estate management practices.

Where the cultural and historic values of urban or rural landscape are established, climate change will pose complex physical challenges for maintenance of the historic environment. Changes in temperature and rainfall will threaten the survival of certain plants and trees. Drainage patterns or water supply may need adaptation.

If the objective of a particular heritage environment is to maintain its historic and cultural values – by retaining its land use, its socio-economic values, style, design, composition and characteristics – it will be critical to properly understand how those desired values can be preserved despite potentially significant changes to climate, socio-economic and demographic factors.

Strategy 4– Monitoring & documenting change

Responding to climate change may require the adoption of pragmatic strategies for managing and adapting particular heritage landscapes, estates and gardens. When such a strategy is adopted, it will be incumbent upon the responsible parties to properly understand the desired transition from the existing landscape to the appropriate likely future. In order for such an evolution to be successful, and to be accepted, it must be properly explained to the public. All such evolution should be recorded and interpreted for both educational purposes and to protect the historical legacy of what was and will no longer be.

Strategy 5 –Monitoring & managing changing pest & disease conditions

Historic landscapes, heritage estates and gardens may undergo considerable biophysical changes as a result of climate change. These changes should be identified and understood to allow appropriate strategies to be developed to respond to the associated challenges. Climate change may require managers to cope with the spread of problematic pest species and the increasing level of risk posed by plant diseases such as moulds, fungi and viruses.

3. MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Strategy 6 – Reducing the carbon footprint with sustainable energy initiatives

The global heritage community should take strategic action to reduce its carbon footprint and, in so doing, to mitigate climate change. Strategies to reduce energy usage by changing to renewable energy sources instead of fossil are needed. Heritage organisations could secure corporate and government support to facilitate this transition.

Strategy 7 – Reducing carbon footprint with green transport & equipment

Heritage organisations should adopt modern technologies to reduce their carbon footprints. Green transport and equipment could increasingly supplant existing stock; visitors could be encouraged to walk, cycle or use electric vehicles on heritage properties; equipment and machinery could increasingly be powered by renewable energy. Rapid advances in information technology should reduce the need for human movement. The formation of partnerships between heritage organisations and research institutions can identify new sustainable property management approaches.

Strategy 8 – Sustainable water management

The global heritage community should adopt strategies to avoid excessive water use and associated energy use, and to develop the capacity to harvest, store and reuse water through grey water and water purification approaches. Water should be managed based on social justice, harmony, togetherness, and also as a basic material for developing and creating an environmentally friendly economy.

Strategy 9 – Waste not, want not

Heritage organisations should engage experts from different disciplines and formulate strategies to enhance sustainability objectives and to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, such as adopting composting programmes, producing fuel bricks from farm waste, utilizing sustainably harvested timber to reduce operating costs and using animal waste to generate electricity.

DUTIES

Strategy 10 -The duty to advocate

Heritage organisations are custodians of significant cultural heritage, and have a duty to promote responsible climate change action. These organisations should adopt effective communication strategies to promote sustainability objectives, and to encourage the public to reduce their carbon footprint.

Strategy 11 - The duty to shape the law

Heritage organisations should be proactive advocates for responsible climate change action at a macro level, through lobbying legislators and governments to introduce or strengthen laws, regulations and policies concerning planning and conservation. Achieving reforms globally through effective and persuasive influence is in the interests of the global heritage movement.

Strategy 12 - The duty to protect intangible cultural heritage

The global heritage community has a paramount duty to protect and conserve intangible cultural heritage associated with places. A critical consequence of climate change is the loss of cultural knowledge, cultural connectivity and the “sense of place” derived from the intergenerational affinity of a people to their locality. Cultural traditions of art, craft, music, folklore and language are all fragile and endangered, as people are relocated and dispossessed by climate change. It is acknowledged that in order for communities to be sustainable under changing environmental conditions, there will need to be an adjustment to the cultural character of a place.

Strategy 13 –The duty to promote creative industries based on the conservation of nature and culture

The global heritage community has a duty to promote responsible creative industries based on the conservation of nature and culture to provide job creation, including post disasters, to

generate locally based economic activity and to enhance the innovation of folk art and heritage design

The Gianyar Declaration on Cultural Sustainability and Climate Change was supported by delegates representing cultural and natural heritage organisations from around the world, gathered in Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia for the 17th International Conference of National Trusts.

The Indonesian Heritage Trust, BPPI, is a civil society organization in partnership with over 50 member organisations in Indonesia aimed at strengthening and assisting heritage conservation throughout Indonesia. It is run by volunteers and funded by donations

The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) occupies a unique role within the global heritage movement, bringing together National Trusts for conservation of heritage and similar organisations. It currently has over 70 member organisations worldwide.