

Implementing the 2001 Convention to Respond to Current Challenges Related to Climatic Issues, Industrial Expansion and Touristic Pressure

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Session Description

The 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO, and ratified by 79 States Parties aims to preserve cultural remains located underwater, such as shipwrecks, caves and submerged sites. This Convention offers a unique and solid framework to respond to contemporary challenges linked, among others, to climate change, industrial expansion and tourism pressure, for which strengthened implementation of the Convention and specific tools are a prerequisite.

This session will focus on the legal and practical tools and means to adapt to climate change such as risk mapping, strengthen of infrastructures, and the need for continuous monitoring. It will also address the regulation of industrial expansion through conduct of prior impact assessments, establishment of protected zones and necessary cooperation with industry's stakeholders. Regarding management of tourism, the supervision of tourist activities, education and enhanced visitor awareness alongside the development of sustainable tourism development are part of the strategies to build integrated underwater cultural heritage protection schemes into ocean preservation.

Keywords

Underwater Cultural Heritage; Treasure Hunting; Illicit Trafficking; Pillaging; Climate Change; World Heritage; Sustainable Tourism; Culture And Development