PROCEEDINGS
of the
US/ICOMOS Symposium


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Convened by the United States National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites
US/ICOMOS
in partnership with

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, ICOMOS, IUCN, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Presidio Trust, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy, and U.S. National Park Service
Introduction

The 2018 International Symposium, *Forward Together: A Culture-Nature Journey Toward More Effective Conservation in a Changing World*, welcomed participants from across the United States and from 15 other nations and six continents to explore the understanding that cultural and natural heritage are dynamic and inextricably linked in many landscapes and waterscapes and that effective and long-lasting conservation of these places depends on better integration of the ‘entangled dimensions’ of culture and nature.

The symposium built on the *Malama Honua Statement of Commitments* from the Nature-Culture Journey at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i (2016), the *Yatra aur Tammanah Statement of the Learnings & Commitments* from Culture-Nature Journey at the ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly in India (2017) and ICOMOS Resolution 19GA 2017/25 *Incorporating the Interconnectedness of Nature and Culture into Heritage Conservation*. This symposium added to the sense of momentum and sense of urgency that carries forward to the 2020 General Assembly of ICOMOS and the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

The *Forward Together* symposium sought to advance the evolving collaboration between these two international organizations in exploring the interconnections of cultural and natural heritage and ways to shape more sustainable conservation. In this context, the symposium was designed as an opportunity to exchange knowledge, assess lessons learned, and identify strategies to advance the integration of culture and nature for more effective conservation.
To achieve these goals, the symposium addressed a set of broad interrelated themes that are important areas of innovation in conservation today:

- Taking a landscape approach,
- Recognizing intangible heritage and diverse perspectives,
  - Enhancing resilience, adaptation and sustainability, and
- Building capacity for change.

Past and future directions for World Heritage is an important topic that cuts across these themes.

The authors of papers in this Proceedings spoke on these themes, representing a diverse array of professional backgrounds and working in a wide variety of places across the U.S. and around the world. They bring experience from projects on the ground as well as diverse perspectives from regional, national and international programs. US/ICOMOS is pleased to include papers from other countries, as one of the goals of US/ICOMOS is to encourage international exchange and collaboration that is valuable in generating insights and new ideas.

Key findings that emerged from the symposium and next steps for continuing the Nature-Culture journey are included in The Presidio Declaration, US/ICOMOS Statement from the 2018 International Symposium. US/ICOMOS welcomes all contributions to realizing these next steps on the Nature-Culture Journey, as we move Forward Together.

Symposium Proceedings Co-editors: Nora Mitchell, Archer St. Clair, Brenda Barrett, Jessica Brown, and Anabelle Rodríguez

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