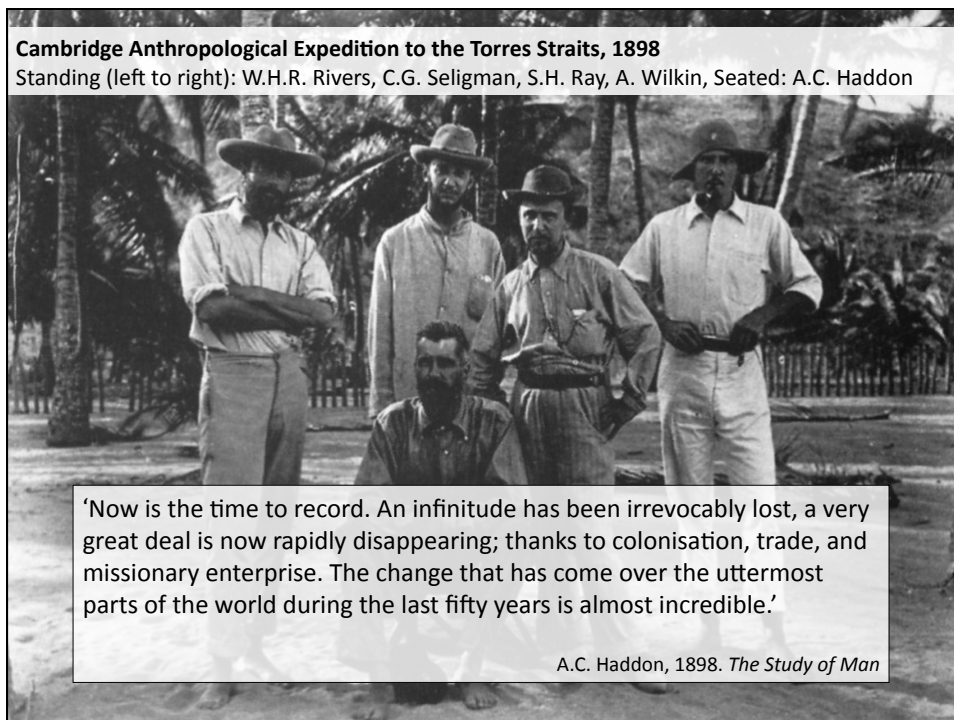


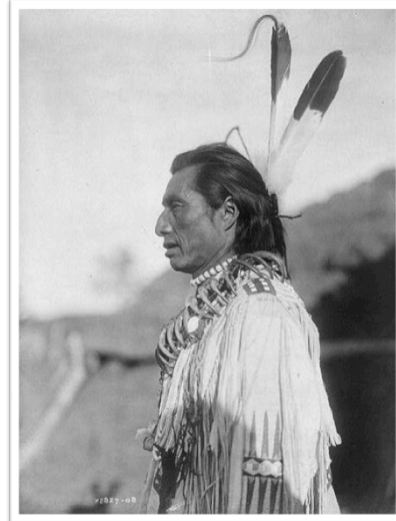
The 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage*:
Impact on the Preservation of Indigenous Peoples' Cultures

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Salvage Ethnography

- Traditional and Indigenous cultures as *dying races*
- *Threats*: modernisation, urbanisation, acculturation
- *Urgency* to save/ document the disappearing (collecting objects, documenting social practices and traditions)
- *Duty*: Western responsibility/ skills and knowledge to document, record culture



E. Curtis, Crow's Head, Mandan, c.1908

UNESCO Activities



- 1989: *Recommendation for the Protection of Traditional Culture and Folklore*
- 1993: *Living Human Treasures* (Inspired by Japan & Korea)
- 1993: *Red Book of Endangered Languages*
- 1997: *Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity* (2001-5)
- 1998: *Traditional Music of the World*
- 2003: *Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage* (2006 – entry in force)

2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Living Heritage

Heritage in Danger

Community Participation

Preamble – ‘communities, in particular *indigenous communities*, groups and in some cases individuals, play an important role in the production, safeguarding, maintenance and recreation of intangible cultural heritage.’

2003 Convention: Definition

‘Intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.

This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation is constantly recreated by communities and groups, ... and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.’

Oral traditions and expressions



Eschuya, sung prayers of Huachipaire people, Peru

Performing arts



Kumiodori, musical theatre from Okinawa, Japan

Rituals & festive events



Yaokwa, ritual dance of Enawene Nawe peoples, Brazil

Knowledge nature & universe



Cosmivision of Kallawayas, Bolivia



Novruz, New Year celebrations, Azerbaijan, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan

Traditional craftsmanship



Woodcraft Knowledge of Zafimaniry, Madagascar



Aubusson Tapestry, France

2003 Convention: Obligations

State parties to the Convention should take measures to ensure **safeguarding** of ICH in their territory (legal, administrative & financial).

Prepare **inventories** of ICH through collaboration with communities, groups and NGOs (and appropriate **documentation institutions**: museums, research centres etc).

How are ICH elements identified?





Creative Destruction

Idea derived from Marxist theory → economic development arises out of destruction of previous economic order

T.Cowen (2002) *Creative Destruction: How globalisation is changing the world's cultures*

Cultures are not homogenous (untouched by influences of other cultures)

Out of the 'destruction' of a status quo arises the 'creative' that transforms social and economic structures into new status quo

Cultural preservation by governments and elite is top-down and artificial and does not allow people to make free choices and cultures to change and develop



Gho, national costume, Bhutan

Adaptation - Survivance



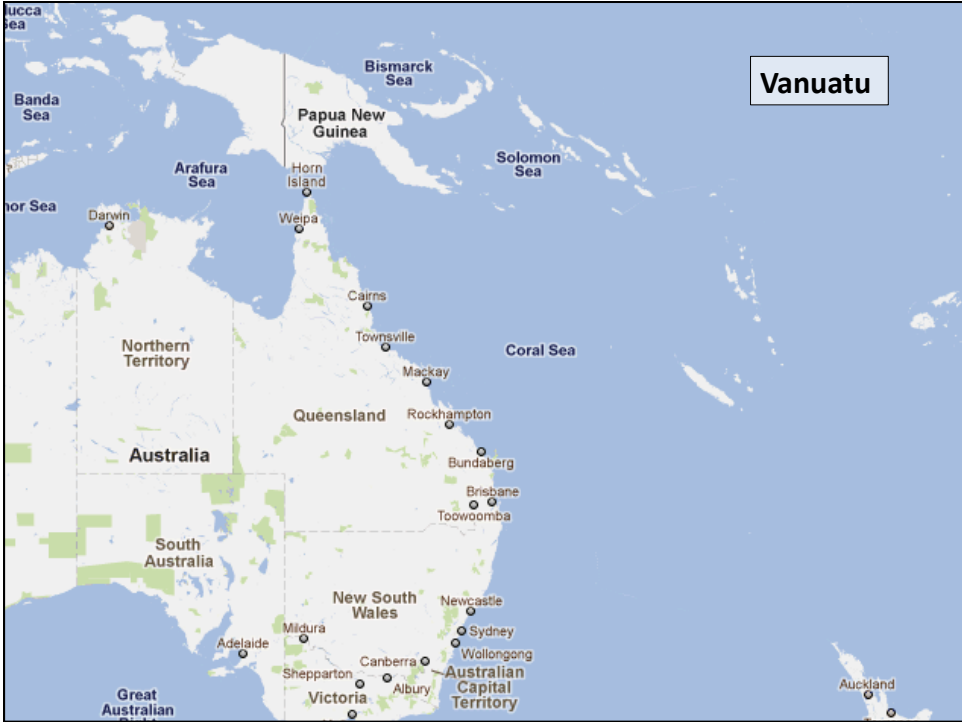
Navajo blanket used as door, late 19th c.



Navajo weavers, c.1875



Contemporary Navajo rug

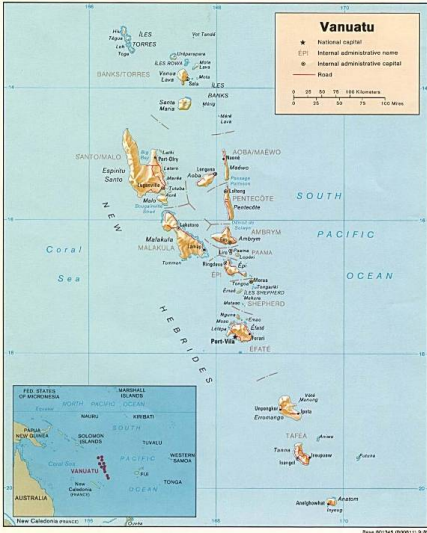


Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu



**Vanuatu Cultural Centre,
Museum displays and stores**

Oral Traditions Project

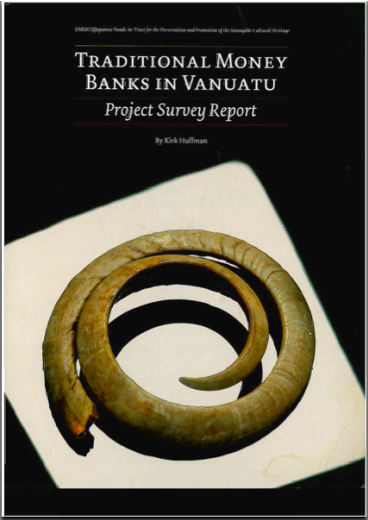


Ni-Vanuatu Women Fieldworkers

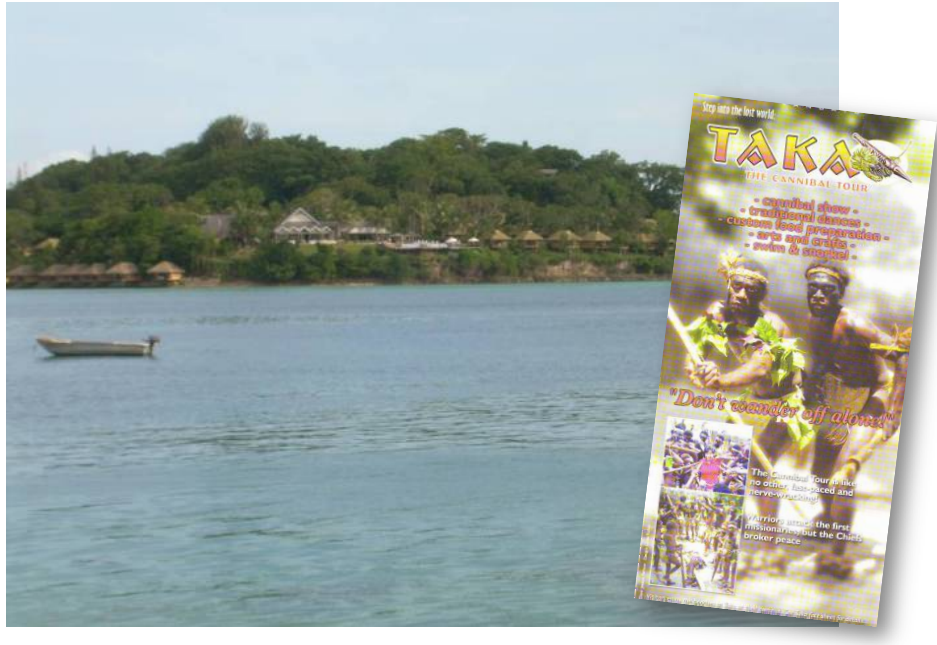
Kastom Economy



Large money mats, North Pentecost



Self-Determined Development



Conclusions

2003 Convention: State-driven preservation → fixing culture:
fossilisation

Community-driven initiatives: transmission of cultural practices
and language as flexible and changing

Intangible heritage: cultural preservation, adaptation and
development