Subsection 2: World Heritage Protection

„ Engaging with experts is essential. However, in order to develop targeted programmes, we need to find out what motivates the target group itself.“

Katharina Matheja, Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation

Article 1: Climate change in historic gardens and park landscapes - threats, challenges and solution strategies

Katharina Matheja, Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation

Since 1990, the majority of the grounds of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation have been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin. The main tasks of the foundation are to preserve and protect the palaces and parks, as well as to communicate this accomplished architectural and garden art, known as "Prussian Arcadia". In numbers, this means the care and maintenance of approx. 750 hectares of park, 170 kilometres of park paths, 80,000 trees and 220,000 flowers as well as 600 architectural monuments spanning five centuries.

In recent years, these tasks have become a growing challenge - changes in the climate and the resulting increase in extreme weather events are having a noticeable impact on the condition of buildings and gardens. While the historic buildings are primarily suffering from more extreme temperature changes and new damage caused by pests or fungi, the fragility of the World Heritage Site is particularly evident in the gardens. They are suffering from more frequent periods of drought, followed by heavy rainfall.

For the SPSG, this means making every possible effort to adapt the palaces and parks to the changing climatic conditions while adhering to conservation guidelines. Various projects in co-operation with research institutes and other garden administrations are therefore aimed at developing specific recommendations for action and their practical implementation. For the gardens, the temporal dimensions must also be taken into account: They are "living" monuments and, unlike built cultural assets, are actively involved in adaptation, but often require several years to do so. Many of the measures taken therefore only show their effect after five to ten years.

However, informing visitors and involving them in our activities are also essential for the preservation of the gardens. A lack of understanding often unintentionally leads to misuse or vandalism, and thus resulting in an additional threat to the historic gardens.

Participation strengthens identification with the World Heritage Site, especially among younger generations. For example, school children who replanted trees in Sanssouci Park three years ago together with SPSG employees regularly return to "their" park trees and act as valuable multipliers among friends and family. In addition to local networking, transnational networking is also important. As part of the Young Climate Action for World Heritage project funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU), school students from Poland and Germany visited the New Garden and Babelsberg Park in Potsdam. They gained an impression of the threats and risks to the historic gardens as well as their beauty and potential for climate, biodiversity and ecosystems. Workshops were held to develop initial ideas for preserving and communicating the World Heritage Site, which will be further de-

veloped in the following school year. We are looking forward to the students' ideas and suggestions, which will make an important contribution to communicating our World Heritage Site.

References

Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research [Internet]. Dürren 1952 - 2022 (yearly) - Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung UFZ; [quoted on March 20th 2023]. Available under: https://www.ufz.de/index.php?de=47252

"Cultural heritage acts as a place of identification and what many people call home. It is a tool to bring people along in transformation processes. We need to broaden our view and perception of the role that cultural heritage plays in these processes."

Dr. Matthias Ripp, City of Regensburg

Article 2: World Heritage Education für a climate-conscious sustainable development

Dr. Matthias Ripp, Stadt Regensburg

World Heritage Cities and Climate Change

Climate change is a global challenge for us all and therefore also for World Heritage Cities, which are made up of the interplay between the people who live there, their lifestyles, traditions and the objects within them. Three factors in particular pose challenges: Temperature fluctuations, water and demographic change.
Temperature fluctuations affect the soil structure of historic buildings and cause additional damage. Regensburg, with its stone historic centre, is particularly exposed to heat.
The water factor refers to the increasingly frequent heavy rainfall events, often in connection with heavy storms and flooding, and the rising water levels. But invisible changes are also a problem - many building structures suffer from fluctuations in humidity.
The third challenge is demographic change. Ageing and migration are changing the composition of urban populations, which ultimately requires World Heritage cities to adapt their educational work and its content.

How are we dealing with these challenges in Regensburg?
Regensburg is to become more sustainable through various co-operations, educational measures and concrete conversions. For example, the city of Regensburg has decided to set up a sustainability trail with 15 stations that convey the goals of the Global Agenda 2023 and background information on global and regional connections in the form of a quiz.

Green Deal in Regensburg

The sustainability trail presents various ideas and projects. But what does that mean in concrete terms? What does the "Regensburg Green Deal" look like?
Since 2021, all activities relating to energy and climate protection have been bundled. The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% by 2030 when compared to 1990. By involving various stakeholders from business, science and environmental organisations as well as citizens, the city administration and all its subsidiaries are to become climate-neutral by 2030 and the city as a whole by 2035. The aim is also to fully utilise energy-saving potential and expand the use of renewable energies.
Concrete goals include prioritising the use of eco-friendly transport when making decisions about the transport system, strengthening cycling and walking and reducing stationary traffic and private transport. To this end, local public transport is to be made CO2-neutral and become more attractive for commuters through better connections between the city and surrounding areas. Bicycle hire systems will be introduced and a cycle station set up at the main railway station. At the same time, there is a constant exchange with the public and the economy and further training is offered on climate-friendly transport behaviour as well as funding for new climate technologies.

Regensburg: The climate-resilient historic city centre?

At public events, the desire for a pleasant old town centre with a "feel-good atmosphere" for all generations was expressed. In order to prevent overheating, more water and greenery are to be integrated into Regensburg's historic city centre.
The realisation of these plans still needs to be planned in detail. Ultimately, success also depends on whether politicians back the plans and whether the city's population is actively involved in the planning process.

References

Stadt Regensburg. Agenda 2030 - Nachhaltigkeitspfad Regensburg [Internet]. www.regensburg.de. 2022 [quoted on April 20th 2023]. Available under: https://www.regensburg.de/leben/agenda-2030/nachhaltigkeitspfad-regensburg