

# ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism: Reinforcing World Heritage Site Destination Sustainability and Resiliency in the Face of Climate Change

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Jasper National Park, Summer 2024



# Top 10 Risks

“Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period”

## 2 years



## 10 years



### Risk categories

■ Economic 
 ■ Environmental 
 ■ Geopolitical 
 ■ Societal 
 ■ Technological

# UNESCO and Climate Change

- Adopt a precautionary approach aimed at minimizing climate change risks to WH properties.
- Anticipate, avoid and minimize harm to protect OUV.
- Use best available knowledge, generated scientists, researchers, site managers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Integrate a Sustainable Development perspective.
- Promote global partnership, including mobilization of financial and technical support to developing countries.



Source: World Heritage Magazine

# Why the need for a new Tourism Charter?



- **Revise** the ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Tourism (1999), updating its Objectives and Principles.
- **Address** increasing concerns about the degradation of cultural heritage along with social, ethical, cultural, environmental and economic rights issues associated with tourism.
- **Update** Charter that advocates responsible and diversified cultural tourism development and management contributing to cultural heritage preservation; community empowerment, social resilience and wellbeing; and a healthy global environment.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



EIHCAP



## Safeguarding Intangible Heritage and Sustainable Cultural Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges

UNESCO-EIHCAP Regional Meeting  
Hue, Viet Nam  
11-13 December 2007



United Nations  
**DECLARATION**  
on the **RIGHTS**  
of **INDIGENOUS**  
**PEOPLES**



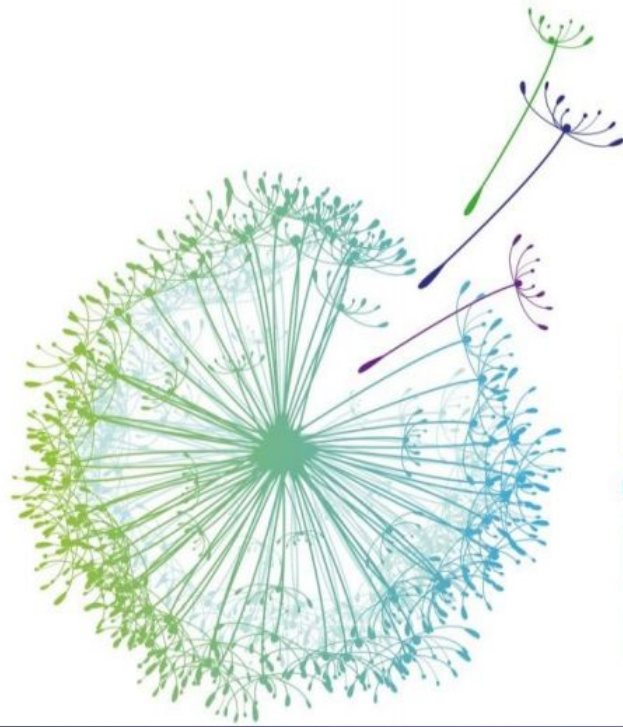
*Article 17*

- 1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.*
- 2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.*
- 3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.*



Source: UN Tourism





**2017**  
**INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

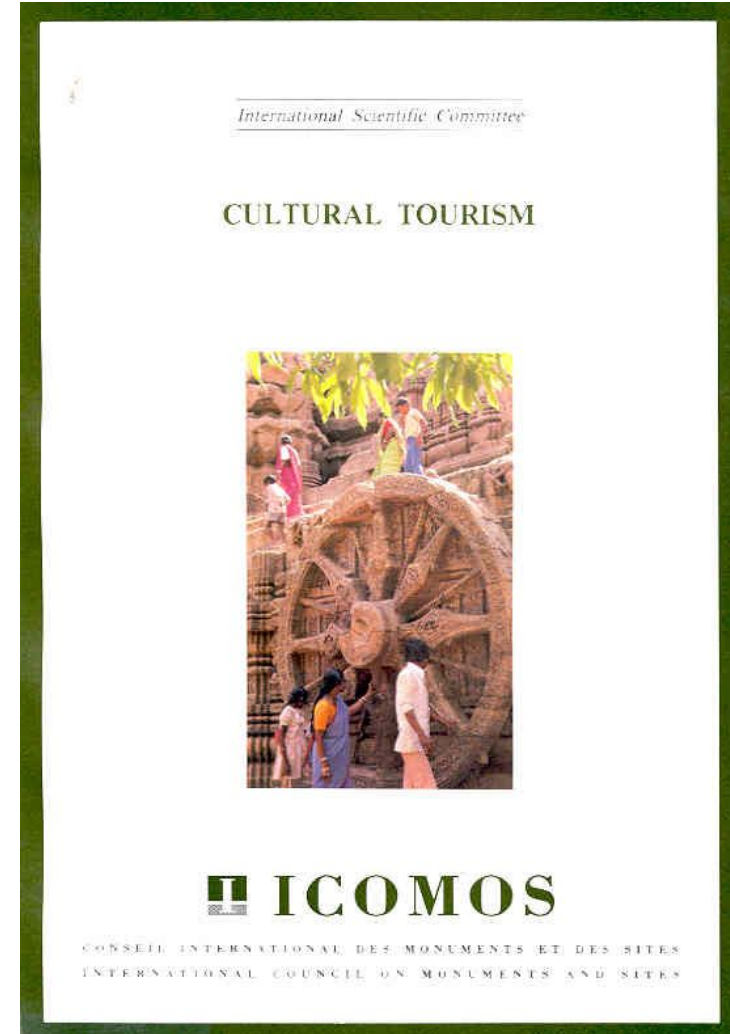


**TRAVEL.  
ENJOY.  
RESPECT.**

Source: UNWTO

# Charter Objective 3

- To guide cultural heritage and tourism management in supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Action policy.

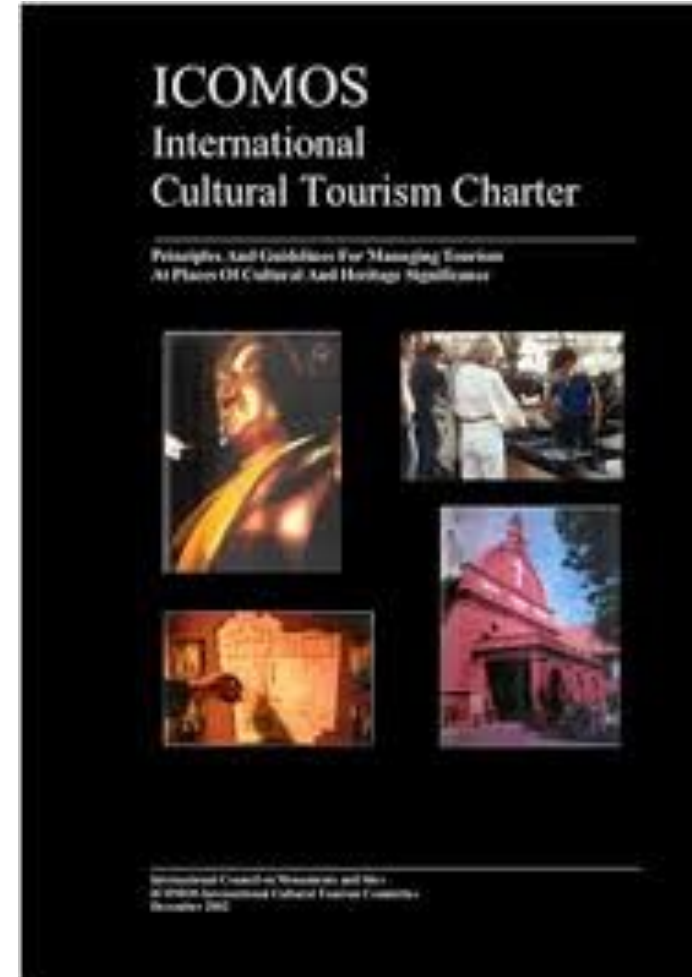


Source: ICOMOS



# Charter Principle 7

- *Integrate climate action and sustainability measures in the management of cultural tourism and cultural heritage.*
  - All stakeholders have a role.
  - Tourism must contribute to carbon and greenhouse gas reduction.
  - Strategies must consider traditional ownership, knowledge and practices.
  - Need for a transformational and regenerative approach to cultural tourism.



Source: ICOMOS



**Climate Heritage**  
N E T W O R K

# The Climate Heritage Network 2022-24 Action Plan

**EMPOWERing People to Imagine and Realise**  
**Low Carbon, Just Climate Resilient Futures**  
**Through Culture - from Arts to Heritage**





Source: UN Tourism

# Canada's Existing World Heritage Sites



Source: Parks Canada



# Canadian WH sites - SGang Gwaay

- **Inscription:** 1981
- **OUV:** A 19<sup>th</sup> century Haida village where the ruins of houses and memorial or mortuary poles illustrate the power and artistry of Haida society.
- **Sustainability and Climate Change Challenge:** Rising seas and harsher weather are rapidly eroding the totem poles along the coastline.







Source: Atlas Obscura





Source: The New York Times



# Charter Approach - SGang Gwaay

- Acknowledge that every totem pole cannot nor should be saved.
- Determine another appropriate commemoration approach.
- Assess whether remaining poles could be digitally scanned and catalogued for future reference purposes.



Source: Andrew S. Wright

# Canadian WH sites - Wood Buffalo N.P.

- **Inscription:** 1983
- **OUV:** It is an outstanding example of some of the largest undisturbed grass and sedge meadows left in North America and sustains the world's largest herd of wood bison, a threatened species.
- **Sustainability and Climate Change Challenge:** Increasing number and fierceness of forest fires are diminishing tourism attractiveness and visitor numbers.



Source: The Globe and Mail





Source: CBC Alberta



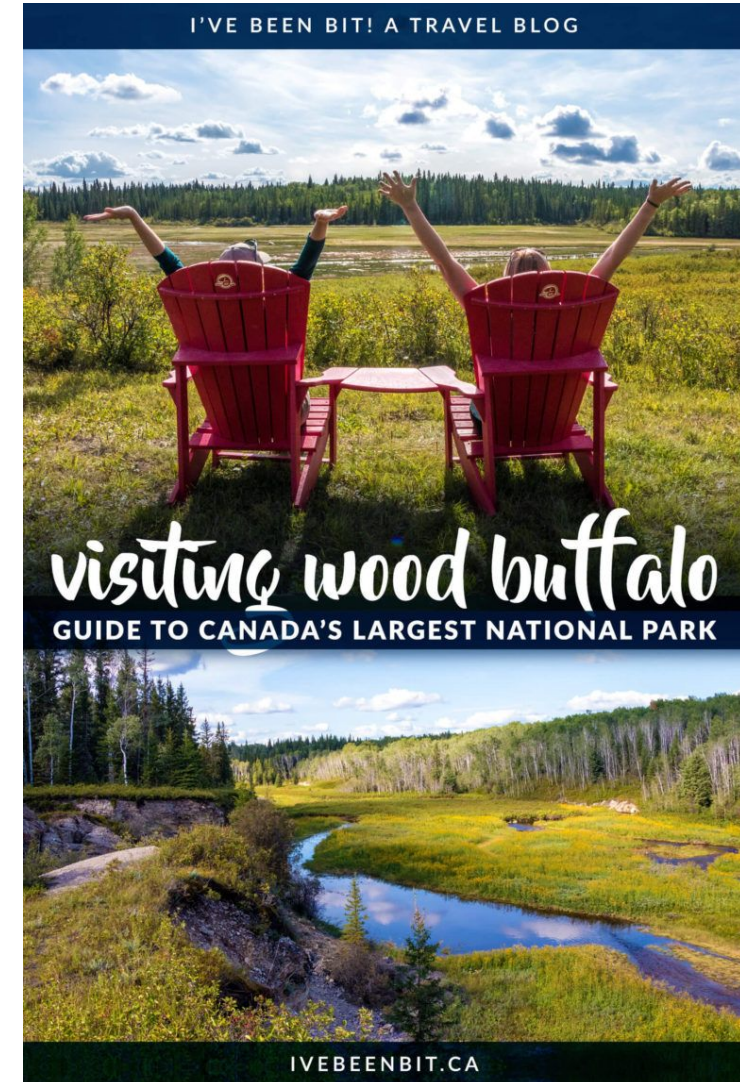


Source: APTN



# Charter Approach – Wood Buffalo N.P.

- Determine support for local indigenous peoples with regard to land management (TEK)
- Assess vulnerabilities of local visitor economy and whether some aspects should be relocated.
- Identify forms of income replacement for band members whose tourism sector businesses have been impacted by fires.



# Canadian WH sites - Rideau Canal

- **Inscription:** 2007
- **OUV:** It is the best-preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America, demonstrating the use of this European technology on a large scale.
- **Tourism Sustainability and Climate Change Challenge:** Fluctuating seasonal temperatures have seen the northern Canal entry flooded in Spring and freeze unevenly in Winter.



Source:TripAdvisor





Source: CBC Ottawa





Source: CBC Ottawa



# Charter Approach – Rideau Canal

- Determine how the Canal can operate without driving craft into the Ottawa River in springtime.
- Identify other forms of tourism activities that can replace large watercraft activity.
- Undertake snow/ice science experiments to determine how ice can adhere faster and longer on Canal surface.

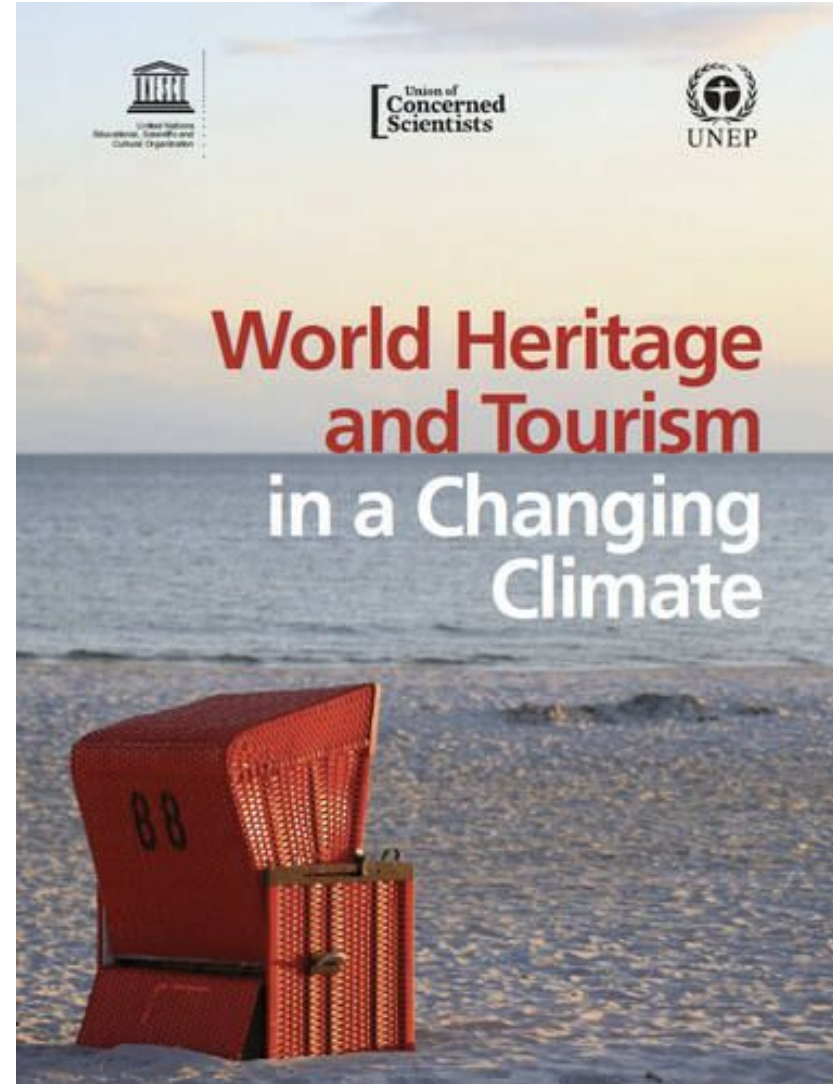


Source: Ottawa Tourism



# Conclusions

- Develop new tourism strategies, orientation, focus, mission and ethos for WH sites to adjust to the new normal of constant, destabilizing threats, like climate change.
- Make tourism plans part of all future WH nominations, addressing climate and sustainability risks.
- Integrate destination management with national, regional and local authorities.
- Maintain site OUV as a paramount consideration.





**Tusen Tack – Many Thanks!**

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