Short title of the Best Practice: Underwater Cultural Heritage of Cascais, Portugal

Presented by State Party: PORTUGAL

Location: Cascais, Portugal

Brief Description of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Site concerned:

The archaeological site to which this document refers is a wide area designated by Mar de Cascais (Sea of Cascais) which has already located, through the Underwater Archaeological Chart of the Municipality of Cascais (PROCASC), 130 sites for study and protection within the archaeological underwater heritage.

In this project we find sites with chronologies ranging from the Roman era to the modern and contemporary periods that lie at depths varying from 5 to 30 meters.

This survey was compiled in a geographic information system, in order to produce a map of the findings, indicating general aspects of the nature of the context and of dangers.

From this set we highlight the sites of Praia de Carcavelos, where the archaeological complex of São Julião da Barra and the Clipper Thermopylae are located, all of which deeply contributing to the creation of a management model around the Concept of Maritime Cultural Landscape.

Cascais was the first municipality in Portugal to develop a program for the management and valuing of the Underwater Cultural Heritage of the coast in order to reach knowledge and enjoyment of this important heritage.

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

Considerations on criteria of good practices:

A) The Portuguese law (Decree-Law 164/97) concerning the underwater cultural heritage does not restrict the classification of a site as an underwater archaeological heritage to 100 years because it considers cultural value beyond chronology, which is the memory and identity of maritime communities. This amplitude allowed to study and to protect the remains of two ships (Patrão Lopes and Rhona) shipwrecked in the Sea of Cascais, in the area of Bugio between 1926 and 1936, which history begins with their capture in the Portuguese ports during the First World War. Patron Lopes is today considered the best preserved Portuguese copy of World War I and an important instrument for the UNESCO Educational Project - Heritage for Peace and Reconciliation.

B) The protection of underwater archaeological sites is based on a general regulation contained in the Basic Law of Portuguese Cultural Heritage (107/2001), and in the regulatory decrees related to it, but also by regulations and legal provisions of the national maritime authority and Port authority. These legal norms have been sufficient to ensure the protection of the sites. In practice, the Cascais Sea has also benefited from monitoring mechanisms and from the fact that Atlantic waters do not always have good conditions for diving and have strong currents limiting accessibility to experienced divers.
C) At the main archaeological sites integrated in PROCASC there has been an effort to allow for visits and fruition of space *in situ* but in a restrictive and responsible way. In cases that arouse more curiosity and interest but are still under study, such as that of Patrão Lopes, the access of the community of divers is possible but only if integrated into the monitoring work that archeology and biology are developing. The greater or lesser capacity of reception of visitors in these sites is evaluated using the consult of conservation and restoration technicians and guaranteeing the site’s sustainability.

D) The municipality of Cascais has been working in direct liaison with the local diving school in order to promote the training of divers who are responsible and respectful of the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

Another pedagogical approach has been developed within the fishing community of Costa da Caparica and with surfers and body boarders, who appreciate the place where the famous *Bugio* wave forms.

All these elements, to which we add the strong connection to the Portuguese Navy, which participates through the Naval School / Naval Research Center of the Navy (CINAV), in all monitoring campaigns, the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, the Port Authority of Cascais, King D. Carlos Sea Museum and the county schools, have been joining efforts to draw up a sustainable management plan of this heritage seeking to contribute to the increase of its knowledge and preservation while representing the collective memory of the region.

E) Since it is not possible to take the common visitor to the sea floor, a real effort has been made to disseminate knowledge about the underwater cultural heritage through scientific and informative lectures, publishing news in the generalist and specialized press, presenting itinerant exhibitions and the structuring of a space dedicated exclusively to this theme at the King D. Carlos Sea Museum in Cascais.

**How is the site protected legally?**

The Cascais Underwater Archaeological Chart project is integrated in the multi-annual research actions of the National Plan of Archaeological Works, in accordance with the principles stipulated in articles 3 and 8 of Decree-Law no. 164/2014. Since 2009, it has developed its intervention in the scope of the safeguard and valorization of the underwater cultural assets of the county.

The cultural values of the Municipality of Cascais, characteristically, are testimonies with civilization value or culture, bearers of relevant cultural interest and, as such, are the object of special protection and appreciation. The identification model included in the Municipal Directorial Plan, article 33 of Notice no. 7212-B / 2015, defines as archaeological heritage all traces, goods and other indications of human evolution, namely sites, stratified deposits, structures, constructions, architectural sets, movable property and monuments of another nature, as well as their context, whether located in rural or urban areas, on the ground, subsoil or in submerged waters, in the territorial sea or on the continental platform. The same article also recognizes that within this heritage exists the underwater archaeological one, which integrates a set of zones with archaeological potential, in which are inscribed complex findings and isolated findings that must be object of preservation.

As an organizing principle, according to the provisions of nº 10 of decree-law 305/2009, Cascais Municipality ensures, through the Center of Historical and Cultural Patrimony,
the study, protection, preservation, valorization, dissemination and promotion of historical and cultural, material or immaterial heritage of the municipality, located in the soil, subsoil or underwater environment, in particular archaeological sites and archaeological and ethnographic materials under its responsibility (point a, no. 3 of Article 47, dispatch no. 49/2016).

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

The protection measures applied in the underwater archaeological sites of the Cascais coastline are evaluated and monitored annually by a transdisciplinary team including archaeologists, historians, conservators, biologists and oceanographic engineers.

In articulation with the Maritime Authority System (SAM), Decree Law No. 43/2002 of March 2, and in accordance with the powers of the Port Captain, Decree-Law No. 44/2002 of March 2, we have assumed a dynamic combination of efforts through the annual communication of the most threatened sites with regard to the preservation of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, which allows for greater vigilance by the competent authorities.

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?

Access to the Underwater Cultural Heritage of the county of Cascais is encouraged. There are three ways we have used to stimulate the fruition of these sites. The first involves integrating the community of national and international divers into the work of archeology in areas of lesser patrimonial sensitivity. Simultaneously, it there is an undergoing effort to actively work with diving schools, namely contracting their services and training them to promote the fruition of these places. Another method used has been within the framework of PROCASC in other scientific works, such as the m@ribis cruise, where the possibility of being with biologists to work on the issue of the memory that must be associated to the spoils of shipwrecks, which are traces of a tragedy, but often only associated with new habitats for communities of living beings.

The general public, in an indirect way, has had access to the archaeological sites through exhibitions, the last being itinerant and dealing with the Submerged Heritage of Cascais.

Alongside specific communities, such as fishermen and surfers, archeological sites have been presented, not as fishing sites or good waves, but as symbolic sites that can serve as a lesson for the promotion of peace and reconciliation between peoples.

In order to enhance the accessibility of this heritage to the general public, Cascais Town Hall is developing a project to visualize the most significant archaeological sites that are part of PROCASC, but without the need to dive. To this end, the use of new technologies and the use of augmented reality products is being studied.

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

The educational program developed under PROCASC recently, with the inauguration
of the traveling exhibition *Patrimónios Submersos de Cascais* (Submerged Heritage of Cascais), an approach to the school community that intends to continue in the scope of the policy of awareness raising, awareness and dissemination of underwater cultural assets. This pedagogical approach reflected epistemological principles followed by the local authority in this area but also the lines of action defended by UNESCO through its delegation in Portugal (association with the UNESCO Network of Schools and the Network of Learning Cities).

To complete this cycle, we will organize, this year, a series of workshops aimed at teachers from various educational backgrounds with the aim of encouraging teachers to understand how they should address topics related to knowledge and use of local, national and international underwater cultural heritage.

The itinerancy of this exhibition will also allow reaching wider audiences, which is expected to include museums, shopping centers, delegations of the Portuguese Youth Institute, community centers and collectivities.

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

The authorization and development of the project follow the principles indicated in the regulation of archaeological works and in notice nº 6/2012 that transposes into Portuguese law the ratification of the Convention.

Any archaeological intervention must obtain the authorization of the General Direction of the Portuguese Cultural Patrimony (Rules 2, 6, 22 and 23). The application to be submitted must comply with the Portuguese legislation in force, namely with regard to the delivery of a project plan, with a schedule, definition of teams, conservation plan, fruition and divulgence (Rules 10 to 28, 30, 31, 35 and 36).

Archaeological work should be non-intrusive advocating as a prioritary option the permanence of cultural goods in situ. The safeguarding of assets outside their original context is only defended when, after an assessment of potential threats, the assets are found to be at risk. The procedure for the removal of goods from their place of origin always requires the authorization of the competent body of the central administration (Rules 1, 3, 5, 14, 15).

Being a project based on an archaeological chart, exploration is carried out using the less impacting techniques, namely through the use of geophysics (Rule 4).

All the works carried out are multidisciplinary, accompanied by archaeological, conservation and restoration and biology technicians, which allows to develop, in parallel, studies on the impact that the environment has on the protection or erosion of archaeological materials. An example of this permanent articulation is the joint participation, since 2015, of biologists from the Mission Structure for the Extension of the Continental Shelf and the m@rbis Project, in an annual campaign for recognition and monitoring of existing archaeological sites in the Cascais Sea (Rule 29).

The divulgation of the works, in compliance with these rules, is made annually through colloquiums and conferences for the community, exhibitions, publication of articles in various generic media, magazines of great audience such as the *National Geographic Portugal*, the *Al-madan*, and social networks. For more specialized audiences,
presentations and scientific publications are given at SHA, IKUWA and ISBSA, and journals with peer review and the *Journal of Maritime Archeology*.

**Please describe briefly the management plan designed for the site:**

The archaeological sites are managed by the Municipal Council of Cascais in conjunction with the General Direction of Cultural Heritage and the national maritime authority (Port Authority of Cascais). We must also mention the intense institutional cooperation with research centers, public institutes and private companies.

It is the responsibility of the General Direction of Cultural Heritage to authorize underwater archaeological work and of the Maritime Authority to authorize the methods and equipment used in underwater environments (where the main concern is the safety of dives and researchers) as well as the supervision and protection of the identified and charted sites with the means available to the maritime police.

The Municipal Council of Cascais guarantees the carrying out of the prospecting and monitoring works, providing technical and human resources, namely: facilities, conservation and divulgation. These campaigns are divulged through municipal equipment, especially the King D. Carlos Sea Museum.

With the remaining elements participating in this project the cooperation is made based on the sharing of synergies in the use of logistic means, such as geophysical equipment and vessels for maritime research, and the availability of technicians with scientific knowledge in specific areas.

The ground teams are responsible for the annual monitoring of each identified site, for gathering information on threats and conservation status, while monitoring the activities related to the *in situ* fruition and the public disclosure of this heritage.

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

Yes, there is an intense and active participation of the various stakeholders and project partners in their identification.

The entities that have participated most in this project are:
- General Direction of Cultural Heritage (Portugal);
- Portuguese Navy;
- EMPC (Mission Structure for the increase of the Continental Shelf);
- Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon;
- King D. Carlos Sea Museum;
- CHAM (Aquém and d'Além Mar History Center of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the New University of Lisbon);
- M@rbis Project (Information System for Marine Diversity);
- UNESCO National Commission;
- Cascais Diving School.
Cooperation has been especially fruitful in the encounter between archeology and biology. A pilot project is under way in which shipwrecks, recognized as artificial habitats and species regenerators, are evaluated from the point of view of conservation based on the potentially protective or erosive action of the ecosystems that are housed in them.

Also, when making a decision on the collection of materials, when they are at risk, an assessment is made with the various identities in order to find the best way to protect the heritage, to raise awareness and to divulge the reason why the archaeological artifact has been collected.