

Legal frameworks

The importance of a greater awareness and understanding of relevant national and international legal frameworks was highlighted, along with the limitations of existing frameworks governing ownership and responsibility for cultural heritage assets. Training and awareness-raising initiatives are needed to increase the engagement of the heritage conservation sector in correct and effective implementation of legal frameworks, and also in their future development to make existing frameworks more applicable in today's context.

Decision-making tools

Simple, understandable and practical tools will help to support shared conservation decision-making.

To obtain these, the range of tools currently in use in other professional fields should be surveyed, to identify those with potential application in conservation. Once they are identified, research is needed to test and develop them, for which active collaboration with those engaged in the research and development of such tools will be necessary.

Finally, initiatives to raise awareness within the cultural heritage sector of the benefits and use of decision-making tools, and to make them more widely available (e.g. online and downloadable) should be instigated.

Training in shared decision-making

Capacity building through training in shared decision-making is needed at both individual and at institutional level. In addition to a continuation of the SCD programme, other initiatives would be welcome. Greater engagement with higher education establishments is required to develop curricula and create readily-available didactic materials. At the same time, a demand for courses for educators on didactic approaches in conservation training is becoming increasingly apparent. Training for institutional administrators should not be overlooked.

Sustainability

As in any other sector, socioeconomic sustainability is a priority for the field. The seminar highlighted the importance of finding fresh and compelling ways to advocate heritage conservation, for example as a positive promoter of social cohesion, community identity and sustainable development. Useful avenues for research would be to identify and develop indicators and tools to provide cost-benefit analyses (including intangible benefits) for communities, thereby making the case for sustained investment in conservation. Shared decision-making contributes to the goal of sustainability, and rather than being viewed as a threat should be viewed as an opportunity – but one which relies