



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



La protection du
patrimoine culturel
subaquatique

2 MSP

**UCH/09/2.MSP/220/INF.3
16 novembre 2009
anglais/français**

Distribution limitée/ Distribution limited

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION SUR LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL SUBAQUATIQUE
CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**CONFÉRENCE DES ÉTATS PARTIES
Meeting of States Parties**

**Deuxième session
Paris, Siège de l'UNESCO, Salle IV
1^{er}-3 décembre 2009**

**Second session
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
1 to 3 December 2009**

Information Document to Item 6/ Document d'information Point 6

**Informations sur les organisations non-gouvernementales demandant l'accréditation pour
la coopération avec le Conseil consultatif scientifique et technique**

**Background information on NGOs applying for accreditation for cooperation with the
Scientific and Technical Advisory Body**

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1. **ACUA** - Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology

Character: Advisory council with board of directors and advisors
Established: 1959
Scope/Seat: international
Members: 12 professionals from state and federal archaeology programs, museums, non-profit institutes, and avocational societies involved in underwater archaeology; it also includes professionals in the fields of conservation and education
Website: www.acuaonline.org

The Advisory Council for Underwater Archeology (ACUA) was created in 1959. It is composed of twelve men and women elected on a rotating basis by the membership of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). It has individual and institutional associate members. A Memorandum of Agreement between the ACUA and the SHA formalizes the relationship between the two organizations. Over the years ACUA became a significant entity in underwater research. It has a board of directors and advisors.

The ACUA serves as an international advisory body on issues relating to underwater archaeology, conservation, and submerged cultural resources management. Its primary purposes are to organize meetings and foster communication in the field. It is working to educate scholars, governments, sport divers, and the general public about underwater archaeology and the preservation of underwater resources. The ACUA assists the SHA Conference Committee in organizing the annual SHA Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology and aids in producing special thematic issues on underwater archaeology. The ACUA developed an introductory brochure on underwater archaeology.

ACUA undertakes also many other activities, including providing scholarship monies for students and organizing and supporting research. ACUA has also involved itself in many major projects; developing standards for specialty courses in underwater archaeology, and standards for conservation of artifacts from the underwater environment.

The ACUA was a prime mover in enabling passage of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987, a piece of legislation which has had a profound effect on the protection, management and research on underwater archaeological resources.

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2. ADMAT – Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeological Team

- Character:** non-profit educational organization based in Hampton Court, England, with subdivisions: ADMAT USA, non-profit *Section 501(c)(3) Charity* based in Ohio, and ADMAT-FRANCE, a non profit organisation, (*association Loi 1901*) based at the Institut de Paléontologie Humaine, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
- Scope/Seat:** global/UK, France, USA
- Members:** small staff of maritime archaeologists, scientists, volunteers and students
- Website:** www.admat.org.uk

The Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeological Team (ADMAT) was created as a non-profit organization in July 2001. ADMAT works to preserve underwater cultural heritage and to prevent historic shipwrecks from being destroyed saving the historic data and artifacts as well as promoting practical maritime archaeological education.

ADMAT works towards the preservation of underwater cultural heritage by surveying and documenting exposed shipwrecks uncovered by hurricanes, looters, or treasure hunters. ADMAT aims to provide education to the Caribbean Nations on how to protect their underwater cultural heritage as well as to students on maritime archaeology.

Having conducted maritime archaeological projects for the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and SCHS on *The White House Bay Wreck*, (1782) and for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, *The Button Wreck* (1760s); ADMAT has started its work for Oficina Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural Subacuático (ONPCS) in the Dominican Republic.

ADMAT has undertaken maritime archaeological surveys of the *Tile Wreck* (1720s), the *Faience Wreck* (1760s), *Le Casimir* (1829) and other sites. Maritime Archaeological field schools are conducted giving students practical educational experience, as the team helps to protect the underwater cultural heritage. ADMAT identified the French shipwreck *Le Casimir* and the French warship *Le Dragon*.

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3. AIMA – Australian Institute for Maritime Archeology

Character: incorporated non-profit organization with a constitution, annual general meeting held in conjunction with the annual conference
Scope/Seat: international/Australia
Members: international, number unlimited
Website: www.aima.iinet.net.au

The Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of underwater cultural heritage, and promotion of maritime archaeology conducted in accordance with internationally accepted ethical standards. Based in Australia it has sponsored work throughout Australia, Asia and the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions. AIMA works closely with and provides advice to the Australian Federal Government (Department of the Environment and Water Resources) on policy pertaining to underwater cultural heritage, such as the Australian National Historic Shipwrecks Research Plan, and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

AIMA strongly supports the UNESCO Convention on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage and the work of the International Committee for Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH), a committee of ICOMOS. Its objectives are:

1. to support the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and adopt the Rules of its Annex for its activities on underwater cultural heritage;
2. to support and undertake scientific research in the field of maritime archaeology within a defined Code of Ethics
3. to promote the advancement of the field of maritime archaeology;
4. to promote international co-operation in the excavation of maritime archaeological sites, and the research and studies related to this field;
5. to co-operate with Australasian Maritime Archaeological Associations and any other body or person having similar aims;
6. to publish periodically a Bulletin and a Newsletter or such other publications as may be determined from time to time;
7. to inform and make recommendations to government and organizations of matters relating to maritime archaeology;
8. to co-operate with Australasian organizations working in the field of maritime archaeology; and
9. to subsidize or contribute to any institutions, organizations and scholarships agreeable to any of the objects specified herein.

AIMA members have been involved in training programmes in China, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Joint co-operative projects have been undertaken in Kenya, Oman, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Korea and Japan, to assist and support existing or developing maritime archaeological programmes. AIMA has also supported the recent Australian expeditions to Turkey to identify the remains of the WWI Australian submarine AE2 lost in the Dardanelles at the time of the Gallipoli Campaign. For a number of years AIMA also supported the Joint Thai-Australian Maritime Archaeological Programme in Thailand. This programme involved work in association with Thai maritime archaeologists on shipwreck sites in the Gulf of Thailand.

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4. DEGUWA – Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Unterwasserarchäologie e.V.

Character: registered non-governmental organization, non-profit
Scope/Seat: international/Germany
Members: international, number unlimited
Website: www.deguwa.org

The Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Unterwasserarchäologie (German Society for the Promotion of Underwater Archaeology – DEGUWA), is a non-profit non-governmental organization. It associates professional archaeologists, historians and scientists, as well as laymen and sport divers. It aims at the promotion of and the care for underwater archaeology and the protection of cultural artefacts. DEGUWA members are working in an honorary capacity in this area since 18 years. DEGUWA supports the ratification and implementation of the “Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage” (2001).

DEGUWA's objectives are achieved by collaborating with universities, heritage agencies, museums, other non-profit organizations and sport divers at national and international level. Underwater excavations and surveys are carried out in cooperation with the responsible authorities. The annual conference “In Poseidons Reich” serves as venue for the exchange of latest research results, whilst its journal *SKYLLIS* serves dissemination purposes. DEGUWA's training scheme follows the standards of the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS).

DEGUWA's Activities in relation to the UNESCO 2001 Convention

- 1999** DEGUWA initiates the 1st international congress for underwater archaeology entitled “Protection of Cultural Heritage under Water” held at Sassnitz, Ruegen, which was followed by a final resolution calling for support to the UNESCO Convention, at the time in elaboration.
- 2001** Attendance of the adoption of the Convention in Paris.
- 2002** Report at the DEGUWA conference “In Poseidon's Reich VII” on the passing of the UNESCO Convention 2001 in Aachen (Germany).
- 2006** Appeal to the cultural committee of the German Bundestag concerning the improvement of the draft law regarding the Unidroit Convention about stolen or illegally exported cultural heritage of 1995. The DEGUWA “demands insistently to modify the drafted law to the effect that all archaeological and historic-cultural findings – the known as well as the unknown – in the oceans, rivers and lakes are protected”.
- 2007** Critique issued concerning the decision of the Bundestag of February 1, 2007 in the 2nd reading and of the final vote about the drafted law regarding the UNESCO-Agreement for protection of cultural heritage.
- 2008** Adoption of the “Hamburg Statement” appealing to German politicians to ratify the 2001 Convention.
- 2009** January: During the worldwide largest aquatics fair *boot 09* in Düsseldorf, DEGUWA starts the first phase of an information campaign regarding the UNESCO 2001 Convention and of the issuance of a petition to the German Bundestag encouraging ratification.
- February – June: Second phase of the same campaign in cooperation with academic institutions, museums, cultural associations and the general public.
- October: Presentation “Year One after Entry into Force: The Situation in Germany and the Input of NGOs” at the First Experts Meeting on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, Zadar (Croatia) and Distribution of a Joint Statement at the 12th International Symposium on Boat and Ship Archaeology in Istanbul (Turkey)

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5. IKUWA - Internationale Konferenz für Unterwasserarchäologie

Character: Series of major congresses organized by several partner organizations under the lead of a steady Steering Committee

Scope/Seat: international

Members: ./.

Website: www.ikuwa3.com

The first international congress for underwater archaeology (IKUWA1) was held in February 1999 in Sassnitz on the island of Rügen on the coast of the Baltic Sea in Germany, with the theme “protection of cultural heritage under water”. It received considerable support from the Raphael Programme of the European Union, in the context of reinforcing east-west cultural and educational ties, and was organised on the initiative of the Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Unterwasserarchäologie (DEGUWA) by 7 German and 5 non-German (Switzerland, UK, Greece, Netherlands and Poland) partner organizations.

The congress was a resounding success, with wide international participation. It had a series of chronological sessions and a series of thematic sessions on subjects such as conservation, recording and management. Particular importance was given to a round table on the protection of the European underwater cultural heritage, with particular reference to the UNESCO 2001 Convention. The participants were mainly from Europe, but also from India, Israel and the U.S.A.

It was agreed at Sassnitz to inaugurate an ambitious programme of congresses to build an international network of institutions dealing with underwater archaeology. This was achieved by the holding of IKUWA2 and IKUWA3. IKUWA2 was held in Zurich in October 2004. The organizing committee included German and British members. About 200 participants from 25 countries attended. The proceedings were published in 2006 as “Die Neue Sicht. Une nouvelle interprétation de l’histoire. The new view” in the series *Antiqua*, vol.40. In the days preceding the congress a postgraduate training workshop was held, with 21 participants from 11 European countries.

IKUWA3 took place under the auspices of UNESCO’s Director-General. It was held in University College London in July 2008, with the title “Beyond Boundaries” and was organized by the Nautical Archaeology Society and the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Steering Committee included German and Swiss members. 260 participants from over 20 different countries presented 126 papers over the three days.

IKUWA3 was preceded by a professional development field school with participants from almost a dozen nations organized by NAS. One day before, UNESCO held a one-day intergovernmental conference in the British Academy on the 2001 Convention.

Preparations are now under way to hold IKUWA4 in October 2011 in Zadar, where the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology has been established under UNESCO’s auspices.

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Chairman of the Steering Committee of IKUWA

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6. JNAPC - Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee

Character: association of British partner organizations

Scope/Seat: United Kingdom

Members: Members and observers cover a wide cross section of the British underwater archaeological community from sports diving organisations to government departments as well as selected professionals

Website: www.jnapc.org.uk

The JNAPC was formed in 1988 by individuals and representatives of institutions who wished to raise awareness of Britain's underwater cultural heritage and to convince the British government that sites of historic importance located under water should receive no less protection than those on land. It meets four times a year and maintains a legislation sub-committee that occupies itself with domestic law and international agreements such as the UNESCO 2001 Convention. JNAPC is consulted in case of law reforms concerning submerged archaeological sites.

The JNAPC's position is that historic wrecks in international waters should not be salvaged or excavated for commercial gain. It seeks the ratification by the United Kingdom Government of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Activities

The aim of the JNAPC has been to raise the profile of nautical archaeology in both government and diving circles and to present a consensus upon which government and other organizations can act.

- The JNAPC seeks the ratification by the United Kingdom Government of the UNESCO 2001 Convention and to this effect it launched the *Burlington House Declaration* which was presented to the government in 2006. Since then it has continued to press for ratification by the UK.
- The JNAPC campaigns for the education of all sea users about the importance of nautical heritage. It has sought better funding for nautical archaeology and improved legislation, a subject on which it has published a number of papers that have made detailed recommendations for legal and administrative changes to improve protection of the UK's underwater cultural heritage (see *Heritage Law at Sea, 2000*; *An Interim Report on The Valletta Convention & Heritage Law at Sea, 2003*).
- The JNAPC launched the publication *Heritage at Sea* in May 1989, which put forward proposals for the better protection of archaeological sites underwater. It was followed up by *Still at Sea* in May 1993 which drew attention to outstanding issues. The *Code of Practice for Seabed Developers* was launched in January 1995, and an archaeological leaflet for divers, *Underwater Finds - What to Do*, was published in January 1998 in collaboration with the Sports Diving Associations BSAC, PADI and SAA. The more detailed explanatory brochure, *Underwater Finds - Guidance for Divers*, followed in May 2000 and *Wreck Diving – Don't Get Scuttled*, an educational brochure for divers, was published in October 2000.

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7. NAS – Nautical Archeology Society

Character: charitable non-profit organization
Scope/Seat: international/United Kingdom
Members: open to all interested persons within its ethical standards
Website: www.nasportsmouth.org.uk

The Nautical Archaeology Society is a charitable organization formed to actively involve members from varied backgrounds - divers and non-divers, scientists, historians or any other person with an interest locally, nationally and internationally in preserving and studying maritime heritage. It aims to improve archaeological techniques and encourage education, dissemination and research.

Over the last thirty seven years, the NAS has worked towards

- advancing education in nautical archaeology at all levels;
- improving and standardizing techniques in excavation, conservation and reporting; and
- publishing detailed and comprehensive journals, newsletters and guides on maritime heritage and archaeological developments.

The internationally recognized **NAS four-step training curriculum** offers an opportunity to gain and refine skills to all who are interested in underwater archaeology, whilst both working towards a recognized qualification and contributing to archaeological projects. The training focuses on skills and techniques used in underwater and foreshore excavation and research and introduces fundamental principles and theoretical parameters of maritime archaeology. In training NAS strives to ensure that everyone has considered and understood the importance of maritime heritage and learned to care for artifacts encountered on the seabed, the foreshore, or on dry land.

The NAS curriculum is being used by heritage and archaeology organizations in fifteen countries to raise awareness of threats to archaeology and to provide skills for participation in projects. NAS assists UNESCO in the elaboration and implementation of its regional training programmes in Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Publications: NAS publishes *The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* (IJNA) and has recently published "Underwater Archaeology: The NAS Guide to Principles and Practice" ed. 2, 2008, which was commissioned to help address the scarcity of information on maintaining acceptable standards of archaeology whilst working underwater. The original 1992 publication, known as the NAS Handbook, was updated to ensure it stays current with the great technological advances made in the field of underwater exploration and archaeological research. The new edition includes advice and guidance on underwater photography, the importance of conservation and the use of newly evolved geophysical and remote-sensing equipment.

Representatives of NAS participate in events including Dive Shows, the Festival of British Archaeology and many local maritime festivals and conferences. NAS hosts an annual conference in November, featuring a full day of lectures in a range of topics given by professional and amateur archaeologists from the NAS international community. NAS was co-organizer of the IKUWA3 conference, which took place under UNESCO's auspices.

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8. SHA – Society for Historical Archaeology

Character: educational not-for-profit organization
Scope/Seat: international
Members: professionals and lay persons; the chair of the UNESCO Committee of SHA is appointed by the SHA president, and recommends appointment of other members who serve three-year terms. Presently, there are 25 members in the Committee, and two advisors.
Website: www.sha.org

Formed in 1967, the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) is a scholarly group concerned with the archaeology of the modern world (i.e. regarding a time-span from A.D. 1400-present). The main focus of the society is the era since the beginning of European exploration. SHA promotes research and dissemination of knowledge concerning historical archaeology. It is specifically concerned with the identification, excavation, and conservation of sites and materials on land and underwater. The society emphasizes the Americas, but also includes European exploration in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

In 1999, the SHA established the **SHA UNESCO Committee** to monitor development and negotiation of the UNESCO *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*. With the adoption of the Convention at the 31st General Conference, the committee's role changed to supporting the Convention's ratification and implementation, and to at least obtain the adoption of its Annex as "best practice" when ratification is unlikely in certain areas.

The SHA UNESCO Committee has gathered endorsements and encouraged support for the UNESCO 2001 Convention and its Annex in a wide circle of professional organizations and associations.

Since the entry into force of the Convention on 2 January 2009 additional emphasis is given to facilitating training opportunities and public awareness, including outreach to countries that have ratified.

Members of the SHA UNESCO Committee have represented the SHA at UNESCO conferences in Jamaica (2002), Mozambique (2003), St. Lucia (2003) (2008), Hong Kong (2003), Senegal (2004), Colombia (2004), Morocco (2006), Sri Lanka (2007), and Ecuador (2007); and at the first session of the Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention, Paris (26-27 March 2009). Since 2008, the committee has been cooperating with the US Government Affairs Committee in planning a strategy to support the *Titanic* Bill (based on the 1996 ICOMOS Charter and the Annex of the 2001 Convention). SHA contributed ten articles to the UNESCO/ICOMOS publication "Underwater Cultural Heritage at Risk". In 2007, a presentation on the UNESCO Committee's work was given at the Kingston World Archaeology Congress. In October 2008, WAC published *Underwater and Maritime Archaeology in Latin America and the Caribbean* (One World Archaeology Series).

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