



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



The Protection of the  
Underwater Cultural Heritage

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

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

**MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

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

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**Manual on the Annex of the 2001 Convention**

The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage". These Rules contain among others regulations as to how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; the planning of the funding of excavation projects; the documentation of archaeological underwater excavations; and methodologies on conservation and site management. The 36 Rules of the Annex present a directly applicable operation scheme for underwater interventions and constitute one of the most significant components of the 2001 Convention. That is why UNESCO has elaborated a Manual on these Rules to better explain their content and facilitate their application. The publication of the Manual on the Annex is foreseen in its electronic format and in English language on 13 April 2011 during the third session of the Meeting of States Parties and for autumn 2011 in the printed version in English, French and Spanish. The first edition of the book will be distributed free of charge.

**A draft version of the Manual has been made available to all Member States for information purposes.**

**Key users:**

The UNESCO publication 'Manual on the Rules Concerning Activities Directed at Underwater Cultural Heritage' is intended to serve as a reference for

- Site managers, stakeholders and partners in the protection of underwater cultural heritage;
- States Parties to the 2001 Convention and their national authorities;
- Underwater archeologist;
- Universities having training courses in underwater archeology;
- The UNESCO Secretariat to the 2001 Convention.

**Style:**

The document takes the form of an international standard-setting publication in the form of a reference handbook (approx. 240 pages). The manual will be available in the form of an online tutorial. This tutorial will include complimentary training material and differs in its style due to the necessities of internet presentation.

**Structure:**

The Manual is divided into 14 thematic chapters that regroup the 36 Rules of the Annex of the Convention.

**Authors:**

Internationally renowned authors have contributed to the manual:

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### **Editing:**

To ensure a homogeneous style and avoid that information is given twice the contributions have been edited. Professor Thijs Maarleveld has ensured the scientific editing to guarantee that scientific content is not misrepresented, while Ms Renée Champion has ensured the language editing.

### **Structure:**

## **LEGAL CONTEXT**

### **I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- In situ* preservation as the first option (Rule 1)
- Commercial exploitation (Rule 2)
- Limiting impact (Rules 3 and 4)
- Human remains and venerated sites (Rule 5)
- The need for regulation (Rule 6)
- The knowledge-sharing principle (Rule 7)
- International cooperation (Rule 8)

### **II. PROJECT DESIGN**

- Function, submission and availability of the project design (Rule 9)
- Developing and assessing a project (Rule 10)
- Following and adapting the project design (Rules 11 and 12)
- Project design in cases of urgency (Rule 13)

### **III. PRELIMINARY WORK**

- Site assessment (Rule 14)
- Background studies (Rule 15)
- Sidebar: inventorying underwater cultural heritage

### **IV. PROJECT OBJECTIVE, METHODOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES**

- Matching objectives with methodology and techniques (Rule 16)
- Working methods and techniques

**V. FUNDING**

Financial planning (Rule 17)  
Raising funds (Rule 18)  
Contingency planning (Rule 19)

**VI. PROJECT DURATION – TIMETABLE**

The project timetable (Rule 20)  
Project length  
Contingency planning (Rule 21)

**VII. COMPETENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Underwater archaeologists (Rules 22)  
Project Staff (Rule 23)  
Ensuring the enjoyment of the public

**VIII. CONSERVATION AND SITE MANAGEMENT**

Conservation (Rule 24)  
Site Management (Rule 25)

**IX. DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation programme (Rules 26 and 27)  
Documentation techniques  
On-site observations

**X. SAFETY**

The project dive plan (Rule 28)

**XI. ENVIRONMENT**

Environmental policy (Rule 29)  
Marine life, archaeological sites, site management and environmental policies  
Sidebar: The Impact of offshore activities and fishing on underwater cultural heritage

**XII. REPORTING**

General considerations on reports (Rule 30)  
Structure of a report (Rule 31)  
Report-writing guidelines

**XIII. CURATION OF PROJECT ARCHIVES**

General considerations on project archives (Rule 32)  
Composition of project archives (Rule 33)  
Archiving guidelines (Rule 34)  
Professional and public access

**XIV. DISSEMINATION**

Informing the public (Rule 35)  
Final synthesis (Rule 36)

**RULES**

**REFERENCES**

**AUTHORS**

**CONTACT**