



Protecting cultural heritage in conflict situations – training and tools for the armed forces

Name and unit of project officer	Françoise Girard, Programme Specialist CLT/CEH/CHP
Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):	Global
Duration (in months):	2 years
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Partner(s) institutions:	ICRC ICBS
Total estimated budget inclusive of Programme Support costs	USD \$1,000,000

Rationale and background

The destruction of cultural property poses a grave threat to the cultural heritage and identity of the people of affected nations, and of future generations. Since the risk of destruction of cultural property is increased during armed conflict, the international community, under the auspices of UNESCO, adopted the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols.

Why UNESCO?

As the sole UN agency with a specific mandate to protect cultural property, UNESCO is in a unique position to take action to protect cultural heritage. It has an established reputation in the field and can ensure delivery in fragile States, as well as in situations of crisis and transition. Furthermore, UNESCO has a solid network of partners, ranging from governmental, international government, and non-governmental organizations, and civil society platforms, which facilitate a comprehensive approach and consolidated action in the fight against the destruction of cultural property.

The 1954 Convention and its Second Protocol contain essentially two provisions on military measures. First, Article 7 of the 1954 Convention requires State Parties to introduce provisions into their military regulations which ensure observance of the Convention. Additionally, States Parties are obliged to establish specialized services or specialists within the armed forces that secure respect for cultural property. Second, Article 30 of the Second

Protocol requires military and civilian authorities to assume responsibility for implementing the text in times of armed conflict. To this end, State Parties must incorporate guidelines and instructions in military regulations and develop and implement peacetime training and educational programs.

While it may be sufficient to disseminate general information in awareness-raising campaigns, more specific information and more tailored training must be given to the military in order to implement these two provisions. Specifically, the military needs specialized training in disaster prevention and response, and in raising-awareness about their responsibilities to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

The extent of damage to cultural property in Libya, Mali, and Syria demonstrates the importance of training the military on respect for cultural property in armed conflict. For example, the conflict in Mali damaged and threatened to destroy archeological sites, community and city museums, and manuscripts.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of these instruments in times of armed conflict, when threats to cultural property are at their highest, UNESCO must develop specialized training tools and organize training workshops to administer to the military in times of peace.

Overall Goal/Objective

UNESCO aims to

- develop training tools for all members of the military.
- organize national and regional training workshops.

Main expected results

Expected Result 1

Military leaders are trained and prepared to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

Activities and outputs/deliverables relating to the achievement of expected results
Activity 1 – expected results 1
<p>Output/deliverable 1.1 Development of training tools for the military</p> <p>Output/deliverable 1.2 Organization of training workshops</p>

The Secretariat will develop two categories of training and awareness raising tools. The first will focus on the basic principles of protecting cultural property in armed conflict. The second will provide more in-depth and practical instruction on protecting cultural property in armed conflict. It will address questions like, for example, how to secure respect for cultural property) or what to do when a cultural property is used in support of military action. The Secretariat will develop specific manuals for the training of commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers. The training manuals will be available on CD-ROM and on the UNESCO website. Training workshops will be held at the national and regional level. Additionally, upon a State’s request, we can tailor the training manual to the specific needs of that State.

As a priority, this project will focus on Africa. In fact, UNESCO has already paved the way for this project in the African continent. Since the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2100 on 25 April 2013, which created the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), cooperation between UNESCO and MINUSMA has been handled by UNESCO's Office in Bamako. Within this framework, the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols has developed specific tools (a brochure for trained personnel, handbook and questionnaire for trainers, and a PowerPoint presentation) to train MINUSMA military, police and civilian personnel before they are deployed to Mali. These tools have been prepared in collaboration with the secretariats of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, in order to offer as integrated an approach as possible. The training courses developed by the Secretariat aim to help identify cultural heritage (cultural sites and objects, as well as living - intangible - heritage) and to explain the behaviour to adopt in relation to these three elements of cultural heritage and the rules of national and international law that should be complied with. Training on the protection of and respect for cultural heritage began in mid-October 2013.

On the other hand, while it is difficult to add a gender dimension to this project because the majority of armed forces are male; all the necessary efforts will be made to include a gender component.

Beneficiaries and stakeholders

The direct beneficiary is the military, consisting of commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers. However, the indirect beneficiary will be the people of every nation who have a connection to the cultural property being threatened during armed conflict.

Our partners in this mission include specialized institutions and States which have already developed general military training tools. Although not specific to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, existing military training tools provide a foundation for the development of training in this area.

Implementation strategy

UNESCO HQ will be responsible for the overall coordination of the project, which will be implemented in close cooperation with UNESCO Field Offices and national authorities

Sustainability and exit strategy

The above-mentioned trainings aim to transmit the necessary skills to national stakeholders in the protection of cultural property and will also contribute to the creation of specialized services within the military. Therefore, the sustainability of the project will be assured. Building upon the knowledge shared through this project, involved stakeholders will be able to develop a strategy for the sound protection of cultural heritage in the future.

The name of donors will be mentioned in the training tools that will be distributed at the training workshops.