



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
 Suva, Fiji, 1-5 October 2018
An ICOMOS conference on heritage conservation across the Pacific

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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Dr Ania Kotarba-Morley
TITLE OF PAPER:	Sustainable Past of maritime Kiribati?: Historical and ethnographic adaptations of Kiribati people to a changing natural environment
THEME:	<i>Theme 4: Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p><i>Recent fieldwork on islands of Kiribati aimed to examine the lifeways and adaptive strategies—both past and present—of people inhabiting the coastal landscapes of the central Pacific Micronesian archipelago, in the face of rapidly changing environmental, landscape and climatic conditions. With 3.5 million km² of marine jurisdiction and only 800 km² of land in 33 atolls, this island nation is entirely dependant upon its maritime resources, which also form the basis for the inhabitants’ social identity. This paper focuses on the past relationships between people and coastal ecosystems and builds on existing knowledge of climatic and environmental shifts across the case study region, generating long-term historical datasets that explicate human impacts on environments and resources crucial for contemporary management, policy making and sustainability of coastal resources. This is of critical importance as, on a global scale, human impact on the world’s oceans via over-exploitation, urbanisation, industrialisation and pollution leads to significant habitat loss, global warming, sea level change and the introduction of exotic species into vulnerable ecosystems. Given these environmental threats there is an urgent need to learn (both by scientists and local communities) from past adaptation strategies to understand the processes by which adaptation takes place and the limitations of the various agents of change. It is also crucial that local communities gain more insight into scientific know-how regarding the recording and protection of their own heritage and become involved in the process.</i></p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:	
<p><i>Ania Kotarba-Morley currently works as a Lecturer in Archaeology and Ancient History at the Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. She holds a PhD from the University of Oxford, UK in Archaeology and MPhil from Jagiellonian University, Poland in Archaeology. She has also studied Anthropology and Comparative Religion Studies as well as Ancient History. She is an experienced Field and Underwater Archaeologist (Research and Consultancy), Geoarchaeologist, Site Director and Heritage and Museums Consultant with experience working in over 25 countries. Her recent research interest focus on ‘sustainability archaeology’ and cultural heritage practices of small islands communities. She is going for a research trip to Kiribati in June on her Global Challenges funded fieldwork.</i></p>	