

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE: PERCEPTIONS OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the ongoing work within the EU funded, Horizon 2020 project 'SHELTER' the University of Liège, in partnership with UNESCO, circulated an electronic survey to heritage site managers across Europe. The aim was to explore the experiences and perceptions of heritage site managers with regards to disaster risk management (DRM) governance and associated tools.

KEY FINDINGS

58 heritage managers responded from **16 European** countries, these site managers represented a variety of sites across various spatial scales and heritage site types. (78% cultural, 11% natural & 11% mixed).

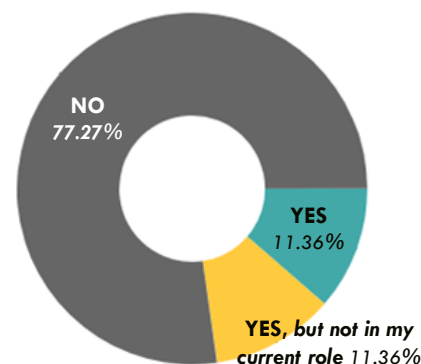
PERCEPTIONS OF HAZARDS & RISK

- The 5 most common perceived hazards were; flooding(17%); cyclones and/or storms(14%); wildfires(8%); droughts(7%); and earthquakes(7%).
- But, 27 different hazards were identified, often unique to sites with varying degrees of vulnerability.
- Only 48% of site managers have a mechanism to regularly review and update these risks.

EXPERIENCE & PERCEPTIONS OF DRM GOVERNANCE

- Preservation was the most common core mandate across the heritage sites, but rarely was it the only goal.
- 53% of respondents currently don't have an explicit DRM strategy, and of the sites that do only 9% of site managers perceived it to be accessible to all stakeholders.
- 77% of site managers have never implemented a DRM strategy before, in their current or previous employment.
- 75% of site managers have a platform to share resources and knowledge. But these varied greater across different sites.
- There was a consensus on the perceived stages of DRM, but with a lot of variation across different heritage sites.

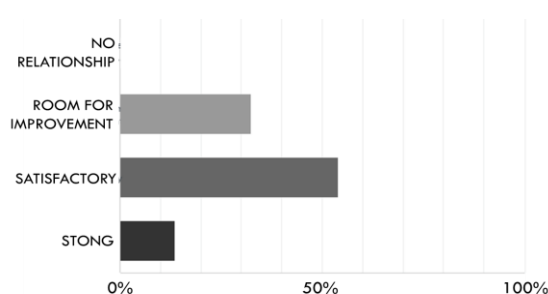
Have you ever implemented a DRM strategy before?



EXPERIENCES & PERCEPTIONS OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- 60% of site managers don't have a mechanism for stakeholder identification & engagement.
- Face to face meetings are the most common tool for co-ordinating and mobilising stakeholders, but many site managers use a combination of tools.
- 89% of site managers perceived to have established lines of communication with local communities and explicit community representatives.
- All of the site managers who responded perceived to have a relationship with local communities, but only 13% classified that relationship as strong.

Have do you perceived your relationship with the local community?



CONCLUSIONS & DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Every site is experiencing unique hazards and this requires flexible DRM strategies and tools.
2. Heritage site managers appear to be lacking fundamental governance tools & training with regards to effective stakeholder identification and engagement, risk assessment and mechanisms for knowledge sharing.
3. Despite having established lines of communications relationships with local communities overall is not strong.
4. There is an opportunity to explore the role of consistent platform for knowledge sharing across heritage sites.
5. There is a need to better conceptualise the stages of DRM within the practical context of heritage sites.