

The Future of Our Pasts: Cultural Heritage in a Sustainable Ocean

"Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions" IOC-UN 2022

In response to this call for action, ICOMOS through its International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) recognises the role of cultural heritage in contributing to the success of the identified outcomes of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and advocates for the 'potential of heritage to protect bio-cultural diversity and ensure the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources' (ICOMOS, 2021).

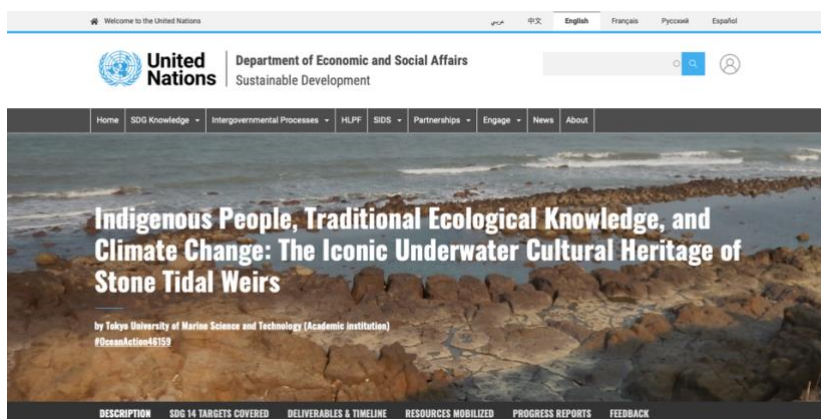
An inspiring and engaging ocean: recognising the public's fascination with underwater and coastal cultural heritage, this relationship is key to improving ocean literacy to enable society to better understand and embrace the economic, social, cultural, and environmental values of the ocean and support actions aimed at creating a sustainable ocean.

An accessible ocean: recognising that scientific research of cultural heritage provides unique data-sets and extraordinary insights into human adaptation to changing environments made by past societies, including the impact of climate change and the sustainable management of marine resources and ecosystems, by utilising all knowledge systems allows society to learn from the world's collective memory and acts as an agent for human well-being and the formation of local, national, transnational, and international identity.

A predicted ocean: recognising that a critical contribution can be made through the study of underwater and coastal heritage sites in identifying past and current trends in sea level change and the impact of climatic changes, with the resultant data placed in open access portals. Cultural heritage is reflective, but is also forward looking and future-making creating an engaging as well as a predictable ocean, where society understands and can respond to changing ocean conditions.

A clean ocean: recognising that there is a high potential for toxic cargoes and fuel-oil contained within historic wreck sites combined with seabed litter represents a clear and present danger to the environment, citizen scientists can assist professional teams to assess, monitor and prioritise sites that pose risk, and contribute to ocean clean-up programmes.

Linkage of the 2020-2030 Agenda illustrated by this project:



For more information about this project go to: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/indigenous-people-traditional-ecological-knowledge-and-climate-change-iconic>

This statement is presented by Dr Christopher Underwood, President of ICOMOS-ICUCH and supported by Honorary Vice President Henk van Schaik of the International Committee on Water & Heritage (ICOMOS)

<https://water.icomos.org>