



ICOMOS - ISCEAH

International Scientific Committee
on Earthen Architectural Heritage

International Council on
Monuments and Sites

ANNEXES

ISCEAH International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage 3-Year Plan 2021-2023

Appendix 1 – Theme 1: In-Use

ISCEAH has set out to create a *Charter for Earthen Architecture*. To support that endeavor the In-Use sub-committee is creating, following the ICOMOS definitions of doctrinal texts, a Guideline. The proposed Guideline for Earthen Architecture will address the specific activities and processes to follow for the conservation of earthen architecture. 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 online. The document will incorporate the illustrated glossary of terminology that has already been created with doctrinal text regarding 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 use community case studies from around the world as illustrative examples.

Results

The guidance document has the working title of *Guidelines for Earthen Architecture: 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 on Authenticity*, *Burra Charter* 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. Guidelines for Earthen Architecture 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 different 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. Therefore, the document proposes to incorporate the *ICOMOS – ISCEAH Glossary of Earthen Materials Deterioration Patterns*, August 2019 Draft.

Extended discussions of conceptual issues

In addition to the visual glossary, *Guidelines for Earthen Architecture* 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

Guidelines for Earthen Architecture 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. 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.

Workplan

Chapter	Section	Description
1. Introduction	1.A. Visual glossary	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 diagrams to accompany definitions.
	1.B. International guidance documents	Introduce the reader to existing international guidance frameworks such as ICOMOS charters and documents as well as country-specific guidance documents.
	1.C. Generalized methodology	Introduce the reader to the general methodology of approaching a historic resource from initial identification through ongoing management. Each of these steps will constitute a full chapter in this document, so this section is introductory in nature. (Identify / document / evaluate / treat / manage)
2. Identify	2.A. Site history / historic context	Discuss and evaluate existing standards / guidelines, applicable technologies, basic methodologies, and resources for further research.
	2.B. Site boundaries	
	2.C. Existing conditions	
3. Document	3.A. Surveys	Types of surveys and their respective purposes/strengths/applications. Survey standards, guidelines, and technologies.
	3.B. Graphical documentation	Types of graphical documentation and their respective purposes/strengths/applications. Documentation standards, guidelines, and technologies.
	3.C. Narrative documentation	Types of narrative documentation and their respective purposes/strengths/applications. Documentation standards and guidelines.
	3.D. Documentation Repositories	Examples from case studies, pointing out benefits/uses/limitations/drawbacks of each.



4. Evaluate	4.A. Significance/integrity	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.
	4.B. Registers	Examples from case studies, pointing out benefits/uses/limitations/drawbacks of each.
5. Treat	5.A. Treatment levels	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. Address terminology, standards, and case studies.
	5.B. Standards/guidelines	
	5.C. Treatment technologies	
6. Manage	6.A. Ongoing management planning	Guide the reader through different 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.
	6.B. Record of treatment	
	6.C. Periodic re-evaluation	
