



ICLAFI – ICUCH Symposium

Amersfoort, The Netherlands, 29th June – 1st July 2017

Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
(Smallepad 5, 3811 MG, Amersfoort)

The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage: how do we make it work?

The UNESCO Underwater Convention offers a legal framework to regulate activities that are directed at underwater cultural heritage (UCH) or incidentally affect it, especially in international waters. States Parties to the Convention are obliged to implement this framework into national legislation and to bring it into practice. In particular States Parties must make sure that their nationals and ships sailing under their flag report finds of cultural heritage to them and do not engage in activities that go against the rules of the Convention.

The Convention stresses the importance of cooperation between States Parties in the execution of the rules of the Convention. This begins with the sharing of information between all Member States and UNESCO. Furthermore, according to the Convention the decision making process in regard to a discovered ship wreck must be a joint process of the States Parties that have a verifiable link with the heritage concerned, including the coastal state, when the find is done within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)/the Continental Shelf. One State Party may be coordinating the execution of the jointly taken decisions, but it must always do so in a manner that is in interest of the international community.

However, for the Convention to be more than a piece of paper and be effective in the protection of the UCH, it is important that cooperation will be more than talks, responsibilities are taken and rules of the convention are enforced when necessary.

At the ILCAFI-ICUCH Symposium we would like to discuss the ways in which we can make the Convention truly work. How can the obligations and responsibilities of the Convention best be implemented within national legal systems, and equally important, in the working practice? How can we make sure that the legal aspects of the Convention match the practice of managing UCH? Finally, we would like to discuss in what ways States Parties can address each other when obligations, including enforcement, aren't met.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The symposium will last one and a half day. The programme will start with an introductory session in which a few speakers will set the scene and warm up the discussion. After this introduction, we will continue with presentations on your experiences with the implementation and practice of the Convention.

Contributions are welcome from all sorts of contexts regarding the Convention (fully implemented, implementation underway, no plans for signature, etc.).

You and your colleagues are kindly invited to send in a proposal for a paper on one the two topics described hereafter. (*This is not obligatory*)

A. Legal discourse and the real world

For this topic, we welcome contributions which illustrate how the legal instruments of the Convention contribute to a better protection of underwater cultural heritage in practice. What is the potential of the legal instruments of the Convention and what does this mean for the interpretation of the treaty provisions. Due to a wide debate among legal experts about the relationship between UNCLOS and the UCUCH, it will be interesting to describe a practice where both treaties mutually reinforce each other, are complementary, or possibly even compete. In other words: to what extent does the legal discourse influence the real world, and vice versa.

B. International cooperation

For this topic, we invite you to share your experiences with international cooperation in relation to the Convention. In which way does the Convention contribute to constructive cooperation between public authorities, science and private parties. We would like to focus on good practices and ask you to elaborate on the critical success factors of good cooperation. So if it works in practice...what is making it work?

Each presentation will last **max. 20 minutes**.

Proposals for papers can be sent to Djurra Scharff (djurra.scharff@e-a-c.org) **until 14th April 2017**. Please include the following elements in your proposal: name(s), organisation(s), title of presentation, topic (A or B) and an abstract of max. 250 words.

As the programme is designed to leave room for discussion, we are not sure that it will be possible to have lectures from all attending members. The symposium organisers might have to make a selection based on the abstracts. We will try to inform you about the decision as soon as possible after the deadline for proposals.

All papers presented at the symposium will be included in a digital publication (PDF). If your paper could not be included in the symposium programme, or if you are unable to attend the meeting, you are still most welcome to submit a paper for the publication. Contributions should be max. 3000 words. Please note that the texts will not go through copy editing.

For more information, please contact:

Leonard de Wit (l.de.wit@cultureelergoed.nl)

Djurra Scharff (djurra.scharff@e-a-c.org)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME ICLAFI-ICUCH Symposium

Thursday 29th June 2017

10.00-12.00 ICLAFI members meeting
12.00-13.00 Lunch
13.00-17.00 ICLAFI-ICUCH Symposium

Evening Dinner

Friday 30th June 2017

09.00-17.00 ICLAFI-ICUCH Symposium

Evening Dinner

Saturday 1st July 2017

9.00-17.00 Excursion in and around the city of Utrecht