



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES
INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER BIBLIOTHEKARISCHEN VEREINE UND INSTITUTIONEN
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国际图书馆协会与机构联合会

الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات ومؤسسات المكتبات

Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme: Culture is a basic need, a community thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it

IFLA Principles of Engagement

in library-related activities of disaster risk reduction and in times of conflict, crisis or natural disaster

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the trusted global voice of the library and information community. Within its mission, IFLA furthers accessibility, protection and preservation of documentary cultural heritage.

At its meeting of 19th August 2011, the IFLA Governing Board set up an Advisory Group to draft Principles of Engagement to be used by IFLA and its members in library-related activities of disaster risk reduction and in times of conflict, crisis or natural disaster; with reference to IFLA's engagement in the Haiti reconstruction activities and international treaties and agreements to which IFLA is a party.

In order to build IFLA's capability for coordinated engagement of disaster risk reduction and in the event of a conflict, crisis or disaster, IFLA needs to 1) profile countries according to their cultural heritage and their vulnerability to disaster and conflicts, 2) collaborate proactively with internal and external stakeholders, 3) be prepared to act in a timely and coordinated way, 4) know what steps must be taken in response to an emergency situation, 5) assist in raising funds for immediate cultural relief efforts and 6) communicate about IFLA's activities in this regard.



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PREAMBLE

IFLA,

Being deeply concerned by the great loss of cultural heritage in recent years due to armed conflicts, crises and natural disasters;

Emphasising that many items of cultural heritage are unique and that the disappearance of these items constitutes a definite loss and an irreversible impoverishment for society and humankind as a whole;

Recognising the need to take measures to protect cultural heritage, especially in situations where cultural heritage may be threatened;

Considering that protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict, crisis or natural disaster often remains incomplete because of the limited financial, human and technical resources of the country in which the heritage asset is situated;

Mindful of the right and the primary responsibility of each country to protect its cultural heritage;

Considering that the existing international conventions, recommendations, declarations and charters concerning cultural heritage demonstrate the importance of safeguarding unique and irreplaceable objects;

Recalling in particular the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, its First Protocol of 1954 and its Second Protocol of 1999, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005;

Further referring to the mandates of the International Committee of the Blue Shield's Seoul Declaration on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Emergency Situations of 2011, the Radenci Declaration on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Emergencies and



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Exceptional Situations of 1998, the Torino Declaration of 2004; and the United Nations Hyogo Framework for Action of 2005;

Recalling IFLA's mandate, core values and policies to represent the interests of library and information associations, library institutions and their staff and the role of libraries in society throughout the world;

endorses the Principles of Engagement:

1 PURPOSE

The purposes of the Principles of Engagement are:

- a) To encourage safeguarding and respect for cultural property especially by raising awareness and promoting disaster risk management;
- b) To act in an advisory capacity for the protection of endangered library collections and cultural heritage;
- c) To provide for international cross-sectorial cooperation and assistance for effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery;
- d) To facilitate international responses to threats or emergencies threatening library-related movable and immovable cultural property;
- e) To further and strengthen cooperation and participation in cultural heritage activities through UNESCO, the libraries, archives, museums, heritage buildings and sites group and the International Committee of the Blue Shield initiatives and activities;
- f) To ensure that any IFLA engagement is within its capacity for providing resources, levels of expertise and achieving the required outcomes.



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2 CONDITIONS OF INTERVENTION

The Principles of Engagement shall apply to IFLA policies, measures and activities related to armed-conflict, crisis or natural disaster. The principles shall guide decisions on whether IFLA and its members become engaged in (post)-conflict/crises/disaster preparedness, response and recovery and the terms under which it may do so. To ensure that effective and active measures are taken, IFLA:

- a) Is aware and monitors at-risk areas through available hazard, vulnerability and risk maps. Where appropriate IFLA will organise (through projects/cooperation) disaster preparedness and response training in cooperation with relevant disaster management and civic defence agencies;
- b) Gathers all relevant information in (post)-conflict/crises/disaster situations, in order to assess the extent of damages/threats/risks;
- c) Requests that enquiries for post-disaster assistance and recovery are made by the country/region concerned for example through the National Library Association, the National Library, PAC Regional Centre, Blue Shield National Committees, UNESCO to the IFLA President or Secretary General;
- d) Carries out any assistance on the ground in partnership with local organisations using IFLA instruments such as Professional Projects Stichting IFLA Foundation or external funding;
- e) Coordinates with relevant disaster management and civic defence agencies;
- f) Takes into account the country's/regions own resources and capacity to intervene at a first level;
- g) Ensures consistency of their activities or areas of intervention with IFLA's strategy and mission;



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- h) Carries out intervention in (post)-conflict/-crisis/-disaster only when personal safety may be assured as far as possible;
- i) Organises interventions in collaboration with heritage and non-heritage organisations already working in the country, as well as local administration, in order to optimise the fluidity, effectiveness and legality of its operations.

3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Actions carried out must respect:

Neutrality: IFLA is impartial. This means disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction must protect cultural heritage without making distinctions based on its type, independently of the country, its beliefs, expressions, ethnic backgrounds, political or economic systems. In addition, IFLA does not intervene in a country's internal management problems or conflicts.

Professionalism: IFLA is adhering to standards, appropriate to and respecting local circumstances. IFLA supports professional development through the Building Strong Library Associations programme; targeting at-risk areas (through hazard, vulnerability and risk maps) in which to strengthen Library Associations will also provide a basis for future intervention which respects standards.

Sustainability and capacity building: IFLA refers to cultural heritage as a rich asset for individuals and societies. Its protection and recovery are essential requirements for sustainable development of present and future generations. Sustainability and capacity building are key components of any intervention.



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Integrity: IFLA respects cultural heritage as a sign of cultural identity and a source of sustainable development, preventing damage that could hinder its transmission to future generations. Respecting cultural heritage is a basis for respecting cultural identity. Cultural heritage will be considered in its entirety especially in cases where a library is located in historic buildings/areas. No collections or works, or other movable cultural property shall be dissociated from their environment.

Non-Profit: Any intervention must be carried out on a not for profit basis.

Cooperation: IFLA cooperates with local partners, disaster management and civic defence agencies, cultural institutions and organisations, with other cultural heritage agencies such as UNESCO, the International Committee of the Blue Shield and its member organisations, and with appropriate IFLA sections, and activities and PAC regional centres. Co-operation should aim to enable countries to strengthen their means of safeguarding cultural heritage. Appropriate coordinating arrangements shall be made, taking into account the different interests involved.

Transparency: IFLA is open and transparent about its aims and involvement and reports regularly on the progress.

IFLA and partners will be guided by the codes of conduct generally accepted in humanitarian work:

- The Hyogo Framework for Action:
http://www.unisdr.org/files/1037_hyogoframeworkforactionenglish.pdf
- The Sphere project humanitarian principle: <http://www.sphereproject.org/>
- The ICRC conduct code:
<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/64zahh.htm>
- Financial management principles set out by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership <http://www.hapinternational.org/>



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4 LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

Information sharing

IFLA shall:

- a) Establish and update a databank of at-risk areas through the hazard, vulnerability and risk maps;
- b) Collect, share and exchange information on threats to cultural property world-wide with its members, partners and the public through its website;
- c) Facilitate, through existing mechanisms within IFLA Headquarters, the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant information, statistics and best-practises;
- d) Designate a contact responsible for information sharing in relation to library-related activities in times of conflict, crisis or natural disaster.

Public Awareness

IFLA shall:

- a) Advocate for the drafting, ratification and implementation of normative instruments aiming at the protection of cultural heritage in times of conflict, crisis or natural disaster;
- b) Promote good standards of risk management among those responsible for cultural heritage at all levels;
- c) Encourage and promote understanding of the importance of protection of cultural heritage through capacity building and advocacy programmes;
- d) Advocate for an awareness among decision makers and professional staff of the need to develop disaster prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures;



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- e) Raise public awareness about damages to library-related cultural heritage and activities in times of conflict, crisis or natural disaster;
- f) Provide professional expertise to help meet emergencies.

Cooperation

In order to avoid overlapping and optimise effectiveness of its actions, IFLA shall:

- a) Facilitate a dialogue among partners;
- b) Exchange information and share expertise concerning data collection and best practice for protecting and safeguarding cultural heritage;
- c) Work closely, in all relevant areas (gathering and dissemination of information, awareness raising, preparedness and response) with international partners, experts and the national library communities; make full use of the structure already in place in a country of conflict, crisis or disaster.

Engagement on the ground

IFLA shall in collaboration with other institutions and associations:

- a) Identify resources for rapid intervention in emergencies;
- b) Determine the existence of special situations where library-related cultural heritage is at risk of extinction, under serious threat or otherwise in need of urgent safeguarding;
- c) Provide expertise to ensure that approved work is correctly carried out;
- d) Help to identify resources to train staff and specialists in the field of identification, assessment, protection, conservation, and restoration of the cultural heritage;



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- e) Seek funding to supply equipment which the state concerned does not possess or is not in a position to acquire.

5 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

IFLA will define the procedure on which engagement shall be considered. Engagement by IFLA will depend on the outcome of a needs assessment:

- a) Type of engagement necessary as specified under Level of Involvement;
- b) Expected costs;
- c) Degree of urgency;
- d) Important library-related cultural heritage (partly based on available hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment);
- e) Local capacity and expertise;
- f) Current political, social or health context of the related area.

6 ADVISORY GROUP

The implementation of these Principles of Engagement and the exact nature of IFLA support shall be managed by an Advisory Group which reports to the IFLA Governing Board. The Advisory Group shall be composed of the Chairs of the Preservation and Conservation Core Activity and Section and three other members with relevant expertise to be appointed by the IFLA Governing Board. The functions and responsibilities of the Advisory Group will be those set out in its Terms of Reference. IFLA Headquarters shall provide administrative assistance to the Advisory Group.

7 EVALUATION



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Any activity shall be systematically and objectively evaluated before, during and after any engagement. It shall not only refer to programmes or projects, but also to the organisational, strategic, policy and cooperation level. In accordance with the OECD

DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance¹ any engagement shall be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** The extent to which the engagement is suited to the priorities of the target groups, recipient and IFLA.
- **Efficiency:** Measures the qualitative and quantitative outputs in relation to the inputs.
- **Effectiveness:** The extent to which the engagement attains its objectives.
- **Sustainability:** Measures whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.
- **Impact:** The wider implication of the engagement, direct or indirectly, intended or un-intended on larger groups of people, communities and society as a whole. It may result in positive or negative changes on the local social, economic, environmental and other indicators.

Endorsed by the Governing Board of IFLA, at its meeting in Den Haag, The Netherlands, 04th April 2012.

¹ www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation