UNESCO Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in INDIA

Post-disaster needs assessment for culture in Kerala (2018)

Following record levels of rain in the State of Kerala, India, in August 2018, which led to some of the worst floods in the State’s history, UNESCO launched a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to determine the impact on the local cultural heritage sector. Historic monuments and archaeological sites – including the natural World Heritage property “Western Ghats” - as well as intangible and movable cultural heritage suffered serious damage. The districts of Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulum, Thrissur and Wayanad were among the worst affected. UNESCO, through the Heritage Emergency Fund, worked in consultation with the Culture Department of the State of Kerala to formulate a recovery action plan and strategy for the protection and restoration of the region’s cultural heritage. The Heritage Emergency Fund supported a mission to Kerala which resulted in the elaboration of the culture chapter of the PDNA, which included a detailed estimation of the damage, losses, and recovery needs for the cultural heritage sector of Kerala; key recommendations to improve resilience to future disasters; and an overall recovery strategy for the sector.