



Between ecological and digital transition:

Towards a new multidimensional approach to conservation based on the EPICO method

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CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

IT-FR cooperation in heritage science - Vth edition

Human-centered approach for cultural heritage in digital transition: disciplines talking to each other

Naples, Suor Orsola Benincasa University

June 28th, 2023

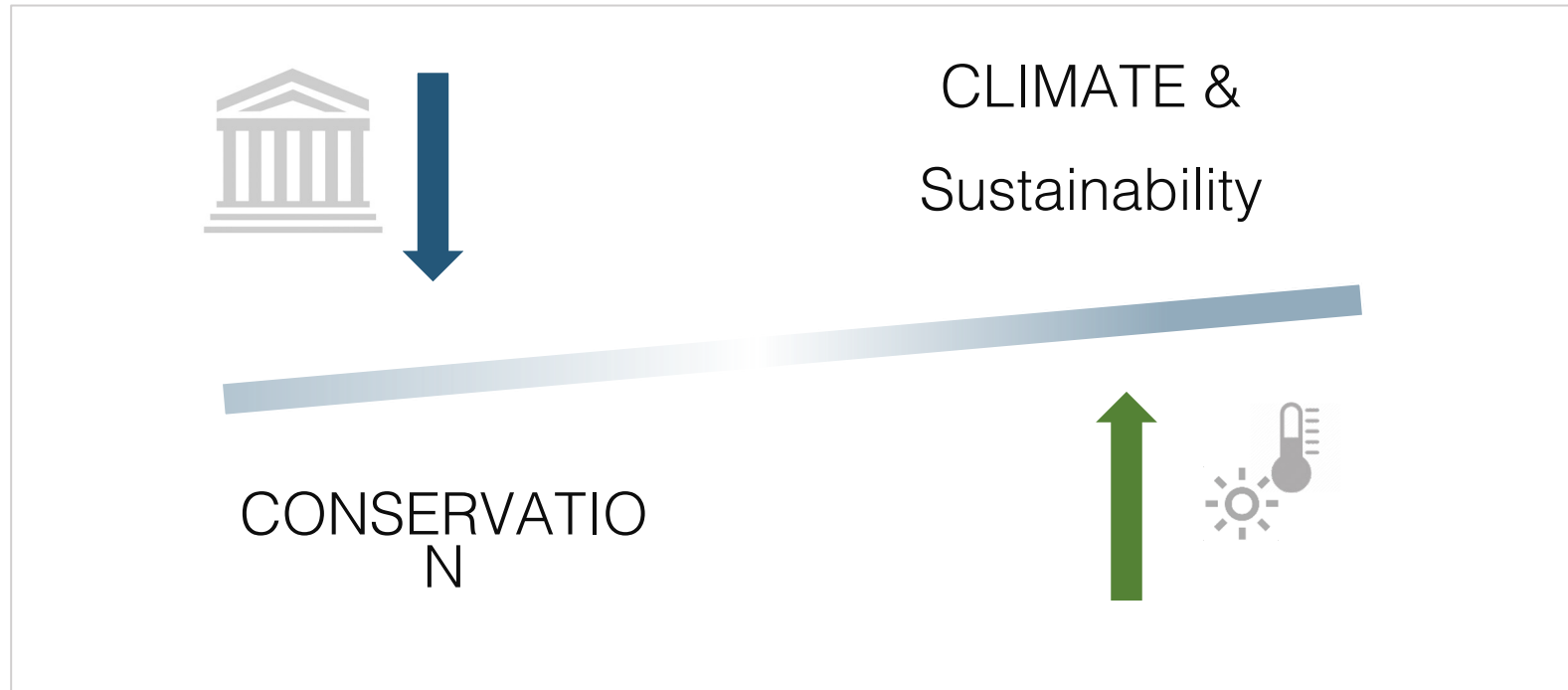
OUTLINE

1. Ecological and Digital transition in Cultural Heritage
2. A new Multidimensional approach to Preventive Conservation
3. Integrating Instrumentation and Digital models
 - *Climate Graphing Software* - Multiscale analysis and AI
 - *HypErPICO* - Hyperspectral imaging and 3D modelling

CHANGING MENTALITIES: Overcoming the dichotomic approach...



Blackening of the stone due to pollution, before and after restoration, Germany
© Danilo Forleo/ Château de Versailles



AN EMBLEMATIC CASE:

The air conditioning project of the Palace of Versailles

Queen's Chamber, records from 2014

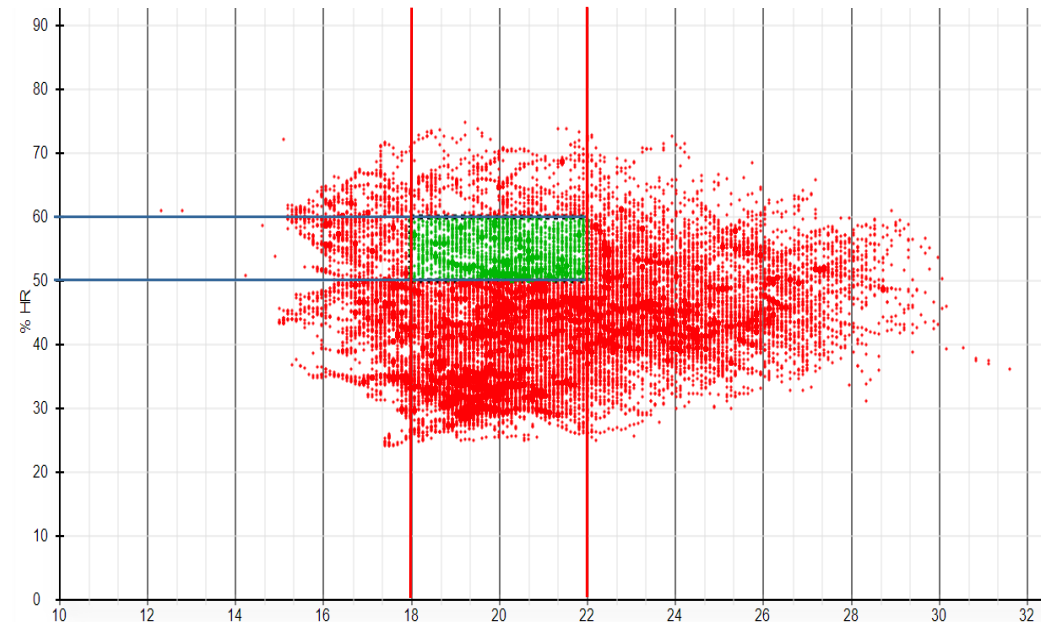
CONDITION SURVEY
good state of conservation



© Christophe Fouin/ Château de Versailles

VS

RISK ASSESSMENT
not in accordance with museum standards

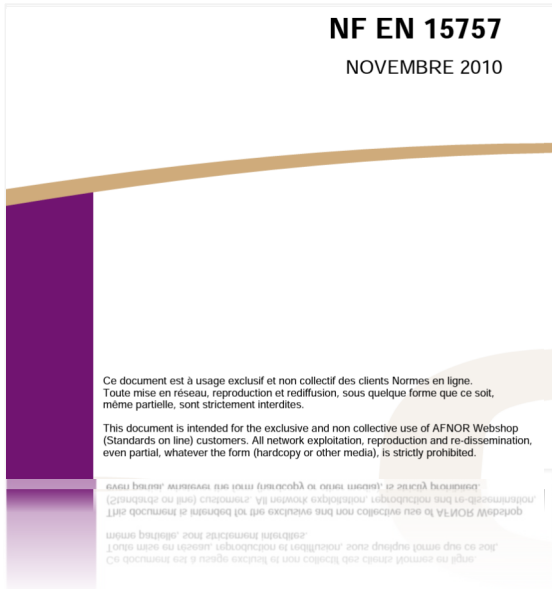


© CONSERVATION CONFORMITY RATE: 50%; Climate graphing software, records from 2014, before refurbishment of the heating system

THE NEED FOR NEW CLIMATE CONSERVATION STANDARDS

Based on the cause and effect relationship of alterations

Priority of historical climate



European Standard: NF EN 15757
Conservation of cultural property - Specifications for temperature and relative humidity to limit climate-induced mechanical damage in organic hygroscopic materials

Extending tolerance thresholds

Level 1 alarm: when the comfort values of the collections are exceeded

Tolerance range, relative humidity:
40 – 70%;
Tolerance range, temperature: 17 – 25°C
Email/text alert timing: 24 hours

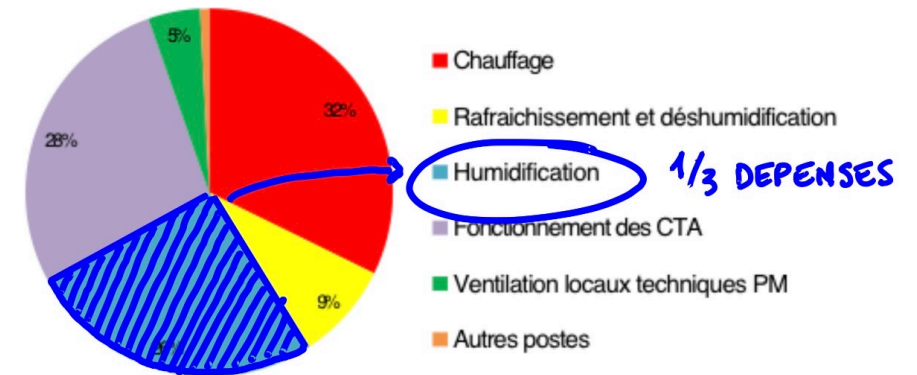
Level 2 alarm: for extreme values

Tolerance range, relative humidity:
30 – 80%;
Tolerance range, temperature: 12 – 30°C
Email/text alert timing: 60 minutes

Example of programming alarms for exceeding risk thresholds for the collections at the Château de Versailles. © EPV/ Danilo Forleo

Prioritise on a low heating target

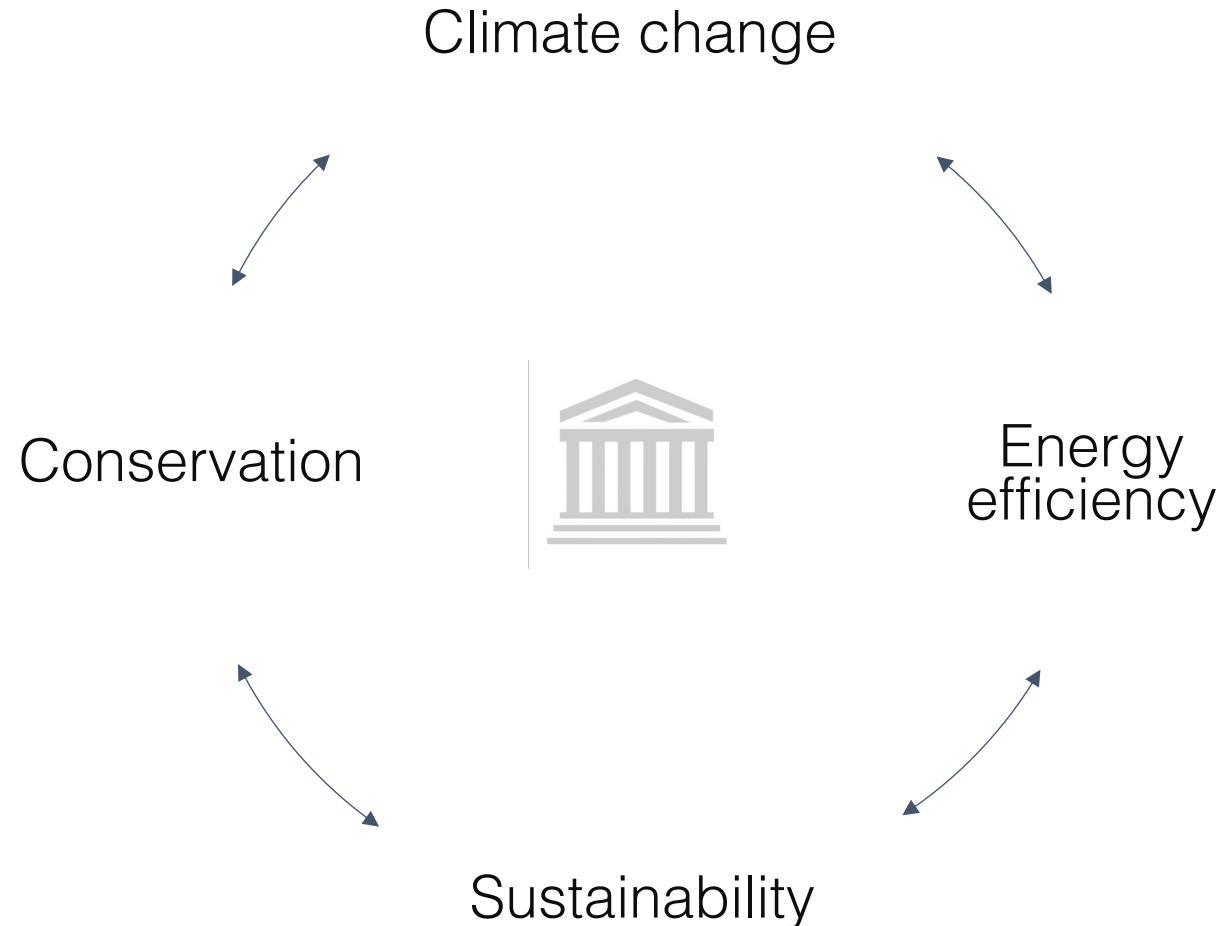
Saving energy, protecting the collections from climatic shocks



Energy consumption breakdown. © EPV

CHANGING MENTALITIES:

Overcomes the dichotomic approach towards a systemic approach





EPICO METHOD

European Protocole in Preventive COnservation for Historic Houses

11 EU institutions involved

1 Leader, The Château de Versailles

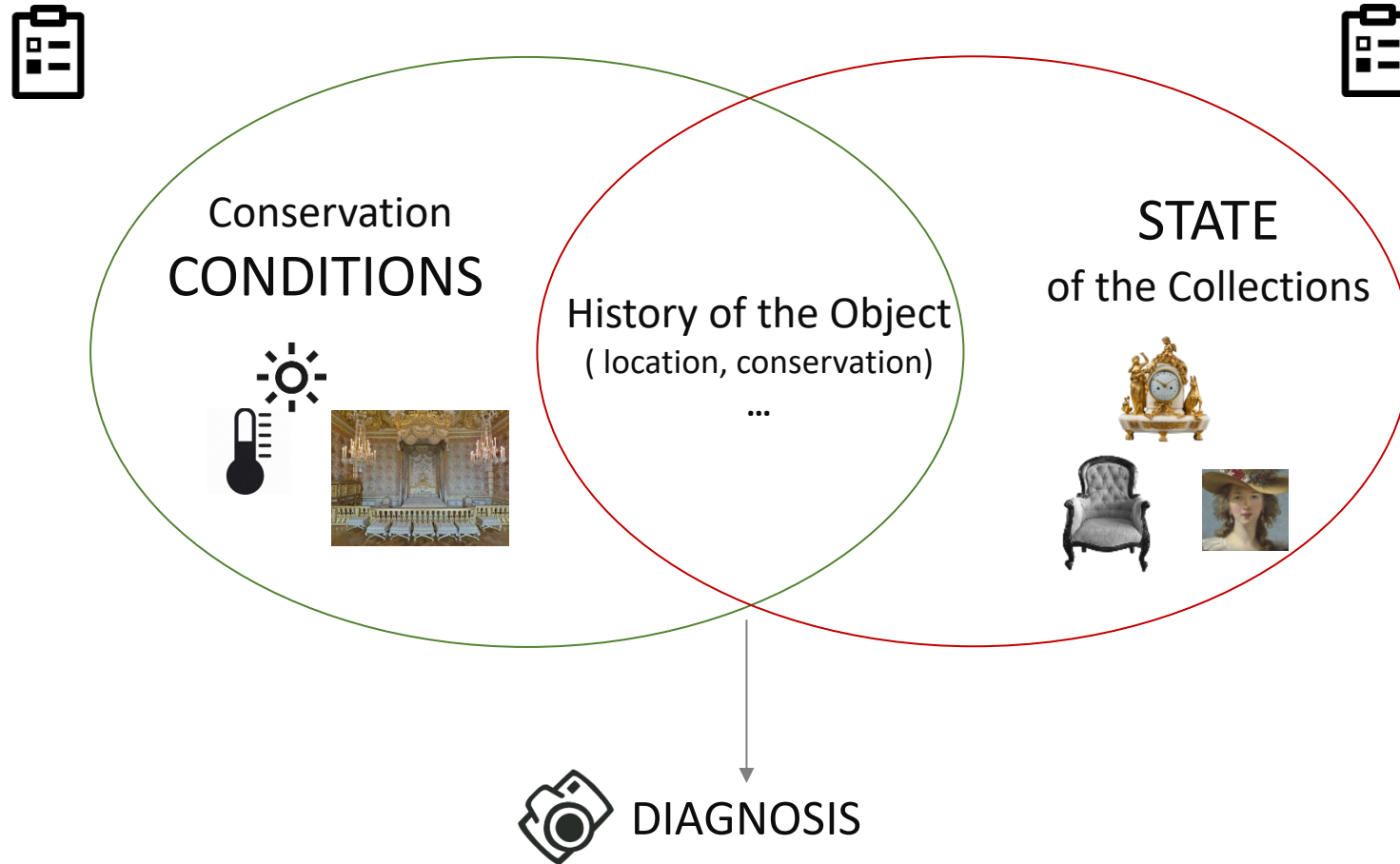
1 Online Platform



- ▶ SPECIFIC TO HISTORIC HOUSES
- ▶ SYSTEMIC APPROACH
- ▶ CAUSE /EFFECT RELATIONSHIP
- ▶ PROVIDE COMPRHENSIVE VISION
- ▶ BE REPLICABLE/ TRANSFERABLE

EPICO METHOD

Systemic and integrative approach



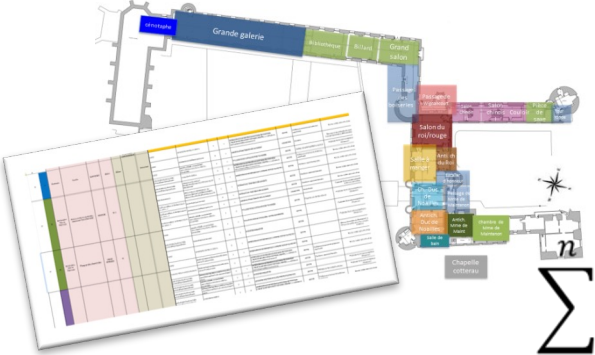
EPICO METHOD

Multidimensional system

1 Pilot inspection



2 Sampling



3 Condition survey

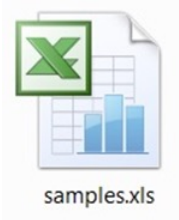


4 Data processing



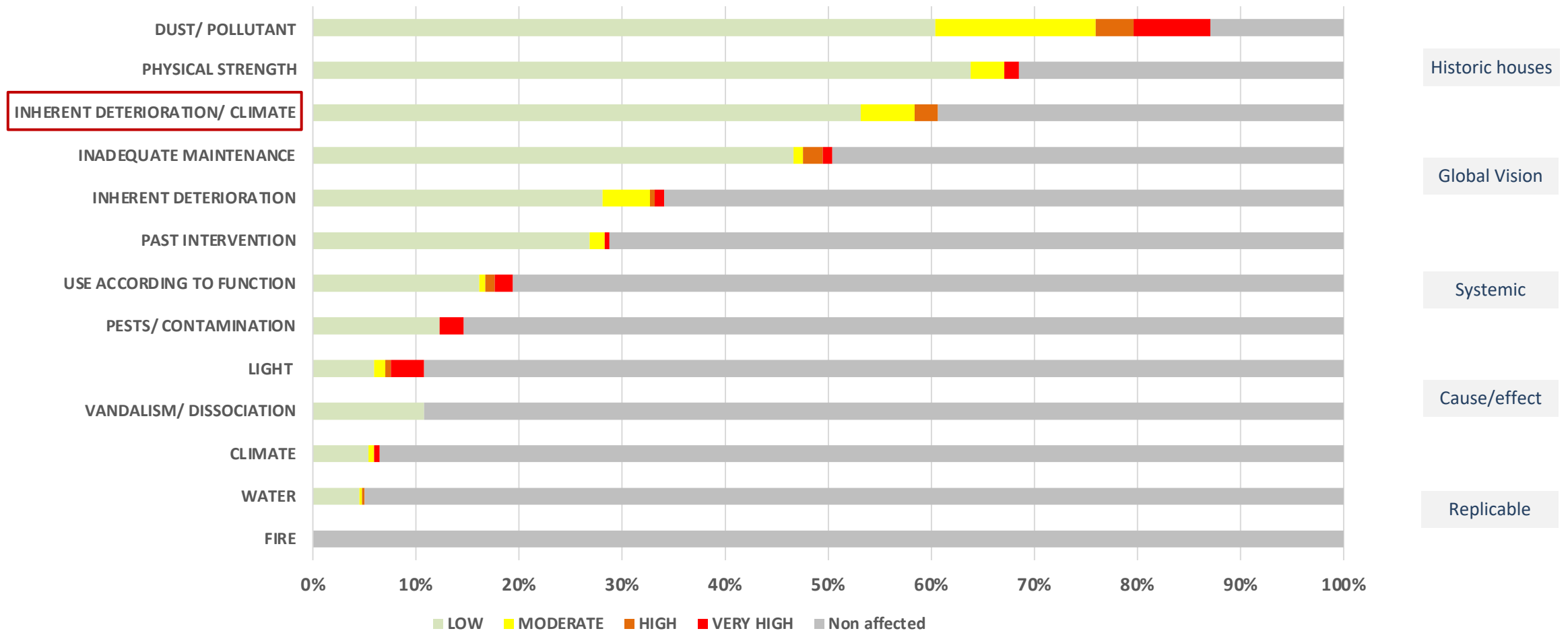
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5 Conservation plan



EPICO METHOD

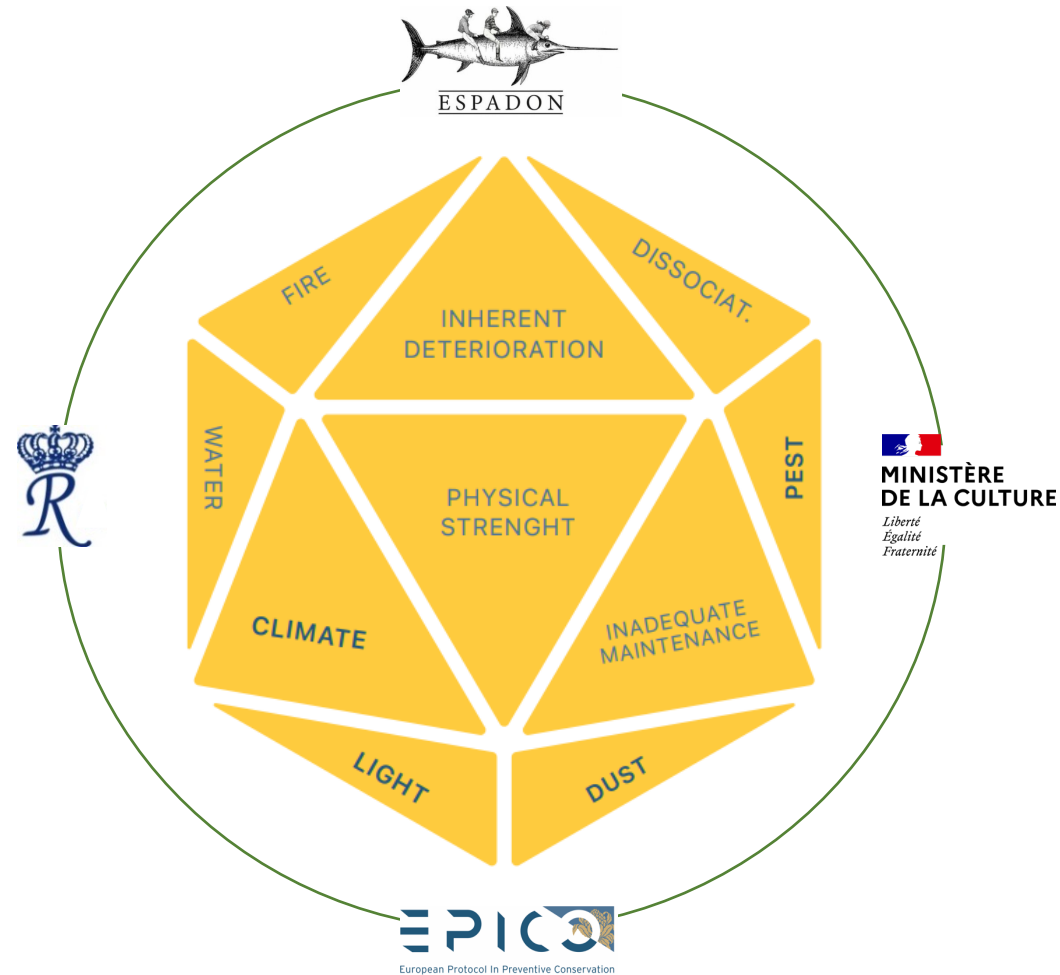
Eg. Ranking of Active Causes



Example of a conservation assessment that can be carried out in a historic house using the EPICO method

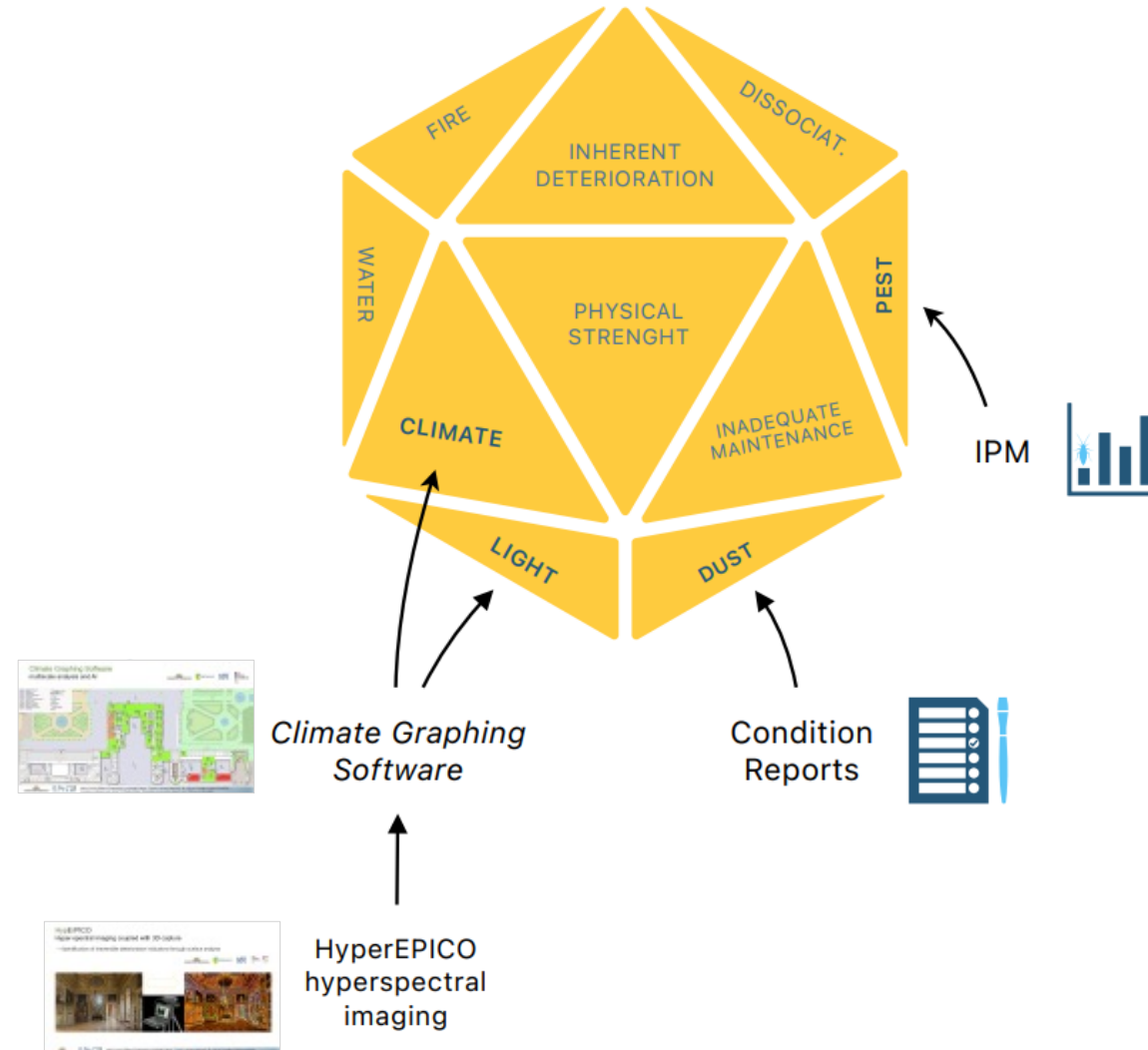
EPICO METHOD

A new integrative and multidimensional platform



EPICO METHOD

A new integrative and multidimensional platform



HypErPICO

Hyper-spectral imaging coupled with 3D capture

→ Identification of irreversible deterioration indicators through surface analysis





2022 -2025 NEW EPICO PROGRAMME

New assessments
Innovative strategies

CLIMATE CHANGE - CONSERVATION ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Thanks for your attention!

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<http://www.europeanroyalresidences.eu/epico/>

