# Questionnaire on Cultural Rights and Climate Change from the OHCHR

Please see the following the contribution from Denmark to the questionnaire on Cultural Rights and Climate Change.

**Negative impact of climate change on culture and cultural rights**

1. What negative impacts of climate change on culture, heritage and the enjoyment of cultural rights by all have been documented in your context? Are particular groups, such as women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, rural persons or peasants, and youth or future generations, as well as cultural practitioners being impacted in specific and disproportionate ways? What efforts are being undertaken to inventory and monitor such impacts?

**Answer:**

* *Denmark has a very long coastline and thus a great number of monuments and heritage buildings situated close to the coast (e.g. ancient monuments, medieval churches with cemeteries, trading sites and historic sea ports). These monuments and sites are subject to acute erosion or demolition from violent storms. Some of the monuments have already disappeared and others have been closed off for access due to danger of collapse.*
* *Increasing amounts of rain can cause damages to historic buildings. In addition inland water level rise is causing floods from rivers and lakes, affecting cultural heritage; buildings and structures such as historic mill plants, bridges, dams etc.*
* *The climate change is a challenge for the marine archaeological heritage. Rising sea levels, higher temperatures, stronger currents and stronger storms can collectively cause exposure, erosion and destruction of underwater cultural heritage.*
* *Scheduled monuments exposed to climatic conditioned erosion are monitored at a national level and at a fixed cadence. The threat level is assessed based on the specific conditions at the location.*

**Positive potential of culture and cultural rights to enhance response to climate change**

What are ways in which culture and cultural resources, such as traditional

knowledge, are being used to mitigate and/or adapt in the face of climate change?

Where available, please share examples of best practices for applying traditional

knowledge and cultural practices, such as those of indigenous peoples, peasants

and fisher people, including traditional fire management and agricultural

techniques that should be considered in developing mitigation and adaptation

responses. What is being done to inventory and preserve such cultural resources

that could be useful to addressing climate change?

**Answer:**

* *At some sites, flooding can be an advantage for the conservation of cultural heritage. Today, the landscape is drained in many places, and a reversion to wetter environments/soil conditions can be an advantage in order to preserve relic of organic cultural material (wood, bones, leather, etc.) thus ensuring that substantial/richer material is preserved. Research in and knowledge about ancient settlement patterns may give us inspiration in creating sustainable solutions to climate challenges.*