



The Protection of the  
Underwater Cultural Heritage

**4 MSP**

**UCH/13/4.MSP/220/4 REV 4**  
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

**Fourth Session**  
**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV**  
**28-29 May 2013**

**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Considerations of the report and the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical  
Advisory Body**

**Decision required : paragraph 2**

1. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body met on 15 April 2011 immediately after the third Meeting of States Parties as well as on 19 April 2012. Both meetings took place in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters.
2. The second meeting of the Advisory Body took 5 resolutions and adopted 2 recommendations. The third meeting took 6 resolutions and adopted 7 recommendations. The reports of both meetings are available in document UCH/13/4.MSP/220/INF.2.

#### **DRAFT RESOLUTION 4 / MSP 4**

The Meeting of States Parties, in its fourth session,

1. Having examined document UCH/13/4.MSP/220/4 and document UCH/13/4.MSP/220/INF.2, and the recommendations contained therein, thanks the Advisory Body for its work; and
2. Recognizes the severe threats posed to the preservation of underwater cultural heritage by pillaging, commercial exploitation and activities indirectly affecting the underwater cultural heritage;
3. Acknowledges the need to balance the economic interest of development projects, resource extraction projects, and tourism with the need to preserve the underwater cultural heritage;
4. Recommends to States Parties to raise **awareness among promoters** of development and resource extraction projects, fishers, divers and other stakeholders; and
5. Recommends to States Parties, with respect to **development and resource extraction projects**, to ensure that:
  - a. development and resource extraction projects take into account the presence of underwater cultural heritage;
  - b. the project document submitted for the authorization of development and resource extraction projects includes mandatory assessment of the area and identification of underwater cultural heritage contained therein;
  - c. the competent national authorities for underwater cultural heritage are mandatorily consulted in the authorization of all development and resource extraction projects that concern coastal areas or the seabed; or, if such consultation is not possible, that the authorizing national authorities include special experts on underwater cultural heritage;
  - d. the evaluation criteria applied in the authorization of development and resource extraction projects include the project's impact on underwater cultural heritage;
  - e. the public and private developers of such projects should provide the funds and be responsible for:

- i. the assessment of the project area and the identification of underwater cultural heritage therein;
          - ii. the prevention, to the extent possible, of impact to underwater cultural heritage caused by the project in the project area and its surrounding environment;
          - iii. the mitigation of negative effects caused by the project in the project area and its surrounding environment;
          - iv. the conservation of the affected underwater cultural heritage; and
          - v. the promotion of affected underwater cultural heritage and the dissemination of knowledge about it;
        - f. alternatively, a levy on all relevant infrastructure and resource extraction projects is imposed and placed in a fund dedicated to:
          - i. the preliminary assessment of all development areas;
          - ii. the identification or prediction of underwater cultural heritage sites in these areas; and
          - iii. the taking of the measures cited under paragraph e;
        - g. sanctions are imposed on developers of infrastructure and resource extraction projects that do not respect the provisions put in place for the protection of underwater cultural heritage;
        - h. the mapping and establishment of inventories of coastal areas and territorial waters is reinforced to allow for the elaboration of predictive models in order to recognize risk areas, identify underwater cultural heritage and establish impact prevention and mitigation policies; and
        - i. a charter on development projects, infrastructure projects and their relation to the protection of underwater cultural heritage is elaborated.
6. Recommends to States Parties with respect to **fishing and trawling activities** to encourage:
  - a. the creation of physical protection measures for underwater cultural heritage sites or related protection areas; and
  - b. the introduction of the issue of underwater cultural heritage protection in fishing policies and the establishment of specific protection areas in which fishing is prohibited.
7. Recommends to States Parties with respect to **leisure diving activities**, to encourage:
  - a. the collaboration with and awareness-raising of diving operators toward the protection of underwater cultural heritage, in undertaking activities such as promotion of the *UNESCO Code of Ethics for Diving on Submerged Archaeological Sites*; and
  - b. the possible introduction of incentives for the consignment of chance finds to the national competent authorities.
8. Recommends to States Parties with respect to **national authorities** to encourage:

- a. the establishment of competent national authorities for underwater cultural heritage, in recalling Article 22.1 of the Convention; and
  - b. to provide such competent national authorities with the funds, personnel, technical means and facilities necessary to ensure the proper management, research and conservation of such heritage.
9. Recommends to States Parties with respect to **research and capacity-building** to encourage:
- a. an increase of national science funding to provide financing for research activities directed at underwater cultural heritage;
  - b. international and regional capacity-building initiatives and specialist training;
  - c. the harmonization of academic qualification standards for underwater archaeologists; and
  - d. the **harmonization of licensing for scientific divers** including the related legal, health and safety requirements, to facilitate international collaboration on research projects and to identify common minimum basic standards for archaeological divers, harmonize the training of diving for archaeological purposes, and to mutually recognize national diving qualifications for archaeological purposes.
10. Recommends to States Parties with respect to **interventions** to ensure decisions on whether a site is excavated or preserved *in situ* are based on analyses comparing their significance with that of other existing sites.
11. Encourages States Parties to increase **work and cooperate** on:
- a. inland water related underwater archaeological research;
  - b. sea routes; and
  - c. submerged prehistoric landscapes and sites, in particular in conjunction with the implementation and promotion of instruments protecting the environment.
12. Encourages States Parties to consider that the **financing of excavations** by the process of the **de-accessioning** of the artefacts from the concerned site is *not* consistent with the Rules annexed to the 2001 Convention.
13. Encourages the States Parties in regard to **education** to:
- a. introduce topics on underwater cultural heritage in educative material and curricula of primary, secondary and higher level schools and educational institutions;
  - b. develop short films and cartoons for children for publication on the UNESCO underwater cultural heritage “Kids page” and contribute any other appropriate material to this Kids page;
  - c. develop and facilitate cooperation with appropriate children publication producers; and

- d. circulate and exchange appropriate exhibitions on underwater cultural heritage.

14. Decides to organize, with no incidence on the Regular Programme of UNESCO, in an international effort **special commemorative and scientific events** on underwater cultural heritage from World War I in 2014 and invites States to contribute extra-budgetary resources required to assure them.

15. Encourages States Parties in regard to the **image of underwater archaeology** to:



- a. take measures to demonstrate the public interest and utility of the protection of the underwater cultural heritage;
- b. collect information on recommendable models and statistical information;
- c. propose models for managing underwater cultural heritage in a way that brings benefits for the sustainable economic development of regions; and
- d. increase the positive image of underwater archaeology and the involvement of the public in the awareness, the protection and enjoyment of the underwater cultural heritage.

16. Regarding **virtual access** initiatives it:

- a. Encourages States Parties to provide information to the Secretariat and to create special websites on underwater cultural heritage and connect them to UNESCO underwater cultural heritage website;
- b. Asks the Secretariat to make such initiatives available in a common web space or project on the UNESCO underwater cultural heritage website;
- c. Encourages accredited NGOs to contribute to this project or website and to assist in the quality and ethical control of the proposed initiatives.

17. Encourages States Parties to adopt and use the annexed UNESCO **Model Sheet for Inventories** on Underwater Cultural Heritage.

**ANNEX:**

<b>DRAFT</b>					 	
<b>UNESCO MODEL INVENTORY SHEET FOR UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
<b>COUNTRY</b>						
<b>REGION, PROVINCE</b>						
<b>COMPETENT AUTHORITY</b>						
<b>REGISTERED BY</b> (name, position)		Date		Email / Tel nº		
<b>SITE NAME</b> (provide also 'nicknames')				<b>SITE REGISTRATION NUMBER</b>		

<b>GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE</b>			
<b>TYPE</b>	Shipwreck	Identification certain	Yes / no
	Aircraft wreck	Period/Year of creation/building	
	Other vehicle	Time of submersion (period/year)	
	Isolated artefacts	<b>CONSERVATION STATUS</b>	
	Prehistoric site	Excellent	
	Pre-Columbian site	Good	
Ruin	Damaged		
Structure	Destroyed		
Cave/Cenote			
Other			
<b>Free Description of Remains</b>			
<b>LOCATION</b>			
<b>COORDINATES UTM</b>		<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES</b>	
<b>DATUM</b>		<b>DATUM</b>	
X		Latitude	
Y		Longitude	

Z				Depth			
Have these coordinates been verified?							
MAX. EXTENT OF SITE <i>(exact/estimate in meters)</i>		Width		Length		Height	
<b>DESCRIPTIO N</b>	<b>AREA</b> (pls underline)			<b>MARITIME ZONE</b> (pls underline)			
	Wetland, swamp Water hole, source Flooded cave, cavity River Lake/Lagoon/Spring Coast of ocean Port Bay Close to coast Far from coast (give approx. distance) Open sea			Terrestrial Inland waters Internal waters Territorial Sea, Archipelagic waters Contiguous Zone Exclusive Economic Zone Continental shelf Area (High Seas) Contiguous Zone of other State [ <i>specify</i> ] Exclusive Economic Zone of other State [ <i>specify</i> ] Continental shelf of other State [ <i>specify</i> ]			
WATER	WATER FEATURES			DEPTH IN METERS			
	Calm			Maximum			
	Moved			Minimum			
Rough			UNDERWATER VISIBILITY (in meters)				
SITE IMMERSION		Periodical	Continuous	Partial		Complete	
<b>SEA-BOTTOM COMPOSITION</b>							
Sea grass			Gravel		Pebbles		Rock
Sand			Mud		Blocks		Others
VISIBILITY	Parts of site visible No visible parts Site observable as mount Indication of site through echo			ACCESS		From the shore By boat	
<i>(Add sketch of site to this form if desired)</i>							
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS</b>							
ARTEFACTS FOUND							
CURRENT LOCATION		STORED		DISPLAYED		IN SITU	
CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION (references of reports etc.)							

HISTORIC BACKGROUND, CULTURAL ORIGINS			
ORIGIN	African	SIGNIFICANCE	Historical
	Asian		Cultural
	European		Artistic
	Arab		Archaeological
	American	Historic documentation	
	Australian	Other References	
	Other (specify)		
<i>(Add free description of historic background to this form if desired)</i>			

THREATS			
DAMAGING ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT THE SITE	Pillaging Cargo recovery Displacement Intended destruction Exposure Other	HUMAN ACTIVITIES INCIDENTALLY AFFECTING SITE	Mineral extraction Pollution Trawling Fishing Dredging Construction works Change of currents Dam construction Other
NATURAL FACTORS CAUSING DAMAGE	Erosion Exposure Oxygen influence Seismic activity Waves Other		STATUS Threat on-going Immediate danger Threat expected
<i>Evidence of threats:</i>			

FINDING, DISCOVERY		
DISCOVERY	Date of discovery	
	Discovered by	
	Contact details	
REPORTS	SENT BY (pls underline)	SENT TO (pls underline)
	Finder Vessel, state national Local responsible authority [scroll down list] Responsible archaeologist, site manager Competent National Authority	Competent National Authority Ministry [scroll down list] Other State [scroll down list] States Parties 2001 Convention Other



NOTIFICATION of UNESCO <i>(for sites outside of territorial waters and if applicable)</i>	SENT BY	SENT TO
	Competent National Authority Other	UNESCO International Seabed Authority
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	RECEIVED FROM, DATE	FOLLOW UP
	1.	
	2.	

ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT THE SITE				
ACTIVITY TYPE (Preliminary research, research, documentation, recovery of artefacts, excavation...)	START-DATE	RESULTS	PERSON / ENTITY RESPONSIBLE	CONTACT
1.				
2.				Add further
UPLOAD	REPORTS ; PHOTOS ; PERMISSIONS			
INTENDED ACTIVITIES AND AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS				
TYPE OF INTENDED ACTIVITY	START-DATE	ACTIVITY PLANNED	PERSON / ENTITY RESPONSIBLE	CONTACT
1.				
2.				Add further
STATUS OF AUTHORIZATION	NAME AND QUALIFICATION OF TEAM LEADER	REPORTING BY	REPORTING TO	
		Local responsible authority Archaeologist Site manager Person or entity requesting permission	Competent National Authority Responsible Ministry Other State All State Parties to 2001 Convention International Seabed Authority UNESCO	
NOTIFICATION of UNESCO <i>(for sites outside of territorial waters and if applicable)</i>	SENT BY	SENT TO		
	Competent National Authority Other	UNESCO International Seabed Authority		

<b>INVENTORY AND DESIGNATION</b>	
Site noted in a national inventory?	
Special designation?	
Part of a protected zone?	

<b>RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS &amp; REPORTS</b>				
<i>Author</i>	<i>Year, Place</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Link</i>	<i>Edition, Pages</i>
				Add further