Terms of Reference

1. Background and Objective

The World Heritage represents the most exceptional expressions of our humanity and the treasures of our planet. Through the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, countries around the world vow to safeguard the places of outstanding universal value through local, national, regional, and international actions.

In 2022, the Convention marks its 50th anniversary. The 1,154 natural and cultural heritage sites in over 160 countries are a testament to the universal appreciation and achievement of this ground-breaking legal framework.

The landmark year arrives as the world assesses the vulnerability of the heritage ecosystem in the face of sudden onset crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic which led to the closure of 89% of World Heritage Sites. The effects of climate change have been tangibly felt by sites around the world, while the increasing volume of tourism has put environmental and social pressure on the heritage sites and communities around. What do we truly treasure? What must change for the better? What should be passed down to future generations in the face of future crises?

In this context, UNESCO has launched a year-long programme to galvanize profound reflections on the future of heritage titled “The Next 50: World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity and innovation.” As part of this effort, UNESCO is seeking a qualified and highly-motivated professional to serve as a Coordinator for ‘The Next 50’ campaign for its Office in Nepal, which has already begun its momentum with positive feedback from a series of bilateral consultations with key national stakeholders in Nepal including the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO and key national authorities. The assignment will be based in UNESCO Kathmandu Office.

2. Purpose of the Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to engage a consultant for enabling a series of interdisciplinary dialogues/discussions open to the intellectual communities and public alike, on the future of the World Heritage in Nepal, building on a common understanding and common approach around key issues that are pertinent to leverage the potential of World Heritage and other local heritage sites in Nepal.

The efforts shall include going well beyond celebrating past achievements and facilitating discussions on unconventional, innovative approaches, to generate high impact and shall seek allies for Culture programme in Nepal, leveraging partnership and exploring inter-sectoral synergies, contributing to a road map inspired by novel ideas and diverse perspectives from the community beyond heritage on the future of World Heritage in Nepal and heritage at large.

3. Duties/Tasks and Expected Output:

Under the overall authority and the immediate supervision of the UNESCO Head of Office, and in close collaboration with the Culture Team in Kathmandu Office, the successful candidate will coordinate with government and non-government, public and private sector relevant stakeholders, as well as heritage and non-heritage experts, to facilitate ‘The Next 50’ discussion on the future of the World Heritage Sites in Nepal within the framework of the UNESCO global campaign. In particular, the Consultant will undertake the following tasks:
1. Organize and participate in meetings, bringing in like-minded entities, individuals, and organizations, including youth, young women, and indigenous peoples, to facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue on the theme “The Next 50: World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity, and innovation”, focusing on UNESCO’s wider engagement in the four World Heritage Sites in Nepal;

2. Explore partnership with relevant public and private actors;

3. Facilitate to organize a series of interdisciplinary discussions/reflections, including preparation of background contents and agenda, as well as participants, on the future of the World Heritage in Nepal, going well beyond celebrating past achievements and facilitating discussions on unconventional, innovative approaches, starting with Kathmandu Valley and then explore possibilities for similar activities to be held on the future of Lumbini, Sagarmatha, and Chitwan:
   a) Key questions to reflect on are - What do we truly treasure? What must change for the better? What should be passed down to future generations in the face of crises?
   b) The discussion should tackle and reflect on one or more of the Five Priority Areas for the preservation of the heritage - Heritage in the post-COVID World; Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Conservation; Safeguarding Heritage against Climate Crisis; and Imagining Heritage in the Digital Dimension;
   c) Explore inter-sectoral synergies and flagship event/s and/or initiative/s;
   d) Identify best practices in the ground to contribute to future learning;

4. Identify heritage and non-heritage experts and key figures in diverse fields, such as philosophy, economics, architecture, literature, environmental science, engineering to facilitate the interdisciplinary discussion on each of the World Heritage Sites in Nepal and heritage at large;

5. Coordinate to organize a flagship event(s), that could include thematic meetings, panel discussions and presentations and bring innovative ideas to the decision-makers, which would be an opportunity to reflect on the year-long discussions on the five priority areas on the chosen World Heritage Site/s in Nepal;

6. Explore in close consultation with the Communication and Information Unit of the Office, and the Communication Officer, the potential non-profit media houses and identify a media partner to stimulate the discussions, create relevant impact stories, and communicate them to the larger public, ultimately to influence policies;

7. Prepare a diagnostic report reflecting on the outcome of the dialogues to contribute to a long-term vision for the safeguarding and promotion of the World Heritage Sites in Nepal and heritage at large, leveraging their potential for sustainable development, partnership and inter-sectoral synergies.
4. **Timetable and Deliverables**

The starting date for this work is as soon as possible (at the latest 1 April 2022) and the work should be delivered by 31 December 2022.

**Deliverables:**
1. Concept note, agenda and participants and a work plan for a series of discussions by 15 April 2022
2. Diagnostic Report on the outcome of series of discussions 9 December 2022
3. Dissemination strategy, contents and contribution to the impact stories/articles/podcasts (throughout the contract period)
4. Vision paper with recommendations (action plans) reflecting upon all the discussions and final event in November, no more than 5 pages by 16 December 2022

5. **Competencies**

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<th>Core Competencies:</th>
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<th>Managerial Competencies:</th>
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For detailed information, please consult the [UNESCO Competency Framework](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/Competency%20Framework_E.pdf)

6. **Qualifications**

**Education:** Advanced university degree (Master’s or equivalent) in the field of arts/culture, heritage, sociology, anthropology or social sciences, or area related to sustainable development.

**Work experience:** A minimum of five years of demonstrated work experience in coordination, strategic planning, communication, and managing outreach dialogues and campaign in culture and heritage sector or related social sciences fields. Experience in developing partnerships and resource mobilization. Understanding the overarching sustainable development agenda in UNESCO priority areas in the context of Nepal would be an advantage.

**Languages:** Excellent written and spoken Nepalese

**Desirable qualifications:** Strong interpersonal and networking skills

Highly organized and self-motivated

Familiarity with the political and scientific context of Nepal

Capacity to collaborate and positively engage with stakeholders from diverse fields including philosophy, economics, architecture, literature, environmental science, engineering, public authorities, as well as private partners and beneficiaries, including youth, young girls and indigenous peoples and national/local authorities

Prior UN experience is an asset