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The management of prehistoric sites and the dynamics of contemporary societies: World Heritage and beyond

Research and education on prehistoric societies have wide implications, in terms of understanding evolution, biodiversity, cultural processes and adaptive and transformative mechanisms. The interest on the past, which has been growing in recent years, alongside the enquiries of contemporary ethos, imposes particular responsibilities for prehistorians, which need to address such interest but, also, to avoid falling into short-term agendas with limited interest on research and complex reasoning. These responsibilities run from the establishment and management of World Heritage Sites, to the study, preservation and knowledge socialization related to countless contexts scattered across the planet. This session therefore discusses some of the main challenges and difficulties experienced currently at World Heritage Properties and prospective sites. It will further present contexts embedded in non-listed cultural landscapes. Two types of contributions are invited: theoretical debates also involving specific methods and indicators; and specific case-studies of strong (positive or negative) examples. The session is aimed at preparing a volume of proceedings of the congress, which may become a relevant contribution to the specificity of heritage management of prehistoric sites.