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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Elia Nakoro
TITLE OF PAPER:	Cultural Heritage Preservation in Fiji
THEME:	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>The Fiji Museum is a statutory body that houses cultural artifacts from Fiji and the Pacific region. Governed by the Fiji Museum Act and the Preservation of Objects of Archaeological and Palaeontological Interest Act, the institute is responsible for safeguarding the nation's tangible cultural heritage artifacts and sites.</p> <p>The later is administered by the Archaeology Department, which is Cap 264 under the Laws of Fiji that looks after the in-situ preservation of all objects or cultural heritage sites.</p> <p>Over the years the Archaeology Department has worked in collaboration with various government departments to collate maps, survey cultural sites and produce a cultural heritage database for Fiji. The department works closely with the Mineral Resources Department responsible for regulating mining activities in Fiji to document and demarcate sites of cultural interest within mining boundaries.</p> <p>The need to safeguard Fiji's cultural sites has been recognized through the incorporation of compulsory Archeological Impact Assessments in the nations' Environment Management Act, Mining Act and Country Planning Act. As such the Archaeology Department has contributed towards the development process and also the preservation of tangible cultural heritage sites in Fiji in relation to land claims issues, infrastructural development, tourism development, housing development and mining development that are currently ongoing in the country.</p>	