



ICOMOS - ISCEAH  
International Scientific Committee  
on Earthen Architectural Heritage  
International Council on  
Monuments and Sites

**ICOMOS-ISCEAH**  
International Council on Monuments and Sites  
International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage

## **ISCEAH** **International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage**

### **3-Year Plan 2018-2020**

#### **Developed by:**

President: Mariana Correia; Vice-President: Maddalena Achenza;

Secretary: Pamela Jerome; Treasurer: Yong Shao;

Chair 1 (in use): Ione Stiegler;

Chair 2 (archaeology): Jorge Aching Vasquez;

Chair 3 (technology): Bakonirina Rakotomamonjy;

Chair 4 (landscape): Ishanlosen Odiaua;

Chair 5 (seismic): Claudia Cancino.

#### **Background:**

The purpose of a Triennial Plan is to assist in the development and implementation of an overall Scientific Development Strategy for ICOMOS. ICOMOS's Scientific Council has set up a scientific program of interdisciplinary themes seeking collaboration from all ISCs. Within that framework, ISCEAH's program can contribute through training, field projects, organization of conferences and seminars, publications, research, websites, methods for response to requests for assistance, etc. The development of a road map to establish future guidelines and principles for the conservation and management of earthen architectural, archaeological and cultural-landscape heritage is also an area of activity for ISCEAH to contribute to ICOMOS's overall programs.

#### **1. ISCEAH's Role**

ISCEAH has an important role studying, enhancing, and protecting earthen architecture and earthen heritage worldwide. This Scientific Committee is the only international organization with a clear duty to research and safeguard earthen architecture. Due to ISCEAH responsibility, the members of the Committee should have an active standpoint contributing for the awareness and the protection of earthen heritage worldwide.

#### **2. Research Themes**

**2.1. Themes objectives:** ISCEAH research is addressed in five main themes:

- Theme 1: In-Use - Conserving and studying the standing, and perhaps in use, architectural heritage (vernacular, historic, etc.).
- Theme 2: Archaeology - Conserving and studying the earthen archaeological environment, which may also include standing structures.
- Theme 3: Landscapes - Researching the contribution of earthen architectural heritage to cultural landscapes and its relation to the intangible heritage and living traditions.



- Theme 4: Technology - Cooperating in the process of understanding the historic/traditional techniques of earthen structures through research into materiality, including its impact on new earthen construction and encouraging/promoting/supporting additional research into the decay pathology of earthen building systems.
- Theme 5: Seismic - Researching ancient/historic a-seismic techniques and using these in addition to current research to inform retrofitting of existing structures and appropriate new construction.

**2.2. Work Program:** A specialized Chair elected from the Board of Directors of ISCEAH leads each theme of research and proposes a work program (check Annexes for further information).

### **2.3. Background and Expected Results:**

**Theme 1: In-Use** - ISCEAH is tasked with carrying out specialized, scientific studies and sharing information that contributes to the protection and conservation of the world's earthen architectural, archaeological and cultural landscape heritage. The Sub-committee on In-Use (Scientific Theme 1) is concerned with conserving and studying extant, standing, and possibly in-use earthen architectural heritage of all kinds.

The ISCEAH Sub-committee on In-Use has noted a lack of basic guidance documents in the international cultural heritage community that could instruct the preservation, conservation, and rehabilitation of historic earthen resources throughout the world and especially in those countries, which lack their own guidance documents. In response, the Sub-committee drafted a table of contents for such a document in December 2016 and will now begin the process of creating comprehensive guidelines for approaching a historic earthen resource.

The ISCEAH Sub-committee on In-Use wishes to guide communities around the world in preserving, conserving and rehabilitating historic earthen resources worldwide. The Sub-committee seeks to guide through a comprehensive illustrated document that can be easily disseminated. For the 2018-2020 plan the sub-committee proposes:

- The document will assemble an illustrated glossary of terminology as well as a methodology for approaching work on a historic resource, including documentation and evaluation, assessment of best treatment/levels of intervention, and assessment of attainable and sustainable results. The document will specifically discuss evaluating and identifying appropriate adaptive reuses for a resource. The document will also use community case studies from around the world as illustrative examples.



**Theme 2: Archaeology** - The ISCEAH Sub-committee in Archaeology focuses on the conservation and the study of earthen archaeological heritage. To do so, it is necessary to know and apply new methodologies to comprehensively understand the object of study.

For the conservation of the archaeological heritage, research is the main task, in order to comprehend constructive techniques, which have been used in the past and evaluate the possibility to apply them in the present. For this, it is important to follow the resistance principle of the materials and its effectiveness through essays.

The results expected for the 2018-2020 period are the following:

- Preparation of a Glossary that reflects the different types of pathologies that may be seen in archaeological architecture, through the development of a dynamic and interactive database;
- The earthen archaeological heritage is constantly undermined by both human and natural factors (pathologies). There is a need for a critical perspective that encourages the exchange of solutions that are adopted by the professionals of the ISCEAH group against these types of threats;
- It is necessary to strengthen the participation in social networks, in order to expose through a graphic registration, pathologies that have affected the earthen architecture and the intervention solutions at the conservation level, as well as the studies carried out on the materials. It is also important to exchange information through PDFs and the dissemination of events

**Theme 3: Technology** - The theme on technology of the International Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH) would like to collect and make public:

- A selection of existing works on terminologies on earthen architecture techniques sorted by languages, and
- An alpha version of the atlas of remarkable historic / traditional techniques in earthen structures;

In order to:

- Disseminate a selection existing knowledge on the different techniques already recorded in earthen architecture;
- Bring awareness on the wealth of earthen architecture techniques.

Terminologies are defined as: the body of terms used with a particular technical application in a subject of study, profession, etc. It differs from glossary, which is a collection of specialized terms in several languages. To start, it is suggested to collect works on terminology in the languages of ICOMOS (English, French and Spanish).



**Theme 4: Landscape** - Earthen cultural landscapes (ECL) refer to built heritage based on earthen construction materials and techniques that present a very unique form of expression and interaction with nature, providing form to the landscape and shelter to its inhabitants. Earth architecture landscapes are increasingly threatened by the loss of the technical knowledge that is critical for the survival of unit elements and the spatial management of the relationships between the units and the landscapes in which they exist. Earthen landscapes are both rural and urban, and both are faced with development pressure and abandonment. While adding to the color and texture of the built environment, the boundaries of ECLs can be difficult to define.

Since 2008, ISCEAH's ECL working group compiled and reviewed cultural landscape theory and definitions developed by academia and professional organizations, identified ECL around the world and developed a survey methodology that could be widely deployed across the world. The group also began working on an ECL atlas, through the administration of questionnaires. The atlas is conceived as a tool to illustrate the identified threats, opportunities and recommended strategies for conserving ECLs. The atlas was conceived as a tool to illustrate the identified threats, opportunities and recommended strategies for conserving ECLs. Since then, a collaborative ISCEAH initiative has developed CARTOTerra as a "*participative atlas of earthen architecture*", to address the crosscutting issues of the earthen architecture, as addressed by the various ISCEAH working groups.

It is expected that by the end of the 2018-2020 cycle, the following results would have been achieved:

- ECL survey forms translated into 3 other languages;
- 10 ECL survey forms completed from at least 5 geographical regions in the world;
- ECL- specific entries developed and contributed to the CARTOTerra data entries;
- Information from at least 83 survey forms entered into the CARTOTerra, this includes information from the existing 53 samples;
- First draft of ECL guidelines prepared and consulted upon.

**Theme 5: Seismic** - Post-earthquake assessments offer an opportunity to understand why buildings fail and provide information for the improvement of seismic performance. Lessons learned from earthquakes 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. Several post-earthquake assessments



forms have been developed already to survey damage on historic sites, including those built on earth, but new ones are always created. Similar situation happens when heritage professionals need to justify the preservation of damaged historic earthen sites against demolition. There are already a few national charters and/or 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.

Therefore the theme on seismic of the International Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH) would like to collect and make public –via its website- the already existing post-earthquake assessment forms and national charters and/or 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.

Due to the subject of this theme, it would be ideal to identify a few people from ISCARSAH and/or ICORP to work together in collecting the mentioned documents.

**2.4. Structure:** An unlimited ISCEAH general membership consists of several types: Expert, Associate and/or Emerging Professionals, Honorary, Institutional and Non-ICOMOS. In addition, a Board provides the leadership of the Committee. For the moment, discussions between all research groups occur over the listserv ([icomos-isceah@googlegroups.com](mailto:icomos-isceah@googlegroups.com)).

**2.5. Budget:** The work will be performed on a volunteer basis under the auspices of ISCEAH. Each theme will be responsible for proposing its budget and if needed, will seek funding with the potential assistance of ISCEAH.

### **3. ISCEAH Management**

**3.1. Annual Activities Report:** An annual activities report should be developed and submitted by each member of ISCEAH.

**3.2. New Membership Applications:** It is fundamental to increase the number of members of ISCEAH. In January 2018, when the new Executive Committee was elected, there were 113 members. Since that time, the new Executive Committee has been accepting numerous applications.



**3.3. New Website:** During 2016 and 2017, ISCEAH had no active website. However, ISCEAH had an active website from 2007 to 2015. The new Executive Committee will reactivate the old website and will prepare it, to be adapted to the new system of WordPress.

**3.4. Statutes Revision:** ISCEAH's statutes were last revised in 2008. Since that time, ICOMOS has adopted revised statutes (2014 Triennial General Assembly in Florence). ICLAFI is developing model statutes based on these revisions. When the model statutes become available, the Board of ISCEAH will prepare revisions to ISCEAH's statutes for adoption by the National Committee - Designated Voters.

**3.5. Management of ISC Platform:** ISC platform has got relevant data from each member. All ISCEAH members that are included on this database should have their data revised.

**3.6. Social media:** ISCEAH already activated a Facebook page where information and photos are shared. It is intended to open an Instagram account as well.

#### **4. TERRA World Congress**

Call for Expressions of Interest: Following the selection of Morocco-Italy to further develop their Expression of Interest and their withdrawal, another Call for Expressions of Interest will be issued, to host the 13<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Earthen Architecture or TERRA 2021. The call will be issued in 2018.

#### **5. New Working Groups to be created within ISCEAH**

**5.1. Emerging Professionals:** To respond to the request of the ICOMOS Secretariat, an Emerging Professionals Working Group will be created within ISCEAH. Also, an Emerging Professional will be nominated to represent ISCEAH at the international ICOMOS Emerging Group. This group is working on the definition of the meaning and on the establishment of a clear purpose to further help the strength of the group.

**5.2. Climate Change:** ISCEAH needs to start contributing more actively to climate change impact on earthen architecture and its fragile heritage. A working group with interdisciplinary contributions should be created to better face the enormous challenges that are rising constantly, in what concerns climate change.

#### **6. Earthen Architecture Charter**

To better address the conservation and the preservation of earthen heritage worldwide, especially when so much heritage is being destroyed by incorrect interventions, it is crucial to create a road map and start working on a proposal that contributes to guide the preservation of the still standing earthen heritage.



## **ANNEXES**

### **Appendix 1 – Theme 1: In use**

#### **Introduction**

The ISCEAH Sub-committee on In-Use wishes to guide communities around the world in preserving, conserving and rehabilitating historic earthen resources worldwide.

#### **Objectives**

The Sub-committee seeks to guide through a comprehensive illustrated document that can be easily disseminated. The document will assemble an illustrated glossary of terminology as well as a methodology for approaching work on a historic resource, including documentation and evaluation, assessment of best treatment/levels of intervention, and assessment of attainable and sustainable results. The document will specifically discuss evaluating and identifying appropriate adaptive reuses for a resource. The document will also use community case studies from around the world as illustrative examples.

#### **Results**

##### Introduction

The guidance document has the working title of *Thinking About Historic Resources: Guidance for Identification, Documentation, Evaluation, Treatment, and Management*. The proposed contents of this document were developed through an extensive evaluation of existing guidance documents from around the world. ICOMOS charters, and UNESCO and ICCROM recommendations, such as the Venice Charter, Nara Document, and Riga Charter were referenced to identify major international themes. The way in which different countries translated these universal themes into policies, principles, and standards was explored through an evaluation of the national guidance documents of the United States, China, and the United Kingdom. Country-specific evaluations were further supplemented by specific practical and technical recommendations from site-specific documents, such as the *Kasbah Taourirt* plan.

Following this in-depth investigation – from the broadest context to the most specific – the Sub-committee identified the terms, concepts, methodologies, technologies, and case studies that are necessary to address the needs of those working on historic resources. This information will be arranged in a logical manner that allows the reader to first gain a basic understanding of cultural heritage preservation concepts and terminology and then continue on to an evaluation of his or her specific resource. *Thinking About Historic Resources* will guide the reader through the steps of addressing a cultural resource in order and will attempt to provide guidance for most major considerations and treatment options; where guidance cannot be given, resources are suggested for further research.

##### Visual Glossary

The inclusion of a glossary is crucial in a document which may be used by cultural heritage professionals and laymen from differing countries and educational backgrounds and who speak different languages. The Sub-committee in prior meetings determined that a visual glossary – one which supplements textual



definitions with photographs, diagrams, and other graphics – will be especially useful in creating a comprehensible guide.

#### Extended discussions of conceptual issues

In addition to the visual glossary, *Thinking About Historic Resources* will contain longer discussions of more complex or conceptual terms such as authenticity, significance, condition versus integrity, and the concept of minimal intervention. These terms, which are so critical to the understanding and practice of cultural heritage work and so ingrained into the minds of heritage professionals, must be thoroughly and clearly explored for the benefit of the layman or new professional.

#### Methodologies

*Thinking About Historic Resources* will guide the reader through five stages of interaction with their historic resource: identification, recordation and documentation, evaluation, treatment, and management. Within each of these stages, the document will address more specific methodologies. What is a survey and when might different survey types be applicable? What is the best way to document a particular resource? What tasks should be performed by a specialist and which can a generalist undertake?

The document will also include information on technical topics such as cleaning historic earthen architecture, materials testing, and documentary technologies. When should a building be tested for the presence of lead? Is pressure washing appropriate and, if so, how should it be done? What is a Building Information Model and why might one be helpful?

The Sub-committee acknowledges that it is not possible to cover every possible methodological and technological question and that the field is always evolving. In the interest of providing the most complete guidance, however, the Sub-committee will provide a robust appendix of recommended resources for further research and study.

#### Case studies

Case studies will be utilized throughout the document to illustrate specific methodological and technological concepts, potential challenges, successes, and failures. The ‘story’ of each case study will be supplemented by definitions and discussions of major concepts.

#### Calendar of Activities

Due to the distinct topics several committee members will be able to each write their sections autonomously for assemblage into one document. Currently the following sections have been identified.

Chapter	Section	Year
1. Introduction	1.A Visual glossary <i>This section will define the terminology not only for this guidance document but for the field in general. To include such words/concepts as terms for the spectrum of intervention in different countries, technical terminology, acronyms, etc. Photographs and/or</i>	2018-2019





	<i>diagrams to accompany definitions, as appropriate.</i>	
	1.B International guidance documents <i>This section will introduce the reader to existing international guidance frameworks.</i>	2018-2019
2. Methodology	2.A Introduction <i>This section will introduce the reader to the general methodology of approaching a historic resource from initial identification through ongoing management. Each of these steps will constitute its own section in the document.</i> <i>Identify → document → evaluate → treat → manage</i>	2018-2019
2.B Identify	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of identifying a historic resource (example topics outlined below). For each topic, existing standards/guidelines and applicable technologies will be explained, a basic methodology outlined, and resources given for further research.</i>	
	2.B.1 Site history/historic context	
	2.B.2 Site boundaries	2018-2019
	2.B.3 Existing conditions	
2.C Document	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of documenting a historic resource (example topics outlined below). For each topic, existing standards/guidelines and applicable technologies will be explained, a basic methodology outlined, and resources given for further research. Case study examples could be particularly constructive.</i>	
	2.C.1 Surveys	2018-2019
	2.C.2 Graphical documentation	2018-2019
	2.C.3 Narrative documentation	2018-2019
	2.C.4 Documentation Repositories	2018-2019
2.D Evaluate	<i>This section will guide the reader through different aspects of evaluating the significance and integrity of a historic resource, beginning with a conceptual discussion of what significance and integrity are and ending with a discussion on how to come to a final conclusion about a resource's eligibility for listing, protection, etc.</i>	
	2.D.1 Significance/ integrity	2018-2019
	Examples from case studies, pointing out benefits/uses/limitations/ drawbacks of each.	
2.E Treat	<i>This section will introduce the reader to treatment philosophies and technologies. Since treatment is so resource-specific, the science is constantly evolving, and on-site treatment can be somewhat improvised, this section may benefit more from case study examples than prescriptive methodologies.</i>	
	2.E.1 Treatment levels	2019-2020
	2.E.2 Standards/ guidelines	
3. Manage	<i>This section will guide the reader through different</i>	



	<i>aspects of managing a historic resource after treatment is complete. The importance of continued management may be best conveyed through case study examples of successful and unsuccessful management planning.</i>	
	3.A Ongoing management planning	2020
	3.B Record of treatment	
	3.C Periodic re-evaluation	
4. Technologies	<i>Discuss relevant treatment technologies and provide resources for further research.</i>	
	4.A Cleaning historic architecture	2020
	4.B Repairing historic earthen architecture	
	4.C Materials testing	
	4.D documentation technologies	



## Appendix 2 - Theme 2: Archaeology

### Introduction

The ISCEAH Sub-committee in Archaeology focuses on the conservation and the study of earthen archaeological heritage. To do so, it is necessary to know and apply new methodologies to comprehensively understand our object of study. For the conservation of the archaeological heritage, research is the main task, in order to comprehend constructive techniques, which have been used in the past and evaluate the possibility to apply them in the present. For this, it is important to follow the resistance principle of the materials and its effectiveness through essays.

The activities to be developed during 2018-2020 period, seek to encourage the participation of professionals interested in earthen archaeological architecture, in order to exchange experiences and analyze the situation of heritage in the world.

### Objectives

To achieve a comprehensive knowledge of the earthen archaeological architecture in the ISCEAH group, the following objectives will be pursued:

- 1 - Continue and conclude the Glossary.
- 2 - Generate a circle of debates about the following cases:
  - a) Threats and destruction suffered by the archaeological heritage
  - b) Measures adopted to mitigate these possible events.
- 3 - Strengthen the work in social networks such as Facebook to contribute for the awareness of the selected cases study and / or intervention in archaeological earthen architecture at the ISCEAH group level.

### Results

The results expected for the 2018-2020 period are the following:

1 - Preparation of a Glossary that reflects the different types of pathologies that may be seen in archaeological architecture, through the development of a dynamic and interactive database. The database is structured following the guidelines established by Enrico Fodde, as coordinator of Theme 2 (2009-2013). The support of the group members will be requested to generate a database with the latest advances in software. In this database, it will be possible to continuously integrate information, among all the members of the ISCEAH archaeological group. Once the information is included, it will be reviewed and evaluated by the Committee so that the content has an official endorsement.

In this way, the glossary becomes a tool for continuous consultation to assess and perform the diagnosis of damage that earthen archaeological architecture presents. This will allow knowledge to establish better strategies in the conservation of earthen architecture.

2 - The earthen archaeological heritage is constantly undermined by both human and natural factors (pathologies). There is a need for a critical perspective that encourages the exchange of solutions that are adopted by the professionals of the ISCEAH group against these types of threats. To achieve this goal, a topic will be proposed (for example: the analysis of structural pathologies in earthen archaeological sites and their solutions through conservation). Professionals will share their experiences, through e-mails or a virtual platform, and cases will be studied in greater depth.



3 - It is necessary to strengthen the participation in social networks, in order to expose through a graphic registration, pathologies that have affected the earthen architecture and the intervention solutions at the conservation level, as well as the studies carried out on the materials. It is also important to exchange information through PDFs and the dissemination of events.

## Calendar

### 1 – Glossary

Activities	Year			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Development and evaluation of the database.	x			
Integration of the data into the database by ISCEAH.		x	x	
Evaluation of the data by the committee.		x	x	
Preparation of the final document where the information of the data is integrated and processed.				x

### 2 - Circle of debate

Activities	Year			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Evaluate a platform for interaction (multimedia - Skype)	x			
Proposition of a discussion topic by members	x			
Encourage the debate regarding the problems faced by earthen archaeological architecture	x	x	x	x
Preparation of a document-memory that reflects the ideas expressed in the debate.			x	x

### 3 - Social Network

The chair of the archaeological group is currently administrating ISCEAH Facebook, but it would be good to integrate more than one administrator, and at the same time to encourage the participation of the all ISCEAH group. As it is a closed group and only members of ISCEAH can participate, if someone wants to join the closed Facebook group, it is left to criteria and evaluation if necessary.



## Appendix 3 - Theme 3: Technology

### Proposal for the period 2018-2020

#### Problem:

It is very common in the literature to read descriptions of earthen architecture, which unfortunately are far from satisfactory. For example, there are: errors in the type of techniques that were used; descriptions limited to morphology without any mention of the associated constructive cultures (even in hypothetical form); lack of illustration of the technical ingenuity of these earthen constructions.

These generalities do not serve earthen architecture, while the lessons of archaeological, heritage and vernacular earthen heritage for a sustainable architecture are probably multiple (responses to natural context and hazards, economical aspects, etc.).

In order to participate in a better knowledge of earthen architecture, it is proposed that the ICOMOS-ISCEAH community take stock of the existing works on terminologies of earthen techniques in various languages and feed an atlas of technical ingenuity of earthen constructions, to provide a first base of knowledge illustrating the variety and richness of techniques. This knowledge shall open up perspectives on the question of technologies that could go beyond the subject matter to embrace broader notions, such as economy, environment, culture and societies.

#### Outcomes:

The theme on technology of the International Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH) would like to collect and make public a selection of existing works on terminologies on earthen architecture techniques sorted by languages and an alpha version of the atlas of remarkable historic / traditional techniques in earthen structures; in order to:

- Disseminate the existing knowledge on the different techniques already recorded in earthen architecture;
- Bring awareness on the wealth of earthen architecture techniques.

Terminologies are defined as: the body of terms used with a particular technical application in a subject of study, profession, etc. It differs from glossary, which is a collection of specialized terms in several languages. To start, it is suggested to collect works on terminology in the languages of ICOMOS (English, French and Spanish).

#### Activities and Timetable:

During the next two years and a half, the theme technology of ISCEAH will collect and make public:

- a) A selection of the already existing works on terminology of earthen architecture techniques sorted by languages; and,
- b) An alpha version of the atlas of remarkable traditional techniques of earthen structures in countries where members undertake works and researches. Remarkable traditional techniques shall be original or judicious technical architecture or details.

These activities will be done following this timetable:



- 1) May-July 2018: Distribution of proposal. Call for members to be part of the theme. Call for members to be part of an ISCEAH Theme 3 Advisory Committee in charge of discussing the most appropriate works on terminology to be posted, revising the information made available in the atlas;
- 2) July-December 2018: Collection of existing works on terminology (open call to all ISCEAH members);
- 3) July 2019: Evaluation and recommendations by Theme 3 Advisory Committee on the ongoing process;
- 4) January-June 2019: Discussion among the Theme 3 Advisory Committee to select the most appropriate works on terminology to further be disseminate;
- 5) January-June 2019: Post selected works on terminology on ISCEAH website and disseminate the posting through social media;
- 6) July-December 2019: Open call to all ISCEAH members to contribute to the atlas by providing information to be posted on <https://cartoterra.net/> on at least 2 remarkable historic / traditional techniques of earthen structures, in countries where works and researches are undertaken;
- 7) January-June 2020: Revision by the Theme 3 Advisory Committee, regarding the information posted on <https://cartoterra.net/>
- 8) July-December 2020: Final evaluation and recommendations by the Advisory Committee.



## Appendix 4 - Theme 4: Landscape

### Background:

Earthen cultural landscapes (ECL) refer to built heritage based on earthen construction materials and techniques that present a very unique form of expression and interaction with nature, providing form to the landscape and shelter to its inhabitants. Earth architecture landscapes are increasingly threatened by the loss of the technical knowledge that is critical for the survival of unit elements and the spatial management of the relationships between the units and the landscapes in which they exist. Earthen landscapes are both rural and urban, and both are faced with development pressure and abandonment. While adding to the color and texture of the built environment, the boundaries of ECLs can be difficult to define.

Since 2008, ISCEAH's ECL working group compiled and reviewed cultural landscape theory and definitions developed by academia and professional organizations, identified ECL around the world and developed a survey methodology that could be widely deployed across the world. The group also began working on an ECL atlas, through the administration of questionnaires. The atlas was conceived as a tool to illustrate the identified threats, opportunities and recommended strategies for conserving ECLs. Since then, a collaborative ISCEAH initiative has developed CARTOTerra as a "*participative atlas of earthen architectures*", to address the crosscutting issues of the earthen architecture, as addressed by the various ISCEAH working groups.

### Objectives:

For the 2018-2020 cycle, the objectives of the Working Group will be to:

1. Expand the ECL survey to balance geographical representation (will likely include translating the questionnaire into other languages – need volunteers);
2. Contribute to expanding CARTOTerra to include landscape-specific data fields
3. Draft guidelines for the identification and conservation of ECLs.

### Expected Results:

It is expected that by the end of the 2018-2020 cycle, the following results would have been achieved:

- ECL survey forms translated into 3 other languages;
- 10 ECL survey forms completed from at least 5 geographical regions in the world;
- ECL-specific entries developed and contributed to the CARTOTerra data entries;
- Information from at least 83 survey forms entered into the CARTOTerra, this includes information from the existing 53 samples;
- First draft of ECL guidelines prepared and consulted upon.

### Schedule:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Revise ECL questionnaire as necessary	End September 2018
Compilation of existing 53 completed questionnaires	End September 2018
Translation of ECL questionnaire into three other languages (TBD based on available volunteers)	End December 2018
Enter data fields into CARTOTerra	End December 2018



Dissemination, follow up and collection of completed ECL questionnaire	End June 2019
Input information from completed questionnaires into the CARTOterra	End December 2019
Engage discussions with IFLA on guidelines for conservation in landscapes	End December 2018
Identify and reach out to colleagues who have carried out specific work on ECL in their own countries.	End March 2019
Prepare first draft of guidelines (identification and conservation of ECL)	End December 2019
Disseminate draft guidelines for consultations, with other ICOMOS SCs	End May 2020
Collate results from consultations and finalise first draft	End June 2020
Finalise first draft of guidelines for identification and conservation of ECL	End September 2020
Disseminate first draft of guidelines on ISCEAH website	End November 2020

### **How do we get there?**

Volunteers are welcome to help with the following:

- Translate the ECL into any of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Spanish, Portuguese, etc.
- Convert survey questionnaire questions into data fields to be entered into CartoTerra;
- Dissemination, follow up and collection of completed survey questionnaires;
- We would particularly like to welcome members of the Young professionals group.





## Appendix 5 - 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)



ICOMOS - ISCEAH  
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on Earthen Architectural Heritage  
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Monuments and Sites

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- 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.