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The Protection of the  
Underwater Cultural Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
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**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

**Fourth Session  
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**Secretariat Report**

## Secretariat Report

The Meeting of States Parties, at its third session, requested the Secretariat (by Resolution 5/MSP 3, among others) to focus its actions in the coming biennium, according to Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, on enhancing capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts in all regions and at all governmental levels and on promoting ratifications.

### 1. Promotion of Ratification

In order to increase ratifications, UNESCO, between 2007 and 2012, has organized more than thirty national and regional meetings. In 2011, the Secretariat organized a regional meeting in Brussels, Belgium (15 December 2011); in 2012, it organized meetings in Koh Kong, Cambodia (15/16 May 2012) and in Manama, Bahrain (16/17 October 2012). Further regional meetings are planned to take place in South America and Southern Africa in 2013. All meetings were well attended and helped to raise awareness of the Convention and its content. They were in their large majority financed by extra-budgetary contributions from Spain and Bahrain and considerable in-kind contributions of the national implementation partners.

A special event was the week-long celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2001 Convention in Brussels. It consisted of a scientific colloquium, a regional meeting, an event for the public at the Free University of Brussels and a visit of the Cog finds in Antwerp (more below).

The Secretariat provided case-by-case assistance in the ratification of the Convention, as well as in the harmonization of national laws. It also elaborated a model law on the protection of cultural heritage. It organized meetings with the Permanent Delegations at UNESCO and liaised with associations and NGOs worldwide and participated in meetings, workshops, congresses and conferences to gain support.

### 2. Capacity-Building in the Area of Underwater Cultural Heritage Protection

#### a. Training Courses

From 2007 until present, UNESCO has trained more than 400 persons from more than 80 countries, in courses that lasted from 2 weeks to 3 months. An overview of the implemented training activities is attached to this document. In 2011, the Secretariat co-organized trainings in Antalya, Turkey (2 weeks), in Cartagena, Spain (1 ½ months) and in Zadar, Croatia (3 months). In 2012 it organized a training in Guanabo, Cuba (1 week) and in Port Royal, Jamaica (4 weeks). More trainings are planned to take place in 2013 in Latin-America.

In the current biennium all trainings were financed by extra-budgetary means from Spain, Italy, Croatia and Turkey. More funding is needed to pursue the implementation of training activities.

#### b. Training Material and Educational Tools

The **Manual on the Annex** of the 2001 Convention published in 2011 in electronic format in English, French and Spanish and endorsed by the Advisory Body, is now available in print version.

A 600-page **Underwater Archaeology Foundation Training Course book** in English language has been produced in the UNESCO Bangkok office. It is available as a CD and online on the website of the 2001 Convention (for free download).

Both publications were financed by extra-budgetary contributions from Norway. Funding for additional translations is being sought.

### **3. Awareness-Raising**

The Secretariat informed the public through publications, such as a children's book featuring the Geronimo Stilton figure and exhibitions on the underwater cultural heritage in Cuba, Lebanon and Uruguay. More cooperation on children's educational materials is under negotiation.

### **4. Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of National Inventories**

The Meeting of States Parties, at its third session, requested the Advisory Body (by Resolution 6/MSP 3, among others) to present to it for consideration, at its fourth session, Draft Guidelines for the Establishment of National Inventories, in order to ensure the interchangeability of national databases for the long term. A first model inventory sheet was prepared by the Secretariat and was proposed to the Advisory Body. Further treatment of this issue was undertaken by the Advisory Body in electronic exchange.

### **5. Ethical Standards for Divers**

The third session of the Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention (UNESCO HQ, April 2011) adopted the Code of Ethics for Diving on Submerged Archaeological Sites drafted by the Advisory Body. The World Underwater Federation (CMAS) invited UNESCO to launch the Code also with the Presidents of its National Offices in Rome on 21 April 2012, which was done. It was then disseminated to all dive organizations associated with CMAS as the recommended ethical behaviour for divers. A promotional package for the public, focusing on the Code and on underwater cultural heritage, is now being prepared with extra-budgetary funds provided by Spain.

### **6. Study of the Factors Impacting Underwater Cultural Heritage**

At their first meeting in Cartagena, Spain (21 - 22 April 2010), the members of the Advisory Body recognized the importance of examining the most significant factors negatively affecting the conservation of underwater cultural heritage and the identification of remedial measures (Recommendation 5 / MAB 1).

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, UNESCO organized a Scientific Colloquium on the Factors impacting Underwater Cultural Heritage and a Regional Meeting on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in cooperation with the Catholic University of Leuven, the University of Gent, the Flemish National Commission for UNESCO and the Flanders Heritage Agency (13-14 December 2011 Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium).

The Scientific Colloquium brought together distinguished international scholars, representatives from archaeological services and interested parties from the private sector for a scientific exchange on the imminent factors impacting underwater cultural heritage. They explored ways of developing positive collaboration on activities adversely affecting this heritage. The colloquium was immediately followed by a regional meeting for Europe, open to State representatives and specially invited expert speakers. An evening lecture was organized for the public on 12 December 2011 at the Free University in Brussels. A visit of the medieval Cog wrecks in Antwerp was organized on 16 December 2011.

All events were a great success. More than 200 experts of international standing and State representatives from 20 EU countries as well as observers from the European Commission and the USA attended. A Website ([www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/impacting-factors](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/impacting-factors)) summarizes the results of the events. The papers and the videos of the presentations are available on that website.

## **7. Centenary of World War I (2014-2018)**

By Recommendation 4 / STAB 3 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body suggests organizing a commemorative event highlighting the extensive underwater heritage dating from World War I, as well as the human component of that war to mark the commemoration of the Centenary of the outbreak of that conflict.

In order to prepare for this event and to facilitate the consideration of the Meeting of States Parties, the Director-General sent a letter to the States involved in WWI, in order to draw their attention to the recommendation and to gain their support. Talks were organized by the Secretariat with the various Permanent Delegations, National Commissions, national authorities and experts to discuss appropriate events, educational materials and public outreach and to raise funds for their implementation.

Special attention was paid to draft all events in line with UNESCO's peace-building mandate and to strengthen as much as possible their contribution to reconciliation and peace-education.

All activities would have to be entirely financed by extra-budgetary resources.

## **8. UNITWIN**

A University Network for underwater archaeology has been created under the UNESCO UNITWIN programme in support of the implementation of the 2001 Convention. The first members to this programme are Seljuk University, Turkey (programme leader), Southampton University, UK, Southern Denmark University, Denmark, and Alexandria University, Egypt. The first meeting of this network took place from 16-18 May 2013 in Kemer, Turkey under the participation of many interested observer universities.

## **9. Financial Situation and Staffing**

The financial circumstances of the Organization in this biennium mean that almost no Regular Programme funds were available to support operational activities including regional meetings and training courses under the 2001 Convention. The operational activities that have taken place in 2012 have been in great part financed by national donors, such as Spain, and have also been made possible due to large in-kind contributions of local partners.

The Fund for Underwater Cultural Heritage is fully established, but no contributions have been received yet. A funding call has been issued by the Director-General, addressed to all Member States of UNESCO.

The Secretariat of the Convention is currently staffed by one Programme Specialist and an underwater archaeologist made available by Spain under the Associate Expert Programme. However, the funding of this latter post is ensured only until September 2013.

**To ensure the viability of the 2001 Convention as well as to increase its ratification rate, States Parties are kindly requested to support the Secretariat through funding, secondments or the provision of Associate Experts.**

**Overview Training Activities in Underwater Archaeology (2001 Convention)**  
(as of 31 November 2012)

UNESCO has organized a series of underwater archaeology training courses since 2007. Organizers were either UNESCO Headquarters or field offices. Reliable implementation partners are at hand in almost every region worldwide, while a lot of experience and knowledge for the organization of these trainings has been acquired. The main problem for continuation is funding.

<b>Persons trained:</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>Number of Countries invited:</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Days of Training:</b>	<b>418</b>
<b>Budget spent:</b>	<b>1,445,063 USD</b> (+ in kind contributions of UNESCO and of partners)
<b>Status quo:</b>	

**(a) Current or prior trainings** (see Annex for detailed list)

UNESCO organized an extensive training series in Thailand. Its Zadar category II Centre, Croatia, organized courses in cooperation with Headquarters and UNESCO Venice on a long-term basis. A training series is also organized for the Latin-American region through the UNESCO regional offices. Many other courses were organized with the assistance of partners.

**(b) New trainings**

New trainings can be organized with quickly and efficiently, thanks to the acquired expertise of reliable partners. However, additional funding is needed.

**(c) Training material**

UNESCO has elaborated training material. It encompasses:

1. The **Manual** for Activities directed at Underwater Cultural Heritage' on the Annex of the 2001 Convention -Eng, Fr, S
2. The **Training Manual** for the UNESCO Foundation Course on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage

### Detailed list of UCH training activities (2007 – 2013)

Year	Training	Place	Organized by/with	Date	Participants	Countries	Financed by + approx. cost
2007	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - Training workshop for underwater archaeologists  <i>(This programme was started due to the especially alarming scale of commercial exploitation of UCH in Asia.)</i>	Galle, Sri Lanka	UNESCO Bangkok* <i>* Bangkok started this initiative in Sri Lanka, due to available Dutch foundations for a regional centre. Due to administrative obstacles the programme moved to Thailand.</i>	2 weeks in April 2007	19	Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand	Norway ExB** <i>**The total cost of the training financed by Norway under the Project 'Safeguarding the UCH of Asia and the Pacific' was 943,600 USD (incl. training material)</i>
	Training Workshop in Underwater Archaeology	Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania	UNESCO DAR	2 weeks in 2007	10	Tanzania	UNESCO DAR – RP 20,000 USD
	International Centre for Underwater Archaeology under UNESCO auspices (cat II)	Zadar, Croatia	Croatian Ministry of Culture with UNESCO Venice & HQ	Opened in Sept 2007	Regional for long-term	Eastern-Mediterranean region	Croatian national funds
2008	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - <i>training-of-trainers-programme</i> (followed by the Steering Committee for the regional training programme 10/11 April 2008)	Galle, Sri Lanka	UNESCO Bangkok*	3 March-10 April 2008	12	Sri Lanka	Norway ExB**
2009	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - <i>First Foundation Course</i>	Chantaburi, Thailand	UNESCO Bangkok* & Underwater Archaeology Division of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand	26 October to 4 December 2009	15	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand	Norway ExB**
2010	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - <i>Second Foundation Course</i>	Chantaburi, Thailand	UNESCO Bangkok* & Underwater Archaeology Division of the Fine Arts Department of	1 February to 15 March 2010	19	Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and	Norway ExB**

			Thailand			Viet Nam	
	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - <i>Advanced Training Course on the Application of Geographic Information System in the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>	Chantaburi, Thailand	UNESCO Bangkok* & Underwater Archaeology Division of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand	20-29 September 2010	19	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji Islands, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Palau, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam	Norway ExB**
	Training programme in underwater archaeology and conservation	Gdansk, Poland	Gdansk Maritime Museum	23 August - 5 September 2010	14	Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Belarus, Estonia, Russia, Montenegro, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine	Polish national funds Approx. 20,000 USD
	Training programme in underwater archaeology and conservation (resulted in the foundation of a regional group for the advancement of underwater archaeology)	Campeche, Mexico	INAH, Mexico and UNESCO HQ and HAV	27 September – 8 October 2010	29	Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela	UNESCO HQ – RP 30,000 USD
	Training programme in underwater archaeology and conservation	Robben Island, South Africa	UNESCO Windhoek + CIE	March 2010	34	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania	UNESCO HQ RP 20,000 USD

2011	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - <i>Third Foundation Course</i>	Chantaburi, Thailand	UNESCO Bangkok* & Underwater Archaeology Division of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand	14 February – 26 March 2011	21	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan	Norway ExB**
	Regional Training Course in Underwater Archaeology	Antalya, Turkey	Kemer Foundation	6-19 June 2011	15	Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, Libye, Lebanon, Tanzania, Turkey	Turkish national funds Approx. 10,000 USD
	Safeguarding the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Asia and the Pacific - <i>Advanced training course on in situ preservation of UCH</i>	Khao Laem Ya-Moo Koh Samet National Park, Rayong Province, Thailand	UNESCO Bangkok*	19-26 October 2011	15	Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand	Norway ExB**
	International Underwater Archaeology Course	Cartagena, Spain	UNESCO HQ & Spanish National Museum Arqua	19 September to 28 October 2011	20	10 students from Latin America & the Caribbean, 7 students from Africa and Arab region, 3 students from Spain	Spain ExB 224,663 USD
	Underwater Cultural Heritage Conservation Training	Zadar, Croatia	ICUA & UNESCO Venice	26 September 2011 to 24 December 2011	8	Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Serbia, Spain	UNESCO Venice RP + Croatian national funds



	International Seminar for local capacity building in research and management of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	Bogota, Colombia	UNESCO Hav	7-9 September 2011	11	Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Mexico, Spain	Spain ExB*** ***Approx. 100,000 USD were made available to the UNESCO Hav office for a variety of UCH related activities
<b>2012</b>	Sub-regional training on survey and registration techniques of the underwater cultural heritage	Guanabo, Cuba	UNESCO Hav	5 – 10 March 2012	20	Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras	Spain ExB***
	Training on underwater archaeology and management of Underwater Cultural Heritage for the Caribbean	Kingston, Jamaica	UNESCO Montevideo and Kingston offices	5 -30 November 2012	20	Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saba, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Maarten, Saint Vicent and the Grenadines, San Eustaquio, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobagos	Spain ExB***  ExB Maritime Programma of the RCE, Netherlands
<b>2013</b>	Training on underwater archaeology and management of Underwater Cultural Heritage for Latin-America	Uruguay/Argentine	UNESCO Montevideo office	November 2013	20	Latin-American States	Spain ExB***