



## **Letter of Understanding**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Underwater Federation (CMAS) would like to cooperate in an effort to improve the safeguarding of underwater cultural heritage and the protection of the ocean through the awareness and cooperation of divers.

In recognition of the urgent need to preserve and protect underwater cultural heritage, UNESCO has developed the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (hereafter referred to as 2001 Convention).

Joint projects that will be considered include:

### **Promotion of the Code of Ethics for Diving on Submerged Archaeological Sites**

The 2001 Convention explicitly promotes access to underwater cultural heritage in a responsible and non-intrusive manner to observe or study the sites. The purpose is to raise awareness for divers to recognize the importance of the heritage and to protect it. There are an estimated number of seven million CMAS divers worldwide. UNESCO has adopted a Code of Ethics (hereafter referred to as the "Code") for diving on submerged archaeological sites for them. This code guarantees respect of underwater cultural heritage from divers around the world.

#### **CMAS**

- Will include the Code in all its standards of training in underwater archaeology and will make it an official CMAS document;
- Will raise awareness among national federations for the proper respect and application of the Code in all the clubs, centers and among divers.

#### **UNESCO**

- Will inform of partnership with CMAS for the promotion of the Code;
- Will provide a film of the Code with the two logos for the publication and promotion of the partnership;
- Will provide all support that will help in the understanding of the Code.

### **Training in Underwater Archaeology and Scientific Diving**

One of the concerns of the States, laid down in the 2001 Convention, is capacity-building and the establishment of research methodologies within the States. Underwater archaeology is a recent discipline that requires a high level of technical knowledge and experience, generally limited to a small number of experts and States. The Annex of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage provides a clear technical operational standard and is internationally recognized as the main guideline for activities relating to such heritage. Its measures and standards provide a high level of protection. Nevertheless, there are many countries that lack qualified underwater archaeologists. Capacity-building in this discipline is very specific and is an urgent need.

#### **CMAS**

- Will assist in the development and harmonization of standards in and licenses for underwater archaeological work for the States, in particular the States Parties to the 2001 Convention;
- Will implement, if required, a course for obtaining a scientific archaeology diploma upon request of UNESCO or of the States Parties to the Convention;
- Will provide the necessary framework for the course;
- Will propose to the national federations the proper measures of diving techniques for this training;

- Will propose to the States Parties to the 2001 Convention assistance for the training of national divers in underwater archaeology.

## **UNESCO**

- Will inform the States Parties to the 2001 Convention of the collaboration with CMAS for the training of divers;
- Will inform CMAS in advance of the need for training.

## **E-Learning**

The 2001 Convention recognizes that the public has a right to benefit from the educational and recreational advantages of a responsible and non-intrusive access to *in situ* underwater cultural heritage, and public education contributes to better knowledge, appreciation and protection of this heritage.

## **CMAS**

- Will create an underwater archaeology E-Learning site. This site will be for divers who want to acquire knowledge;
- Will provide a link to the 2001 Convention on its Website.

## **UNESCO**

- Will provide CMAS with all necessary documents for E-learning to be put on the CMAS site;
- Will provide a link on its 2001 Convention Website.

## **It is understood that:**

1. UNESCO will mention its cooperation with CMAS and CMAS will provide support of the actions of UNESCO. UNESCO and CMAS will mutually inform each other of any events or projects in which one or the other party could be involved in pursuing their respective objectives.

CMAS is authorized to give support to UNESCO by declaring:

“CMAS supports the work of UNESCO in the protection of the underwater cultural heritage.”

See the instructions for using the logo of UNESCO in this context.

2. Unless authorized in writing by UNESCO, CMAS must not use or authorize the use of the name or logo of UNESCO, including any abbreviation of the UNESCO name for advertising or for other purposes. Use of the name and logo of UNESCO shall adhere to the image of UNESCO and must receive prior written consent by UNESCO, in particular where such use is related to external CMAS activities, in particular with partner companies of CMAS. UNESCO cooperates with CMAS but does not endorse it.
3. CMAS confirms that it is not knowingly involved in the presentation or encouragement of services that would be opposed to the objectives and principles of UNESCO, the United Nations or other agencies of the United Nations. This concerns, in particular, the encouragement of treasure hunting in underwater archaeological sites. CMAS is committed to respect the laws of the countries where it operates.