

It required going beyond the obvious to resist the first solution that comes to mind, and to question observations and assumptions. Above all it relied on the capacity to listen to others.

I am grateful to all those who engaged in and contributed to the ICCROM Sharing Conservation Decisions programme, and in particular those who have authored papers in this publication. It has taken more than five years to have the necessary resources to bring this volume together. Some of the papers were completed shortly after the 2011 seminar. Others have been finalized this last year. All illustrate or address issues which remain at the core of our work. In recent years, the sharing conservation decision thematic has become part of the conservation literature, and we hope that this publication makes a substantive contribution to the field.

Our current times are challenging for cultural heritage. However, on a positive note, culture and cultural heritage are gaining more recognition and visibility, and are now integrated within international development policies. Linking culture and development requires shared and inclusive processes. Thus, global sharing as a primary value has never been more important. Our conservation community is getting ready to play its part.

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