



“Tackling climate change requires and all-of-society-effort but too often the cultural dimensions have been missed. The inclusion of the Climate Heritage Network in the Race to Resilience breaks new ground by providing a global platform for mobilising cultural actors – from arts to heritage – behind culture-based strategies for building the resilience of vulnerable groups and communities everywhere by 2030”.

--Climate Heritage Network

Climate Heritage Network Race to Resilience Campaign

The Climate Heritage Network (CHN) has been accepted as a Partner Initiative for the [UNFCCC Race to Resilience](#) global campaign, the sibling campaign of [Race to Zero](#).

The High-Level Climate Champions Race to Resilience was launched at the Climate Adaptation Summit on 25 January by Alok Sharma, COP26 President designate, after an opening statement from Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary General of the United Nations.

Race to Resilience is a global campaign that aims to catalyse a step-change in global ambition for climate resilience, putting people and nature first in pursuit of a resilient world where we don't just survive climate shocks and stresses but thrive in spite of them. The campaign aims to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks, by 2030.

[Twenty-four Partner Initiatives](#) have been accepted into the Race to Resilience. These initiatives are made up of over 2,500 non-state actors, taking action in over 100 countries across the campaign's themes of urban, rural and coastal resilience.

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.

As a Partner Initiative, CHN has made the following pledges:

- By 2030: 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.



- By 2030, agencies, organisations and institutions 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” in 200 cities or regions.

Accelerating resilience

To achieve this commitment, the CHN has established the following additional benchmarks:

- Encourage arts, culture and heritage units of government or cultural institutions at municipal and regional levels to incorporate cultural sectoral plans for continuing or adding culture-based strategies for making people more resilient.
- 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.
- By 2025: Globally, managers and stewards of monuments, heritage 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.
- 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.

The CHN recently worked with the UN’s Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to add these culture targets to the Partnership’s Adaptation and Resilience Pathway Action Table. Achievement of these targets can support achieving the companion R2R target.

Tracking progress and demonstrating impact

To monitor progress and demonstrate tangible impact, CHN will track the following metrics and report progress on an annual basis:

- The number of cities or regions where commitments have been made to continue, expand or add “culture-based strategies for making people more resilient”
- The number of arts, culture or heritage civil society organisations; design firms, artists and SMEs; and other cultural institutions taking measures to inspire and guide transitions to climate resilient cities, settlements and rural communities



- The overall projected reduction in vulnerability calculated as number of populations made more resilient by the projects delivered.

The [COP26 Resilience Hub](#) will be the home of Race to Resilience at COP26, where partners will share, in person and virtually, what actions they are taking to build a resilient and prosperous future. The CHN is serving as a Co-Lead for the Culture Theme at the Resilience Hub.

Governance

The CHN Race to Resilience Campaign will be governed by:

- A Campaign Cabinet
- Scientific Advisory Board



Annex I

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.¹

- 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 that 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.

¹ 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>.