

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS IMPACTING NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ACROSS THE WORLD

Flooding in Venice 2015

Places, people and processes of recognised value are already being affected by short-term climatic events (such as heatwaves, drought, wildfires and intense rain events) and long-term changes in temperature, sea level, wind and ocean currents.

The **Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI)** was developed in response to the need for an effective tool to rapidly assess the vulnerability of our heritage to climate change that is:

- **systematic**, yet not overly complex
- able to be **consistently applied** to all types of heritage (natural, cultural, mixed)
- **proactive** (not waiting for irreversible climate impacts before acting)
- assesses impacts on **human communities** as well as **values and attributes**
- puts climate impacts into **context** (climate change is only one of many cumulative pressures impacting heritage)
- provides a pathway to develop **adaptive capacity** for managers

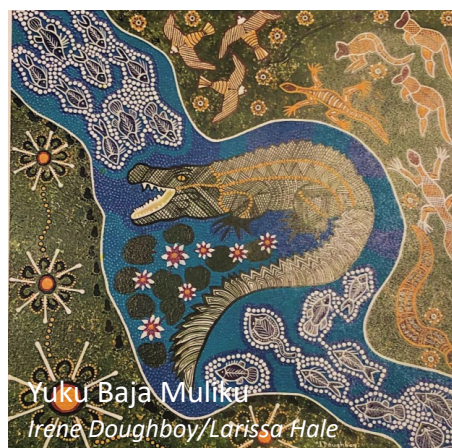


Hurricane damage, Statue of Liberty 2012  
US National Park Service

Whilst originally developed for World Heritage, the CVI process is applicable to other areas of significance.

### Beyond World Heritage

There are many locations of heritage importance that are being impacted by climate change – and there has been significant interest in applying the CVI for these in Europe and Australia, including from National Trust organisations.



### First Nations

CVI is working with Australian Indigenous partners to co-develop a culturally-appropriate version of the process. There has also been interest from North American First Nations' groups.



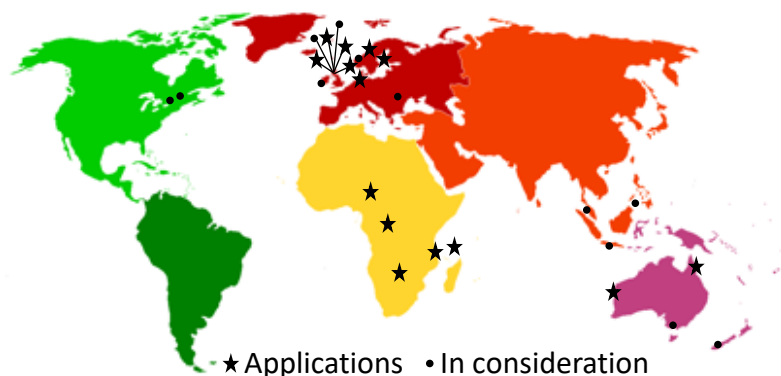


## STRATEGIC NEXT STEPS

Wildfires in Australia's Blue Mountains 2018  
Nabil Zainol Abidin

For the CVI to move from a facilitated process undertaken for individual properties to being able to provide insight to the broad array of heritage locations, the key strategic steps are:

- develop **documentation** to guide managers and other stakeholders through the process, incorporating feedback and experiences from past applications
- produce and conduct **training** for regionally-based accredited CVI facilitators to support future applications in several languages
- pilot **applications** of the materials and training in key heritage regions, prioritised in consultation with organisations such as UNESCO
- support management actions through strategic and targeted investments in **adaptive capacity**



Whilst the utility of the CVI has been demonstrated for natural and cultural heritage and in a range of heritage locations (marine and terrestrial; urban and rural; large and small) there remains opportunity to demonstrate the process across global regions.

### Testimonials

*The CVI takes a different approach from other vulnerability assessments because it incorporates the vulnerability of the community.*

Ewan Hyslop Historic Environment Scotland (four CVIs)

*The whole CVI process for Aldabra Atoll has been eye-opening and extremely valuable for our whole team.*

Nancy Bunbury Seychelles Islands Foundation

### Thematic assessments

Recognising the urgency of both understanding and responding to climate vulnerability, including for the over 1,100 World Heritage properties, we are pursuing methodologies to thematically-group heritage sites. This has been undertaken with attribute- and geography-based approaches, with approaches continuing to be tested.