

changing types and uses of heritage, particularly in non-western contexts.

One of the first and most fundamental tasks is to examine the existing ethical frameworks and conceive a broader range of values that can encompass these expanding notions of cultural heritage. A primary foundation of this work is a reappraisal of the language of conservation, i.e. the terminology and definitions used to describe, and thereby ascribe value to heritage, be it tangible, intangible, living, movable, immovable, natural or cultural.

The following participants' comments refer to this issue:

“We need to maintain an inclusive approach so that we as a profession recognize these developments, and embrace new and emerging types and concepts of heritage.”

“In light of the new fields, new tasks, and new types of heritage, the onus is on us as a profession to change and develop in response to these demands.”

From multidisciplinary voices to interdisciplinary dialogue

In the last ten years, the number and variety of institutions, agencies and professionals involved in conservation decisions have increased. It is a challenge to ensure that these multiple voices lead to genuine dialogue and shared decisions.

Interdisciplinary decision-making

Previous ICCROM courses and initiatives, including SCD and Scientific Principles of Conservation, have illustrated the interdisciplinary nature of heritage conservation. They have stressed the importance of providing heritage professionals with a wide range of skills, including tools to enhance communication and decision-making.

Past courses have aimed at transferring an understanding of scientific principles to conservators and conservation principles to scientists, while each maintained an area of expertise. The question is now whether to take this approach further through building capacity in joint decision-making in a true interdisciplinary environment.

One suggestion was that a ‘heritage diplomat’ might be useful, who would have the skills to facilitate complex decision-making. This professional could effectively lead interdisciplinary and multisectoral decisions. It was noted that the exact composition of any ‘decision-making community’ is specific in context, both socially and depending on the type of heritage.

Issues for further discussion include:

- would it be useful to create new frameworks for interdisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration?