



Australia ICOMOS Secretariat  
Ph: +61 3 9251 7131  
austicomos@deakin.edu.au  
www.icomos.org/australia

## CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

<b>NAME OF PRESENTER:</b>	<b>Dr ANITA SMITH (La Trobe University) and Dr ELISE HUFFER (Consultant, Fiji)</b>
<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b>	<b>Recognising the Cultural Dimension of the Pacific Ocean in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and marine areas beyond national jurisdiction</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	<i>Theme 2: Cultural Landscape Practice and Management</i>
<b>PAPER ABSTRACT:</b>	
<p>The Pacific Ocean is a cultural space. Pacific Island communities are connected through traditions of navigation and a deep knowledge of the sea and its resources. The Pacific Ocean is a cultural seascape alive with stories, sacred places and sacred animals. The deep ocean is criss-crossed by navigational routes that are highways between families and communities who today live beyond respective national borders. Current international ocean policy and management does not sufficiently reflect this cultural dimension that lies at the heart of how people conceptualise and value their ocean.</p> <p>The potential for protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions using existing instruments (United Nations Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention) is being negotiated by the United Nations under Sustainable Development Goal 14 'support the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources for sustainable development'.</p> <p>These negotiations are of particular importance to Pacific Island communities. This paper presents current research to support the inclusion of the cultural values and traditional knowledge of Pacific communities in policy development in relation to these instruments and their application in the Pacific Ocean and elsewhere. Drawing on evidence from current international recognition of the cultural values of the Pacific Ocean, the research is building a framework of evidence to demonstrate the cultural dimensions of the Ocean and argue for the participation of Pacific communities in negotiations on the use of the ocean and its resources.</p>	
<b>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</b>	
<p><i>Anita Smith is a lecturer in Archaeology and Heritage Management at La Trobe University with twenty years research and practical experience in Pacific Island heritage management. She is a current member of Australia's delegation to the World Heritage Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Elise Huffer is a consultant and immediate past Cultural Advisor to the Pacific Community.</i></p>	