Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda - Information Document 6
Examples of Best Practices and Scientific and Technical Advisory Body Evaluation

This document contains examples of Best Practices provided by States Parties and their evaluation by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB).

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB), in accordance with the criteria and objectives set by Resolution 4 / MSP 5, received the following examples as Best Practice related to underwater cultural heritage by States Parties:

a. “Underwater Archaeology Museum, Playa Bonita, Campeche, Mexico”;
b. “Involving local communities with their own cultural heritage at the Nevado de Toluca, Mexico”;
c. “PROCASC: 130 sites of underwater heritage in Mar de Cascais (Sea of Cascais), Portugal”;
d. “Cap del Vol and Cala Cativa shipwrecks. Study of trade, Port de la Selva, Alt Empordà, Catalonia, Spain”; 
e. “Deltebre I. The History of a Wreck, Deltebre, Baix Ebre, Catalonia, Spain”
f. “Legal protection of Andalusia’s underwater archaeological heritage, Andalusia, Spain”;
g. “The Bou Ferrer Wreck, Villajoyosa, Alicante, Spain”.

In this context, the STAB evaluated all examples presented for consideration as Best Practices as (a.) concerning underwater cultural heritage falling under the definition of Article 1 of the 2001 Convention and (b.) being appropriately protected both legally and in practice. Also, (c.) responsible non-intrusive access is respected and (d.) all heritage sites have a framework ensuring sustainable management. It also considers that in all cases (e.) a special and outstanding effort has been made to make the sites accessible to the public and recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to designate all the examples submitted as Best Practices for their sharing and diffusion as part of a Register on the Convention’s website.

The STAB also recommended inscribing the process of Best Practices selection into the Operational Guidelines of the Convention for its discussion and approval at the next session of the Meeting of States Parties.

Furthermore, it recommended to the Meeting of States Parties to consider the following matters in view of future evaluations of examples of Best Practices:

a) Does an ‘outstanding effort to make the site accessible to the public’, mean an effort that complies with Article 2.10 of the Convention or does it mean an effort that goes beyond mere compliance?
b) Should practices be designated as Best Practice, which concern non-tangible or non-authentic underwater cultural heritage (i.e. presented in a virtual museum, a replica)?
c) How long does a Best Practice need to be in action before it can be taken into consideration for designation? Does the Meeting of States Parties wish to take into account temporary activities and should projects, which are not yet executed, be designated?
Summary of Examples of Best Practices in the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage presented by States Parties

(The complete submitted files are available on the website of the 6th Meeting of States Parties.)

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<th>1.</th>
<th>Underwater Archaeology Museum, Playa Bonita, Campeche, México</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Playa Bonita, Campeche, México</td>
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<td>Presenting State Party: Mexico</td>
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The Mexican Vice Directorate of Underwater Archaeology (SAS) recovered in the marine and continental waters of the Yucatan Peninsula more than 900 elements of underwater cultural heritage. These range from skeletons of humans, who inhabited the Peninsula during the Late Pleistocene period, up to wrecks from the industrial era. Heritage access will now be made possible by presenting the resulting authentic collection to the public at the Underwater Archaeological Museum, to be inaugurated during the year 2017, accompanied by an underwater space containing a replica wreck.

The museum will have two locations within Campeche: one in San Jose el Alto, in the port of San Francisco de Campeche (a city declared World Heritage by UNESCO in 1999), and one in the area of Playa Bonita, in the close-by city of Lerma, in the State of Campeche. This latter space will focus on strengthening the visibility of underwater cultural heritage through hands-on activities. Visitors may experience a replica of one of the excavated vessels through diving, snorkeling, and glass bottom boats, among other options.

The Underwater Archaeological Museum will be administered by the National Institute of Anthropology and History, with resources from the Government of the Campeche State. Both exhibit locations will be part of a single circuit, which can be accessed by public transport.

The initiative seeks to evoke the sensitivity of the public by making them understand the importance of protecting this legacy, its appreciation and appropriation. Visitors will be able to know different aspects related to the underwater cultural patrimony: research, conservation, dissemination, site management, and protection.

Involving local communities with their own cultural heritage at the Nevado de Toluca

Location: Nevado de Toluca, Estado de Mexico, Mexico
Presenting State Party: Mexico

The aim of the project is to involve local communities with their own cultural heritage through a dialogue with them. This shall permit heritage access and increase their sense of belonging in connection to the site. The project seeks to do so by exhibitions, publications and documentary screenings.

At 4680 meters above sea level, the Nevado de Toluca, a stratovolcano located in the southwest of the Toluca valley, is also the fourth highest peak in Mexico. Inside the crater, there are two perennial bodies of water known as the Sun Lake and the Moon Lake. Over time, the interaction of man and the volcano has been recorded through the material culture deposited in different places of the mountain, but especially under water. Archaeological materials deposited inside the lakes are well preserved and are characterized by organic elements. The site is a national nature reserve, and the use of vehicles in the area has been prohibited since 2007.

Since 2007, the project “Underwater Archaeology at the Nevado de Toluca” has been studying this important site on land and particularly under water. Research has been accompanied by dissemination activities.

The result of the archeological research has been published in two books. A third publication, a comic, has been distributed to adolescents in the local schools.
PROCASC: 130 sites of underwater heritage in Mar de Cascais (Sea of Cascais)

Location: Mar de Cascais, Portugal
Presenting State Party: Portugal

Hundred-thirty underwater cultural heritage sites, dating from the Roman era to the modern and contemporary periods, have been located through the Underwater Archaeological Chart of the Municipality of Cascais (PROCASC), Portugal.

Restricted responsible heritage access to the main sites is now offered to the public. Sites that remain under study, but generate extra interest have been made accessible to amateur divers, provided that the visits could be integrated into the monitoring work of archaeologists and biologists.

A close collaboration has been established with a local diving school in order to promote diver training. Partnerships with a fishing community, surfers and body boarders in Costa da Caparica, with the Portuguese Navy, which participates through the Naval School and the Naval Research Center (CINAV), with the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, the port authority of Cascais, with Kind D. Carlos Sea Museum and with the county schools further disseminate the information.

Additional information to the public has been provided through scientific lectures, news publications and itinerant exhibitions, as well as through a dedicated space at the King D. Carlos Museum in Cascais.

Protective measures applied on site are reviewed every year by a transdisciplinary team composed of archaeologists, biologists, historians, conservators and oceanographic engineers.

The protection of underwater cultural heritage in Portugal is assured through the general regulation contained in the Basic Law of Portuguese Cultural Heritage, through the regulations of the national maritime authority and the port authority, as well as through the National Plan of Archaeological Works. These regulations have proved sufficient, in part due to natural factors such as strong currents and poor diving conditions in the Atlantic waters, which limit accessibility to the sites.
Location: Port de la Selva, Alt Empordà, Catalonia,
Presenting State Party: Spain

The project studies a series of shipwrecks at Cap del Vol and Cala Cativa that sank while transporting wine produced in the Conventus Tarraconensis (from Valence to southern France), between the first century BC and the second century AD.

The Cap del Vol wreck was pillaged in the 1960s and 1970s, but the ship’s architecture remained intact. An excavation and a study of the ship have been carried out, using recent technologies such as ROVS and AUVS, in the intention of establishing working protocols between archaeologists and underwater robotics engineers. A submersible, Ictineu 3, was also used for the study.

Only materials that are relevant for the study or for presentation in museums are brought to the surface. Remaining resources are preserved in situ. Between seasonal works on the site, the shipwreck is covered to prevent degradation.

The site is protected as an archaeological site by the Catalan autonomic law for cultural heritage protection. In addition, the sites are protected by a layer of sand, which will be restored upon finalization of the excavation works.

Heritage Access: The project includes several publications, an exhibition at the Archaeological Museum of Barcelona, conferences, scuba-guided visits to the shipwrecks during archaeological excavation works, on-site protection and a documentary.
The wreck of Deltebre I was discovered in 2008. It sank in 1813, during the French War. The Underwater Archaeology Centre of Catalonia (CASC) began excavations in 2009 that were completed in 2016. The site is protected as an archaeological site by the Catalan autonomic law for cultural heritage protection.

Several efforts have been made to protect the wreck from environmental degradation. Only the cargo materials that were required for study were removed from the wreck. The naval architecture is preserved in situ.

Heritage Access through public visits has been organized during the excavations. It allowed to visit not only the site but also other archaeological work in the area. Information to the public was also made available through an exhibition, several publications and support for scientific research on site.

A collaboration between the Museu d’Arqueologia de Catalunya, Museo Arqueológico Provincial de Alicante and Denominación de Origen Vinos de Alicante resulted in a travelling exhibition that has been shown at the Girona Archaeological Museum, the Alicante Archaeological Museum, the Tarragona National Museum of Archaeology, the Barcelona Archaeological Museum, the Deltebre municipality, and the Archaeological services of Culture of Tortosa.
Legal protection of Andalusia’s underwater archaeological heritage

Location: Andalusia, Spain
Presenting State Party: Spain

Created in 2004, the Management and Information System of Cultural Assets of Andalusia (MOSAICO) is an information system, which registers the work of different administrative units in the regional department of culture, as well as information concerning heritage assets in Andalusia. At present having 120 entries, the database also contains information about potential heritage sites, such as 900 historical shipwrecks that may be a source of further discoveries. The project shall guarantee the protection and in situ conservation of the archaeological underwater heritage of Andalusia. The Culture Council of the government of Andalusia has endowed it with the highest protection level through Law 14/2007 on Historical Heritage of Andalusia, an established two protection categories:

- **Archaeological Zones**: spaces, in which the existence of archaeological remains of relevant interest is proven.
- **Archaeological Reserves**: areas, in which archaeological remains are presumed to exist and prevention measures are considered necessary.

The Underwater Archaeological Centre of the Institute of Historical Heritage of Andalusia has carried out studies to define those spaces. This enabled the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage to begin the registration and conservation. As a result, 56 areas were registered in the General Historical Heritage Catalogue of Andalusia as Heritage of Cultural Interest under the classification of archaeological zones. 42 areas located in the above-mentioned spaces were registered as archaeological reserves.

**Heritage Access**: Although sites now benefit from legal protection, visits to the sites remain encouraged for both divers and tourists. In order to raise public awareness, training courses and seminars have been organized, guided visits to the Centre of Underwater Archaeology have been set up, and several articles published.

Delimitation of archaeological zone and archaeological reserve. **Servicio de Protección del Patrimonio Histórico, Consejería de Cultura, Junta de Andalucía**
The Bou Ferrer Wreck

Location: Villajoyosa, Alicante, Spain
Presenting State Party: Spain

The Bou Ferrer Wreck is a Roman shipwreck of the first century CE, located off the coast of Villajoyosa, Spain. Underwater excavations have revealed the large ancient commercial vessel, measuring more than 30 meters in length and 9 meters in width. It was transporting a cargo of more than 230 tons. The Bou Ferrer Wreck is the largest ancient shipwreck of its kind currently under excavation. The Project has been committed from the very beginning to ensuring compliance with Article 2 of the 2001 Convention. With this in mind, the Bou Ferrer Cultural Resource Management Association (BFCRMA) was formed as a result of the union between the Valencian regional government (Generalitat de Valencia), the University of Alicante, the municipal government, the archaeological museum of Villajoyosa and the non-profit Club Náutico de La Vila.

BFCRMA has launched the following actions to foster heritage access:
- Public visits to the site under the supervision of archaeologists, which include a two-hour introduction to the site and its history.
- Public access to the archaeological materials in museums and during public presentations and lectures.
- Use of social media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) to provide videos, educational messages and informal reports.
- The archaeological finds are disseminated and analyzed during presentations and conferences, in preliminary reports and academic journals.

The association works closely with the relevant administrative and cultural authorities and museums. In 2015, the Bou Ferrer Wreck was declared a Bien de Interés Cultural (BIC), such obtaining the highest legal protection available to cultural heritage in Spain.

To prevent pillaging in a non-invasive way, a layer of fishnets, metal chains and galvanized steel bars was put around the ship. The installation poses no risk to the wreck itself, its cargo or the environment, and can be removed. A management team has also been formed and is responsible for site management, protection, communication, outreach, and training. Several training courses have been carried out.