



CIE–CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

Report on activities to support the ratification and assistance to implement the of the 2001 UNESCO Convention for the protection of underwater cultural heritage

CIE's initiatives have aimed to promote and encourage ratification of the 2001 Convention and to develop structures for context specific implementation in instances where ratification has already occurred.

United Arab Emirates

The Shared Maritime Heritage on the Historic and Arabian Trade Routes international programme brings together students and experts from across the globe. As part of a broad maritime archaeology/heritage/survey programme, students are provided with heritage management training and archaeological expertise in line with the tenets of the 2001 Convention and UNESCO accredited training curricula.

The programme directly promotes the 2001 Convention as a framework for management and promotion of underwater cultural heritage in the home countries of students. In those instances where home states have already ratified the Convention, students are encouraged to lobby heritage management agencies, museums and academic institutions to further promote and implement the tenets of the Convention and to align national underwater cultural heritage strategies with the document. Where home states have not ratified, students are encouraged to lobby for ratification.

The programme creates capacity in underwater cultural heritage and management that is aligned with the 2001 Convention. On completion of the course, students will return to their home countries and are encouraged to conduct their research activities in line with the Convention and work with heritage management and government authorities to promote and implement practical programmes in line with the Rules in the Annex to the Convention.

South Africa

The various programmes that have been undertaken in South Africa in the last 9 years have served two purposes. Prior to South Africa ratifying the 2001 Convention in 2016, the programmes have all had strong lobbying components aimed at national government departments and institutions (Department of Arts and Culture, Iziko Museums, South African Heritage Resources Agency, Department of Environmental Affairs, South African National Parks, and others.) that have strongly petitioned for ratification. At regional and local levels, the programmes have promoted the benefits of ratification and supported stakeholder efforts to urge government towards ratification. At the same time, the programmes have built capacity both within the organisation that would become the Competent Authority (South African Heritage Resources Agency) and supporting heritage institutions such as museums, universities, local heritage management agencies, academic institutions and communities (including tourism companies, stakeholders, divers and people living near underwater cultural heritage sites). The programmes have created a substantial network of heritage practitioners and other stakeholders who can participate in management of underwater cultural heritage, maritime archaeological research and the development of tourism initiatives associated with maritime cultural and underwater cultural heritage.

The programmes have lobbied for the development of a regional training centre, with the goal of establishing a UNESCO Category II regional centre. While this has not yet come to fruition, CIE continues to work with the South African Government to promote this initiative.

The South African programme included a regional meeting of officials from South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, Namibia, Angola and UNESCO (represented by Damir Dijakovic). The primary purpose of the workshop was to establish a regional network of underwater cultural heritage practitioners who could work together under the framework provided by the 2001 Convention. The meeting encouraged participants to lobby their home governments to ratify.

Tanzania

The Tanzanian programme has followed a similar strategy as the South African programme, but has focused on government management institutions. The programme initially identified the various government stakeholders who were working directly or indirectly with underwater cultural heritage. Having done this, CIE presented a framework for capacity building and heritage management that was based on the 2001 Convention and its Annex. CIE lobbied for ratification of the Convention, but this has yet to come to fruition. Despite this, CIE has trained individuals in various stakeholder institutions at government level (Department of Antiquities, National Parks, museums and universities) and formed a Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Team which is envisaged as a field team for the Competent Authority once it has been established. At present, team members are located over a broad geographical spread including Mafia Island, Zanziba and Dar-es-Salaam.

Mozambique

The programme in Mozambique was undertaken as a direct result of a workshop conducted by UNESCO in 2009. The primary programme objective was to provide the Ilha de Mozambique community with the tools to protect the underwater cultural heritage in the face of a treasure hunting onslaught that had resulted in shipwrecks around the island being stripped. At a local level, the programme used the 2001 Convention as a management framework that could be used to manage activities around Ilha de Mozambique. At national level, the programme urged the Mozambican government to ratify the 2001 Convention and outlaw treasure hunting. By building capacity at a local level and in partnership with students from Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, the programme strived to create a trained team of individuals, supported by archaeologists, who could develop strategies to implement the rules and protocols of the 2001 Convention, even in the absence of ratification.

Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar

CIE, together with African partners and associates, participated in the STAB's assessment of treasure hunting activities at Ile Sainte Marie and followed up with a short project that promoted the Convention and good underwater cultural heritage management practices and assessed the scope and potential for underwater cultural heritage. While Madagascar had already ratified the Convention, CIE could contribute expertise and funding to training and awareness raising initiatives at Ile Sainte Marie and in government departments in Antananarivo.

Sri Lanka

CIE's planned initiatives in Sri Lanka will further lobby government to ratify the 2001 Convention.

Meetings and Workshops

CIE has participated in, and been represented at, several meetings and workshops that promote ratification and implementation of the Convention. These include the first, second and third African Regional Meeting on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Nigeria (2013), Kenya (2015) and Mozambique (2016).

Representatives of CIE assisted with UNESCO's regional training initiatives in Kenya in 2016.

CIE sponsored a delegate from South Africa to travel to Turkey for the UNITWIN underwater cultural heritage training programme for African heritage practitioners hosted by Selcuk University in 2015.

CIE has attended the meetings of the State Parties to the Convention as well as participating as observers in the relevant associated breakaway meetings (such as STAB meetings or emergency responses).

Conferences

CIE has promoted the Convention in presentation given at the following conferences:

New York University Abu Dhabi Workshop, Connected Through Heritage 'Martime Connections in the Indian Ocean' 2015 Abu Dhabi
Society for Historical Archaeology Conference 2016, Washington DC.