

## CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

### BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Following Resolution 4/5MSP of the 5th session of the Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (28-29 April 2015), States Parties are invited to provide examples that demonstrate Best Practices related to Underwater Cultural Heritage (see document UCH/15/5.MSP/11). The Meeting recalled Article 2 of the Convention and considered that Best Practices should aim notably at:

- a. encouraging responsible and non-intrusive public access to underwater cultural heritage in conformity with articles 2.5 and 2.10;
- b. increasing public awareness, appreciation and protection of heritage;
- c. promoting the Convention and the implementation of national juridical frameworks for protection;
- d. supporting scientific research in accordance with the Convention and the Rules and capacity-building in that regard; and
- e. the appropriate conservation of the heritage;

The Meeting invited States Parties to the Convention to provide examples demonstrating Best Practices related to Underwater Cultural Heritage according to the following criteria:

- a. the heritage falls under the definition of Article 1 of the 2001 Convention or less than 100 years of age, but is classified as underwater cultural heritage according to national law,
- b. the heritage is appropriately protected both legally and in practice; in particular through the implementation of the Rules,
- c. responsible non-intrusive access is respected;,,
- d. the heritage has a framework to ensure sustainable management; and
- e. a special and outstanding effort has been made to make the site accessible to the public.

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body of the 2001 Convention will review the examples of Best Practices provided by the States Parties and evaluate them with a view to making recommendations for sharing and diffusion. Please note that the Meeting of States Parties also recommended States Parties to include appropriate stakeholders, at local, national and international levels in the process of identifying Best Practices, and to cooperate in the promotion and application of the identified Best Practices.

The annexed form has been elaborated by the Secretariat to facilitate the submission of Best Practice examples for their evaluation.

**Short Title of the Best Practice:** \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by (State Party): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Site concerned:

Brief Description of the Best Practice in responding to the criteria set by the Meeting of State Parties (see above):

How is the site protected legally?

What practical measures have been implemented to ensure the protection of the site?

How is responsible and non-intrusive public access to the underwater cultural heritage encouraged?  
What special and outstanding effort has been made to make the site accessible to the public?

How is public awareness, appreciation and protection of the heritage increased?

How does the example support scientific research and appropriate conservation in accordance with the Rules of the Annex to the 2001 Convention?

Please describe briefly the management plan designed for the site:

Have local, national and international stakeholders been involved in the process of identifying the Best Practices example? If so, please list them.

Please attach documents giving evidence for the information provided and any other documents you may consider relevant

The forms are to be submitted in English or in French, electronically or in hard copy. They are to be signed and sent to the following address:

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Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the signatory(ies): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the Submission: \_\_\_\_\_