



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE 7 MSP

UCH/19/7.MSP/INF.11

7 June 2019

Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Seventh session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV

20-21 June 2019

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda

Inf. 11: Background NGOs

This document contains the background on the accredited NGOs under review and the evaluation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) in view of their possible reaccreditation.

In accordance with [Chapter VI C of the Operational Guidelines](#) of the *Convention*, “*The Meeting of State Parties shall review already accredited NGOs every four years as to maintaining or terminating relations with the organization in question*”.

The Meeting of States Parties, in its fifth session in 2015, during a non-public plenary, accredited the following four NGOs in addition to other eleven NGOs whose accreditation had been renewed previously in 2017:

- a. CMAS – Confédération mondiale des activités subaquatiques
- b. GRAN - Groupe de recherche en archéologie navale
- c. MAST – Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust
- d. MAT – Maritime Archaeology Trust

These four NGOs will now be reviewed on the basis of their respective activity reports. The other eleven NGOs have also been invited to submit a report. The reports are now available online on the [website of the Secretariat](#).

Below, the summary reports of the four NGOs under revision are listed together with the respective evaluation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB). Evaluations are based on the criteria for the accreditation of NGOs as outlined in chapter VI A of the *Operational Guidelines* of the *Convention* and recalled here for easy reference. In order to apply for accreditation, NGOs must comply with the following criteria:

- a) have statutes, objectives and activities in full conformity with the principles and objectives of the *Convention*;
- b) be engaged in activities and have recognized competence, expertise and experience in safeguarding underwater cultural heritage;
- c) not be (or not have been) engaged in any activity dedicated to the commercial exploitation or the irretrievable dispersal of the underwater cultural heritage against the principles enshrined in the *Convention*;
- d) have a local, national, regional or international nature as appropriate;
- e) possess operational capacities including:
 - i. a regular active membership;
 - ii. an established domicile;
 - iii. a legal status according to the applicable domestic law;
 - iv. having existed and having carried out appropriate activities for at least four years when being considered for accreditation.

Following an electronic consultation process conducted in conformity with Article 8 b) of its Statutes, the STAB, recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to maintain the accreditation status of the following NGOs:

- a. CMAS – Confédération mondiale des activités subaquatiques
- b. GRAN - Groupe de recherche en archéologie navale
- c. MAST – Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust
- d. MAT – Maritime Archaeology Trust

The STAB also proposes that from now on a list of specific activities conducted in support of the 2001 Convention shall be included in the NGO reports.

Activities of the accredited NGOs in the framework of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

CMAS – CONFEDERATION MONDIALE DES ACTIVITES SUBAQUATIQUES

Character: Federation with Scientific Committee
Scope/Seat: Global/ Rome, Italy
Members: 130 federations from 5 continents
Website: www.cmas.org
Foundation: 1959
Accredited: 2015

Description

The CMAS, in English known as the “World Underwater Federation”, is responsible for organizing international underwater sports events. It is at the forefront of technical and scientific research and development. The main task of the CMAS “Scientific & Sustainability Committee” (SC) is to promote important issues related to the freshwater and marine underwater world.

Main activities related to the UNESCO 2001 Convention/Added Value

The CMAS:

- actively promotes the *Convention* through the following actions:
 - Participating in conferences, meetings and workshops including meetings of States Parties, the STAB and of the UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology;
 - Organizing trainings;
- organized the first "International Red Sea Symposium" in Hurghada, Egypt, in cooperation with the “Egyptian Diving and Lifesaving Federation” (EDLF), and the UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology in May 2018;
- offers professional training for scientific divers eager to share the material with the universities of the UNITWIN Network;
- facilitates a training programme for non-professional divers (sport divers). These non-professional CMAS “Scientific Speciality Courses” (SSC) combine the expertise of marine and freshwater scientists, underwater geologists and archaeologists, diving officers, administrators, legislators, and individual divers from different parts of the world;
- created the "Underwater Cultural Heritage Discovery Course" in 2017, as an introductory course for underwater cultural heritage (UCH) and on this basis organises trainings for diving instructors in Austria, Germany and Turkey;
- offers three different courses in UCH and underwater archaeology worldwide for interested divers (see on the [CMAS webpage](#));
- organizes commemorative events: "Dive for Peace Day", in 2014, dedicated to underwater heritage of World War I; "Dive for Peace Expedition" in Jutland, Denmark, in 2016; "Scapa 100" expedition to German fleet wrecks of 1919, in cooperation with the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), in July 2019;

Evaluation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body:

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to maintain the accreditation status of this NGO.

GRAN - GROUPE DE RECHERCHE EN ARCHEOLOGIE NAVALE

Character: Association
Scope/Seat: French Polynesia, Senegal and Madagascar/ France
Members: **35 individual members**
Website: <http://archeonavale.org/gran2012>
Foundation: 1982
Accredited: 2015

Description

The GRAN Association, in English Group for scientific research in nautical archaeology, was founded in 1982, bringing together a team of archaeologists, historians, and specialists in diving, underwater intervention and experts from various disciplines. In over 30 years GRAN has accumulated considerable experience in the field of archaeological research (prospecting, expertise, excavation), and in the legal and practical management of underwater heritage. It carried out actions in support of the UCH in French Polynesia, Senegal and Madagascar.

Today, after an analysis and assessment of past activities, and counting a number of new members, the association has put up a set of priority objectives to direct its future action in the following five areas: research, sharing of know-how, transmission of knowledge, capacity to intervene in urgent cases, and the enhancement of the underwater cultural heritage.

Main activities related to the UNESCO 2001 Convention/Added Value

The GRAN:

- maintains contact with the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar since their joint underwater surveys and soundings around the Island of Gorée in 1988, as well as with individual Senegalese underwater archaeology students;
- collaborates with the association "Sites of Conscience" and the GRAN-member Max Guérout participates in the Scientific Council of the rehabilitation project of the Gorée Slave House. In this context, he initiates the creation of an underwater archaeology base in Gorée, supporting the position of two young Senegalese archaeologists and setting up an antenna for underwater archaeology in West Africa;
- supported awareness-raising activities addressing the Senegalese Director of Heritage about the need to ratify the 2001 Convention. Activities included students undertaking long-term underwater research in Senegalese waters;
- maintained fruitful working relations, since 2010, with the « Institut de civilisation, Musée d'Art et d'Archéologie » (ICMAA) in Antananarivo, Madagascar ;
- signed an agreement allowing a Malagasy archaeologist participate in archaeological excavation campaigns on the Island of Tromelin as part of the research programme "Forgotten Slaves". It extended these relationships by proposing, to the new Director of ICMAA, a programme combining trainings in diving and underwater archaeology techniques with the enhancement of Madagascar's underwater cultural heritage;
- develops both local and regional actions, including geophysical prospecting and annual surveys since 2016 in the Bay of Aigues Mortes (Hérault, France) as well as the promotion of the work carried out on Tromelin Island through a travelling exhibition across France (Paris, Nantes, Lorient, Bordeaux, Bayonne and Tatihou (Manche));
- organized exhibitions attracting over 200,000 visitors;

- In 2017, GRAN provided scientific data to DRASSM (Département des Recherches Archéologiques Subaquatiques et Sous-Marines, i.e. France's underwater archaeological research department) and associated scientific stakeholders, e.g. ENSTA Bretagne (National Institute of Advanced Technologies of Brittany) and SHOM (Service hydrographique et océanographique de la marine, i.e. France's hydrographic and oceanographic marine service). GRAN had collected the magnetic data during five survey campaigns of the wreck of La Cordelière (1512), carried out between 1996 and 2001;
- obtained the agreement from the Institute of Civilization of the University of Antananarivo, in 2018, to carry out a research and training programme in underwater archaeology benefitting Malagasy researchers;
- attended the fifth Regional meeting for Africa on the Protection of UCH in January 2019 organized by UNESCO.
- since 2015, published a number of articles on the findings, both in print and online media.

Evaluation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body:

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to maintain the accreditation status of this NGO.

MAST – MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY SEA TRUST

Character: non-for-profit Organization
Scope/Seat: Global/ United Kingdom
Members: Trustees, Directors and Friends
Website: www.thisismast.org
Foundation: 2011
Accredited: 2015

Description

MAST seeks to close the gapping disparity between the different ways of how UCH is protected in comparison to cultural heritage on land. For this purpose, it pursues the promotion of best practices in all sorts of archaeological endeavours.

Since its accreditation MAST has forged partnerships with the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN). They have cooperated in a series of seminars catering senior maritime stakeholders, government departments and law enforcement agencies. Their crosscutting goal was to improve the way different government departments share information and coordinate action and to ensure better awareness raising on relevant UCH-related topics.

Accordingly, MAST supports UK's intended ratification of the *Convention*.

Main activities related to the UNESCO 2001 Convention/Added Value

MAST:

- is a leading organization in regards to maritime heritage protection, enhancement and maritime archaeological projects in the UK and internationally;

- advises the government in regards to heritage management;
- leads the ongoing investigations on the exploitation of historic wrecks in the UK by commercial treasure hunters and salvors including attacks on World War I wrecks and others;
- cooperates with the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), i.e. the heritage department of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), to launch a series of seminars to improve the way different government departments work together in developing maritime domain awareness, sharing information and coordinating enforcement;
- advised the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to include UCH in the policies of the British Antarctic Territory (BAT);
- also advised FCO in the process of launching a pilot project allowing monitoring illegal activity in sites;
- spearheaded a major rescue excavation of “HMS Invincible”, a wreck built in France in 1744 and captured by the Royal Navy in 1747. It sank in 1758 in the Solent. It is the largest archaeological excavation in the UK since the 1980s;
- owns the only “cradle-to-grave” facility in the UK including artefacts excavated directly from the seabed and then transmitted to the receiving museum, i.e. here the NMRN;
- established a partnership with Bournemouth University (BU) on a number of maritime archaeological projects. MAST and BU will be displaying their work at the internationally renowned Tankfest of the Bovington Tank Museum in July 2019;
- involved in organizing theoretical and practical trainings for recreational divers in maritime archaeological good practice;
- seeks connections with the marine environment lobby to increase leverage and impact.

Evaluation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body:

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to maintain the accreditation status of this NGO.

MAT – MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY TRUST

Character: educational not-for-profit organization
Scope/Seat: UK and global
Members: staff and volunteers
Website: <https://maritimearchaeologytrust.org>
Foundation:
Accredited: 2015

Description

The Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT) is a registered charity with over 25 years experience in research, investigations and pioneering techniques for the study of UCH. Originating in the South of England as the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology, it has grown from regional roots to an internationally renowned institution in maritime archaeological issues and research.

Main activities related to the UNESCO 2001 Convention/Added Value

The MAT:

- investigates maritime, coastal and underwater archaeology by conducting maritime archaeological surveys, investigations and research in accordance with professional and museum codes of conduct and practice and the *Convention*;
- engages with people, communities and schools through involvement, enjoyment and education by involving people in maritime heritage to develop understanding and enjoyment of the resource;
- promotes the hard to reach and inaccessible maritime heritage, to raise the profile and enhance significance of submerged and hidden heritage;
- protects UCH by supporting management for current and future generations and promoting the *Convention*;
- has a track record of presenting to the States Parties and during regional colloquia: (1) their work on the wrecks of the World War I at the UNESCO opening commemorations in Bruges, in May 2014, (2) a review of the value of UCH to common understanding of climate change, in the UNESCO Pavilion at COP21, in December 2015, and (3) information for States Parties about the threats to UCH from climate change, at the information meeting on the 15th anniversary of the *Convention*, in May 2016;
- actively researched, investigated, presented, displayed and published in support of UCH, during 2017 and 2018. A major area of MAT's research has been the Forgotten Wrecks project focussing on raising the profile and understanding of heritage related to war at sea during World War I;
- curates thousands of UCH artefacts with new additions from two salvaged boats, listed on the UK National Small Boat Register. MAT prevented that the artefacts were sold to private ownership in 2018;
- actively uses Social media to inform the public and promote the significance of UCH;
- owns a website with a viewer for Forgotten Wrecks, providing data sets for each wreck site on a web-based portal with 3D digital models that can be viewed in augmented or virtual reality;
- worked with Government curators and academic institutions from many parts of the globe to share techniques, help build capacity, support the UCH, and promote the *Convention*;
- Organizes travelling exhibitions from Greece to Cyprus touring local schools and events to highlight the significance of the UCH;
- Has an expertise in examining prehistoric UCH within submerged landscapes. Over the last two years MAT has contributed to peer reviewing eight publications, i.e. papers and chapters in international books and journals.
- Plans a number of projects in 2019, including (1) studies on shipwrecks and submerged landscapes in the South of England, (2) capacity building activities in Qatar, (3) recording and protecting the coastal UCH in the Channel/Manche area as part of the European Union "Interreg 2 Seas" project covering coastal areas of England, France, Belgium (Flanders) and the Netherlands, (3) and taking an active role within the accredited NGOs working group meeting, (4) the STAB meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in June 2019, and (5) attending the High-Level International Meeting organized by the French Government immediately preceding the present Meeting of States Parties and organized in Brest.

Evaluation of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body:

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) recommends to the Meeting of States Parties to maintain the accreditation status of this NGO.