



ISCEAH
International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage

Theme 5: Seismic

Proposal for the period 2018-2020

Problem:

Post-earthquake assessments offer an opportunity to understand why buildings fail and provide information for the improvement of seismic performance. Lessons learned from earthquakes and other natural disasters have been used for centuries to advance construction techniques. More recently, such lessons have fostered the development of the engineering and historic preservation disciplines, as well as the testing and review of current building codes and disaster management policies and procedures.

However, every time an earthquake occurs in a region rich on earthen heritage, conservation professionals go to the affected area to carry out rapid assessments of the damaged sites. These assessments normally end with a publication on a professional journal or conference. Several post-earthquake assessments forms have been developed already to survey damage on historic sites, including those built on earth. However, every time an earthquake happens, professionals start from scratch, designing new assessment forms and re-inventing the wheel.

Similar situation happens when heritage professionals need to justify the preservation of damaged historic earthen sites against demolition. There are several international charters and declarations that would support the professionals trying to save the damaged sites from public authorities who regularly advocate for demolition –and further banning of earthen construction- after an earthquake.

Outcomes:

The theme on seismic of the International Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH) would like to collect and make public the already existing post-earthquake assessment forms and international charters and declarations for the preservation of earthen sites located in seismic areas; in order to:

- Improve the damaged assessment of historic earthen sites hit by earthquakes
- Decrease the conservation surveys that start from zero while figuring out how to response to damaged earthen historic sites
- Enhance the tools heritage professionals have while justifying the preservation of earthen sites to public officials, the media and the general public advocating for demolition of the damaged historic earthen sites after an earthquake.



Activities and timetables:

During the next two years and a half, the theme seismic of ISCEAH will collect and make public the already existing post-earthquake assessment forms and international charters and declarations for the preservation of earthen sites located in seismic areas, according to the following time-table:

- 1) May-July 2018: Distribution of proposal and call for members to work on it
- 2) July-December 2018: Collection of existing post-earthquake assessment forms (Open call to all ISCEAH members)
- 3) January-June 2019: Discussion among theme members to select the most appropriate ones to further disseminate
- 4) July-December 2019: Request appropriate permissions from original authors
- 5) January-June 2019: Post selected forms on ISCEAH website and disseminate the posting through social media
- 6) July-December 2019: Collection of international charters and declarations for the preservation of earthen sites located in seismic areas (Open call to all ISCEAH members)
- 7) January-June 2020: Request appropriate permissions from original authors
- 8) July-December 2020: Post selected charters and declarations on ISCEAH website and disseminate the posting through social media.