



“Ocean Literacy Campaign Against Pillaging and Treasure Hunting on Underwater Cultural Heritage”

The Workshop : “Sunken Secrets of the Caribbean Sea : Protecting Underwater Cultural Heritage”

Three Day Programme Overview

Overall Objective

To strengthen cooperation awareness and capacity around underwater cultural heritage in Jamaica through expert dialogue academic engagement site based learning and public outreach anchored in Port Royal.

Day 1, 11 March 2026

Partner and Expert Engagement (9am to 4:30 pm)

Host: Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

Focus: Strategic dialogue legal scientific and institutional coordination

Participants

Invited subject matter experts
National institutions and agencies
Local and international NGOs
Law enforcement and regulatory bodies

Proposed Programme

8.30 Registration and coffee

9.10 Opening and welcome – Ministry of Culture, UNESCO Regional Office for the Caribbean

9.20 The value and significance of the underwater cultural heritage in a changing ocean: the benefits of international cooperation – Mr. Garry Momber, 2001 Convention Accredited NGOs

9.40 Overview of the 2001 Convention – Mr. Yuri Peshkov, UNESCO

9.50 Legal, policy, and enforcement frameworks for underwater cultural heritage protection – NEPA

10.10 Tangible and Intangible Legacies: Protecting the tangible and or intangible legacies of Jamaica’s heritage – Debra Kay Palmer, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

10.30 Coffee break

Session 2

10.50 National institutional roles and coordination

National Environment and Planning Agency
Institute of Jamaica and Jamaica National Heritage Trust

11.00 Regional and international cooperation in safeguarding underwater cultural heritage – JNHT

11.45 Capacity Development perspectives: Research training and applied archaeology – JNHT

12.15 Facilitated discussion: Gaps synergies and priority needs – Possible Q&A, and crowd engagement.

12.45 Lunch



Session 3

1.45 International NGO case studies

“Applied protection interpretation, investigation and community engagement”

- Treasure Salvage vs *In Situ* Preservation: A Case Study in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary – Ole Varmer, TOF (10 mins)
- Next Generation Project Documentation & Data Flow – Sam Meacham, CINDAQ (10 mins)
- 90 years of digging at Sevilla la Nueva – Robyn Woodward, INA (10 mins)
- Project Tangaroa and maritime impacts of polluting wrecks – Mark Spalding/Ole Varmer, TOF (10 mins)
- The UN Ocean Decade: frameworks and sustainable integration of (M)UCH – Athena Trakadas, ODHN (10 mins)
- Beyond the Surface: Digital Innovation and Community Ownership of Underwater Cultural Heritage – Brandon Mason, MAT (10 mins)
- Port Royal and the future museum vision – Andrew Van Slyke (15 mins)

3.00 Coffee break

3.20 “From protection to sustainable use; heritage science education and development”

- UK MOD Management of Potentially Polluting Wrecks with a Focus on Caribbean Wrecks– Harriet Rushton, MoD (10 mins)
- Understanding and managing polluting wrecks – Jason Bennett, ABL (10 mins)
- Turning treasure hunters into citizen science through education and training – Peta Knott, NAS (10 mins)
- Holistic sustainability: a safe and prosperous future – Garry Momber, UNESCO 2001 Convention Accredited NGOs (10 mins)

4.00 Facilitated discussion: Identifying opportunities for collaboration and future initiatives –

Moderator: Garry Momber

4.30 Close of Day 1



Day 2, 12 March 2026

Academic Engagement and Site Visit (9am to 1:30pm)

Host: The University of the West Indies Mona

Focus: Capacity building student engagement and field exposure

Participants

University faculty and students

Stakeholders and NGOs

Invited experts

Morning Session UWI Mona

9.00 Welcome and introduction

9.15 Underwater cultural heritage research in Jamaica – Robyn Woodward, INA

9.25 Programmes that support Underwater Research – Mrs. Williamson, UWI

9.35 Marine environment and climate change: implications for submerged heritage – Garry Momber, 2001 Convention Accredited NGOs

9.45 Getting involved with maritime archaeology – Peta Knott, NAS

9.55 Visualising and engaging with the underwater environment– Brandon Mason and Iro' B. Camici, MAT

10.15 Coffee break along with workshop activities

11.15 Mrs. Williamson, Garry Momber and NGO expert panel: Future opportunities for training, internships, engagement and heritage protection

11.30 Q&A

12.00 Transition to site visit

Afternoon Site Visit Port Royal

12.30 Travel to Port Royal

1.30 On site orientation and Tour

16.00 Pitt stop for refreshments

17.00 Return to UWI Mona



Day 3, 13 March 2026

Public Symposium and Cultural Outreach (9am to 12pm)

Host: Institute of Jamaica

Focus: Public awareness youth engagement and creative interpretation

Participants

Experts and stakeholders

University and high school students

General public and invited media: **#Sunkensecrets26, #UCH, #Carib**

Symposium Programme

10:00 Mural Unveiling – Unveiled by the Minister, Director of UNESCO and the corresponding stakeholders.

10:30 Opening Remarks – Mrs. Creed Nelson, Institute of Jamaica, Executive Director and Mr. Eric Falt, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for the Caribbean

10.40 Why underwater cultural heritage matters – Garry Momber, 2001 Convention Accredited NGOs and Ole Varmer, TOF

10.50 Integrating Natural and Cultural Heritage in Underwater Contexts: The Role of the Natural History Museum of Jamaica – Ms. Elizabeth Morrison, National History Museum of Jamaica

11.05 Poem “The Silent Archives of the Caribbean Sea” – Dr. Nadine Boothe Gooden, National Gallery of Jamaica

11.20 Addressing Pillaging and Treasure Hunting of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH): Ocean Literacy and Increasing Respect for Our Underwater Cultural Heritage – Mr. John Shorter, National Museum Jamaica

11.30 Entertainment: Drumming Presentation

11.40 Impacts of pillaging and Treasure hunting on the Underwater Cultural heritage – Ms. Ann-Marie Howard Brown, Jamaica National Heritage Trust

11.50 Entertainment: Drumming Presentation

12.00 Panel discussion - Protecting and interpreting underwater heritage for future generations – Moderator: Mr. David Brown

Experts:

1. Peta Knott, Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS)
2. Garry Momber, Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT), Chair of the accredited NGOs to the 2001 Convention
3. Ole Varmer, The Ocean Foundation (TOF)
4. Athena Trakadas, Ocean Decade Heritage Network (ODHN)
5. Brandon Mason, Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT)
6. Jason Bennet, ABL
7. Iro’ B. Camici, Maritime Archaeology Trust (MAT)

12:45 Video Footage and Presentations: Footage of Port Royal and Shipwrecks.

1.00 Closing of symposium

Lunch



Mural Unveiling

The afternoon programme will feature the unveiling of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Mural, symbolizing public engagement with Jamaica’s maritime history and the protection of underwater heritage. Following the unveiling, brief remarks will be delivered by key partners and the participating artists, reflecting on the inspiration and collaborative process behind the artwork. High school and university students will then participate in a guided interpretation of the mural, exploring its historical themes and cultural significance. The programme will conclude with a reception and informal networking session, providing an opportunity for participants, partners, artists, and students to exchange ideas and strengthen collaboration around ocean literacy and heritage protection initiatives.

