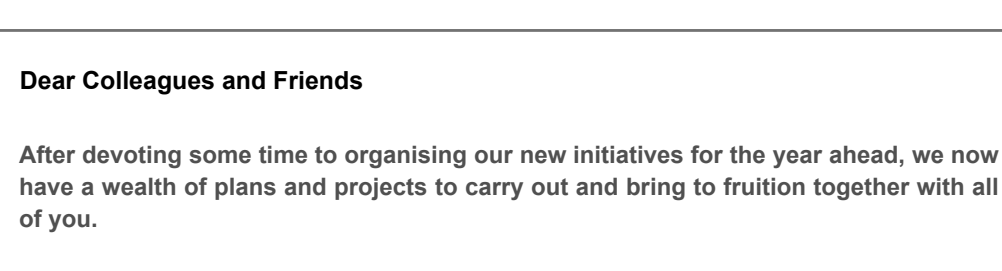


ISCSBH Newsletter n.9 (2024-2026) – May 2026



Dear Colleagues and Friends

After devoting some time to organising our new initiatives for the year ahead, we now have a wealth of plans and projects to carry out and bring to fruition together with all of you.

To highlight a few: we are organising a session at ICOMOS AGA 2026 on the theme Shared Built Heritage: Seriality, Connectivity and Global Narratives, and we warmly encourage you to participate by submitting your abstract by 7 May directly to the organisers, following the instructions on their website, reproduced inside.

Together with our member Professor Akram Lijja, we are also organising a webinar on 7 May at 1:00 PM Paris time, on the theme Shared Built Heritage of the Nile Valley: Sudan and Egypt in Historical Continuity. Participation is free via the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99105471722?pwd=zxvYOCYpYypkKodXZPj8HfYU1hN0Tf.1>

Further below, you will find the CVs of the speakers from Egypt and Sudan, whom we are delighted to welcome. On behalf of our research group, I would like to thank the organisers of this webinar — and in particular Professor Akram Lijja for his outstanding contribution to the cause of shared heritage. This will be the first in a series of webinars aimed at deepening our understanding of different territories across varied geographies that reflect, embody and transmit the heritage we seek to discover and share.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that, as part of ICOMOS GA 2026 (17–24 October, Kuching, Malaysia), we are organising a 10/11-day study tour from 3 to 14 October, to take place prior to the main event. Please read the details inside carefully. I would particularly like to stress that those planning to attend ICOMOS AGA 2026 have a wonderful opportunity to explore Southeast Asia by joining our study tour, which will visit cities where shared heritage endures. There, in collaboration with local academics and heritage associations, we will hold workshops — broadening our horizons and embracing new ways of seeing.

We look forward to welcoming you on the 7th for the webinar and the submission of abstracts, and between 3 and 14 October as we explore so many remarkable places together.

We count on you, as always — the sessions in Kuching, and in particular the one dedicated to shared built heritage, are central to our global dialogue.

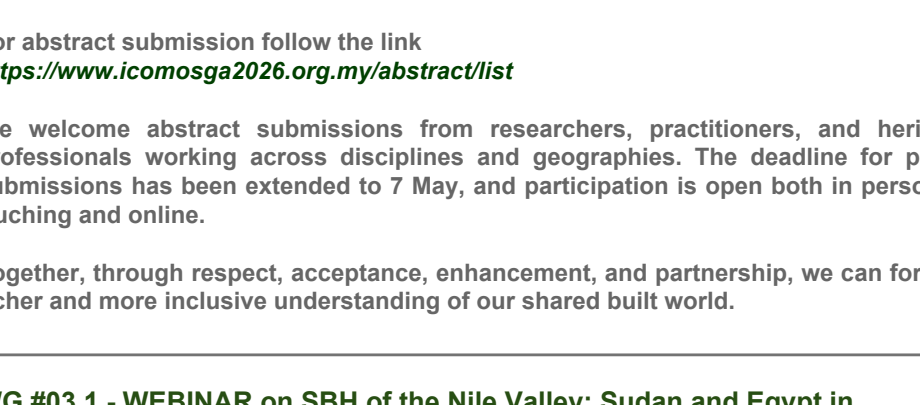
Yours sincerely,

Maria José de Freitas

President ICOMOS ISCSBH

WG#01- ISCSBH Concept – Session 10 (S10) – ICOMOS GA2026

Within our research group, we have been deepening our understanding of shared built heritage by venturing beyond familiar boundaries — exploring India, Africa, Asia and Australia, and tracing the land and sea routes that once connected ports, peoples, societies, cultures, and religions across the globe. Through this journey, three concepts have emerged as central to our work: seriality, connectivity, and global narratives.



Living Heritage
Respect. Enhance. Accept. Partnership.

ICOMOS 22nd General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2026
www.icomosga2026.org.my



We believe this framework resonates strongly with the overarching theme of the Kuching meeting and with the spirit of AGA 2026: RESPECT, ACCEPT, ENHANCE, PARTNERSHIP. We see a compelling opportunity to broaden our inquiry further — integrating new perspectives and examining their profound implications for the way we understand, interpret, and steward shared heritage.

To this end, we are organising Session 10 (S10): Shared Built Heritage: Seriality, Connectivity and Global Narratives, and we warmly invite you to be part of this conversation.

For abstract submission follow the link
<https://www.icomosga2026.org.my/abstract/list>

We welcome abstract submissions from researchers, practitioners, and heritage professionals working across disciplines and geographies. The deadline for paper submissions has been extended to 7 May, and participation is open both in person in Kuching and online.

Together, through respect, acceptance, enhancement, and partnership, we can forge a richer and more inclusive understanding of our shared built world.

WG #03.1 - WEBINAR on SBH of the Nile Valley: Sudan and Egypt in Historical Continuity

Join Us!

This webinar offers a unique opportunity to engage with leading experts and explore the shared heritage of the Nile Valley through diverse perspectives.

We warmly welcome participants from around the world to join this open and enriching discussion.



Date: May 7th, 2026, Paris time 13:00 (ZOOM Webinar)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99105471722?pwd=zxvYOCYpYypkKodXZPj8HfYU1hN0Tf.1>

Meeting ID: 991 0547 1722

Passcode: 218810

Participation is free and open to everyone.

ICOMOS-ISCSBH Webinar Announcement

We are pleased to announce an insightful webinar designed for researchers, heritage professionals, students, and all those interested in cultural heritage, focusing on SHARED BUILT HERITAGE OF THE NILE VALLEY: SUDAN AND EGYPT IN HISTORICAL CONTINUITY.

While this theme emphasizes the rich and interconnected archaeological and architectural heritage of Egypt and Sudan, it also presents an opportunity to reflect on the broader role of cultural exchange, mutual influence, and heritage preservation across time and borders.

Event Details

- Date: Thursday 7 May, 2026
- Time: 13:00 (Paris time)
- Place: Online
- Participation: Free and open to everyone
- Introduction: Dr Maria Jose de Freitas
- Moderator: Prof. Akram Lijja

Key Themes & Speakers

Our panel brings together leading professionals specializing in archaeology, Egyptology, and heritage studies of the Nile Valley:

- Dr. Ikhlas Abdlatief Ahmed
- Ka Symbolism in Kush
- Mahmoud Ahmed Emam
- Echoes of the Past: Intangible Heritage as Living History
- Professor Dr. Nashat Hassan Alzohary
- Depicting the King as Osiris in the Meroitic Funerary Chapels
- Dr. Al Hassan Ahmed Mohammed El Hassan
- Recent Excavations in the Temples' Sector at Jebel Barkal
- Dr. Issam Nagy
- In the Footsteps of Kushite Kings at Karnak
- Dr. Hend Elfiky

Rethinking Cultural Diffusion and Interaction in the Early Nile Valley: Towards Mutual Formation

- Dr. Balsam Abdelhamied

One Icon... Two Visions: Depictions of the Virgin Mary and Cultural Interaction between Sudan and Egypt

To read more [click here](#)

WG#03.2 - ICOMOS GA2023 – ISCSBH STUDY – TOUR

Prior to this year's ICOMOS General Assembly in Kuching, we are pleased to announce that we are planning a study tour of the shared built heritage of four Malaysian cities, including Melaka (Malacca), Georgetown, Penang and Kuala Lumpur, as well as a visit to Singapore. Please note that Melaka and Georgetown were inherited jointly as 'Historic Cities on the Straits of Malacca' on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008, in recognition of their rich shared built heritage influenced by Malay, Chinese, South Asian, Portuguese, and British cultures. Singapore and Kuala Lumpur also share most of these influences.

The study tour is planned to run from 3 or 4 to 14 October. Participants can then fly to Kuching in time for the pre-conference activities, which start on 16–17 October, before the official opening of the GA on 18 October.

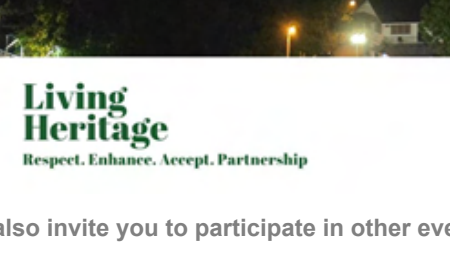
The tour itinerary, including the route and details, will follow in mid-May. We look forward to hearing from you and getting together in due course.

Possible itinerary

Singapore, Penang, Georgetown, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Kuala Lumpur, Kuching



Some places to visit:



Singapore, Civic District (colonial architecture).



Georgetown, traditional Chinese shophouses.



Kuala Lumpur (colonial architecture).



Melaka, Portuguese Fort (1511).

WG #04 - ICOMOS GA2026 / EUROPA NOSTRA

ICOMOS GA 2026

Sign up, find out more and take part!

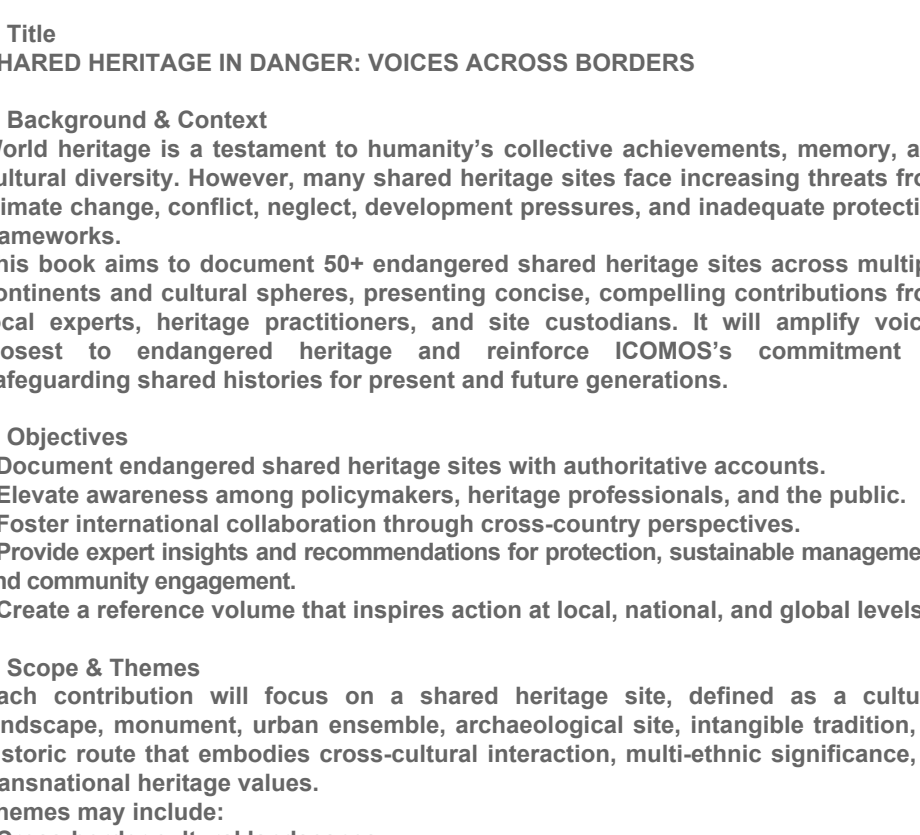
<https://www.icomosga2026.org.my/en/home>



Living Heritage
Respect. Enhance. Accept. Partnership.

GA2026
KUCHING, SARAWAK
www.icomosga2026.org.my

We also invite you to participate in other events related to built heritage!



WG #06 – SBH and Emerging Professionals ICOMOS GA 2026

Based on an idea from our EP representative, Mohamed Fareed, we are pleased to announce an open call for contributions on the theme of 'shared heritage at risk'. You are invited to cooperate!

Send your proposal to:

Mohamed Fareed - mw.fareed@gmail.com

Or

Maria José de Freitas – mjf@aetecnet.com

1. Title

SHARED HERITAGE IN DANGER: VOICES ACROSS BORDERS

2. Background & Context

World heritage is a testament to humanity's collective achievements, memory, and cultural diversity. However, many shared heritage sites face increasing threats from climate change, conflict, neglect, development pressures, and inadequate protection frameworks.

This book aims to document 50+ endangered shared heritage sites across multiple continents and cultural spheres, presenting concise, compelling contributions from local experts, heritage practitioners, and site custodians. It will amplify voices closest to endangered heritage and reinforce ICOMOS's commitment to safeguarding shared histories for present and future generations.

3. Objectives

- Document endangered shared heritage sites with authoritative accounts.
- Elevate awareness among policymakers, heritage professionals, and the public.
- Foster international collaboration through cross-country perspectives.
- Provide expert insights and recommendations for protection, sustainable management, and community engagement.
- Create a reference volume that inspires action at local, national, and global levels.

4. Scope & Themes

Each contribution will focus on a shared heritage site, defined as a cultural landscape, monument, urban ensemble, archaeological site, intangible tradition, or historic route that embodies cross-cultural interaction, multi-ethnic significance, or transnational heritage values.

Themes may include:

- Cross-border cultural landscapes
- Migratory heritage and routes
- Shared histories of communities/ethnic groups
- Neuralgic sites of intercultural exchange (trade, religion, language)
- Endangered intangible heritage traditions
- Post-conflict restoration and reconciliation heritage

5. Submission Guidelines

Each author will submit (See template attached to be filled):

1. Site Narrative (≤ 500 words)
 - o Significance of the shared heritage
 - o Description of threats or danger
 - o Local context and meaning
 - o Protection status and challenges
 - o Urgent needs or recommendations

2. One (1) High-Quality Photo
 - o Depicting the endangered shared heritage
 - o Caption and credit (max 30 words)

3. Author Biography (≤ 100 words)
 - o Academic / professional background
 - o Relationship to site or field
 - o Contact details (email/ORCID optional)

6. Proposed Timeline

Milestone Target Date

Call for contributions launched Month 0

Submission deadline Month 3

Review & editing Month 4–5

Final proofs Month 6

Publication Month 7