

**ICOMOS IRELAND**

**BUSINESS PLAN  
2007 - 2010**

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# **ICOMOS Ireland Business Plan 2007-2010**

## **Introduction**

This is the business plan for ICOMOS Ireland for the period 2007 - 2010. The purpose of the plan is to put ICOMOS Ireland on a professional and well-funded footing. It will help firmly establish ICOMOS Ireland within Ireland, give Irish conservation a higher profile at an international level within ICOMOS and enable greater collaboration, cross fertilization and dissemination of information to and from the international conservation community. This plan sets out objectives that will guide the ICOMOS Ireland Committee in the effective delivery of an improved level of input and services to the protection and management of the built heritage in Ireland. The plan highlights the background of ICOMOS International, ICOMOS Ireland and its management, activities and financial background.

## **ICOMOS International**

The International Council on Monuments and Sites is an association of professionals throughout the world that currently bring together almost 7600 members in over 106 countries. It works closely with UNESCO and national governments.

## Objectives

- to bring together conservation specialists from all over the world and serve as a forum for professional dialogue and exchange;
- to collect, evaluate and disseminate information on conservation principles, techniques and policies;
- to co-operate with national and international authorities on the establishment of documentation centres specialising in conservation;
- to work for the adoption and implementation of international conventions on the conservation and enhancement of our archaeological and architectural heritage;
- to participate in the organisation of training programmes for conservation specialists on a world-wide scale;
- to put expertise of highly qualified professionals and specialists at the service of the international community.

## Initiatives

- the strengthening of its presence world-wide by encouraging the creation and growth of ICOMOS National Committees;
- extending the influence of the Venice Charter by creating flexible doctrinal texts for specific sectors of our built heritage;
- defining adaptable management techniques for cultural properties;
- developing training programmes on a multilateral basis involving the collaboration of National and International Committees;
- enriching ICOMOS International Documentation Centre in Paris and setting up video and slide libraries devoted to archaeological and architectural heritage;
- organising and managing expert missions at the request of heritage administration and legal entities which judge necessary the intervention of a consultant for a particular conservation question;
- playing a vital role in counselling UNESCO on those cultural properties to be included on the World Heritage List and on the reporting of the state of conservation of the properties already listed;
- reaching specialists by means of wide distribution of the organisation's quarterly newsletter, ICOMOS News, its Scientific Journal, the publication series "Monuments and Sites" on the heritage of particular countries and the publishing of conference proceedings;
- awaking public interest in conservation by encouraging media coverage and the celebration of the International Day for Monuments and Sites (18 April).

## ICOMOS National Committees

National Committees are created at the national level in the countries, which are members of UNESCO. They bring together individual and institutional members and offer them a framework for discussion and an exchange of information. ICOMOS currently has over 110 National Committees. Each National Committee adopts its own rules of procedure, elaborates its own program according to the goals and aims of ICOMOS and implements the programs proposed by the Advisory and Executive Committees of ICOMOS.

ICOMOS National Committees provide a forum where individuals and representatives of institutions concerned with heritage matters can meet to exchange information and views on principles and practices in the field. Each national committee represents the interests of its members, both nationally and internationally. National committees can undertake specific activities on their own initiatives or at the request of their Governments. National committees are a channel through which individual specialists in each country

take part in ICOMOS' international activities including, for example, specific missions entrusted to ICOMOS by UNESCO.

Through the annual meetings of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee, national committees can exert a decisive influence on the programme priorities of ICOMOS. National committees can also volunteer to take responsibility (in close co-operation with the ICOMOS International Secretariat in Paris) for some part of ICOMOS' international programme, which is of particular concern to their country.

Each national committee must agree to accept the Statutes of ICOMOS. In addition, its own statutes should conform with national requirements and practices and they must be submitted to the ICOMOS Executive Committee for ratification. National committees should operate to comply with the Dubrovnik Guidelines.

Presidents of ICOMOS National Committees are elected or appointed from among their members. The President is responsible for calling at least one meeting of the national committee each year. Other officers elected by the Committee may assist the President and committees are urged to have a Secretary or a Secretary-Treasurer. Presidents of National Committees are automatically members of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee and are expected to attend and to take part in its annual meeting.

Each National Committee is made up of four categories of membership: individual, institutional, sustaining and honorary members. All the members must be qualified in the field of conservation, practicing the profession of architect, archaeologist, town planner, engineer, administrator of heritage, art historian or archivist. Individual membership may be granted in exceptional cases to other individuals interested in supporting the aims and objectives of ICOMOS.

### ICOMOS General Assembly

All National Committee members have the right to attend and to participate in the ICOMOS General Assembly, which is normally held every three years.

The last General Assembly was held in Xi'an, China from 17<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup> October 2005. The next, the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, will be held in Québec, Canada from 29<sup>th</sup> September - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

### **ICOMOS Ireland**

ICOMOS Ireland was founded in 1984. Since the early 1990s it has grown and developed and currently has almost 100 members drawn from the State heritage services, local government, museums, universities and private practice. In 2004 ICOMOS Ireland hosted the Europe ICOMOS President's

Meeting coupled with a very successful International Conference, which was supported by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Heritage Council. It also held a number of well-publicised events in Cork during Cork's European City of Culture. As a result of the success of the 2004 conference, ICOMOS Ireland has been asked by ICOMOS at international level to chair an International Scientific Committee relating to architectural inventories along with our colleagues in Slovenia and Macedonia.

Participation at international level has provided some of the stimulus behind the preparation of this Business Plan since this will require a far greater level of financial resourcing than ICOMOS Ireland can provide from its membership subscriptions alone.

### Incorporation

ICOMOS Ireland has now just completed its incorporation as a company limited by guarantee and will now register for charitable status. Much of the groundwork has already been completed with the Charities Office of the Revenue Commissioners. This will allow the organisation operate on a more formal basis with legally recognised governance procedures including audited accounts. It will also help ICOMOS Ireland to increase its membership base and introduce an accredited financial structure.

Up to now ICOMOS Ireland has operated with an Executive Committee and has been totally reliant on its voluntary members to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Correspondence Secretary, Members' Secretary and Ordinary committee member. The new company structure will facilitate the engagement of paid staff and other resources where necessary or advantageous.

### The Irish committee's current activities include

1. Meetings of the national committee are held on the second Tuesday of every month with a break for the summer months of July and August. All members are welcome at all meetings.
2. Six lecture presentations take place over the year, typically at alternate meetings of the national committee. These range from policy to case study and issues for practice. The occasions are characterised by valuable interdisciplinary professional discussion.
3. An annual lecture, The Maura Shaffrey Memorial Lecture, is given by a renowned international speaker each autumn and is held in Dublin Castle.

4. At present ICOMOS Ireland has four working sub-committees:
  - Conservation education and training
  - Heritage at risk
  - Historic landscapes
  - Industrial heritage
5. An annual outing to different locations throughout Ireland also forms part of ICOMOS activities during the year and this year it will focus on industrial heritage in Dublin.
6. An ICOMOS Ireland website is planned and will go online during 2007.
7. ICOMOS Ireland has negotiated with the DoEHLG to set up an Irish internship programme, reciprocating the internships set up for Irish graduates by the U.S. ICOMOS National Committee.

### **ICOMOS Ireland: Business Plan 2007-2010**

ICOMOS Ireland has among its members a unique level and range of expertise, independence and professionalism drawn from: the State heritage service; local authorities dealing with heritage management, development control and conservation; NGOs; and also drawn from a range of private practices many of which provide consultancy and technical support to such bodies.

It is through this diverse membership that ICOMOS Ireland indirectly informs and provides advocacy and support for the work of these bodies.

Although meetings are minuted, the business at ICOMOS meetings operates by convention under Chatham House rules. This facilitates the open-handed exchange of information and opinion without risk of selective attribution. Since many members are active in the preparation and assessment of development planning applications, ICOMOS Ireland has an explicit policy of not taking a position, or engaging in debate, on the specifics of any individual application. Discussion instead focuses on principles.

ICOMOS Ireland sees potential, from this unique vantage point, to offer advice and feedback to Government on the development and implementation of policies relating to heritage, as ICOMOS national committees do in other countries. It can also advise on the World Heritage Convention and Council of Europe Conventions. ICOMOS Ireland's participation at international level – with or without hosting the proposed Scientific Committee -- will require a more active dialogue with the Irish State in a collaborative role.

During this 3-year plan ICOMOS Ireland therefore proposes to become more active both nationally and internationally.

It will become more active nationally by:

encouraging more members to join and participate in the work of ICOMOS Ireland.

developing the work of the sub-committees and publishing their results.

advising on the listing and management of World Heritage Sites in Ireland, including prospective candidate sites.

establishing its own base with a part-time secretary. Such a base would house a conservation documentation centre.

contributing to a greater awareness of education in heritage preservation matters.

setting up and maintaining an active website in 2007.

It will become more active internationally by:

attending ICOMOS European Presidents' Meetings. (Presidents of National Committees are automatically members of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee and are expected to attend and to take part in annual meetings currently two per year.)

sending a delegation from Ireland to attend the ICOMOS 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Québec in September 2008.

becoming involved in at least two International ICOMOS Sub-committees, which is a requirement of the Dubrovnik Guidelines. These have a 3-year cycle.

participating in international conferences on heritage.

hosting at least one international event.

## **Funding**

ICOMOS Ireland has operated to date on membership subscription, with ad hoc sponsorship for key events. It is only in the recent past that it has managed to accumulate a small positive bank balance and thereby enable the initial investment in a web site, incorporation and a drive for new members. By the rules of the international body, most of the money raised from the annual subscriptions paid by Irish members must be remitted to ICOMOS in Paris to support its international work.

Funding from the Heritage Council, the DoEHLG, Fáilte Ireland and corporate sponsors has helped enormously on specific occasions. Generally ICOMOS officers and/or members have personally funded attendance at international conferences, meetings and General Assemblies. It is not desirable, and

perhaps not even possible, for the organisation to continue operating in such an ad hoc way.

ICOMOS Ireland is now seeking annual funding for a 3-year period to enable this plan to achieve its objectives. During this period there will be a mid-term review. The funding which needs to be raised is set out as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
annual lecture in Dublin venue:	€5,000	€5,500	€6,000
setting up and maintaining website:	€3,200	€1,000	€1,000
attending European Presidents' Mtgs:	€2,000	€2,250	€2,500
international conferences [grants]:	€1,500	€1,750	€2,000
attending sub-committee meetings:	€2,000	€3,000	€3,500
16 <sup>th</sup> . ICOMOS General Assembly:	Nil	€7,000	Nil
publication [sub-committee work]:	€2,500	€1,500	€1,500
publication of information booklet:	€2,500	Nil	Nil
international event [provisional]:	Nil	Nil	€12,000
office rental [subsidised]:	Nil	€5,000	€6,000
part-time secretary :	Nil	€12,000	€14,000
facilities [computer, printer, copier]:	€3,000	€2,500	€1,000
insurance:	€1,200	€1,300	€1,400
accountant's fees:	€900	€1,000	€1,100
legal costs:	€2,000	Nil	Nil
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Total:	€25,800	€43,800	€52,000
Membership fees, fundraising activities, corporate sponsorship :	€7,000	€8,500	€10,000
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Annual shortfalls	€18,800	€35,300	€42,000

This funding objective seems, on the one hand, very ambitious by reference to what ICOMOS Ireland currently works with. On the other hand, the programme of activities to which it relates seems modest and achievable.

## **Conclusion**

The Irish National Committee considers that the programme of activities set out in the Business Plan is the minimum adequate to exploit ICOMOS Ireland's potential to contribute at national and international level.

The Committee proposes to continue and expand its engagement with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in order to explore

- the means of delivering the Business Plan (including the necessary funding) in its present form; and
- other areas of potential collaboration beyond those in the Plan; such as education and training, and the forthcoming update of conservation elements of 'Action on Architecture'.