

# Chapter 6

## Heritage Impact Assessment With a Perspective to Attain Sustainable Development Goal: The Relevance of Heritage in Contemporary Society and Its Impact on Sustainable Development

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This book chapter provides guidelines for heritage impact assessments for World Heritage properties and highlights the implications of managing cultural heritage, enhancing understanding and application for heritage professionals and scholars. It also gives a common background for presenting and debating the function of heritage impact assessments outside of World Heritage properties and their potential to strengthen the bond between sustainable development and cultural heritage management. The World Heritage Committee recommends States Parties utilize guidance documents for commissioning and reviewing impact assessments, emphasizing reliability, promptness. A strong national planning framework, active*

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*non-state actors, and regional groupings all contribute to a generally good and comprehensive and regulatory framework for EIA. Our recommendations aim to tackle the obstacles that the EIA practice faces and make the most of the opportunities that are already present within the EIA context, so as to optimize the EIA's potential as a tool for accomplishing the SDGs.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is a crucial process that safeguards cultural and natural heritage, promoting sustainable development by integrating conservation with social, economic, and environmental goals (Ashrafi et al., 2021). Heritage Impact Assessment helps city planners, cultural decision-makers, and specialists evaluate and counteract potential influences of new urbanization on ethnic historic buildings, ensuring sustainability and cultural preservation (Van der Borg et al., 2005). Sustainability is a crucial principle in international cultural heritage law, guiding UNESCO Culture Conventions, promoting human rights, and influencing various Conventions like the Hague Convention (Jagielska-Burduk et al., 2021). In 2015, the World Heritage Convention General Assembly implemented a policy that incorporated sustainable development principles into the management of World Heritage sites (Bandarin, 2015). Edward B. Tylor's 1871 definition of culture outlines it as a complex whole comprising knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, customs, and other acquired capabilities and habits by humans as members of society. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, and it contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Colglazier, 2015). Countries have committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) by “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Target 11.4 of this goal seeks “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” (ESCAP, 2018). An essential tool for decision-making is the environmental impact assessment (EIA), which identifies, forecasts, assesses, and mitigates the long-term effects of projects and development proposals on environmental components. It considers public participation, alternatives, uncertainty, cumulative effects, value systems diversity (Glasson and Therivel, 2013). EIA is a comprehensive assessment tool that enhances environmental awareness and protection through a transparent process and systematic methodology (Loomis and Dziedzic, 2018). Cultural heritage is a sensitive component mentioned in EIA directives, but its assessment among EIA has been a significant issue (Bond et al., 2004). A guideline on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage Properties was published by ICOMOS in 2011, and by 2016, UNESCO had requested more than 100 Heritage Impact As-

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