



## **Report on supporting the UNESCO 2001 Convention NAS Activities from Spring 2017 until June 2019**

The Nautical Archaeology Society continues to use the UNESCO 2001 Convention as a foundation for all the work that we do.

### **Accredited NGO**

As an Accredited NGO for the Convention we have attended and participated in all STAB meetings from spring 2017 and we are planning on attending the next gathering in Brest and Paris in June 2019.

In particular, our involvement has included attending the UNITWIN meeting in April 2018 where a NAS representative contributed to discussing the organisation's future plans. Also, in December 2018, a NAS representative attended the Accredited NGO meeting to begin planning for the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

### **JNAPC**

In October 2018 the NAS became the Secretariat of the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee (JNAPC) which is the foremost organisation working towards the UK ratifying the 2001 Convention.

### **International Training Partners**

We continue to support the 2001 Convention in different ways through our International Training Partners (ITP) which have a licence to teach a local version of our accredited training programme. The core syllabus of this programme has a section that includes information about the Convention and other relevant laws to the country. Of our 25 ITPs in 17 countries, four of them are in three countries that have ratified the convention (Croatia, Italy and Mexico). Wherever possible we encourage all our ITPs to uphold the principles of the Convention and petition their governments to ratify it.

One ITP that we work particularly closely with is the UNESCO Category II centre, the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA), in Zadar, Croatia. We have gifted them a free licence to teach a local version of our training programme and they are one of our most active ITPs, hosting multiple NAS courses each year. We have plans to collaborate at a training and fieldwork session in early 2019. We further support the ICUA through their special events and our Education Officer spoke at their international conference 'Underwater Archaeology in Europe Today' in October 2018.

We have had recent requests from another five organisations to become training partners and three of those are in countries that have ratified the Convention (Costa Rica, Micronesia and Slovenia).

In partnership with the University of St Andrews, Scotland, our training programme will be used in a pilot study teaching dive instructors in Tanzania the practical skills of maritime archaeology and heritage awareness. A core part of this training programme is based around the principles of the Convention. Based on the predicted success of this pilot programme in March 2019, a larger group of Tanzanian dive instructors and local archaeologists will be trained as tutors for a local version of the NAS training programme, thus spreading the influence of best archaeological practices and the Convention further.

### **NAS Education Programme**

In our eLearning course *Introduction to Maritime Archaeology*, the UNESCO 2001 Convention is a core part of the legislative topic that deals with all laws and conventions effective underwater and foreshore heritage in the UK.

Since spring 2017, 136 people from 26 countries have completed our eLearning course and have learnt about the UNESCO 2001 Convention.

Recently, we have been working with some of our ITPs to translate our eLearning courses into other languages (Arabic and Dutch), and to introduce local case studies (Lebanese, Egyptian, Dutch, US and Australian examples) so that it is more relevant to our international membership. While the legal topic will be heavily updated to reflect the relevant legislation in each country, the information about the UNESCO 2001 Convention will remain the same, whether the country has ratified it or not.

To complement the theory learnt during the eLearning courses, we run Skills Days to teach the practical skills associated with archaeological survey. We also take the opportunity to revise the content of the eLearning courses to make sure that all participants have understood. In this way, we reinforce information about the 2001 Convention while we are working face-to-face with our members.

We also run specialised Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) Law courses as part of our accredited training programme. One such course was held on 6 May 2017 with the legal expert from the University of Plymouth, Michael Williams, explaining the details of all relevant laws, including the 2001 Convention, to the course participants. We anticipate hosting a similar course in early 2020 to keep our UK members up to date with developments in UCH law.

### **General promotion of 2001 Convention**

Staff and volunteers of NAS regularly attend dive shows, conferences, festivals and have the opportunity to talk to dive clubs and heritage groups. Wherever possible, information about the 2001 Convention is included in presentations or general conversation to make sure that the knowledge is spread far and wide.

Peta Knott, NAS Education Officer  
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