



“Heritage Adapts!” and the German Federal Climate Adaptation Strategy (Cluster “Cross-cutting Fields of Action”, Ü-4, Goal 4 – Indicators and Measures for World Heritage Sites)

Date: 15 June 2026, 9-11h30 CEST (held in the margins of SB64)

Venue: Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz, Schlegelstrasse 1, Bonn, DE

To introduce the Heritage Adapts! global campaign and discuss how it can support and aggregate national commitments and local practice, such as Germany’s Adaptation Goal “Ziel 4 Cluster Übergreifende Handlungsfelder” (Ü-4), into contributions to the new UNFCCC Global Goal on Adaptation target for heritage sites and cultural practices (Target 9g). The session will also highlight how complementary efforts to integrate culture and heritage into international climate policy and finance, from SB64 to COP31 and beyond, can build momentum for implementation.

1. Welcome

- Juliane Parys, German Foundation for Monument Protection (DSD)
- Dorothee Boesler, ICOMOS Germany
- Alexander Bonde, German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)

2. SB64 → COP31 preview

Moderation: Marie Baudis

- Andrew Potts, Preserving Legacies/Heritage Adapts!/ICOMOS International (USA)
- Darius Saviour Ankamah, Alliance for Youth in Climate Change Action (AYCCA)/Climate Heritage Network (Ghana)
- Sharana Sherpa, Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Research and Development (CIPRED)/Heritage Adapts! (Nepal) (*tbc*)
- Constanze Fuhrmann, German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)

3. Germany Ü-4 Spotlight

Panel 1: Federal perspectives on the Ü-4 framework and preview of 18-19 June conference in Berlin

Moderation: Marie Baudis

- Friederike Hansell, Head of the World Heritage Coordination Office at the German Federal Foreign Office



- Nina Alsen, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

Panel 2: Perspectives on local climate action for German heritage places

Moderation: Dorothee Boesler

- Bastian Wahler-Žak, Integrated Risk Management for Cultural Heritage – challenges and approaches in municipal practice, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR)
- Marie Baudis, Understanding and Adapting Historic Gardens to Climate Change: A project of the Brandenburg State Office for Monument Preservation and Archaeological Museum

4. Heritage Adapts! Campaign Linkages

Moderation: Andrew Potts

- Andrew Potts
- Anne Pirard, The Great Spa Towns of Europe (Preserving Legacies participating site) (*tbc*)

5. Open forum & next steps

Moderation: Andrew Potts, Dorothee Boesler

Organisers & Sponsors:

- Preserving Legacies/Heritage Adapts! Steering Group (Europa Nostra/European Heritage Hub/ICLEI Europe, IFLA, ICOMOS, WMF, CIPRED etc.)
- ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group
- ICOMOS DE Working Group Climate Change (Klimawandel)
- German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)

Registration at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3nQeuMGADbNGGvKVGbrl2p8MUejM_yBm2c5n81dwe9uX8Ww/viewform?usp=dialog

Background

Climate change is accelerating risks to cultural and natural heritage worldwide, even as heritage knowledge, practices, and landscapes offer powerful enablers of resilience. SB64 places adaptation at the center of the UNFCCC agenda, with negotiations on



adaptation finance, the Belem–Addis Vision on Adaptation Policy, and the Baku Adaptation Roadmap shaping how Parties will operationalize the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) in the years ahead. This event explores how these processes can

advance the GGA’s cultural heritage thematic target (9g), which calls for “protecting cultural heritage from the impacts of climate-related risks by developing adaptive strategies for preserving cultural practices and heritage sites” – and in turn support local and site-level efforts to adapt cultural heritage.

Germany’s 2024 National Adaptation Strategy (DAS) provides an early example of how cultural heritage can be integrated into national adaptation planning through its new cross-cutting Goal “Ü-4” (Klimaanpassungsstrategie Cluster Übergreifende Handlungsfelder Ziel 4 Indikatoren und Maßnahmen für Welterbestätten, Ü 4). Under this goal, the federal government commits to presenting “a national framework with indicators and measures... so that UNESCO World Heritage sites in Germany can develop climate protection measures and/or climate adaptation concepts or plans... by 2030.” This represents one of the first national-level responses to the GGA’s cultural-heritage target and could provide a useful implementation model for other Parties seeking to integrate heritage into national adaptation planning, monitoring, and finance.

Finally, the event will mark the global launch of the **Heritage Adapts! 3000 × 2030 Campaign**, scheduled for 4 June. Heritage Adapts! is a new, international initiative supporting thousands of stewards of heritage sites and cultural practices to take **locally led climate adaptation action** by 2030. The campaign’s architecture, including a global coalition, a structured Pledge, a Community of Action, Regional Data Hubs, and a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Toolkit, directly supports implementation of both **GGA Target 9g** and **Germany’s “Ü-4”, 4**. By democratizing access to climate data, valorizing plural knowledge systems, and strengthening inclusive, locally led adaptation planning, Heritage Adapts! offers a practical pathway for translating global commitments into measurable local action.

This event will bring together negotiators, heritage authorities, researchers, and civil society from Germany and from other countries to discuss how global frameworks, national strategies, and community-driven initiatives can work together to accelerate adaptation for cultural and natural heritage, advancing resilience for people, places, and practices worldwide.