

## CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

<b>NAME OF PRESENTER:</b>	<b>Christophe SAND</b>
<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b>	<b>Climate change, sea-shore erosion and the disappearance of cultural sites: putting the record of archaeological remains in Islanders hands</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	<i>Theme 1: Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters</i>
<b>PAPER ABSTRACT:</b>	<p>Climate change and the progressive rise of the Ocean level are threatening at a fast pace an impressive number of cultural sites on the coasts of the Pacific Islands. None are more vulnerable than the archaeological remains buried under the surface, as most of them are unknown to present-day inhabitants and are characterized by sparse physical remains like potsherds, stone and shell tools, small ornaments or human burials. Most Pacific Islands States don't have the capacity to finance field-teams able to record this vanishing heritage. After showing through a number of examples the urgency of the threat in Oceania, this paper will present a simple tool-kit designed to allow the Islanders to record their archaeological remains. The main objective of this kit is to empower local communities on their archaeological heritage, allowing them to safeguard for future generations the objects of the past eroding from the beaches. From experience, this appears to be the only realistic way to properly address the issue of climate change and its impact on the archaeological heritage of Oceania, in a region with too little national capacities in Cultural Heritage Preservation.</p>
<b>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</b>	<p>Christophe Sand is the Director of the Institute of Archaeology of New Caledonia and the Pacific in Nouméa. His work as an archaeologist has concentrated mainly on Melanesia and Western Polynesia. His fields of interests are the first Austronesian settlement of the region, the cultural dynamics of the Pacific cultures before first European contact, and the impact of Western expansion in the Pacific. He has published widely on these topics, with a special interest at sharing information to the wider public of the Islands. He is president of ICOMOS Pasifika and member of a number of regional cultural organizations.</p>