



## **November 2023 to March 2024**

ICOM established a Working Group on Sustainability in 2018 with the goal of aligning the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement across ICOM's range of activities.

The group gathered data about sustainability globally and within the museum sector, participated in the 2019 ICOM conference in Kyoto, and put forward a [Resolution](#) to align the United Nation's Agenda 2030 with ICOM initiatives. The working group presented a formal report to the ICOM Board in December 2019 that recommended ways that ICOM could incorporate sustainability across the organization. Members considered infusing sustainability throughout as more important than forming an international committee at that time. ICOM issued a new mandate to the working group, and members organized virtual, hybrid, and face-to-face opportunities to collect data and draft an Action Plan to guide ICOM sustainability initiatives to 2030.

ICOM created the new International Committee on Museums and Sustainable Development (SUSTAIN) in November 2023 to accomplish two goals: 1) to offer ICOM members an arena and an accessible platform where they can influence the future direction of the organization in all matters pertaining to sustainability and climate breakdown; and 2) to develop a sustainability information hub to facilitate initiatives undertaken by and within ICOM and to communicate these to ICOM members as they address their own pathways to a sustainable future.

ICOM appointed Morien Rees, longtime member of the working group, as interim chair of ICOM-SUSTAIN. He bore responsibility for supporting the drafting process of the SUSTAIN By-Laws, arranging the first meeting of the IC, and arranging the elections of the first board. The call for candidates to the board ran from 21 November 2023 to 5 January 2024. He also announced the first SUSTAIN General Assembly, held on 7 March 2024. Members approved the SUSTAIN bylaws and elected the board members and chair. Presentations introduced attendees to SUSTAIN's ICOM 2030 Action Plan and its relevance to ICOM business and the work of ICs, NCs, and affiliated organizations.

SUSTAIN BYLAWS - [ByLaws.docx](#)

ICOM 2030 ACTION PLAN: An ICOM Committee-Driven Approach to Sustainable Development (June 2024) - [Action Plan\\_Layout.pdf](#)

## March through September 2024

30 April 2024: 55 members

### 1.0 Introduction

During the inaugural general assembly of ICOM SUSTAIN, held on the seventh of March 2024, the following members were elected to the board:

Clémence Aycard ICOM UK, Mohamadou Moustapha Dieye ICOM Senegal, Susan Edwards ICOM US, Marina von der Heyde, ICOM Argentina, Mårten Janson, ICOM Sweden, Dr Jamie Larkin ICOM UK, Lucimara Letelier ICOM Brazil, María Auxiliadora Llamas Márquez ICOM Spain, Ben Melham ICOM UK, Dr Jenny Newell ICOM Australia, Dr. Debra A. Reid ICOM US, Michela Rota ICOM Italy, Johanna Sentef ICOM Germany, Hélène Vassal ICOM France, Dr. Siyi Wang ICOM China.

### 2.0 ICOM SUSTAIN Administrative Committee.

At the inaugural board meeting the following members were selected to fill the role of chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary:

- Chair: Morien Rees ICOM NORWAY
- Vice Chairs: Lucimara Letelier ICOM BRAZIL and Siyi Wang ICOM CHINA
- Treasurer: Marina von der Heyde ICOM ARGENTINA
- Secretary; Debra Reid ICOM USA
- Our contact in the ICOM secretariat is Marine Walon, International Committee Coordinator.

### 3.0 Organization

3.1 At the board's inaugural meeting it was agreed to hold board meetings on the last Thursday of each month, with the Administrative Committee meeting on the previous Tuesday. Contact with the board should be addressed to our secretary Debra Reid, at [secretary.sustain@icom.museum](mailto:secretary.sustain@icom.museum) We have held four subsequent meetings; our next meeting is scheduled for the 31st of October.

3.2 The board has agreed to focus initially on four areas to establish a solid platform for the future development of the IC: Strategic planning, Communications, Capacity building, and Membership,

At present the board has created a subcommittee for each of the four areas with members from the board allocated to each to address the specific issues within the subcommittee's mandate.

You will be kept informed of the developments within these four areas in future newsletters and through direct communications from these subcommittees. As we move forward through the probationary period, more areas of interest will be added. The membership will be canvassed to identify these areas of interest and invited to join the committees addressing them.

We also plan to investigate how to establish a digital forum for all members to contribute ideas, information, requests etc. One such platform has been suggested, Padlet. We would be more than happy to receive suggestions for other platforms to create this inclusive digital forum to facilitate direct contact between members and board and members and members.

The present status of the four subcommittees is as follows:

- 3.31 The Strategic Planning subcommittee has drafted a strategic plan currently under review and pending adoption at the October SUSTAIN board meeting;
- 3.32 The Communication subcommittee has submitted content for a mini-website and ICOM's webmaster is building it. Hopefully it will be up and running in October. SUSTAIN's web manager is Johanna Sentef.
- 3.33 The Membership committee has defined criteria for a Young Professionals Grant and a survey to benchmark interests and identify best approaches to meet them.
- 3.34 The Capacity building committee will address future SUSTAIN conference offerings and engagement with other ICOM International Committees, among other agendas.

SUSTAIN is much in demand from other parts of ICOM 's organization and indeed from the museum sector outside ICOM. Evidence of this is its role in the planning and realization of the IMREC / ICOM KOREA conference on sustainability held in Seoul in July 2024. Board members Lucimara Letelier and Michela Rota contributed to the conference programme, and were also mainly responsible for a workshop held in connection with the ASAPAC Regional Alliance general assembly - a part of the pre-conference programme. The theme of the workshop was ICOM 's Sustainability Action Plan and feedback from the participants and organizers was unequivocally favorable. As such, the workshop in Seoul can be viewed as a pilot for capacity building for other Regional Alliances, and a similar workshop will occur during the conference in Livingstone, Zambia in November (see below).

Here are other conferences that SUSTAIN has been invited to in autumn 2024:

- ICOM-ICEE Exhibitions: annual conference – Momentum: Exhibitions and Memory, Estonia (29 Sept-1 Oct): <https://icee.mini.icom.museum/momentum-exhibitions-and-memory/>
- 2024 International Forum for Art and Sustainability, Taiwan 4-5th October
- ICOM-AFRICA / SAREK (Burkina Faso, October 14 - 18): "Enhance Museums in Africa: Capacity Building for African National Committees".
- ICOM Zambia /Intercom/ Nathist /ICOM Africa (Livingston, Zambia, 1-5 Nov) A panel debate and workshop: <https://intercom.mini.icom.museum/call-for-papers-museum-leadership-in-the-21st-century-regional-challenges-and-global-impacts/>

- ICOM-ITC partner in China, The Palace Museum: Zero Waste and Environmental Protection (23 October-1 Nov: <https://icom.museum/en/news/call-for-icom-itc-grants-sustainable-museum-management-local-challenges-and-best-practices/>)
- International Congress of Culture in Climate Action: Organized by the Institute for Urban and Sustainable Territorial Development of the City of La Plata Foundation, Sustainable Heritage Forum, Heritage and Climate Change Initiative, and the Climate Heritage Network. The congress is sponsored by ICOMOS Argentina, ICOM Argentina, ICOM Brasil, ICOMOS Climate Action Working Group (ICOMOS CAWG), and the Museum of Contemporary Art Beato Angelico UCALP. December 4, 5, 6, 2024 (Virtually)
- Heritage Middle East 2024 “2nd International Exhibition and Conferences for Museum & Library Technologies, Restoration, Archaeology and Cultural Tourism” scheduled 10-12 December 2024 at ADNEC, in Abu Dhabi – UAE.

#### 4.0 Finances

Sustain has been awarded a budget of 4298 euro for the current year of 2024, of which 1200 euro are for grants for young members. In dialogue with the secretariat, we were informed that our budget for future years will be dependent on the IC ´s activities.

#### 5.0 Research and Development.

SUSTAIN is involved in, or considering involvement in, the following R&D initiatives.

- SUSTAIN is a partner in the SAREC (Strategic Allocation Review Committee) Solidarity in Times of Crises 2024 project: Enhance Museums in Africa. [[Projet ICOM-Afrique SAREC 2024](#)], Mohamadou Moustapha DIEYE will be the board member responsible.
- Lucimara Letelier reported on a project between two universities in Brazil and ICOM-Brazil re. relationship between museums, local development and sustainable development goals.
- A request from Dr. Henrietta Galambos, Chair of the sub-working group on sustainability within ICOM LEAC, to Antonio Rodriguez chair of the Advisory Council, Marion Torterat Legal Coordinator at the secretariat and SUSTAIN, regarding collaboration on a feasibility study “to determine research opportunities” in the cross section of law-museums-sustainability.
- Julio Alexander Gonzalez Liendo a proposal for collaboration around the dissemination of his PhD thesis: ” Framework Model of Indicators for Museum Sustainability.” Jamie Larkin supported development of the thesis.
- Christian Breternitz, curator at the Berlin Musikinstrumenten-Museum contacted SUSTAIN with a wish to draft ideas on developing a clear definition as well as clear tasks of how musical instrument museums and collections can contribute to achieving congruence with the UN SDGs and the ICOM 2030 Action Plan on Sustainability.
- SUSTAIN has been informed of a February 2025 effort to be undertaken by non-ICOM member Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage – INTACH - to collect oral histories of personal observations of climate change.

- SUSTAIN has been informed of a model of urban sustainability - 2030 Districts Network - based in partnerships between private property owners, business interests, city planners and sustainability managers, and cultural attractions, including museums. The network supports 2030 District members and partners on the quest to reduce emissions and reach net zero by 2040. A Museum Best Practices Working Group formed in 2021.

#### 6.0 Annual meeting in Marseille 2024

Morien Rees, SUSTAIN Chair, participated in the ICOM annual meeting in Marseille which was also streamed live. The online question and answer session on the last day was unfortunately cut short due to the earlier programme overrunning, resulting in little or no discussion on the themes of the General Conference in 2025. As a result, board member Johanna Sentef has initiated and carried out the drafting of a statement on behalf of SUSTAIN to be sent to the Director General, regarding the General Conference's theme The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities. The statement focuses on LGBTQIA+ and virtual communities to build sustainable futures. The SUSTAIN board discussed the letter at its 29th of August meeting, agreed with its content, and supported sending it on to the ICOM Director General.

#### 7.0 ICOM Award for Sustainable Development Practice in Museums

The Chair of ICOM SUSTAIN will lead the jury for the Inaugural award to be presented at the General Conference 2025 in Dubai. You can find more information about this award [HERE](#).

#### 8.0 General Conference 2025

Further information about the Dubai symposium November 2024 and the Dubai General Conference in 2025 will be made available on the SUSTAIN mini website. Here is the latest information on ICOM Museum: <https://icom.museum/en/news/call-for-papers-museum-international-general-conference-dubai-2025-youth-intangible-heritage-and-new-technologies-in-museums/>

#### 9.0 *Museum International* on Sustainability

Here is the link to the recent edition of *Museum International* on sustainability:  
<https://icom.museum/en/news/publication-of-museum-international-museum-sustainabilities/>

Submitted to ICOM SUSTAIN members (individual and institutional) and ICOM members interested in SUSTAIN:

Morien.Rees, Chair, Oslo, Norway 23.08.24

Debra Reid, Secretary, Dearborn Michigan, USA 5.10.24



## **An account of the activities of the ICOM Sustain board October through December 2024**

MEMBERSHIP (as of 26-11-2024): 92 Individual voting records; 4 Institutional voting records; 214 interested individual records.

### 1.0 SUSTAIN STRATEGIC PLAN, 2024-2027

The SUSTAIN board approved its Strategic Plan to guide actions during the three-year probationary period.

[ICOM\\_SUSTAIN\\_Strategic\\_Plan-FINAL-17Nov2024.docx](#) (Approved 28 November 2024)

### 2.0 Young Members Grant Recipient

SUSTAIN awarded its first Young Members Grant to Nanyondo Prossy, Manager of the Uganda Railway Museum, for a project to revitalize the Uganda Railway Museum as an education centre for sustainable development.

The Judging Committee (Clemence, Mohamadou and Marina) selected Prossy after careful review of several compelling projects.

The jury was very impressed by Nanyondo Prossy's project, which aims at utilizing an existing space and collection to expand sustainable thinking, bring collaboration, engagement and education on a variety of sustainability-related topics to local communities, as well as improve the sustainability of the museums' operations themselves. The Committee really appreciated this dual mission of thinking about the museum as a functioning institution with an environmental impact, and its role towards its local community. The project was clear, well-rounded, and we look forward to hearing more about it in details once it will be completed.

### 3.0 SUSTAIN report on NATHIST's SAREC project

Michela Rota represented SUSTAIN at "Museum Leadership in the 21st Century: Regional Challenges and Global Impacts," hosted by ICOM-NATHIST, 1-5 November 2024, in Livingstone, Zambia. Michela Rota facilitated the workshop, "Building an Action Plan for Sustainability" based

on the ICOM 2030 ACTION PLAN: An ICOM Committee-Driven Approach to Sustainable Development (June 2024) - [Action Plan Layout.pdf](#). Building on the 2019 ICOM Resolution on Sustainability and Agenda 2030, the Action Plan aims to empower ICOM committees to be part of a global museum movement to address the climate emergency and support sustainable development through knowledge sharing, networks, commitment, and action.

Michela (with SUSTAIN board members Mohamadou Dieye and Lucimara Letelier) designed the workshop for directors (25 participants) working in European and African Museums (and one in Mexico). The workshop started with a brief introduction about ICOM SUSTAIN and the Action Plan, then participants started the activity, discussing five key areas of the Action Plan and reflecting strategically on issues concerning the present challenges and opportunities, how to address them for a sustainable future.

Dividing participants based on regional location, attendees addressed each macro-area of the Action Plan: 1. STRATEGIC VISION AND LEADERSHIP 2. RESOURCING 3. NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP 4. TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 5. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION

The workshop addressed challenges in museum sustainability, emphasizing governance, leadership, and resource management. Key focuses include adopting the SDGs, enhancing collaboration, community engagement, and training. Priorities involve integrating sustainability into operations, leveraging resources effectively, fostering partnerships, and promoting ecofriendly practices. Strategies include education, capacity building, funding alignment, and monitoring environmental impacts. Actions aim to preserve heritage, boost inclusivity, and strengthen museum roles in social and cultural development.

#### 4.0 SAREC 2025

SUSTAIN confirmed its intent to participate as a partner in the project entitled **HERITAGE, MUSEUMS, COLLECTIONS: A debate for enhancing professionals' skills between Africa and Europe** (ICOM Europe-ICOM Africa Conference, June 2025), presented by ICOM-EUROPE as the main applicant under the *ICOM 2025 call for Special Projects*.

ICOM-SUSTAIN supports ICOM Europe and ICOM Africa in this effort, specifically during a two-day conference for 20 speakers and museum professionals who will focus on identifying new ways of considering African museum heritage in European museums and training activities focused on those ways. The conference and associated training will occur in Italy (probably in Rome) for two days during June 2025. As organizer Giuliana Ericani has explained in the SAREC application, the format will include two in-depth conceptual sessions with four keynote speakers, two from Europe and two from Africa, followed by two panel discussions. This will be followed by two sessions of training course with comparative experiences between European and African museologists and museum professionals.

In this project, ICOM-SUSTAIN commits to undertake the following activities:

- Presentation by an ICOM-SUSTAIN board member (or two) during the conference or training sessions. This might include Dr. Michela Rota, Turin, Italy, sustainability and museum specialist and architect adept at linking the UN Sustainable Development Goals to cultural preservation and regenerative practices. Or Mohamadou Moustapha Dieye, Dakar, Senegal, heritage manager at the Théodore Monod Museum of African Art IFAN-CAD. His doctoral research focuses on the evolution of post-colonial museology in Africa.
- Submission of SUSTAIN board member presentation (s) to the online open access publication (with a limited edition on paper)

## 5.0 Preparations for ICOM's 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Virtual Communities w/ AVICOM (2 sessions)

**focus on creating virtual communities and digital participation in the Dubai conference.** The virtual participation would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Develop a policy for “green conferences,” and protocols for creating “hubs” for people near each other to participate collectively in ICOM’s General Meeting.

w/ NATHIST (1 session)

SUSTAIN Annual meeting and General Assembly (full day)

ICOM SUSTAIN (Museums and Sustainable Development) will participate as a partner in the project entitled **HERITAGE, MUSEUMS, COLLECTIONS: A debate for enhancing professionals’ skills between Africa and Europe** (ICOM Europe-ICOM Africa Conference, June 2025), presented by ICOM-EUROPE as the main applicant under the *ICOM 2025 call for Special Projects*.

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- Submission of SUSTAIN board member presentation (s) to the online open access publication (with a limited edition on paper)

6.0 ICOM Resolution(s) for 2025 ICOM General Conference

7.0 Culture 2030, COP 30, Culture for the Planet

8.0 Academy

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9.0 Website and Social Media

SUSTAIN's Mini-Website is published: <https://sustain.mini.icom.museum/> (But it doesn't accept edits)

10.0 Successful completion of SUSTAIN's first year financial report, budget for 2024 and Annual Report.

Submitted to ICOM SUSTAIN members (individual and institutional) and ICOM Members interested in SUSTAIN by

Debra Reid, Secretary, SUSTAIN, Dearborn. Michigan, USA. 27.1.2025

<https://icom.museum/en/committees/international-committee-on-museums-and-sustainable-development/>



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