

This present document certifies that:

The National Council of Cultural Heritage of Cuba (hereafter: CNPC), an agency of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Cuba, with its statutory office at Calle 13, no. 810, esquina 4, Vedado, Plaza, Havana Province, Cuba, represented for the purposes of this agreement by Gladys María Collazo Usallán in her capacity as President of the CNPC;

AND


The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (hereafter: RCE), part of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands, with its registered office at Smallepad 5, 3811 MG Amersfoort, the Netherlands, represented by Martijn Manders in his capacity as Head of the Maritime Programme of the RCE;

Each recognising the legal personality with which the other Participant approves this instrument, decide to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding in keeping with the following

DECLARATIONS:

The CNPC of Cuba and the RCE of the Netherlands express their common intention to establish a nexus of collaboration between both institutes that will enable them to continue developing the historical and archaeological research project entitled 'The Dutch Presence in Cuban Waters', with the aim of deepening knowledge of both their countries' historical and cultural heritage, through the investigation of wrecks of Dutch origin. In doing so, they will ensure that all the activities under this partnership are in accordance with the applicable legislation of both countries and in keeping with the spirit of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) and its Annex.

On the basis of these declarations, the Participants have come to the following understanding:

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- The CNPC, representing the Government of the coastal state (Cuba), possesses the legal authority to carry out specialist activities in the field of the management and protection of underwater cultural heritage, including archaeological research and the organisation of exhibitions. It also has the experience and the specialist staff needed for these activities, and the capacity to convene suitable specialists and related research programmes of other Cuban institutions.
 - The RCE representing the Government of the Flag state (The Netherlands) of some of the government owned shipwreck (West India Company (WIC), East India Company (VOC), Admiralty and navy ships).

The Participants will cooperate in sharing data, doing research, protecting, creating awareness and capacity building in underwater cultural heritage management with a focus on the shared maritime heritage between the Netherlands and Cuba. They will build upon the results of previous research by the Maritime Services Agency (Seromar S.A.) and the RCE during earlier stages of the project 'The Dutch Presence in Cuban Waters'. Reflecting the Participants' interest in establishing and sustaining a collaborative relationship, these activities will all serve the fundamental objective of carrying out research related to underwater archaeology, while ensuring that none of the activities undertaken as part of this relationship are in conflict with either country's legislation on cultural heritage, and that all these activities will be carried out in the spirit of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) and its Annex, to which Cuba is a party.

The Participants decide the following:

- Assist each other in the study and conservation of maritime heritage resources of Dutch origin.
- Encourage staff, teachers of maritime archaeology, doctoral students, professionals in its historic shipwrecks programme, and other appropriate researchers to work together on mutually agreed projects, subject to the availability of funds and staff.
- Facilitate access to each other's resources. Facilitate access to archeological sites, information, conservation and research centers within the framework of collaboration; that can contribute to the development of the project.
- Work together to identify sources of financial and other support for jointly sponsored projects.
- Cooperate in strengthening Cuba's capacity to manage its underwater cultural heritage and its archaeology, and on capacity building projects in other areas, for example through UNESCO training courses, with a focus on the Caribbean and Latin American regions.
- Support the publication and distribution of literature that is highly valued by institutions.
- Take all necessary steps to further cooperation through an exchange of views on activities to be pursued, taking account of the Participants' experience, competences and expertise.
- Prepare and implement common strategies and programmes for areas of common interest.
- Work together to organise joint public exhibitions in both Cuba and the Netherlands on the results achieved.
- Work closely with the Embassies of both countries in the Netherlands and Cuba in taking decisions and organising projects within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.

