



CULTURE: Conserving it Together
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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Andrew Viduka
TITLE OF PAPER:	Australia and Pacific Island countries – the need to collaborate to protect underwater cultural heritage
THEME:	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT: <p>The Australian Government has been actively considering ratification of the UNESCO 2001 <i>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage</i> since 2009. In 2018 the Australian Government Minister for Environment and Energy reconfirmed his intent for Australia to modernise the existing <i>Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976</i> legislation and pursue ratification. This paper will look at the history of Australia's consideration of ratification to present day, the current status of legislative changes and the implications of possible ratification on Australia's engagement with Pacific Island countries on underwater cultural heritage.</p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER: <p>Andrew Viduka is a maritime archaeologist and maritime archaeological objects conservator employed by the Australian Government as the Assistant Director Maritime and Commonwealth Heritage. He led the drafting of the Australia's Underwater Cultural Heritage Bill 2018 and leads Australia's consideration of ratification of the UNESCO 2001 <i>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>. Andrew is actively involved in maritime archaeological projects and capacity building training. Andrew's research focuses on linking community outcomes with the discovery and protection of underwater cultural heritage and has recently launched an underwater cultural heritage conservation focussed citizen science project called GIRT Scientific Diver.</p>	