

WRENCH

Whispers of Time

Heritage as Narratives of Climate Change

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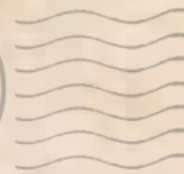
Heritage and Climate Change

Survey - Interim report

Update: February 24, 2026

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A Belmont Forum Project

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Introduction

We are promoting a survey to gather firsthand information, proposals, and concerns from people on the ground. The survey is directed to anyone interested in thinking about and acting to address the challenges of climate change affecting heritage, understood in a broad sense (including buildings, public spaces, rivers, mountains, and even ephemeral legacies).

The survey is open to citizens, associations (both NGOs and grassroots organizations), experts, policymakers, professionals in the heritage and environmental sectors, museum directors and workers, and generally to anyone

who lives near or cares about heritage in its various forms, or is affected by climate change.

We are also engaging secondary school students—initially in the pilot sites of Naples and Ragusa, with the intention of extending the initiative to all WRENCH pilot sites—using the survey both as an educational tool and as a service-learning exercise.

Students are invited to support the dissemination of the survey and to reflect with us on its results, transforming the process into an opportunity for active and collaborative learning.



Methodological note

The survey aims to investigate the perceptions of a diverse range of actors—including experts from the museum, heritage, environmental, and related sectors; policymakers; heritage and environmental advocates; and laypeople reached through public-space posters and school-based dissemination—regarding the relationship between heritage and climate change.

It is organised into sections that collect general information about respondents and explore the specific perspectives of each stakeholder group. The survey combines open-ended questions, which will be analysed qualitatively, with multiple-choice questions designed to generate quantitative insights. Completion time is approximately 15 minutes.

Number of respondents to date: 268

The following pages present preliminary results after one year of survey dissemination. This interim report provides an overview of the data collected so far and supports the research team in refining the survey's outreach strategy, particularly in response to observed imbalances in respondent representation. Only a partial representation of the quantitative data is presented here, as the overall analysis—including textual analysis of the qualitative responses—is still in progress.

Whispers of Time - Heritage as Narratives of Climate Change - WRENCH

You have received this questionnaire because you are part of a network interested in understanding the impact of climate change on tangible and intangible heritage, including storytelling, narratives and ephemeral legacies.

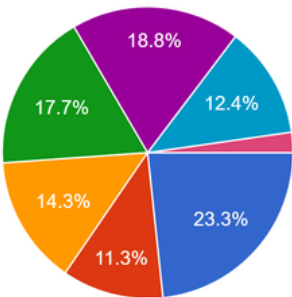
As part of the project "[WRENCH - Whispers of Time: Heritage as Narratives of Climate Change](#)", supported by the Belmont Foundation, we - the researchers involved in the project - would like to hear from anyone who is interested in the subject by asking a few questions that will take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

If you are interested in participating in this research project, please read the information below to give your consent in accordance with [EU General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#).

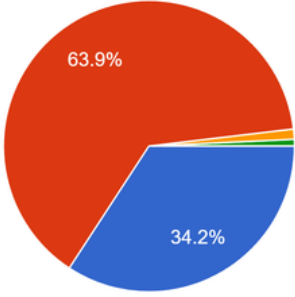
Preliminary results

In this section, we present a selection of graphics generated during the first year of survey dissemination. We do not include the full set of quantitative results or excerpts from the open-ended responses, as the survey remains open and data analysis is still underway. A discussion of findings is likewise omitted at this stage. The purpose of this interim report is to offer a preliminary overview of several macro-categories of information—age, gender and contextual representation, group composition, perceptions of the heritage-climate change nexus, and willingness to participate in future WRENCH activities. This provisional snapshot is intended to provide an initial set of insights and to support adjustments to the targeted dissemination strategy should any respondent categories appear underrepresented.

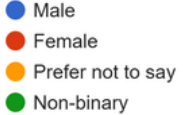
Age and gender representation



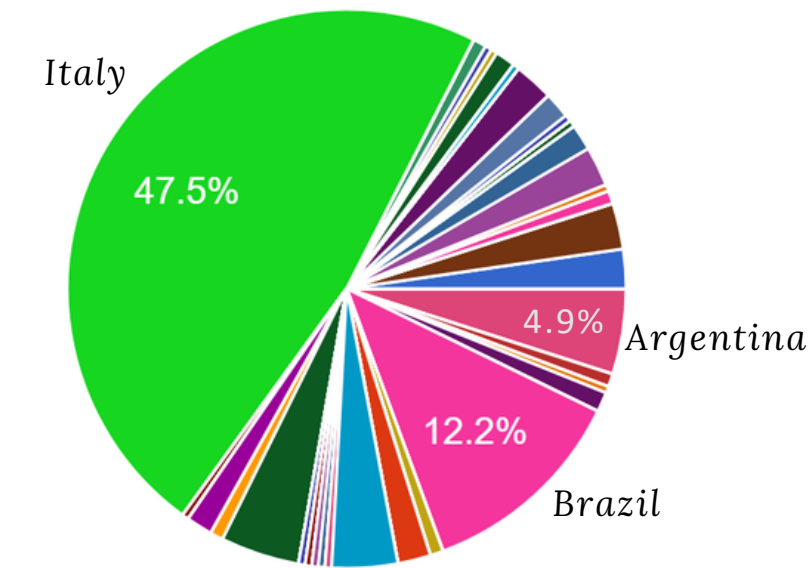
Age



Gender



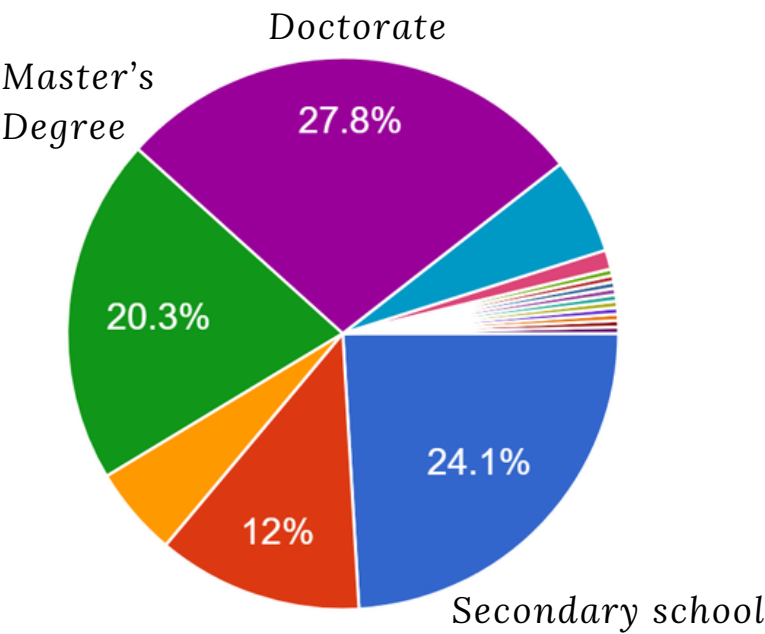
Geographical representation



The imbalance in geographical representation is primarily due to the fact that, in Italy, we have already begun involving secondary-school students, which has significantly amplified the survey's outreach. In other pilot sites, this phase of engagement is still in progress.

In Brazil, we benefit from a well-established network developed through previous research projects and through the active involvement of the coordinator of the advisory board, who has been deeply engaged in the survey activity. In Argentina, several community workshops have already been initiated. Our aim is to expand the survey's reach in Spain and the United Kingdom, where WRENCH pilot sites are located.

Education and group composition



Workers of the heritage sector: **45.6%**

Workers of the environmental sector: **17 %**

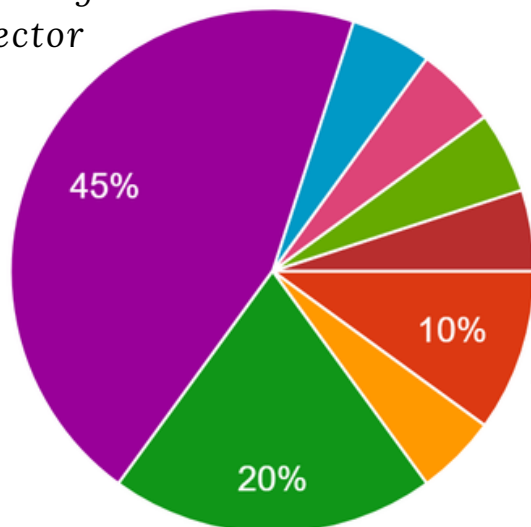
Workers engaged in managing a heritage site: **11.4 %**

Activists, volunteers, or persons who care about heritage: **49.1 %**

**PEOPLE WHO FEEL PART OF A HERITAGE COMMUNITY:
57.7%**

Policymakers (20 responses)

Non government
sector

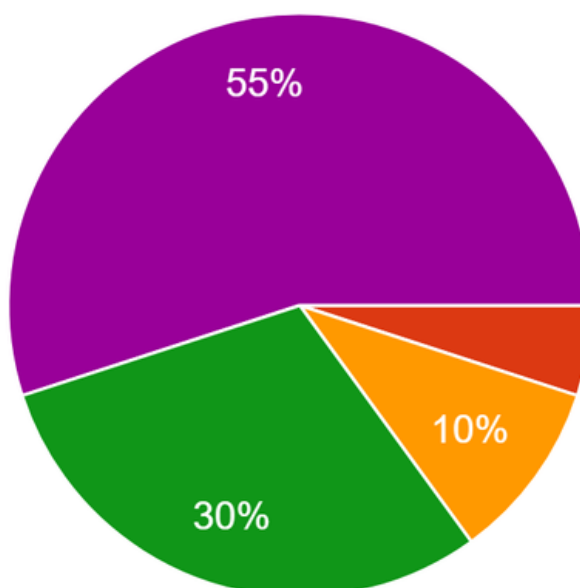


Government sector (national level)

Government sector (local level)

Do you think that climate change is affecting heritage?

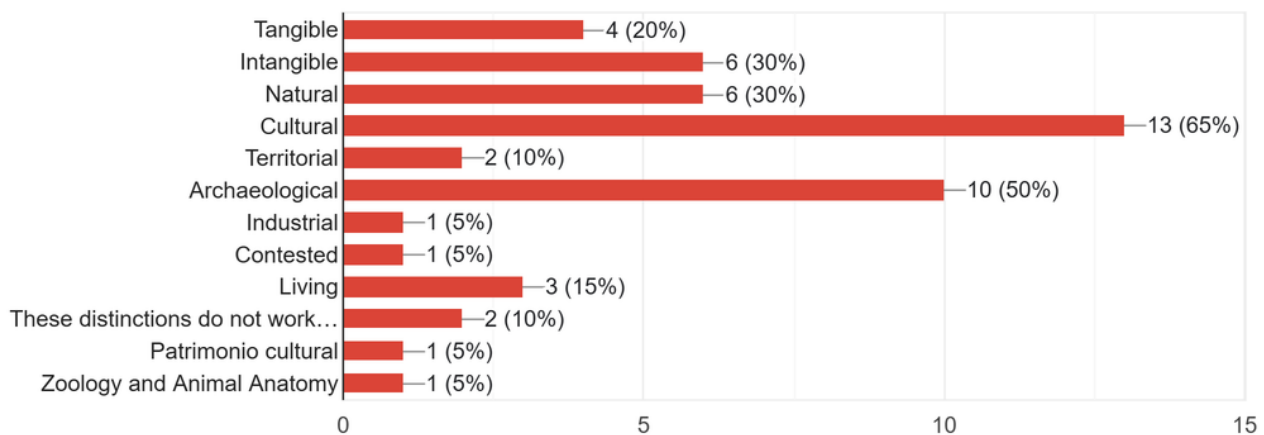
20 responses



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral or Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

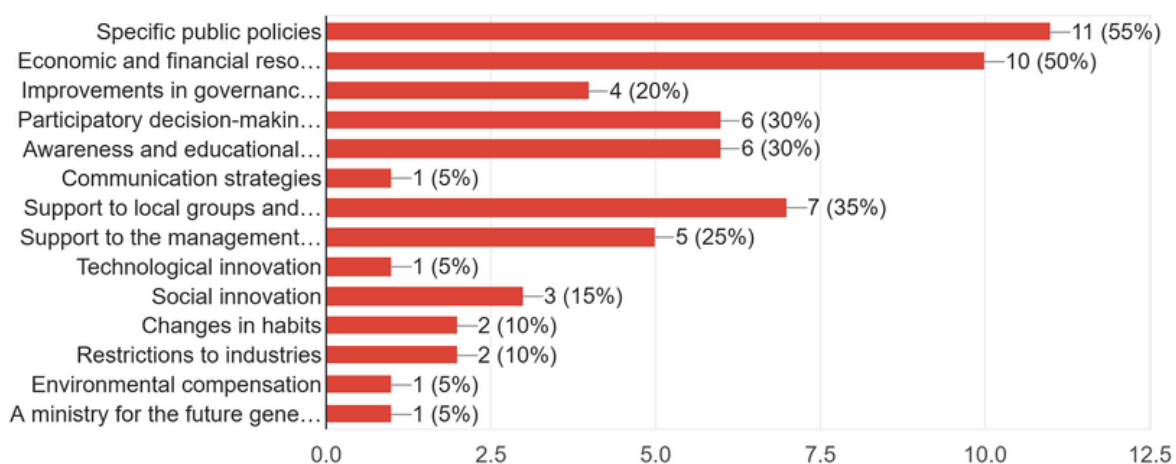
What type of heritage do you work with? (Multiple choices, maximum 3)

20 responses



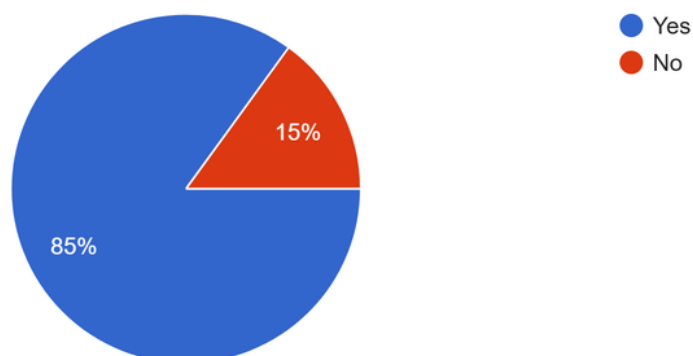
What should be done to support your work with heritage, in the face of climate change? (Multiple choices, maximum 3)

20 responses

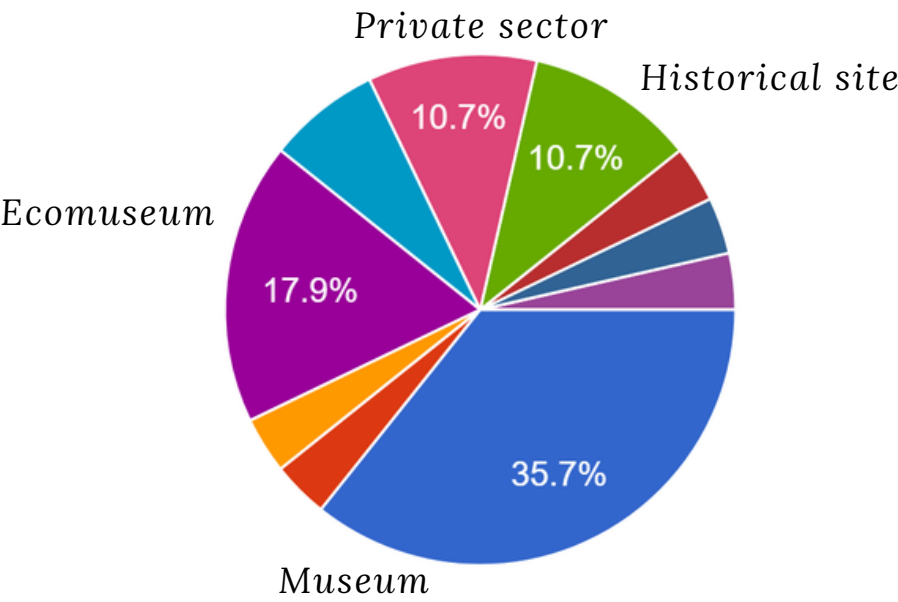


Would you like to be contacted for further questions through interviews and focus groups?

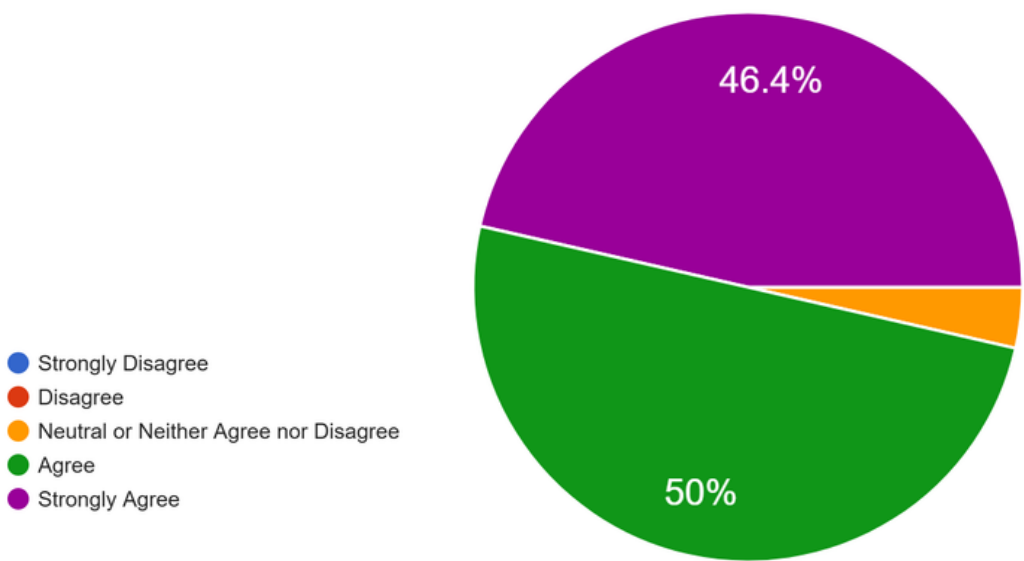
20 responses



Professionals working on heritage sites (28 responses)

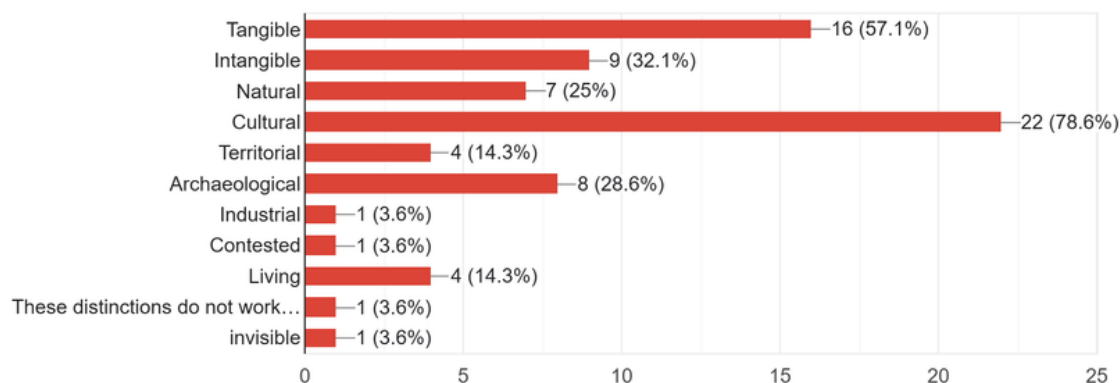


Do you think that climate change is affecting heritage?
28 responses



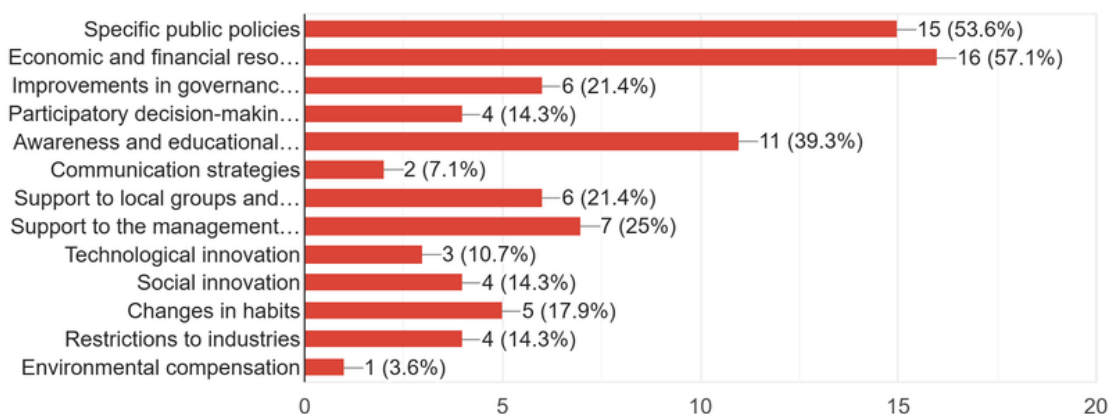
What is the type of heritage do you work with? (Multiple choices, maximum 3)

28 responses



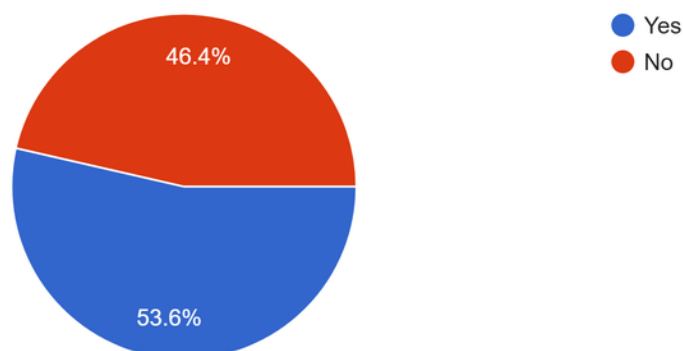
What should be done to support your work with heritage, in the face of climate change? (Multiple choices, maximum 3)

28 responses



Would you like to be contacted for further questions through interviews and focus groups?

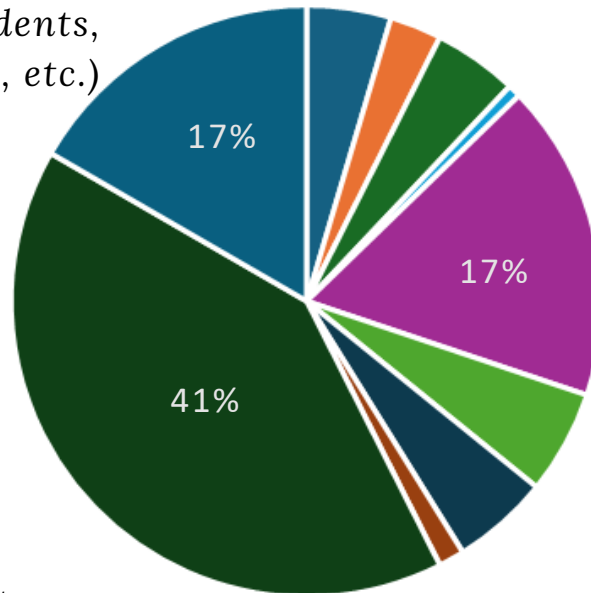
28 responses



Laypeople (218 responses)

What group(s) or organisation(s) do you belong to?

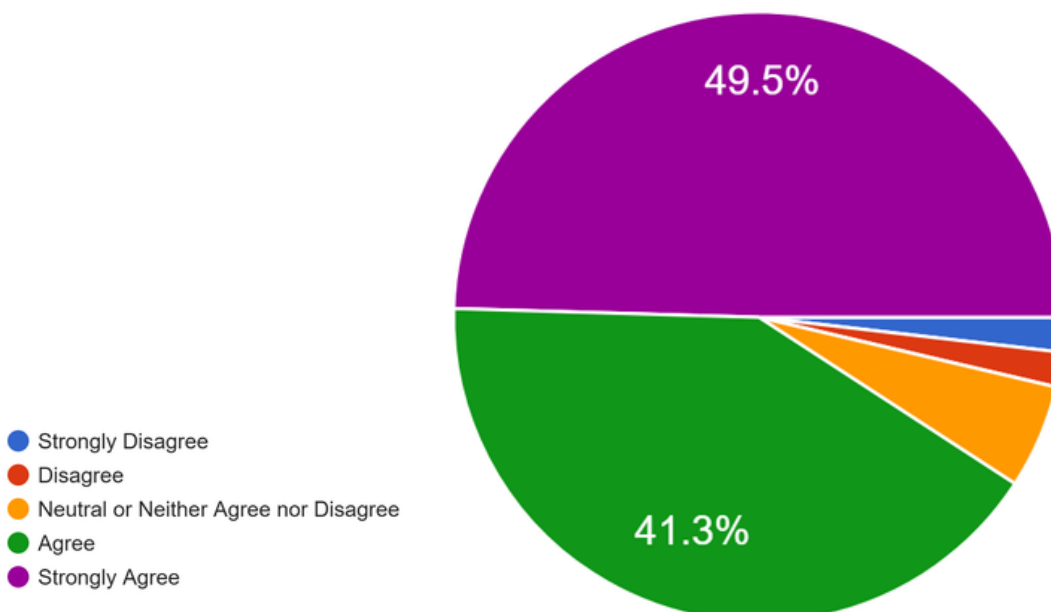
School community (students, teachers, janitors, family, etc.)



A cultural association

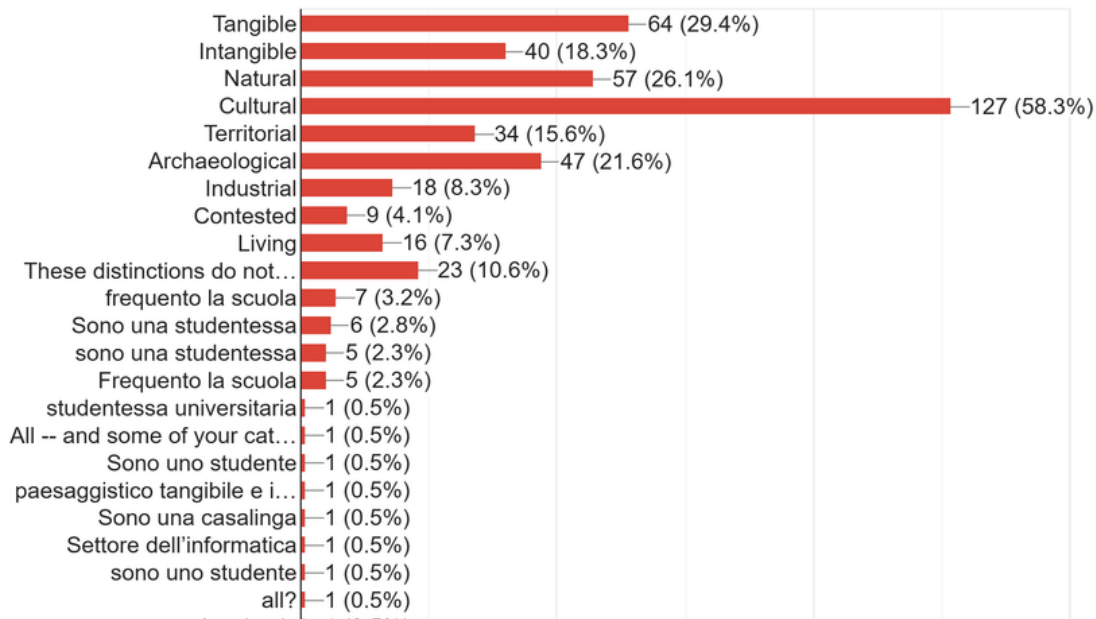
I do not belong to any group

Do you think that climate change is affecting heritage?
218 responses



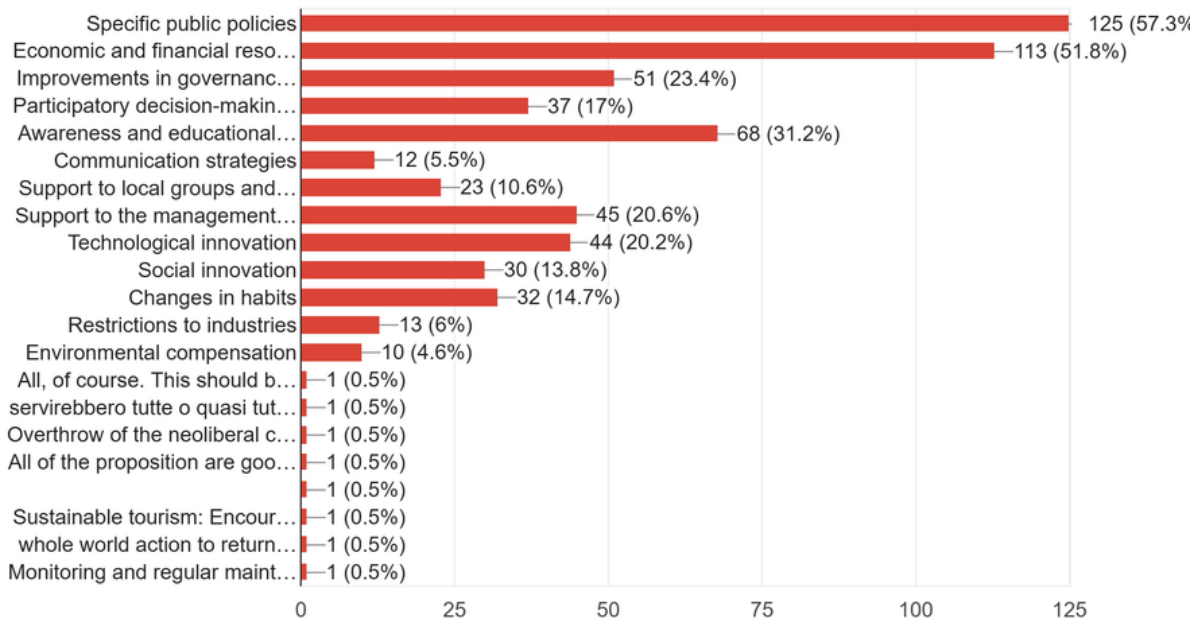
What type of heritage do you care about? (Multiple choices, maximum 3)

218 responses



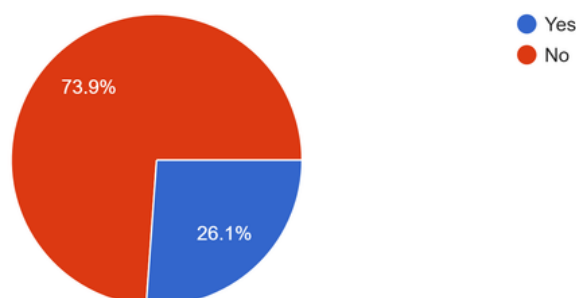
What should be done to support the heritage (material or immaterial) you care about, in the face of climate change? (Multiple choices, maximum 3)

218 responses



Would you like to be contacted for further questions through interviews and focus groups?

218 responses





- **Age, gender, and background representations** appear balanced; however, **geographical representation** remains limited and warrants further diversification.
- Respondents affiliated with the **heritage sector outnumber those from the environmental sector**.
- **Lay participants constitute the largest respondent group.**
- **Policy-makers represent the smallest group numerically**, yet proportionally express the **highest level of concern regarding the impacts of climate change on heritage.**
- They also demonstrate the **strongest willingness to remain engaged in future WRENCH activities**, despite their limited numerical presence.
- Several **NGO members** have self-identified as part of the policy-maker category.
- Across all respondent groups, the most widely perceived effective solutions involve the **implementation of targeted policies and the allocation of economic and financial resources.**

Preliminary Analytical Highlights

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2026



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