



Blue Shield Australia Symposium
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Implementing the 1954 Hague Convention and its Protocols through the Blue Shield Approach

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Workshop outline

- Outline of workshop
- UNESCO film
- Introduction: the Blue Shield and the Blue Shield Approach
- Group work
- Feedback and questions



The Blue Shield

- Emblem mentioned in 1954 Hague Convention
- ICBS created in 1996 as an international organisation with national committees
- ANCBS created in 2008
- Amalgamated in 2016 as simply The Blue Shield
- ICBS & ANCBS no longer exist



The Blue Shield

“[The Blue Shield] is committed to the protection of the world’s cultural property, and is concerned with the protection of cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible, in the event of armed conflict, natural- or human-made disaster.”

(Article 2.1 2016 Statutes)



Australian Hague Convention & Blue Shield

Australia

- Ratified the 1954 Hague Convention in 1984
- Still to ratify both the first (1954) and second (1999) Protocols

Australian Blue Shield

- Formed in 2005
- Tends to emphasise natural/human-made disasters



The Blue Shield Approach

- Follows from 2016 Statutes
- Set within an international context, it provides a framework and common shared agenda for the international Board, any Blue Shield staff, and all national committees
- Drafted by sub-group of the international Board
- Circulated twice to national committees for comment
- Passed from 2017 General Assembly to the international Board for action



Australian response

As a national committee we are going to have to really think about what is included in this list of responsibilities - what we are already doing, what we need to do and how we are going to get there. These are big goals, but necessary. We will need to develop a plan / strategy for delivering on these goals.



Blue Shield Approach - Six areas of activity

1. Co-ordination (*of* Blue Shield and *with* other relevant organisations)
2. Policy Development (such as the 'Approach')
3. Proactive protection and risk preparedness
4. Education, training, and capacity building
5. Emergency response
6. Post-disaster recovery and long-term support



1. Co-ordination (1)

- 1.1 Advising government regarding the ratification of the 1954 Convention and both Protocols if the country has not already done so
- 1.2 Providing support for the national government during any ratification process
- 1.3 Providing support for the national government and key agencies following ratification to ensure full national compliance
- 1.4 Advising government on the need for adequate financial and other resourcing to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols
- 1.5 Acting as an advisory body to all relevant potential partners by promoting and interpreting international law relating to CPP



1. Co-ordination (2)

1.6 Advising national armed forces regarding their responsibilities under the 1954 Convention, both Protocols and customary international law

1.7 In countries where the 1954 Hague Convention has not been ratified, national committees have the additional duty to advise national armed forces on their responsibilities under customary international law, whilst continuing to advise on ratification

1.8 Providing support for national armed forces to deliver their responsibilities under the 1954 Convention and both Protocols and other relevant international law

1.9 Co-ordinating with other potential national partners regarding CPP in the event of armed conflict, peacekeeping operations, and environmental disaster and in particular working to avoid duplication of effort

1.10 Seeking partners to cooperate with and support the work of the national committee



2. Policy Development

- 2.1 Working with and supporting the international Blue Shield to develop Blue Shield policies and approaches
- 2.2 Where necessary and appropriate, developing national policies deriving from international Blue Shield initiatives



3. Proactive protection and risk preparedness (1)

- 3.1 Working with all relevant potential national partners to agree on CP to be prioritised in the event of armed conflict, peacekeeping operations, or environmental disaster, based on a thorough understanding of the risks to heritage, and the methods of damage mitigation that can be applied by heritage specialists, partners, and armed forces
- 3.2 Working with national heritage organisations and other relevant partners, to support the establishment of a national database[s] of CP
- 3.3 Where necessary, capable, and/or appropriate, acting as the co-ordinating body for the production of a national database of CP to be protected in the event of armed conflict or environmental disaster
- 3.4 Where appropriate, encouraging national heritage organisations to mark their protected CP with the Blue Shield Emblem, as specified in the 1954 Hague Convention
- 3.5 Developing (but not replicate existing) appropriate resources and methodologies (e.g. standards, guidelines, manuals for emergency protection, evacuation, salvage, damage assessment, stabilisation) for responding to complex and other emergencies



3. Proactive protection and risk preparedness (2)

- 3.6 Working with others involved in disaster planning to ensure that CPP be fully integrated in national, regional, local, and specific disaster risk reduction plans and disaster plans
- 3.7 Raising awareness with specialist and relevant non-specialist groups about the importance of CPP
- 3.8 Raising awareness with the private sector many of whom have significant heritage collections which are held outside of the national/state heritage organisations
- 3.9 Raising awareness with the general public, educational groups, and the media about the importance of CPP
- 3.10 Working with armed forces to develop understanding of the methods of warfare that can mitigate heritage damage in order to develop appropriate disaster management plans



4. Education, training, and capacity building (1)

- 4.1 Adapting, where necessary, materials provided by the Blue Shield Board and others, and developing specific national materials for the education and training of national armed forces, disaster risk reduction teams, and other relevant national bodies and potential partners
- 4.2 Delivering, where appropriate, in conjunction with other civil and military national organisations, disaster risk reduction teams and other relevant national partners, training courses for civil and military national organisations regarding CPP in the event of armed conflict, peacekeeping deployment, or environmental disaster



4. Education, training, and capacity building (2)

- 4.3 Developing and delivering, where appropriate, resources regarding generic proactive protection heritage management and, in particular, the use of heritage in developing a culture of peace
- 4.4 Contributing, as capacity, resources, and experience permit, to international training initiatives developed by the Blue Shield and other relevant potential partners
- 4.5 Involving local communities in CPP by recruiting and training local volunteers, especially in countries that are particularly vulnerable to environmental disasters



5. Emergency response (1)

- 5.1 Reminding national governments of their responsibilities under international law and international agreements (such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Declaration on Archives) to protect CP in the event of armed conflict and environmental disaster and, if necessary, publicise when such responsibilities are not upheld
- 5.2 Working with national partners and national armed forces to identify and carry out the specific role and responsibilities during emergencies of the national Blue Shield



5. Emergency response (2)

- 5.3 Being prepared to support other national Blue Shield committees dealing with disasters, e.g. through undertaking immediate damage assessment and stabilisation, as circumstances, capacity, resources, and experience permit
- 5.4 Being prepared to monitor CP and to collect evidence relating to its destruction for later use in criminal prosecutions
- 5.5 Being prepared to meet with appointed representatives of any nation state or warring faction that declares its sincere intent to work positively to protect CP



6. Post-disaster recovery and long-term support (1)

- 6.1 Publicising the ethical principles of the Blue Shield
- 6.2 Establishing and co-ordinating with the international Board a voluntary network of national individuals with chronological and/or geographical expertise in all aspects of CP, including its management and protection, as identified in the 1954 Hague Convention
- 6.3 Establishing a national role for the Blue Shield as a critical organisation relating to CPP in the event of armed conflict, peacekeeping deployment, or environmental disaster
- 6.4 Developing long-term working relationships with all relevant possible partners
- 6.5 Where necessary/appropriate, co-ordinating and taking the lead on proactive protection of CP in peacetime, including the necessary related training for proactive protection and the use of heritage in developing a culture of peace



6. Post-disaster recovery and long-term support (2)

- 6.6 Encouraging research into CPP, and hosting/organising national seminars, workshops, and conferences relating to CPP methods and developments - in particular to address a 'spiral of learning' from previous conflicts, peacekeeping operations, and environmental disasters in order to develop better CPP practice
- 6.7 Raising awareness of CPP with specialist groups, the general public, educational groups, and the media about the importance of CPP
- 6.8 Being prepared to support other national Blue Shield committees as circumstances, capacity, resources, and experience permit



Group work

- Review suggested actions under each activity area
- Re-order as prioritised list 1,2... Or D (Drop, not relevant)
- Identify actions as short-, medium-, long-term goals
- What is missing? Please add

