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: Cap del Vol and Cala Cativa shipwrecks. Study of trade, export and distribution networks of wine in the first century BC at the Conventus Tarraconnensis.

Presented by (State Party): SPAIN

Location: Port de la Selva, Alt Empordà, Catalunya, Spain

Brief Description of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Site concerned:

The study of the shipwrecks of Cap del Vol and Cala Cativa is included in the project: Study of trade, export and distribution networks of wine between the first and second centuries BC, I II d.C. In the Conventus Tarraconnensis- This project studies a series of shipwrecks that sank while transporting wine produced in the Conventus Tarraconnensis (from Valence to southern France), between the first century BC and II AC, packed in Tarraconense amphora of the type Tarraconense 1, Pascual 1 and Dressel 2-4.

Cap del Vol and Cala Cativa are located in the municipality of Port de la Selva, in the North of Catalonia. These shipwrecks exemplify the transport of this wine packaged in amphora Pascual 1, produced during the second half of the first century BC, becoming valuable witnesses of the first significant export of wine from the Catalan region.

Cap del Vol was a trading ship of 15 meters of length, which sank while sailing towards Narbo, carrying a cargo of wine packaged in 200-300 amphoras Pascual 1, produced in Baetulo, with a chronology from the end of the first century BC.

The wreck was plundered in the 60s and 70s, although most of the cargo had disappeared it was preserved the naval architecture.

Thanks to this it has been possible to carry out the excavation and study of the shipbuilding which has allowed to know that the ship was built in the same area of production of the wine and the amphoras, indicating a tradition of shipbuilding in this area.

Thanks to the excavations carried out in Cala Cativa shipwreck we know that it belongs to the same construction family as Cap de la Vol. Although it is a ship of smaller dimensions, about 10 meters of length, and with an older chronology, from 40-30 aC. Cala Cativa also sank while transporting to Narbo a cargo of wine in amphoras Pascual 1.

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

The whole project of excavation, conservation, study and diffusion of the Cap del Vol and Cala Cativa wrecks is according with the Best practices related to underwater cultural heritage.

It support scientific research in the site in accordance with the Convention and the Rules and capacity-building in that regard and the appropriate conservation of the heritage.

In these two wrecks have also been tested the latest technology in ROVS and AUVS, with the intention to carry out campaigns to greater depth establishing working protocols between archaeologists and underwater robotics engineers.

Http://vicorob.udg.edu/portfolio_page/archorv/

Also worked with a submersible with capacity for 3 people and a autonomy of 2 days of immersion, Ictineu 3. With him a working protocol has been established to do documentation, without damaging the fragile remains of which the heritage is formed Underwater. This submersible can get to do free immersion up to 1100 deep.

Http://www.ictineu.net

It encourages a responsible and non-intrusive public access to underwater cultural heritage and
increase the public awareness, appreciation and protection of heritage with the following initiatives, among others:

- A temporary exhibition to be inaugurated on March 30, 2017, in the Archaeological Museum of Barcelona.
- The scientific developments of these two vessels have been published in specialized journals, as well as in scientific popularization magazines for the general public, for example: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/actuality/un-naufragio-revelador_8578
- Conferences organized with the collaboration of the nautical club of the Port de la Selva and the Mar d’Amunt association.
- Scuba guided visits to the shipwrecks during the archaeological excavation works in collaboration with FECDAS and the Mar d’Amunt association.
- Protection and vigilance of the sites located in Port de la Selva in collaboration with GEAS unit and the Mar d’Amunt association.

How is the site protected legally?

This shipwreck is protected as archaeological good, by the Catalan autonomic law for cultural heritage protection (Law 9/1993, of September 30 of the Catalan cultural heritage). It must be protected in a special way, by the administration that has the competences on culture, as well as by the state security forces and bodies.

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

The two sites are covered by a layer of sand, which is removed for the archeological excavation, and is placed on the remains of the wrecks when it ends. The sediment protects the wood of these two sites from both natural and anthropic degradation.

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?

During the underwater archaeological works, CASC, FECDAS and Mar d’Amunt association have organized public visits for divers to the shipwreck, showing not only the site otherwise the work realized by the archeologist.

The conservation problems of the wood of the shipwreck cause the teredo navalis don’t allow to keep the site permanently uncovered for to visit it.

It has been designed an itinerant exhibition for to divulge these sites and to understand the history context and his significance as cultural heritage.

The exhibition will be inaugurated next March 30, 2017 in the Archeological Museum of Barcelona.

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

These two shipwrecks have increased the interest of the public about underwater archaeology, and above all in the protection, conservation and study for a better knowledge and understanding of our underwater archaeological heritage.
How does the example support scientific research and appropriate conservation in accordance with the Rules of the Annex to the 2001 Convention?

The procedure used during the excavation of these shipwrecks it's to extract only the materials necessary for study or musealization. Remaining materials are preserved in situ once is finished its documentation.

Between the seasonal works in the site the shipwreck is covered to prevent its degradation.

Priority is given to the use of non-destructive methods as far as possible for the documentation and study of the wreck.

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

Various organizations have been involved in the process of identifying the Best Practices example at every level. The municipal government of El Port de La Selva, the nautical Club of Port de la Selva, the association Mar d’Amunt, the Badalona Museum, Northern California University and CASC.

It is necessary to point out that the excavations of these shipwrecks have served as a practical school for many university students both nationally and internationally.

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): LUIS LAFUENTE BATENERO- General Director of Fine Arts and Cultural Heritage

Date of the Submission: 30 January 2017