

RecorDIM

ROUNDTABLE 4

**XXth Congress
International Society for
Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing**
(Istanbul, 12-25 July 2004)

REPORT



EVENT: 18/07/2004

BY ROBIN LETELLIER &
M. SANTANA QUINTERO

5-Year **Reco****DIM** Initiative

(2002-2007)

<http://extranet.getty.edu/gci/recordim/>



The Getty Conservation Institute



ENGLISH HERITAGE



Travaux publics et
Services gouvernementaux
Canada

Public Works and
Government Services
Canada

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

(New and Potential Reco**DIM** Partners for 2004)

Lemaire Centre – Parks Canada - INTACH – MCR – AfriCOM -

ICUCH – UQAM – CIIC - ICOMOS Macedonia – CCF – RIGSI – METU – NIHM –
U. of Applied Science Magdeburg - Leopold-Franzens U. – Iraq Nat. Conservation Inst.

MEETING REPORT



Figure 1: Mr Alves presentation on Underwater Cultural Heritage

The **Recording, Documentation and Information Management (RecorDIM)** Initiative is a challenging activity that seeks bringing together Information Users and Providers involved in cultural heritage practices.

This initiative is a channel for organizations that join efforts aimed at improving the applications of 'RecorDIM' tools and techniques.

This initial Roundtable 4 report was prepared by Mario Santana and Robin Letellier to summarize the generic meeting results and to communicate participant's suggestions discussed during the event held in Istanbul on July 18, 2004. A complement to this report will soon be produced by Robin Letellier to provide additional information pertaining to other Roundtable-4 outputs, and to the upcoming Bergen, Leuven and Roundtable 5 meetings. It will also report on the new 'Task Group Alliance Hub' mechanisms that were presented / discussed during the ISPRS 2004 Congress meetings in Istanbul.

The Venue

The event was organized as part of the XXth ISPRS Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Istanbul, 12-25 July 2004.

The roundtable took place in a conference room with capacity of 50 attendants. It was an intensive day of work, including a



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

Figure 2: (1) Bill Blake, (2) Lazare Sumanov, (3) Mario Santana, (4) Rand Eppich

combination of selected lectures, roundtable discussions during lunch and general meeting.

1. Schedule:

The meeting was organized in three main activities:

- Morning sessions: Introduction to RecorDIM and lectures
- Business lunch: affiliation roundtables
- Afternoon session: panels: roundtable groups and final remarks

Introduction: key issues by Robin Letellier

2. Current situation of the RecorDIM alliance:

Mr Letellier presented two matrixes explained the current situation of RecorDIM:

- RecorDIM Task Groups in the making, and delivery dates: explaining the current proposals, responsible and phase of development;
- Matrix of RecorDIM Task Groups: classification of each of the proposal in the context of gaps established before by RecorDIM in the beginning of the initiative.

Furthermore, he explained the goals of the meeting and the current schedule of activities.

3. Lectures:

Cevat Erder: explained the history and evolution of the CIPA committee in ICOMOS during the last 35 years and the achievements.

A. Guliz Bilgin Altinoz: talked about “**GIS Guidelines for Information Management in urban Conservation**”: Guliz presented the task group proposal about the preparation of guidelines for the use of Geographic Information Systems in Urban Conservation. The contents described the adaptation of concepts used in structuring Geographic Information Systems for Urban Conservation, dealing with the introduction of a methodology.

Francisco J. S. Alves referred to “**The International Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural**



Figure 3: Affiliation Lunch: discussion on standards and Guidelines.

Heritage”: his presentation included an overview of the history of protection of underwater Cultural Heritage with emphasis on UNESCO’s Convention recently adopted, and ICUCH’s assistance. He also explained the current situation in Portugal, where Mr. Alves is founder of the government unit investigating underwater cultural heritage. He concluded by making reference to the need for assistance in bridging gaps between users and providers pertaining to underwater conservation practices.

Mario Santana Quintero focused on “**Monitoring tools in preventive conservation of cultural heritage**” and the “**Development of World Heritage information management capacity in the Arab States**”: this presentation was divided into two parts.

The first part was devoted to present a Task Group proposal for RecorDIM, where the R. Lemaire International centre for Conservation (KU Leuven) and Monuments Watch Flanders join efforts in preparing a set of tools for monitoring in preventive conservation of cultural heritage. The aim of this task group proposal is to adapt the use of Recording, Documentation and Information Systems in the current activities of Monuments Watch for periodic inspection of the state of conservation of cultural objects.

The second part of the presentation, and certainly more interesting for the group, described a project by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in developing information management capacity in the Arab States financed by the Flemish Fund-in-Trust for Support of UNESCO Activities. The presentation explained the training courses organized in the region and results. It also proposed to the organizations present at the meeting, to participate in Future schemes for capacity building in the region. The question and remarks of participants were very useful for both this project and the RecorDIM meeting:

- The type and length of training course in recording,

documentation and information systems in cultural heritage

- The use of remote sensing for mapping sites using satellite images
- The mandate of UNESCO as an organization promoting the mapping of World Heritage Sites by state parties
- Capacity building in the Arab regions, experiences in Syria

Joseph Cannataci gave a presentation on the “**Malta Centre for Restoration (MCR) – International Training – Bachelor in Documentation Studies**”: this lecture focused in the history of the Malta Centre for Restoration and the recent launching of a three years Bachelor in Documentation Studies, and



Figure 4: Robin Letellier.

international undergraduate training program targeted to teach the aims and range of techniques available in documentation of cultural heritage.

Dr Cannataci also explained the experience of this institution in recording and teaching cultural heritage supported by a number of important European funded projects. Especially Video conferencing facilities to provide the opportunity to trainers and trainees to follow classes.

Main issues raised by Dr. Cannataci:

- Rapid decay of cultural sites, high requirement of adequate documentation
- A three-year training course is based on experience from previous short term activities
- Documentalists need to know how to use the techniques, adequately and in a cost-effective way
- Cost-effective documentation means quality training

Note: to increase effectiveness in reporting on discussions and presentations from RecorDIM roundtables, some Partners have

proposed that we 'record and hopefully web cast' some of our RecorDIM meetings. Therefore, a 'pilot recording test' was undertaken during Roundtable-4 in Istanbul, and the presentations by Francisco Alves, Mario Santana and Joe Cannataci (referred to above) are made available on WebSpanner's site at:

<http://webspanner.com/istanbul.htm>. WebSpanner is the e-learning company that proposed this new way of sharing meetings with partners (and other conservation organizations) that are unable to attend our RecorDIM roundtables.

Additionally, WebSpanner tested the possibility of web casting Roundtable-4 to evaluate how RecorDIM Partners that are unable to attend meetings, could:

- have access to the PowerPoint presentations (live)
- hear the presenters comment their slides, and



Figure 5: Lazar Sumanov during the discussions during lunch time.

- ask questions on-line at the end of each presentation.

The Roundtable-4 web casting tests from Istanbul revealed that virtual participants must learn to deal with transmission delays that vary with

- image size,
- voice communication, and
- quality of phone lines in the country from which the casting is done.

As a result of this test, WebSpanner should be preparing guidelines for participants that wish to participate to the next RecorDIM web casting pilot project. These guidelines should be provided in the complementary

Roundtable-4 report planned for the second half of September 2004.

4. Business lunch: affiliation roundtables



Figure 6: Best practices table

The participants were encouraged to join thematic groups during lunch, in order to identify:

- opportunities to interact in the framework of the RecorDIM meeting
- yourself with a necessity
- Other issues that need to be tackled
- Groups that can be combined
- Volunteers to form new groups
- Who is going to do what and when?
- Timeframe: what can be done by RecorDIM in the next year

5. Affiliation roundtables remarks:

Standards and Guidelines: presented by Rand Eppich

- Help communicate between users and providers
- Getting the right quotation for recording work
- How well work has been carried out
- Should be updateable
- Guidelines perhaps already exist, should be identified – might need to be updated
- Too many task groups, a need to reduce the number and focus

Best practice: presented by Bill Blake

- Integration of Photogrammetry and Laser Scanning
- Levels of accuracy / recording
- Encourage professional behavior, good behavior
- Need of accreditation in the sphere of recording cultural heritage



Figure 6: Geographic Information Systems discussion during lunch

- Procedures should include the integration of tools and experiences: within the conservation process
- Seek continuity
- Sensitivity to application: listen to the user's needs (as provider) and users should understand what providers can offer
- Understand how task groups could be merged
- Being here already means that RecorDIM's goals are important

Information management systems – Dissemination and Communication: presented by A. Guliz Bilgin Altinoz

- A need for preparing a dictionary with terms on 'recording Cultural heritage' in English, and make use of terms already used by CIPA Heritage Documentation, becoming multilingual in a longer period
- Definition of metadata structure to communicate between databases
- Archives should be used – taking GIS as a focal tool for merging this data and collecting primary data – public relations
- Too many common issues in current task groups – overlapping actions – for GIS at least a solid study of general rules for the use of this technique applied to different fields

Training and Management Tools: presented by Joseph Cannatacci

- The discussion was linked to standards: defining a documentalist before tacking training needs
- Establishment of basic standards for defining objectives for training
- Analogy to Conservator – Restorer as an example for the need of defining a documentalist: when, how, how much to intervene
- Training should be technology neutral – functional specifications rather than technical specifications
- Requirement for monitoring in conservation: this requires more specialized training
- Serious consideration for languages, most publications are in English.
- Importance of use of GIS for training

6. Presentation of the next Roundtable 5 in Torino (Italy), during the CIPA Symposium 2005 (September 27 to October 2, 2005)

Prof. Sergio Duqual gave a brief presentation on the upcoming CIPA 2005 XXth International Symposium.

Prof. Fulvio Rinaudo proposed to have a specialized theme during the Symposium, for papers related to RecorDIM activities, where papers are presented about task group affiliations.



Figure 8: Joseph Cannataci

7. Panel discussion:

Training lead by Joseph Cannataci:

Dr Cannataci explained the need of defining a new profession profile for the documentalist in recording of cultural heritage, as it has been defined for conservators and restorers. Taking into consideration the need of interdisciplinary training, he also explained the Malta programme's for the bachelor's degree in documentation of cultural heritage.

The discussion started around the question of 'how many countries defined a documentalist in their law'. Many participants declared that there is no need to define a new specialized profession but what is important is to define the needs of documentation practice, so that related professionals are able to perform this practice.

Unfortunately the discussion was more focused in clarifying legal terms and law interpretation in different countries than the need for training in documentation of cultural heritage. Examples were presented from England, Canada, Australia, etc.

Other participants mentioned that as documentation expert it is difficult to make a living, and that a specialized expert won't be cost effective.

Standards lead by Lazar Sumanov:

The discussion dealt with the use of low-cost techniques in recording monuments in southeast Europe, for understanding the state of conservation of the cultural heritage. Including capacity building workshops and actual survey work in collaboration with different members of the RecorDIM initiative.

Management tools lead by Giora Solar and Mario Santana:

The discussion focused on the use of recording, documentation and information systems as monitoring tools for cultural Heritage properties. Mr. Solar proposed to create a task group with the support of ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre around the use of reactive monitoring of World Heritage site and nominations.

This group would have for goal:

- to develop guidelines for 'documentation' to be used for monitoring;
- to develop a list of indicators pertaining to the state of conservation;
- to make use of GIS a management tool, and
- to also define inventories as management tools

Glossary of Terms lead by Robin Letellier

Mr. Letellier explained, based on the Underwater Cultural Heritage Task Group, the need of creating a glossary of terms for documentation that can be translated into different languages. A simple list of terms translated and agreed to by a number of experts in the field from different nationalities and professional backgrounds. The starting point could be in Bergen (Sept. 2005), during the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees strategic meeting, where a RecorDIM task group proposal may be presented to discuss / include the participation of members from each ICOMOS International Scientific Committees.

Final remarks

The meeting was a work intensive exercise that has delivered valuable suggestions for the future of the RecorDIM initiative in the remaining years. It was an excellent opportunity to gather a multidisciplinary and international group of experts interested in the subject.

The tendency of the group was to caution on the number of task groups and needs of combining efforts, identifying funding to develop the proposals, and the need for standards in RecorDIM practices.

In our opinion, we would recommend to designate a number of participants as a steering group to help focus on the future of the initiative and to concentrate on a selective number of task group proposals. Other proposals could be tackled in the future after the main issues raised in the meeting are developed.

However, other roundtables should be organized for the general public as an open forum for discussing the initiative. A bigger network of contacts should be managed by linking existing e-mail mailing list from the different organizations that participated in the work.

The industry should be invited. In this event we had an increasing number of people from companies which enriched the group discussions.

Participants:

This meeting attracted a multidisciplinary and international group of approximately 30 professionals, coming from academic institutions, governments and the industry:

Orhan Altan, ISPRS Congress 2004, Turkey

Zeynep Ahunbay, Istanbul Teknik Universitesi, Turkey

Francisco Alvez – Instituto Portugues de Arqueologia, centro Nacional de Arqueologia Nautica e Subaquatica (ICUCH), Portugal

Bill Blake, English Heritage, UK

Guliz Bilgin Altinoz – METU Faculty of Architecture, Ankara, Turkey

Mehdi Boroumand, Namal' ardaz Rayaneh Co., Iran

Joseph Cannataci, Malta Centre for Restoration (MCR),
Malta

Rand Eppich, Getty Conservation Institute, USA

Cevat Erder – Past. Dir ICCROM, Turkey

Klaus Hanke, Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck, Austria

Pierre Grussenmeyer, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées
de Strasbourg, France

Duncan Lees, Plowman Craven and Associates, UK

Robin Letellier, International Coordinator, RecorDIM
initiative, Canada

Abbas Malian, Amik Kabir University of Technology, Iran

Clive Ogleby, CIPA Heritage Documentation, Australia

Petros Patias, CIPA Heritage Documentation, Greece

Fulvio Rinaudo, Politecnico Di Torino – Diget, Italy

Mario Santana Quintero, Raymond Lemaire International
Centre for Conservation, K.U. Leuven - UNESCO World
Heritage Centre, France – Belgium

Walter Schuhr, U. of Applied Sc. Magdeburg-Stendal, Germany

Giora Solar, International Council of Monuments and Sites
(ICOMOS), Israel

Lazar Summanov, Macedonia International Council of
Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Macedonia

Luc Van Gool, European Research Network on Excellence
in Processing Open Cultural Heritage (EPOCH), Belgium

Peter Waldhäusl, CIPA Heritage Documentation, Austria

Prof. M. Zolfaghari, Amik Kabir University of Technology, Iran

Sergio Dequal, Director, CIPA 2005 XXth International
Symposium (Torino, Italy)

Minana Lonnqvist, Dep. Of Archaeology, Institute for Culture
Heritage (Finland)

Christiane Diekmann (Germany)

Prof. Jozef Jachimski, Dep. of Photogrammetry and Remote sensing, University of Mining and Metallurgy (Poland)