

Section II: Vulnerabilities within the settings of monuments and sites:
understanding the threats and defining appropriate responses

Section II : Identifier la vulnérabilité du cadre des monuments et des sites – Menaces et outils de prévention

**PRESERVATION KNOWLEDGE GAP:
THE THREAT POSED BY THE DISTINCT WAYS HERITAGE
PROFESSIONALS AND THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND
CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE SITES AND THEIR SETTINGS.**

Logan William /Australia

Director, Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Deakin University, Australia

Abstract:

Whilst the preservation of heritage sites has a well developed discourse, the specific issue of visitor knowledge and the relationship this has to heritage management has not yet received adequate attention. This research is different to an interpretation study of heritage significance because it is more specifically concerned with investigating the causal relationship between the extent of public knowledge of conservation and the impact this may or may not have on the preservation of cultural heritage sites and their settings. To begin to address this anomaly the authors of this study used a cross-cultural methodology to isolate key issues. They applied qualitative and quantitative methods to survey professionals and visitors at heritage sites in both China and Australia. One of the central issues identified through the study was the disturbing size of the gap between professional and public knowledge about the protection and the control of settings and monuments. This study has revealed that the preservation knowledge gap is a growing threat to conservation practice, which is most likely to have broader implications for heritage site preservation worldwide.