



The Protection of the
Underwater Cultural Heritage

4 STAB

UCH/13/4.STAB/220/2

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

CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

FOURTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY BODY

**30 May 2013, UNESCO Headquarters, Room VI
7, place de Fontenoy, Paris
10 am – 6 pm**

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda:

Presenting and Interpreting Underwater Sites for the General Public

Action required : paragraph 2

1. Underwater cultural heritage holds a vast potential for scientific research and education. In addition to increasing knowledge, it can however also in many instances contribute to sustainable development. It is an interesting and attractive form of heritage, appreciated by the public. The investment in museums on underwater archaeology, dive trails, glass-bottom boats and other forms of access for the public – while ensuring priority to the protection and preservation of the heritage - promises numerous benefits. It can increase tourist visitors in a region as well as its recreational value. This investment can also in return enhance the visibility and therewith possibly the protection of the concerned heritage.
 - a. To take stock of potential and actual benefits and indicate new ways to increase the positive contribution of submerged heritage to the public and to society the Secretariat has prepared a draft **Study on Underwater Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development**. The aim is to encourage the investment in heritage protection and preservation. The Secretariat's draft is submitted to the Advisory Body for review, comments and possible action.
 - b. Secondly, the community benefit of underwater cultural heritage as well as its protection could possibly be increased by raising the cooperation of authorities and scientists with the public, and by **fostering site access and site awareness**. This could be discussed by the Advisory Body.
 - c. As a third issue, it could be that one way to achieve the goal of increasing site access as well as protection might be the fostering of the **Archaeological Site Guardianship** by divers. Permission for exclusive access to selected sites could be negotiated by the national authorities with controlled dive clubs, which could collect entry fees from their clients. The funds collected could be invested in the research and protection of underwater cultural heritage. Such contracts could also contribute

to preserving the future integrity of sites and their monitoring. The Advisory Body might wish to discuss this kind or similar initiatives.

2. The Advisory Body may wish to adopt the following recommendation:

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 2 / STAB 4

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body to the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,

1. Having examined document UCH/13/4.STAB/220/2;
2. Decides to review the draft Study on Underwater Cultural Heritage and Development as prepared by the Secretariat and to consider future action in this regard;
3. Recommends...
4. Decides.....