

# Conservation and Management of Archaeological Heritage Resources

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## Introduction

Heritage is the full range of our inherited traditions, monuments, objects, and culture. Most important, it is the range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviors that we draw from them.

[...] Heritage is a contemporary activity with far-reaching effects. It can be an element of far-sighted urban and regional planning. It can be the platform for political recognition, a medium for intercultural dialogue, a means of ethical reflection, and the potential basis for local economic development. It is simultaneously local and particular, global and shared (Center for Heritage & Society, University of Massachusetts Amherst n.d.).

Heritage is not only just about the past – it also defines who we are and shapes the future. It embraces both the arts and the sciences and it incorporates nature and culture. Evidence and data from various countries in the world demonstrate that heritage assets serve as a catalyst, not only for conservation, partnerships, social cohesion, skills development and education, but also for job creation, infrastructure development, foreign direct investment and economic development.

The management of archaeological heritage resources has become an important and major component of heritage discourse. Heritage inspires and gives context to modern designs and planning. Heritage has become one of the central areas in many business and commercial enterprises; it has also become a source of entrepreneurship.

As noted by the World Bank in its Framework for Action for Cultural Heritage and Development:

[...] all development interventions intrinsically involve cultural and social dimensions that must be taken into account [...] The key question is no longer a conceptual one, whether culture matters, but a strategic and operational one: refining the means for making culture part of the purposive inducement of development, thus increasing the cultural sustainability of development and its economic effectiveness (World Bank, 2013, p. 31).

## The archaeological heritage resource

An archaeological resource, as defined by ICOMOS is “that part of material heritage for which archaeological methods provide primary information” (ICOMOS, 1990). Archaeological heritage comprises