

Archaeological heritage in a changing climate : understanding, preserving and promoting remains in wetland, un- derwater and in glacial environments.

Call for papers

Introduction

The Alpine region encompasses 111 prehistoric pile dwelling sites that have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2011. These sites are managed by an International Coordination Group (ICG) whose presidency rotates among its six State Parties. France holds this presidency in 2021-2022, providing the perfect backdrop for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regional archaeology department (SRA) to organise an international conference on the topic of heritage in a changing climate.

Damage is occurring faster and faster, while entire sections of our past are being uncovered every day, creating a situation of urgency. Now is the time to come together to examine the risks to wetland, underwater and glacial zones. This symposium will take a closer look at these particularly vulnerable environments and their exposure to the many consequences of global change (extreme weather, environmental transformation, changing societal practices). Melting glaciers, changing lake levels and shifting river flow regimes are constantly yielding extraordinarily well-preserved remains that provide us with exceptional scientific information. Whenever possible, plans must be put in place for tracking, studying and preserving these remains.

The goal of this symposium is to bring all stakeholders together to look at how to manage, preserve and promote this archaeological heritage (from isolated remains to a full site). It will provide a much-needed forum for attendees to share their experience and develop innovative approaches. The discussion will also be open to possible steps to take.

Proposals may cover any time period or culture area. They must fall under one of the following three themes:

1. Determining framework for action and assessing impact

This first theme will lay the groundwork for discussion, covering:

- the institutional landscape, looking at available tools, recommendations and strategies adopted by international organizations and associations (UNESCO, ICOMOS);
- current regulations and how they have adapted, or plan to adapt, in response to new risks caused by global change;
- the roles of those involved (legal practitioners, archaeologists, environmentalists, conservators, waterway police agents, other government and community entities) in site management (monitoring

tools, preventive work).

2. Protecting, studying and preserving

Presentations in this session will focus on steps that can be taken when climate change threatens archaeological heritage. They will focus on two main topics:

- the consequences of exposing portable material remains when removing them from the anaerobic preservation environment puts them at risk, including emergency measures taken (stabilisation, restoration, study);
- damage to archaeological sites and in situ solutions to consider (protection, signage, excavation, etc.).

3. Sharing and promoting findings

This third session will focus on work the scientific community and site managers have done with the general public to build collaboration between various partners (managers, scientists, site users), including:

- examples of work done to raise awareness (communication campaigns, etc.) and promote findings (tours, temporary exhibits, mainstream publications, etc.);
- the topics of participatory archaeology and local community involvement, to better monitor the sites and report accidental discoveries before they disappear or are completely destroyed.

Practical information

The symposium will take place on 24-26 November 2022 in Lyon (France), in the Grand Amphithéâtre hall of Lumière University/Lyon 2. The first two days will be dedicated to presentations, which should ideally be delivered in French or English. Italian and German may also be accepted. Presentation materials must be in either French or English.

The third day will feature a visit to the archaeology museum at Lake Paladru (Isère) and a lakeside discussion at Lake Aiguebelette (Savoie). This round table discussion will close the event.

Proposals may take the form of a 20-minute presentation or a poster of no more than 3,500 characters (including spaces). Proposals should be sent to palafittes.drac.ara@culture.gouv.fr before 5 May 2022. They must include:

- presenters' full names and institutions;
- presentation title, with an abstract of about 400 words in French or English;
- the language planned for the presentation and article.

At the end of the symposium, presenters will be asked for their articles for publication. They will include an abstract in English.