



SEA CHANGE

Coastal Heritage and Climate Change
Conference in Blackpool, U.K. 4th—6th September 2019



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CALL FOR PAPERS

World Monuments Fund Britain has the pleasure of presenting the call for papers and proposals for a conference on Coastal Heritage and Climate Change which will take place in Blackpool, UK, from the 4th to the 6th September 2019. The conference is part of the 2018 World Monuments Watch, a biennial program that uses cultural heritage conservation to empower communities.

The conference will be aimed at policy makers, heritage bodies, practitioners and academics and will feature a range of speakers from diverse disciplines and professional backgrounds. The conference is being organised on behalf of the World Monuments Fund by a consortium including Bournemouth University, ICOMOS UK and World Monuments Fund Britain. The Scientific Committee includes specialists in related fields (academic and practitioner).

Why Now?

There is a significant body of research which considers the impacts of climate change on coastal geomorphology and marine environments. However, there is not enough research on the impact of climate change, specifically sea-level rise, increased intensity of extreme weather events, and changes in humidity levels, on cultural heritage assets.

Despite a growing awareness of the wider impacts of climate change beyond rising sea levels and coastal erosion, there remains a disturbing lack of engagement regarding the impacts of climate change on heritage assets by governments, practitioners, and academics. This has translated in some cases into confusion over the best way to deal with the challenges and how agencies should work together to secure the future of vulnerable coastal heritage.

Why Blackpool?

With its collection of world class seaside heritage including three Victorian pleasure piers, the unique Blackpool Tower and the vast, elaborate Winter Gardens complex, Blackpool is arguably one of the most important seaside resorts in Britain. Reporting 18 million visitors in 2017, the town is currently the site of a number of major regeneration projects totalling new investment of circa £100m.

Whilst Blackpool's historic buildings play a key role in shaping and adding value to this regeneration, assets like the piers are difficult to integrate into regeneration programmes because they are often so vulnerable to extreme weather.

The Conference Venue.

The Conference will be held at the historic Winter Gardens complex. The building features two remarkable theatres, two restaurants, two ballrooms and a suite of Art Deco interiors created for hosting events.

Blackpool Winter Gardens is in the heart of Blackpool town centre, a five minute walk from the beach and the iconic Blackpool Tower, with its world famous Ballroom and Circus.

The complex is close to all local transport links including one of Europe's oldest tram systems (1889), which operates historic trams and state of the art Bombardier rolling stock. These connections mean the venue is within easy reach of all the Promenade and beach front hotels. A free tram pass for four days will be included in the conference fee to allow delegates to explore the local area.

Tours of the Winter Gardens and Blackpool Tower will also form part of the conference offer.

Purpose and Themes

The purpose of the conference is to understand the growing impact of climate change on the built heritage of coastal communities around the world and identify how these impacts might be addressed.

The conference is focused on built heritage rather than natural heritage or habitats, although it is recognised that there may be elements that overlap between the two. If in doubt, please email the submissions address for confirmation.

As previously noted, there is not enough research or information on the effects of climate change on cultural heritage, and this conference aims to try and address these gaps in knowledge and open the debate to all stakeholders. To facilitate this, the conference has been broken into four exploratory themes:

THEME 1: Resorting to the Past – *The role of heritage in coastal identity and culture*

Papers in this theme should focus on how historic assets define the character of coastal towns and resorts and using case studies and examples demonstrate their value to local identity, place resilience, and local and visitor economies.

THEME 2: Holding the Line – *The impacts of climate change and the need for protection*

Papers in this theme should present evidence of climate change risk to heritage assets; disaster management and recovery scenarios; and case studies that feature innovative approaches in tackling climate change issues in coastal contexts.

THEME 3: Sustainable Futures – *Physical and economic resilience in a changing environment*

Papers in this theme should focus on innovation (conservation/preservation, technological, or engineering solutions) or changes to operational models, function or purpose which have increased the viability and/or resilience of heritage assets within a coastal/resort context.

THEME 4: Best Practice Case Studies – *examples of academic and practitioner project/research*

Papers in this theme should feature but not be limited to the following subjects:

- Best practice coastal regeneration/conservation
- Coastal communities - projects, ownership, stakeholder involvement
- Policy, strategy, planning
- Operation of heritage assets - maintenance, funding, insurability
- Engineering solutions for heritage assets
- Coastal tourism - trends, changes, futures
- Shoreline management and heritage assets

This theme is intended to highlight best practice in delivering impacts through both academic research and practitioner project delivery.

Speaker Submissions

Whilst specifically seeking papers from practitioners and academics, the selection panel would also like to encourage the submission of papers from PhD students working on theses relevant to the themes of the conference. The aim is to secure a balance between academic research, work in the field while encouraging new practitioners and researchers. (Cont.)

Speaker Submissions (cont.)

All applying speakers will need to supply a short abstract for review by the Panel. All abstracts should follow the same format, a template for which will be supplied on request by email to seachangeinfo@wmf.org.uk. The abstract should consist only of the title header information as outlined, the abstract itself (no more than 300 words) and a short biography (no more than 100 words).

Timeframe for Speaker Selection

The submission and selection process dates will be as follows

Submission of Abstract	15/03/19
Author Notification	11/04/19

Delegate Booking

The conference has been heavily subsidised to specifically keep the cost of attending as low as possible and encourage the widest possible dialogue at regional, national and international levels. The cost of attending the three-day conference including lunch and refreshments, conference dinner and all tours will be £60.

Booking for delegates will open on 18th February 2019. Please email seachangeinfo@wmf.org.uk for registration and booking forms. Because the cost of the conference is so heavily subsidised, each application will be screened to ensure that we attract delegates who will be able to offer meaningful contributions to the dialogue and/or benefit directly from the presentations and syndicate sessions.

If you email to request a registration/booking form, you will receive a reminder email to submit your form once registration is open.

Accommodation

The Conference organisers have negotiated a number of concession rates for delegates through the local destination management organisation Visit Blackpool. A live link to accommodation options will be issued once registration opens.

Travel Bursaries

To encourage the widest possible range of national and international speakers, bursaries for travel will be offered. Please email seachangebursaries@wmf.org.uk for an application form and guidance. These bursaries are primarily aimed at international speakers and delegates but may be extended to UK PhD speakers whose papers are accepted. Applications for bursaries will open after speaker notification on the 11th March 2019.

Exhibition Space

There is a limited amount of exhibition space available as part of the conference. If you are interested in exhibiting, please email an enquiry to seachangeinfo@wmf.org.uk. Some provision will be made for concessionary rates for charities or non-corporate special interest groups.



Blackpool Council

Cover Photographs : Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Md & Blackpool Council

