Remote Sensing for Endangered Archaeology: Encountering Human and Environmental Causes

Across time, large parts of the world’s shared archaeological heritage (monuments, sites and landscapes) have been affected by damage, destruction or looting in the face of development, economic growth and conflicts. In recent decades, the threat of unintended ‘collateral damage’ has been exacerbated by intensive agriculture, urban or rural development, global warming and extreme climatic episodes, earthquakes, flooding and landslides, looting and deliberate destruction.

The aim of this session will be to gather information from around the world about the potential and limitations (both practical and political) of using remote sensing approaches (from space, air and ground) to map, investigate, monitor and preserve cultural heritage sites and landscapes that have been and are under threat. Discussion will focus on methods of documenting, mapping, managing and above all monitoring heritage assets that can help in measuring and evaluating losses and transformations related to our cultural heritage assets. A key focus for the future will lie in the definition and implementation of strategies for the analysis and sharing of information through open access publications, websites, freely circulated data sets and related means of dissemination.