



Cultural Heritage Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

International programme for Maritime Heritage

An underwater photograph showing a diver's camera on the right side, with a white label that has the number '151' written on it. The water is a deep green color, and there are some faint, blurry shapes in the background, possibly parts of a shipwreck or other underwater structures. The overall scene is dimly lit, typical of an underwater environment.

We actively welcome cooperation

Whether it concerns preserving a shipwreck, training underwater archaeologists or sharing knowledge and historical narratives, we always actively welcome cooperation. With this in mind, we invite you to take a look at our websites and contact us if you see any opportunities to work with us on the responsible management of maritime heritage.

Diver recording finds during the #Rooswijk1740 project

Maritime heritage brings the past to life and stories to the surface

The Netherlands is shaped by its relationship with water. Our ships have sailed the seven seas and explored the farthest corners of the world. Across the globe, some 1500 wrecks on the seabed are still the property of the Dutch state: shipwrecks of the Dutch East India Company, the Dutch West India Company, the Admiralty and the Royal Netherlands Navy. This maritime heritage is part of our national identity and often part of the cultural heritage we share with other countries.



TANGIBLE REMAINS AND FASCINATING STORIES

Maritime archaeological and cultural-historical research not only salvages tangible remains, it revives the fascinating stories they represent. Heritage – both tangible and intangible – provides valuable knowledge about ships, shipping routes, cargo, crew, life on board and the historical context of events ranging from armed conflicts to voyages of discovery and contacts with other countries.

INSIGHTS INTO THE PAST, INPUT FOR THE PRESENT

This invaluable work enables us to gain insights into our history, from its achievements to its darker chapters. This knowledge has scientific value and not only forms the basis for the public debate about our past, but also informs our discussions of contemporary themes. Heritage sites can also be of social value, such as places of remembrance for the families of naval personnel who were lost at sea.

WITHOUT EFFECTIVE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT, WRECKS VANISH

Shipwrecks fall prey to the forces of nature and disappear unless action is taken. That's why the Dutch government has established a programme to organise maritime heritage management around the world. This International Programme for Maritime Heritage is run by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, an executive agency of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.



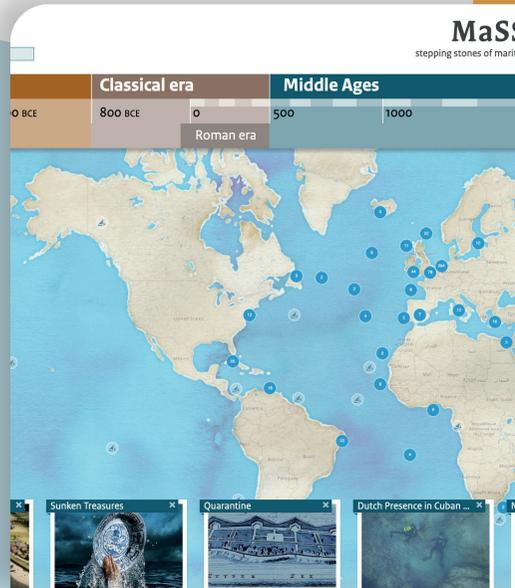
Memorial service for those who lost their lives in WW2 submarines off the coast of Malaysia

OUR NATIONAL PARTNERS

The work of the International Programme for Maritime Heritage unites expertise from the fields of archaeology, policy and heritage management. We therefore work together with a range of government partners in the Netherlands, most notably the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Central Government Real Estate Agency.

COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING ARE ESSENTIAL

The programme enables us to conduct research, make management decisions, train new people, unlock knowledge and exchange expertise. We do this in collaboration with coastal state governments, international organisations, embassies, maritime archaeologists, divers and volunteers. Without this wide-ranging cooperation, responsible management of Dutch maritime heritage worldwide would not be possible.





SHARED HISTORY WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES

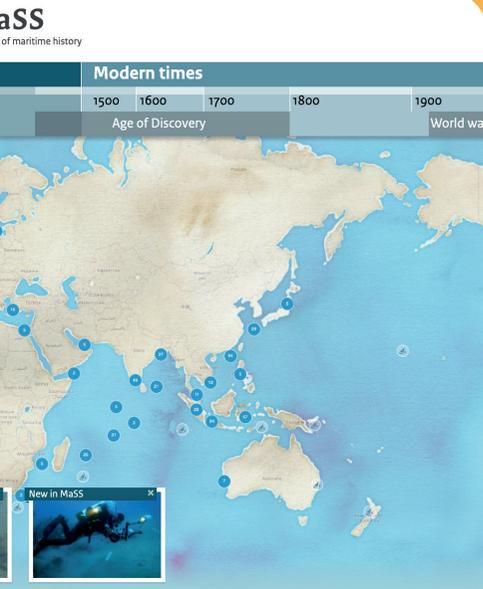
We also attach great importance to cooperation under the banner of the Shared Cultural Heritage Programme. By sharing the material management of this heritage, we learn to appreciate what others think about us and our shared past.

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Two archeologists are recording a wood stock anchor off the Cuban coast

Database containing the sites and stories of 1500 shipwrecks

DEVELOPING NEW METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

By incorporating oral history and the Faro Convention in our work, we make collaboration with other stakeholders a vital part of the programme. Cultural heritage is what we as a society want to explore, study, manage and pass on to future generations. The International Programme for Maritime Heritage is instrumental in this process. We record and transfer information using the latest techniques, such as underwater 3D photogrammetry and forensic methods to trace the perpetrators of raids on ships. Our commitment to innovation and investment in maritime heritage management is ongoing.



Contact

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 Maritime Heritage - @maritiemprogramma

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An impression of the Maritime Programme's work:

