



The Protection of the
Underwater Cultural Heritage

3 MSP

UCH/11/3.MSP/220/INF. 7 REV

1 March 2011

Original: English

Distribution limited

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

**MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Third session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
13 – 14 April 2011**

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Activities of the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention

I. FOSTERING RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

- The Convention has been ratified by 36 States as of 31 December 2010.
- Following the entry into force of the Convention on 2 January 2009 and the first and the second session of the Meeting of States Parties (March and December 2009), the Secretariat organized the 1st Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Body (13-15 June 2010, Cartagena, Spain). The 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Body will take place following directly the third Meeting of State Parties on 15 April 2011.
- The second Meeting of State Parties established a working group to review the draft of the Operational Guidelines. This Ad Hoc Working Group has met on 9 and 10 February 2011 and has submitted the revised draft of the Guidelines for adoption to the third Meeting of States Parties.
- Regional policy meetings to foster the ratification and implementation of the Convention were held in the Solomon Islands (December 2009), Turkey (October 2010), Mexico (March 2011) and Jamaica (April 2011).
- The adaptation of national legislation is facilitated by the Secretariat. However, in particular small islands requested more cooperation and knowledge-sharing to adapt their national legislation to better protect their underwater cultural heritage. Collaboration with local legal experts is crucial and efforts in this direction are actively pursued. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body has adopted a recommendation on this issue.
- The Secretariat promoted the Convention in 2010 in several international conferences (Schwerin, Germany; Riga, Latvia; St. Petersburg, Russia; London, UK).
- The Secretariat will also be implicated in the organization of two major conferences on underwater archaeology: the IKUWA4 (Zadar, Croatia) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage (Manila, Philippines).

II. CAPACITY-BUILDING

1. The UNESCO Manual on the 'Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage'

A manual on the Annex to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, containing the "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage", has been elaborated by the Secretariat to facilitate its application. Scientific editor is Thijs Maarleveld, Professor for Underwater Archaeology in Denmark and President of the ICOMOS International Committee for Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH). Internationally recognized authors contributed to the text, among them Jasen Mesic and Pilar Luna Erreguerena, currently Members of the Scientific Advisory Body. The manual shall serve as a reference for site managers, stakeholders and partners in the protection of underwater cultural heritage, for training courses in underwater archaeology and the Secretariat. It will be made available in the form of a book and as online e-learning on www.unesco.org/en/underwater-cultural-heritage. It is financed by extra-budgetary funds UNESCO received from Norway. Its first edition will be available in English,

Spanish and French free of charge. The Meeting of State Parties might wish to recommend its wide-spread utilization.

An extension of the Manual to include a guide on conservation has been proposed by the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar and the preparation of this operational text is under way.

2. UNESCO training material for underwater archaeology training courses

Training material for the UNESCO underwater archaeology training courses at Chanthaburi, Thailand, is under development in cooperation with international experts under the lead of the underwater archaeologist Martijn Manders, Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency, Netherlands. The resulting training package will be made available to all training courses of UNESCO in this discipline and will in part be published online to complete the Manual on the "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage", mentioned above, with practical examples.

3. Training courses

Training courses for underwater archaeologists and conservation specialists were and are organized in the biennium 2010/11 in:

- a. Chantaburi, Thailand: (i) Second Foundation Course on Underwater Cultural Heritage from 1 March to 9 April 2010 benefitting 19 regional trainees from 10 Asian countries; and (ii) Advanced Course on the application of GIS in the management of UCH, held from 20 to 29 September 2010 which benefitted 19 trainees from 11 countries including Palau and Fiji Islands. Major extra-budgetary funding was provided by Norway. The trainings were organized by the Bangkok office. Apart from building capacity in the field underwater archaeology, the main issue of the training was the propagation of the ethics and the principles of the Convention.
- b. Gdansk, Poland (23 August - 5 September 2010): The primary goal of this training organized by the Polish Maritime Museum in Gdańsk under UNESCO patronage, was the exchange of experience in the area of methodology of research and documenting of the underwater archeological sites. This training also increased regional cohesion.
- c. Mexico (27 September – 8 October 2010 for 22 States): this two-week intense training on underwater archaeology and the 2001 Convention was organized by the Mexican National Heritage Institute (INAH) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention. It resulted in the foundation of a regional group for the advancement of underwater archaeology in Latin-America and the Caribbean.
- d. Robben Island, South Africa (March 2010, 25 national, regional and international experts): During this training organized by the UNESCO Windhoek office, regional needs and dynamics were highlighted. The workshop resulted in a Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Regional Group Collaboration Statement highlighting the need for the creation of a sub-regional centre for underwater heritage research, training and safeguarding.
- e. Cartagena, Spain: a two-month training at the Spanish National Museum of Underwater Archaeology for twenty international participants, mainly underwater archaeologists and conservation specialists including a theoretical

component and courses in practical field work led by reputed specialists is planned to take place in course of 2011.

- f. A training course in underwater archaeology will be organized in Antalya, Turkey in June 2011 organized by the Turkish authorities and the Kemer Promotion Fund KETAV in cooperation with UNESCO.
- g. Cooperation: The Secretariat has encouraged several universities to set up a UNESCO unitwin network in underwater and maritime archaeology. UNESCO chairs and unitwin network link up universities in UNESCO's fields of competence and to the day count 682 chairs and 68 networks. This universities network presents a unique opportunity for the 2001 Convention in view of strengthening cooperation between universities, promoting the discipline of underwater archaeology, establishing joint training initiatives and increasing the visibility of underwater archaeology. Flinders, Selcuk and Texas A&M University as well as the universities of South Hampton and Southern Denmark and the Alexandria Centre for Underwater Archaeology consider to jointly submit a project and the application to form a unitwin network to UNESCO. Negotiations are under way.

II. AWARENESS RAISING AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC-AT-LARGE

1. Public access and awareness projects – the development of ethical standards for amateur archaeological divers

Many diver associations and clubs recognize the importance of creating awareness of the need to protect cultural heritage located on the seabed. To ensure a worldwide respect for submerged heritage by individual divers it seems useful to collaborate with these initiatives and work towards setting a common standard for application by all dive associations, marine parks and individual divers. Draft ethical standards have been elaborated and have been approved by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body. The Secretariat has exchanged views on this with CMAS and NAS and cooperation is envisaged. The Meeting of State Parties might wish to consider an adoption of this the draft Code of Ethics.

2. Elaboration of children cartoon series, material and website

A partnership agreement was concluded with the French Moonscoop film producers group for cooperation in children's education on the underwater cultural heritage. 14 highly disseminated children cartoons on UCH protection (featuring Mahabalipuram, India, the Cosquer cave, France, Alexandria, Egypt and others) were accordingly produced by Moonscoop after scripts provided by UNESCO. They were and are shown on TV (KIKI, Disney Playhouse etc.). Material provided by Moonscoop facilitated also the elaboration of a children oriented UNESCO website and related material now available under www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/kids-page.

3. Website

Beside the already available information brochure, film and FAQ document, a completely revised website has been prepared in 7 languages. It contains statutory and general public parts, featuring image galleries, flashes, films, E-learning tools, a

kids page with spots and games and much information on underwater cultural heritage, all elaborated by the Secretariat (see www.unesco.org/en/underwater-cultural-heritage). It will be launched during the present Meeting of States Parties to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Convention.

4. Exhibition

The photo exhibition on underwater heritage sites, presented at UNESCO HQs for the first session of the Meeting of States Parties, has travelled to Cartagena to be seen at the ARQUA museum (June 2010) and to Mexico to be shown at the National Museum of Anthropology. A major exhibition entitled "Saving Our Underwater Cultural Heritage" was on view from 16 August to 31 October 2010 at the Siam Ocean World in Bangkok and more than 150.000 visitors have seen it. The exhibit included large format photographs of underwater heritage scenes from around the world, a life-size replica of a Thai ship wreck, a showcase of discoveries recovered from the seabed, a film on the underwater cultural heritage, special demonstrations of underwater archaeologists in action in the aquarium tank and an interactive play zones for children and featuring among others the UNESCO-Moonscoop Cartoons.

5. Raising awareness in cooperation with media

UNESCO will cooperate in an *Arte* film on the pillaging of underwater cultural heritage as well as with *Google* to draw more attention to several publicly accessible and well-known submerged archaeological sites.

6. Publications

Underwater Cultural Heritage in Oceania

A booklet entitled "The Underwater Cultural Heritage in Oceania" has been prepared by the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention in collaboration with the Apia office in the wake of the Solomon Islands workshop (2009). This book illustrates the rich heritage of the Pacific Island States and thereby draws on different perspectives and a rich body of international expertise and research. The book can be consulted at www.unesco.org/culture/underwater/oceania_en.

Report on the Situation of Submerged Archaeological Sites

A UNESCO Report on the Situation of Submerged Archaeological Sites is in preparation to provide a sound empirical basis for the development of policy regarding the discipline of underwater archaeology. The publication shall be drafted to serve as a comprehensive source of information; advocacy document; as well as a research publication to influence policy debates and to reach the global community. It will assemble

- factual data on submerged sites (number of sites, activities, professionals, institutions, budgeting etc.);
- information regarding threat and protection (policy applied, legal protection, challenges identified, and applied state of the art);
- knowledge (evaluation of threats, challenges, success of measures taken etc.) and, as far as possible,
- visions for the future.

The Report should become a reference document and highest drafting standards will therefore be applied. While in the beginning data will be collected and summarized

through the Secretariat, it will then be edited and evaluated by external advisors and scientific partners such as ICOMOS-ICUCH, reputed independent underwater archaeologists and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

III. SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND ASSISTANCE

1. Expert meetings on current scientific issues:

- a. Chongqing Expert Meeting (China, November 2010) on the in situ presentation of submerged archaeological sites and the first under water museum: Chinese and international participants examined the progress of and potential for developing underwater museums on sites preserved in their original location in the context of the recent construction of the submerged Baiheliang and the demi-submerged Nanhai N°1 Museums. A publication on the proceedings of the meeting is currently in preparation.
- b. A scientific colloquium on the most significant factors affecting negatively the conservation of underwater cultural heritage and the identification of remedial measures is envisaged for November 2011 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Convention.

IV. 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION

The Convention celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2011. The above-described manual and website will be launched officially on this occasion. The Secretariat will also be implicated in the organization of two major conferences (Manila and IKUWA4) on underwater archaeology and celebrate the anniversary there, assisted by international partners. It will also organize the above-mentioned scientific colloquium and the Report Report on the Situation of Submerged Archaeological Sites.