SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Report to UNESCO
2017 - 2019

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Director for Underwater Cultural Heritage

The World Underwater Federation (CMAS) was founded in 1959 and by now it comprises over 130 federations from 5 continents. The CMAS operates worldwide. Because if this CMAS can play an important part as adviser and multiplier of regulations to protect the underwater cultural heritage.

In addition to organizing international underwater sport events it is at the forefront of technical and scientific research and development. It can be associated with elaborating one of the oldest and and most extensive dive training systems. The main task of the CMAS Scientific & Sustainability Committee is to bring into focus the important issues related to the freshwater and marine underwater world.

Diving and snorkelling must be practiced in such a way that none of the sites where diving takes place are affected. The cultural resources and underwater cultural heritage sites have to be preserved.

During the past three years the CMAS has actively sought to promote the UNESCO Convention through the following actions

Conferences, Meetings: and Workshops

Since 2014 members of the CMAS Scientific & Sustainability Committee participate at the Meetings of States Parties and the Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) at the UNESCO headquarter in Paris.

After the recognition of CMAS as an Accredited Observer in 2017 we also visited the meetings of UNITWIN Network.

In May 2018 the Egyptian Diving and Lifesaving Federation (EDLF) and CMAS, in collaboration with the UNESCO UNITWIN Networkfor Underwater Archaeology, organized the first "International Red Sea Symposium in Hurghada, Egypt. Accordingly, divers, scientist and researchers from several countries participated in the Symposium, which which focused on the biology, geology and underwater cultural heritage of the Red Sea.
After the "International Red Sea Symposium" the Scientific Diving team from the new CMAS Scientific Diving Center at the Alexandria Centre for Maritime Archaeology & Underwater Cultural Heritage,Egypt, was doing underwater exercises with Gerd Knepel (CMAS Director Underwater Cultural Heritage) and Emad Khalil (CMAS Member Underwater Cultural Heritage) in Hurghada.

The XXII Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology (SOMA) was held in Santa Severa, Italy in November 2018. As it has been in the past, this Symposium continued to provide an important oppurtunity for scholars and researchers to come together and discuss their works. CMAS SC member Hakan Oniz was one of the organiser of this symposium.

In December 2018 the first Meeting of accredited NGO's to th 2001 convention took place in the UNESCO headquarter in Paris.

Training:

The CMAS offers a professional training for scientific divers. This education could be a basic standard for universities of the UNITWIN Network.
In 2018 the University of Alexandria in Egypt received the recognition as an official Scientific Diving Training Center of CMAS.

There is also programm of courses for non-professional divers (sportdivers). This non-professional CMAS Scientifc Specialty Courses (SSC) combines the expertise of marine and freshwater scientists, underwater geologists and archaeologists, diving officers, administrators, legislators, individual divers, from different parts of the world.
The CMAS created in 2017 the "Underwater Cultural Heritage Discovery Course" as an introductary course for UCH. Since this time we organise training in UCH for diving instructors in Austria, Germany and Turkey.

Iinterested divers have the opportunitiy to take part on three CMAS courses in UCH and underwater archaeology. These courses runing worldwide.
You will find more informations on the CMAS Homepage
 http://www.cmas.org/science/standards

Projects and Expeditions:

After the "Dive for Peace Day" in 2014 the CMAS organised in 2016 the "Dive for Peace" Jutland Expedition. Now the CMAS plan in july of 2019 together with BSAC an expedition "Scapa 100" the wrecks of the german fleet sunken by themselves in Scapa Flow 1919.