



**Template**  
**Activity Report of NGOs accredited to the**  
**2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage**

Reporting Period: May 2021 – June 2023

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Name of NGO and Acronym/Short Name (if applicable): Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT)

Person submitting the Report in the Name of the NGO: Garry Momber\_\_\_\_\_

Year of Accreditation: \_\_\_2017\_\_\_\_\_

**Report - See below**

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Please explain:

- Which main activities did your NGO implement since May 2023 (date of previous report) and where?
- How has your NGO *concretely* contributed to the promotion and implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage?
- Which issues slowed down or prevented planned activities?
- Which were particular successes in your work?
- Who were your main cooperation partners?
- Are there any major changes in your set-up, membership structure or legal nature?

*Please restrict yourself to a maximum of 2 pages in Arial 11 in English or French language. You may join up to 5 pictures to your report (please make sure you have the copyright and give UNESCO the permission to use them).*

*Your report will be published in an Information Document available to the Meeting of States Parties and published online. If your NGO was accredited or re-accredited in 2019 the report will also serve for the purposes of evaluation by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body and re-accreditation.*

*A meeting for accredited NGO's will take place in presential format on **18 June 2025** in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.*

**Deadline for Submission: 31 March 2025**

## **The Maritime Archaeology Trust activity report in support of the UNESCO, 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: 2023 – 2025**

- Which main activities did your NGO implement since May 2023 (date of previous report) and where?

Projects that have been implemented that support awareness and protection of the underwater Cultural Heritage by the Maritime Archaeology Trust include:

1. Contribution to the delivery of the Interreg 2 Seas, EU funded, Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities project Planning Guidance booklet. This has incorporated archaeology into the assessment of the coastlines ahead of Nature Based Solutions by linking the UCH with climate change and to the seven outcomes of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The project took place in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK.
2. Fathoming the Future: promoting digital engagement with maritime archaeology to develop resilience: The project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, developed MAT's audience diversity by digitising an analogue archive and delving our past investigations and resources to tell UCH stories centred in an opensource, online hub.
3. Listening to Our Past - Recording the History of Maritime Archaeology: Understanding how the discipline of maritime archaeology has evolved into its form today through the collection of interviews with those around the globe involved in the early years of its development. The personal testimonies being captured are providing new perspectives and are reflecting international perspectives on developments and influences within individual countries.
4. Unpath'd Waters – Needles Voyager: Managed by Historic England this large partnership project is part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's push towards a UK National Collection Programme. 18 collaborating organisations are exploring digital maritime cultural heritage and marine data to better understand how this can be linked, searched and used for a range of research and public access.
5. HMS *Agamemnon*, the 64-gun, third rate ship of the line, said to have been Nelson's favourite, was lost in 1809 in the River Plate, Uruguay. Working with an international team, MAT have used our expertise to record the wreck using photogrammetry and create a 3D model of the site which includes parts of the structure of the lower hull and associated artefacts.
6. Women and Protected Wrecks: Examining Engagement: This project used a survey, interviews and research to examine the lack of women involved with protected wreck (PW) sites. Supported by Historic England, it was inspired by 2023 marking 50 years of the Protection of Wrecks Act.
7. Maritime Archaeological Fieldwork has included intertidal survey and rescue in the western Solent, UK, of artefacts from the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and from the Roman period. On the south side of the Solent, the MAT surveyed and rescued material from the 8,000 year old Bouldnor Cliff site, 11m underwater, which is being analysed for SedaDNA to create a 10,000 year sequence of change in the maritime landscape that will show the evolution of the Solent.
- 8 .MAT, as part of the Historic England Framework for Marine Protection, investigating significant shipwrecks within the 1973 Act. has been working on two significant, newly discovered wrecks on the Shingles Bank in Christchurch Bay. The finds attracted national media coverage when they were given Protected status under the UK 1973, Protection of Wrecks Act.
9. Work on the preservation of the UCH has continued at MAT's Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum (SWCMM) on the Isle of Wight, UK which was accepted as a member of the International Congress of Maritime Museums in 2024. The SWCMM has developed displays to promote the 2001 UNESCO Convention, which saw: 408 visitors in 2025 with 79,000 website visits. See: <https://maritimearchaeologytrust.org>
10. The MAT promote the 2001 Convention on our website and in our Annual Reports with over 16,000 social media followers and 135,219 video views.

- How has your NGO *concretely* contributed to the promotion and implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage?

In November 2023, Garry Momber, Director of the Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT) took on the role of Chair of the Accredited NGOs. Since then, he has supported the development of activities, linking the NGOs together. A key initiative has been the Survey of Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage (SoMUCH) below the waves project that has been proposed as an UN Decade of Ocean Science Action. The project brings together UNESCO Accredited NGOs and associated organisations to maximise the potential for the recording, study and monitoring of M&UCH and the promotion of these results for their application to natural environment studies, monitoring ocean health, ocean literacy and education around the globe. In addition, the MAT has created a website that is hosting the activities of the Accredited NGOs and the expert database that continues to be developed by MAT (<https://2001convention-uch.ngo>). These initiatives and the work of the NGOs have been promoted by MAT at a series of events and conferences over the last two years and regular meetings have also been held between NGO organisations. Some of the key events where MAT has promoted and presented UNESCO and NGO activities include: MSP, Paris, June 2023, the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, California, January 2024, the STAB meeting in Paris, June 2024, the UNESCO Regional Meeting in Madrid, June 2024, the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, New Orleans, January 2025, 8 presentations presenting the value of the UCH and an UNESCO workshop in Jamaica to national agencies in January, 2025 and the Potentially Polluting Wreck, Project Tangaroa project in Malta, 2025.

- Which issues slowed down or prevented planned activities?

Securing funding for initiatives invariably slows the delivery of planned activities. It is always a challenge getting funding for UCH projects so it is necessary to demonstrate their broader societal value comprehensively to funders. Notwithstanding the challenges of slowing down the flow of funding, our positive approach and past record ensured funding was achieved.

- Which were particular successes in your work?

In relation to the 2001 Convention, a particular success has been the development of the collective SoMUCH project that ties in with the UN Decade of Ocean Science goals, along with the construction of the Website to link all the NGOs together in one hub. Also, presentations in Jamaica in preparation for a stakeholder workshop that will be created to de-sensitize actors in the Caribbean from treasure hunting on shipwrecks was particularly successful. The workshops will incorporate the legislation, the threats to the sites and the benefits of protecting the UCH for cultural, economic, plus environmental and climate change reasons.

- Who were your main cooperation partners?

As the Chair organisation of the UNESCO Accredited NGOs committee, the MAT has cooperated with all the NGOs. In our project work, we have cooperated with EU partners within the SARCC project including coastal management officials from the Netherland, Flanders (Belgium) and England. We collaborated closely with the universities of HZ and Delft (Netherlands), Vives (Belgium) and in the UK, with the Universities of Southampton, Warwick and Bradford. We have gained support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Honor Frost Foundation, the Lloyds Register Foundation, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK, the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology and the International Congress on Maritime Museums.

- There have not been any major changes in our set-up, membership structure or legal nature?