



Honor Frost Foundation

Archaeology and Marine Development in the eastern Mediterranean Policy Forum 2023

Venue: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt (Conference Centre, Room C)

Date: 27 April 2023



Around 450 million people live around the Mediterranean coast. The economic development in the marine environment is increasing dramatically, affecting the natural and cultural resources needed to make it sustainable. The 5th Honor Frost Foundation Policy Forum will focus on the synergies and challenges between the Marine Sector and Archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean. (Photo: Alexandria eastern Harbour, Egypt © A.Rey).

Introduction

Marine environments are repositories of historical human interaction with nature and its resources. All along the coast, the seabed, or beneath vast and complex deposits of archaeological data, they not only keep information about our past, but also, and more importantly, they can help us understand present marine dynamics today.

The marine environment is also the area where economic development and industrial endeavours are growing faster than any other. To the pressure of people living in coastal areas, we have to add the growing exploitation of the seabed in search of energy resources, the increase of the shipping industry and the expansion of the construction of mega ports to accommodate large numbers and sizes of new carriers. All these have a clear impact on people's lives, their well-being and their cultural identities, as well as the cultural heritage resource along coastlines and underwater.

Rather than seeing this as an impediment for culture and heritage to be preserved, this supposes an opportunity to join forces between all marine actors to share data and, following the international ethical and legal frameworks, to improve policies towards synchronising development with preservation.

This is of particular importance in the eastern Mediterranean region where development is growing faster in the marine area than the availability of countries to study and benefit from the marine cultural resources that it hides.

Underwater cultural heritage, protected widely by international and national legal frameworks in all different maritime zones, merits particular attention in corporate policies, but also in national development agendas.



The **Honor Frost Foundation's Fifth Policy Forum** will particularly focus on the synergies between archaeology and the marine sector, aiming at developing improved guidelines for policy development, points of common interest and future work where development and heritage preservation can benefit from each other. The forum will take place in **Alexandria, Egypt on the 27th of April 2023**.

Background

Protecting Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) has been one of the Honor Frost Foundation (HFF)'s main focus of action. HFF has boosted dialogue and debate on key issues concerning the management of submerged archaeological sites, promoting best practice and developing policy guidelines addressed to a range of stakeholders including heritage practitioners, governmental organisations, industry, and the academic community. In this context, the HFF Policy Forum series initiated in 2013, tackled four specific topics directly affecting heritage preservation and the maritime archaeology practice:

- (1) [Maritime Heritage in International Waters](#) (2013),
- (2) [First World War Shipwrecks](#) (2015),
- (3) [Seamless Sea \(Social and economic benefits\)](#) (2016), and,
- (4) [Managing Shipwrecks](#) (2018).

Objectives and Expected Results

Happening in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-30, the main aim of the Fifth Policy Forum on **'Archaeology and Marine Development'** is to reflect on the increasing pressure on UCH in the eastern Mediterranean from various forms of marine development¹, whilst exploring potential for improved policies, collaboration and synergies. Expected results are:

- Identifying the **threats and opportunities** for safeguarding cultural heritage in parallel with marine development.
- Finding solutions for developing the **ocean economy** in a way that is **sustainable** with respect to tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- Considering how the contribution of marine-development-led archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean can be strengthened by the **framework of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** encouraged by the UN.
- Developing a common understanding of and cooperation in, the application of related policies, development of inventories, data sharing, knowledge and skills transfer.

Representatives from the academic community in the region, as well as active marine industries actors are invited to present the wide range of legal, technical, and methodological challenges that the UCH faces when confronting marine economic development. Key governmental authorities from the region, NGOs and intergovernmental organisations present in the region, will be invited to attend and participate in the debates. The discussions and conclusions resulting from the meeting – in whatever format they are adopted by the participants and the HFF SC -, will be summarised in a position paper and made available through HFF's website² and may form the basis for further work on the subject.³

¹ Activities include: electricity and telecommunications cables, hydrocarbon pipelines, renewable energy installations, oil and gas installations, water pipelines (including intakes and outfalls), mineral extraction, navigational dredging (capital and maintenance), coastal construction and reclamation, or port development.

² For instance, the 2016 Policy Forum gave rise to a ['Statement of Common Ground'](#) and a ['Guide for Practitioners'](#) and the 2018 Policy Forum gave rise to a ['Statement on Good Management'](#).

³ This can take the form of a thematic publication or a policy toolkit.



Meeting Venue

The Meeting will take place on 27th April 2023 at the Conference Centre (Room C) of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in Alexandria, Egypt.

Bibliotheca Alexandrina - Conference Centre

El-Gaish Rd

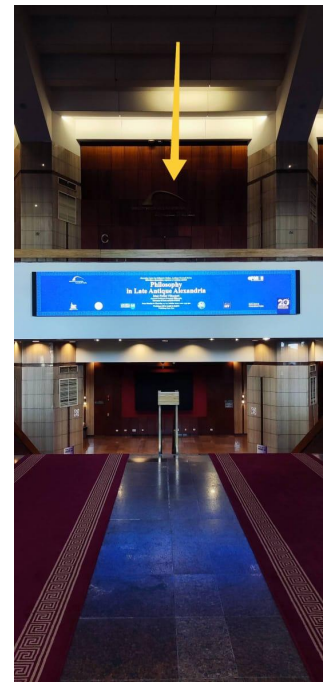
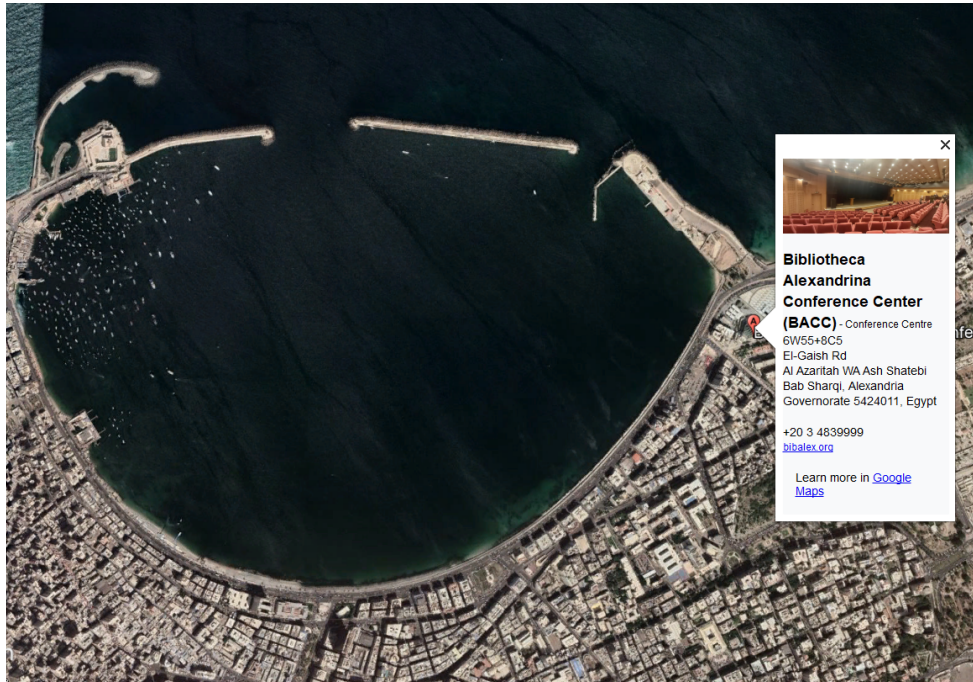
Al Azaritah WA Ash Shatebi

Bab Sharqi, Alexandria Governorate 5424011, Egypt

+20 3 4839999

www.bibalex.org

See Location on Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/i6FjFSDtx5hZzwU39>



Once entering the Conference Centre, Room C is upstairs, as indicated in the image on the right.

Joining online? Please contact the organizers to facilitate the registration link.



Programme

 Fifth Honor Frost Foundation Policy Forum Archaeology and the Marine Development in the eastern Mediterranean	
9:00 - 9:30	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome address Alison Cathie <i>HFF Chair</i> Adrian Olivier <i>HFF Steering Committee</i> Emad Khalil <i>CMAUCH & Bibliotheca Alexandrina</i>
	<i>Why should we (You) care? Maritime Archaeology and its importance for the Sustainable Development of the eastern Mediterranean</i> Lucy Blue , <i>HFF Maritime Archaeological Director</i> Arturo Rey da Silva , <i>University of Edinburgh, Technical Advisor HFF Steering Committee</i>
10:00 - 11:15	Session 1: Contextualising Archaeology and the Marine Sector <i>Moderated by Arturo Rey da Silva, University of Edinburgh, Technical Advisor HFF Steering Committee</i>
	Policies and Legal Frameworks in the eastern Mediterranean and beyond Vera Noon , <i>Blue Economy and MSP Expert</i>
	The protection of the underwater cultural heritage of Cyprus: Challenges and Actions Despina Pilides , <i>Former Curator of Antiquities, Department of Antiquities, Cyprus (representing the Department of Antiquities Cyprus)</i>
	Knowledge production: Data processing and sharing Jens Auer , <i>Landesamt für Kultur und Denkmalpflege Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Landesarchäologie, ICOMOS-ICUCH</i>
	<i>Questions and moderated discussion</i>
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:15	Session 2: Identifying conflicts and opportunities – UCH and the Blue Economy <i>Moderated by Vera Noon, Blue Economy and Maritime Spatial Planning Expert</i>
	Marine conservation in Lebanon, and beyond Jina Talj , <i>Marine Ecologist, Diaries of the Ocean NGO</i>
	The Oil & Gas sector in Lebanon Mourad EL Amouri , <i>Ipsa Facto</i> Darine Mawla , <i>Lebanese Petroleum Administration, Lebanon</i>
	Deep Sea Archaeology: Risks and challenges Franca Cibecchini , <i>Département des Recherches Archéologiques Subaquatiques et Sous-Marines (DRASSM)</i>
	Lessons learnt from the Gulf: Synergies, opportunities and joint ventures between the Heritage and Development Sectors Richard Cutler , <i>Abu Dhabi Department for Culture and Tourism</i>
	<i>Questions and moderated discussion</i>
13:15 - 14:30	Lunch break



14:30 – 16:00	Session 3: Agreeing on best practices for a mutually beneficial collaboration <i>Moderated by Dr Ziad Morsy, HFF Liaison Egypt</i>	
	<i>The way forward towards collaboration: Maritime Spatial Planning and the role of MCH.</i>	Hady el Hage and Fabio Carella, <i>IUAV Planning Climate change lab</i>
	Workshop – Participants will be prompted to discuss actions and recommendations in the four following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The role of industries in heritage preservation 2. Policy solutions for spatial conflicts 3. Synergies and cross sectoral cooperation 4. Interoperability and data exchange 	
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 - 17:15	Workshop Discussion (all moderators)	
17:15 - 17:25	Final Remarks & Way forward <i>Discussion on highlights, recommendations and future actions</i>	Lucy Blue <i>HFF Maritime Archaeological Director</i>
17:25- 17:30	Closing	Adrian Olivier <i>HFF Steering Committee</i> Alison Cathie <i>HFF Chair</i>
28 April 2023 A Cultural Visit to the National Museum of Alexandria can be arranged for those interested		

Contact & Information:

Dr Lucy Blue: LucyBlue@honorfrostfoundation.org

Dr Arturo Rey da Silva: arturo.rey@ed.ac.uk

Dr Ziad Morsy: ZiadMorsy@honorfrostfoundation.org

Mrs Vera Noon: Vera.b.n@hotmail.com

