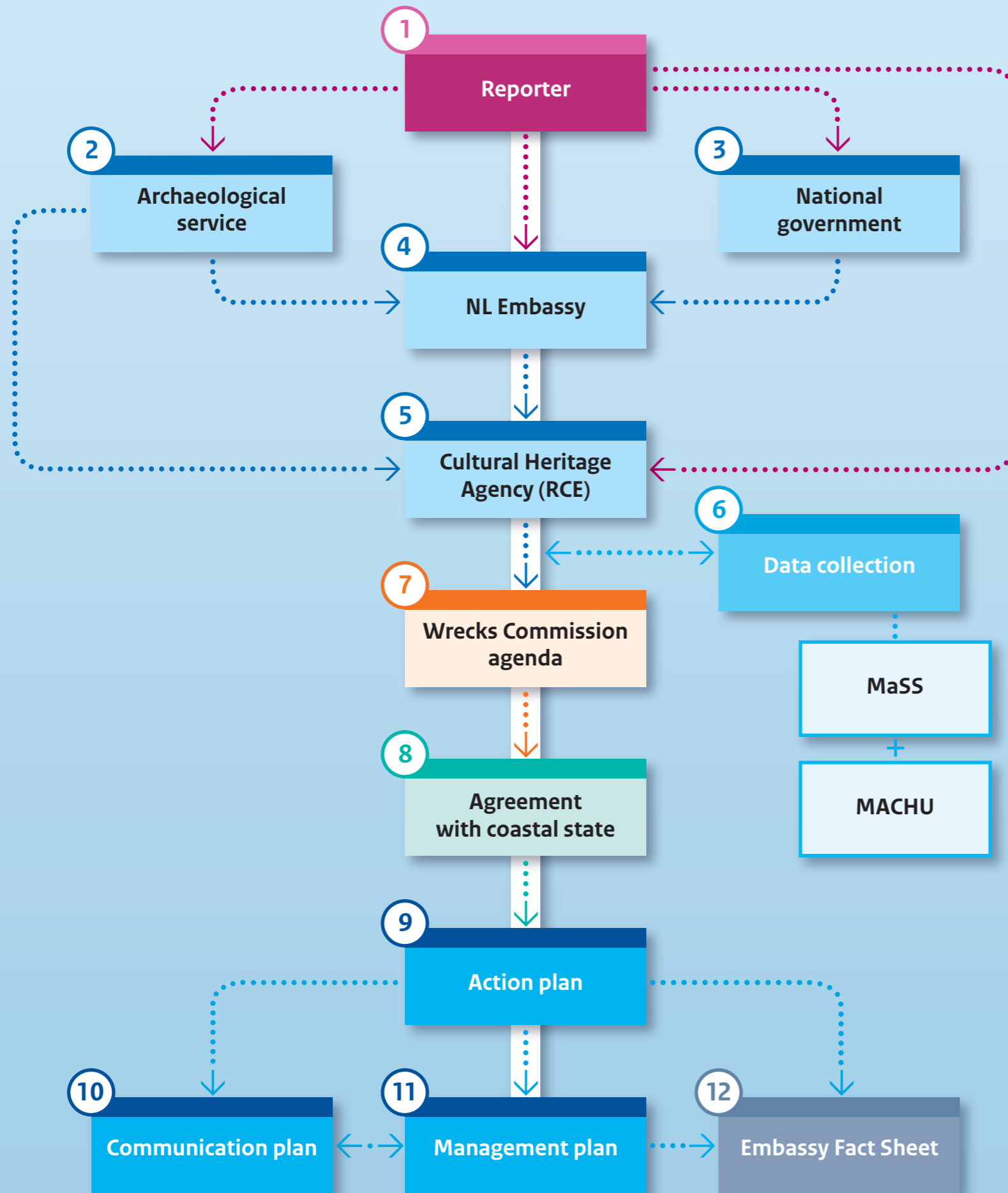


# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



## This is the reporting protocol for Dutch shipwrecks found in foreign waters.

The Netherlands feels strongly attached to the country's maritime history, and Dutch shipwrecks lying outside Dutch territorial waters also form part of this history.

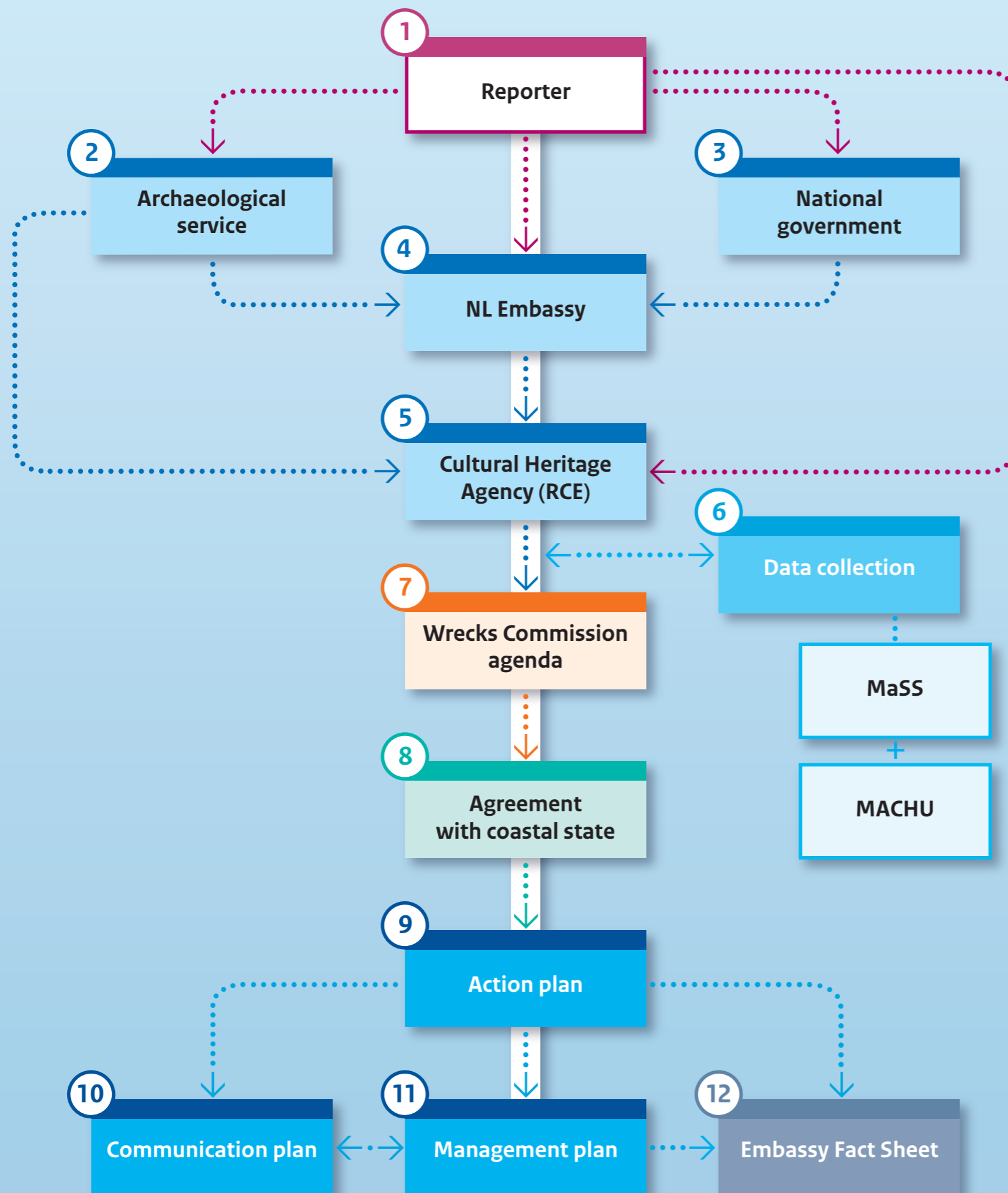
The Dutch state claims ownership of its former state vessels (Dutch East India Company (VOC), Dutch West India Company (WIC), Admiralty and naval ships).

This diagram shows the ideal reporting process for Dutch shipwrecks found in foreign waters.

[Click on the diagram for more information.](#)



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters

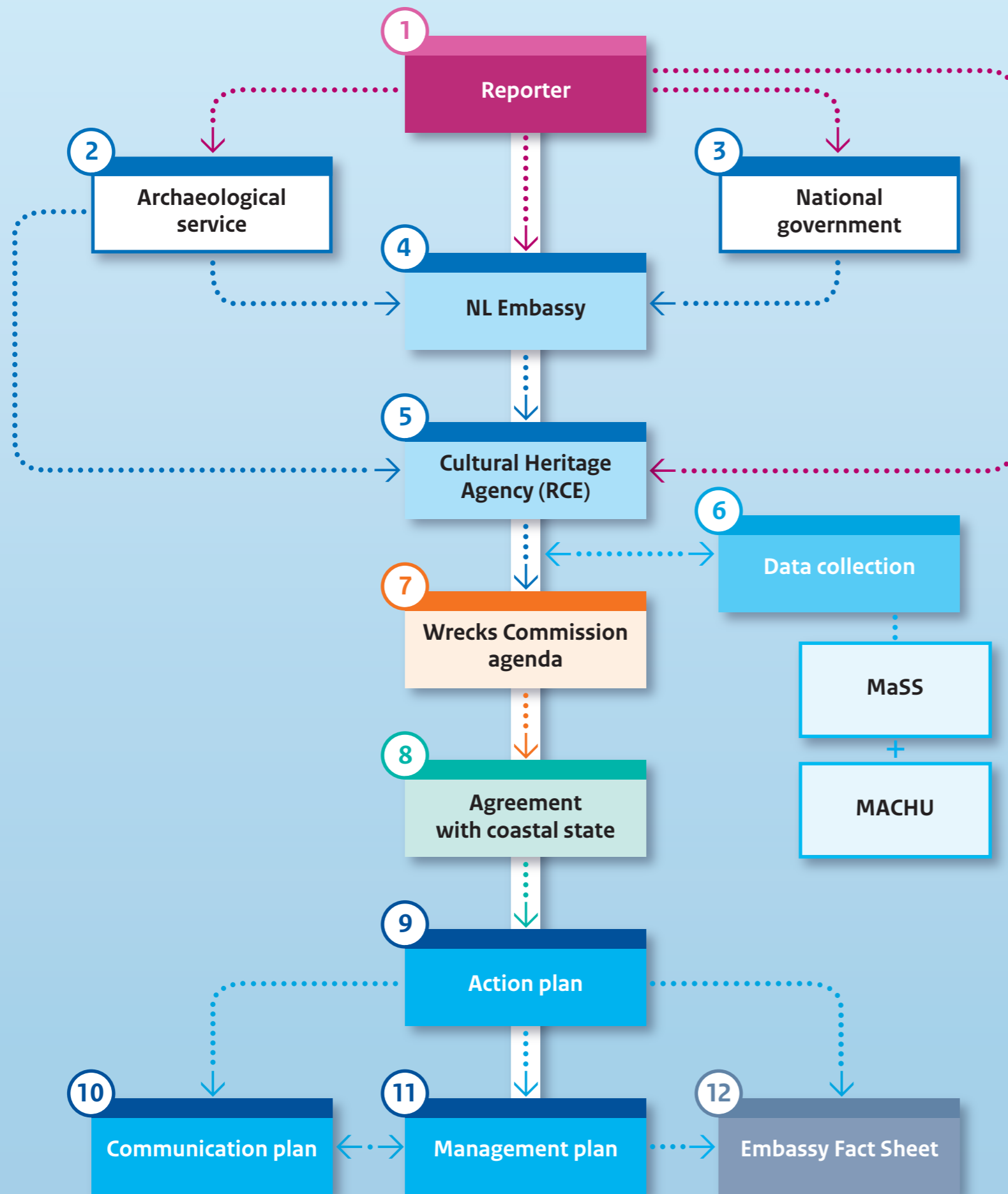


## 1

**Reporter:** the process begins with the reporter abroad. The reporter may, but does not have to be, the finder.

Once their report has arrived in the Netherlands, the reporter will be kept updated of its progress. This can also be effected through a local service.

# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters

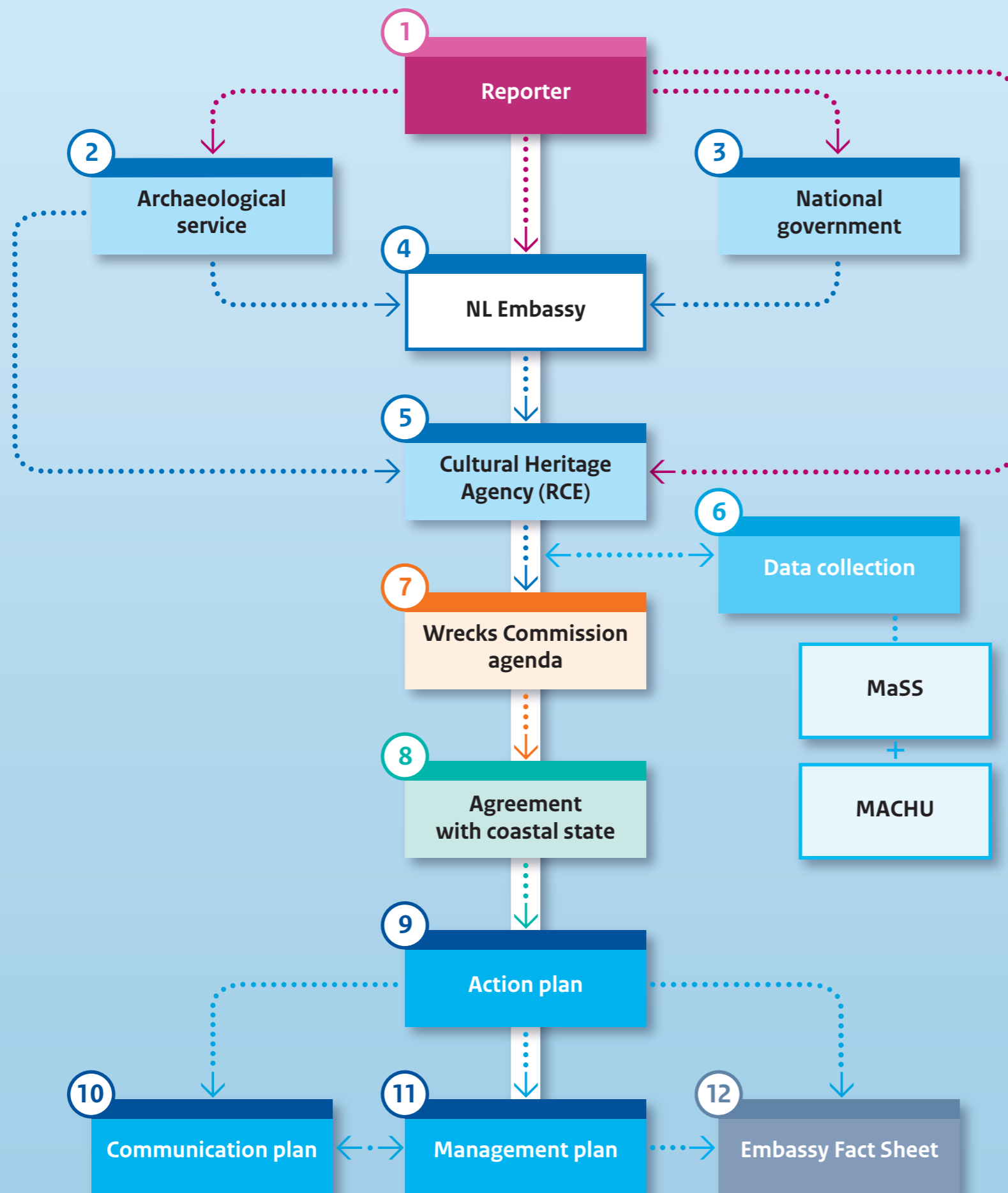


2 3

Report directly to the **Dutch national government** or through its **archaeological service**.



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters

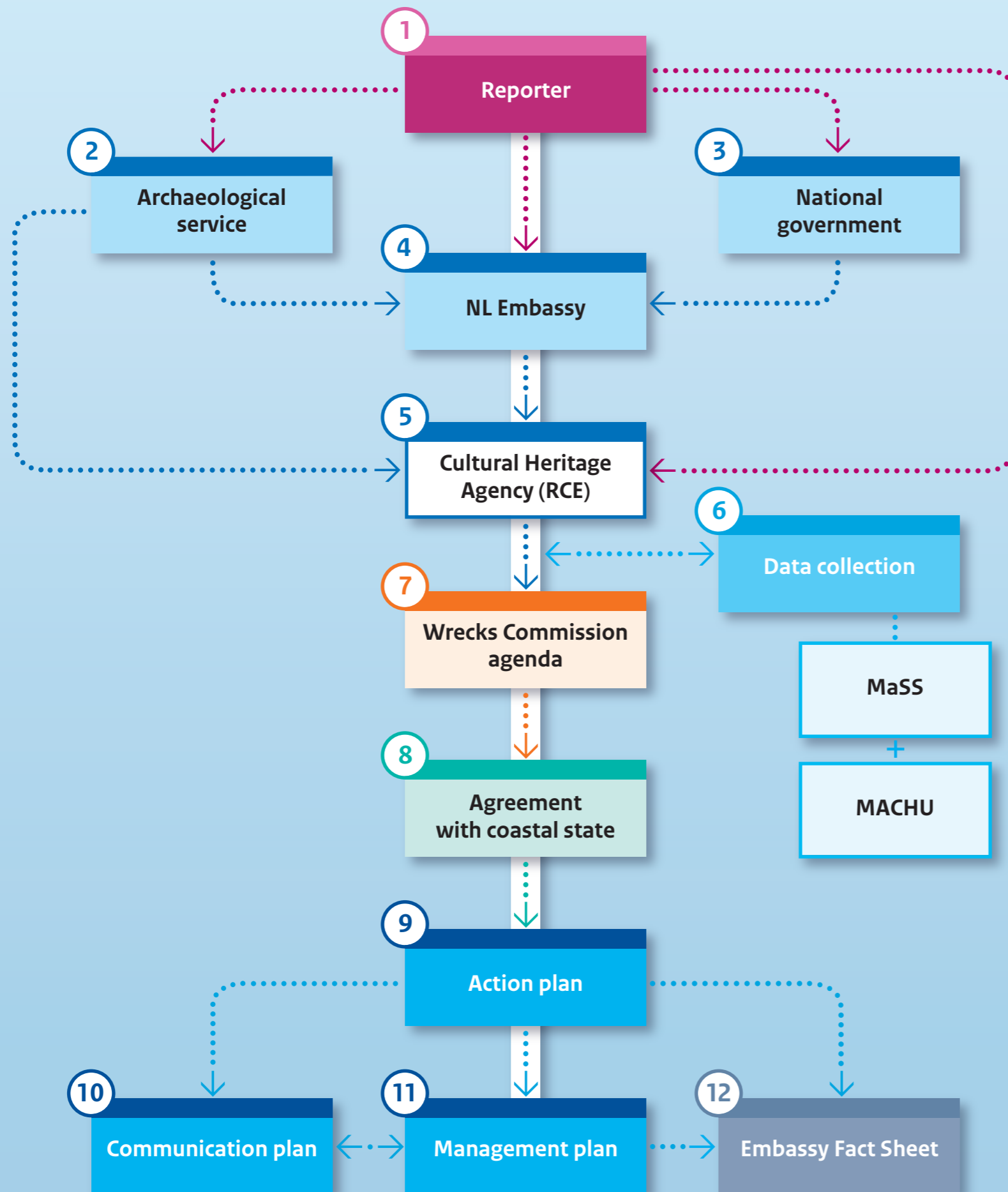


4

**NL Embassy:** a report often comes through a Dutch embassy, especially in countries where all contact with foreign powers starts through diplomatic channels.



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



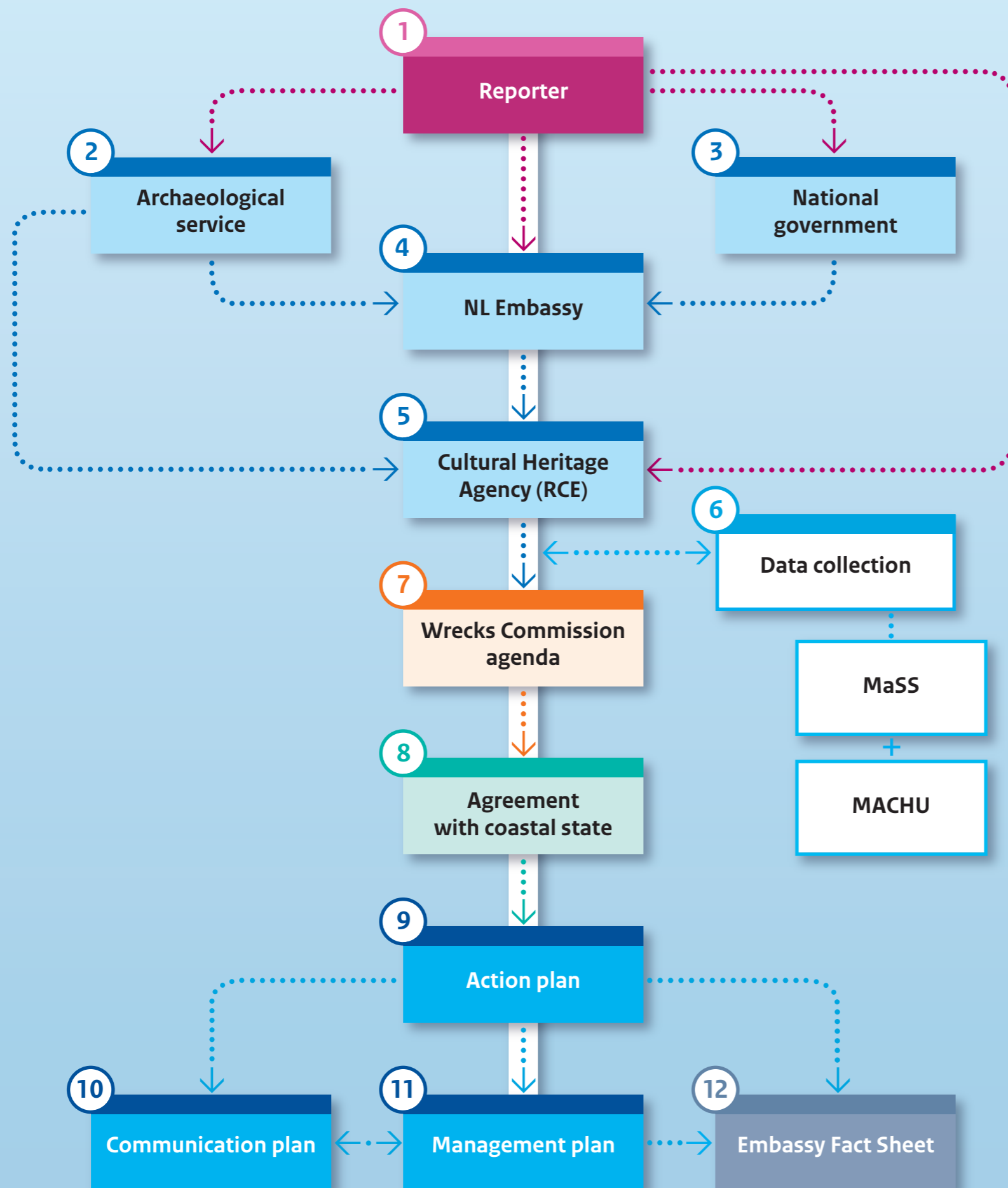
5

**Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE):** reports can also be made directly to the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE). In collaboration with the Dutch embassies all over the world, the RCE actively profiles itself to archaeological services abroad as the reporting point for Dutch shipwrecks found in foreign waters.

The RCE then feeds this information back to the embassy through the yearly updated fact sheet.



## The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



### 6

**Data collection:** to determine whether action needs to be taken in response to the report, the RCE then begins collecting information on the wreck. If this is new information about a shipwreck that is Dutch property, the new data is added to the RCE's data management system.

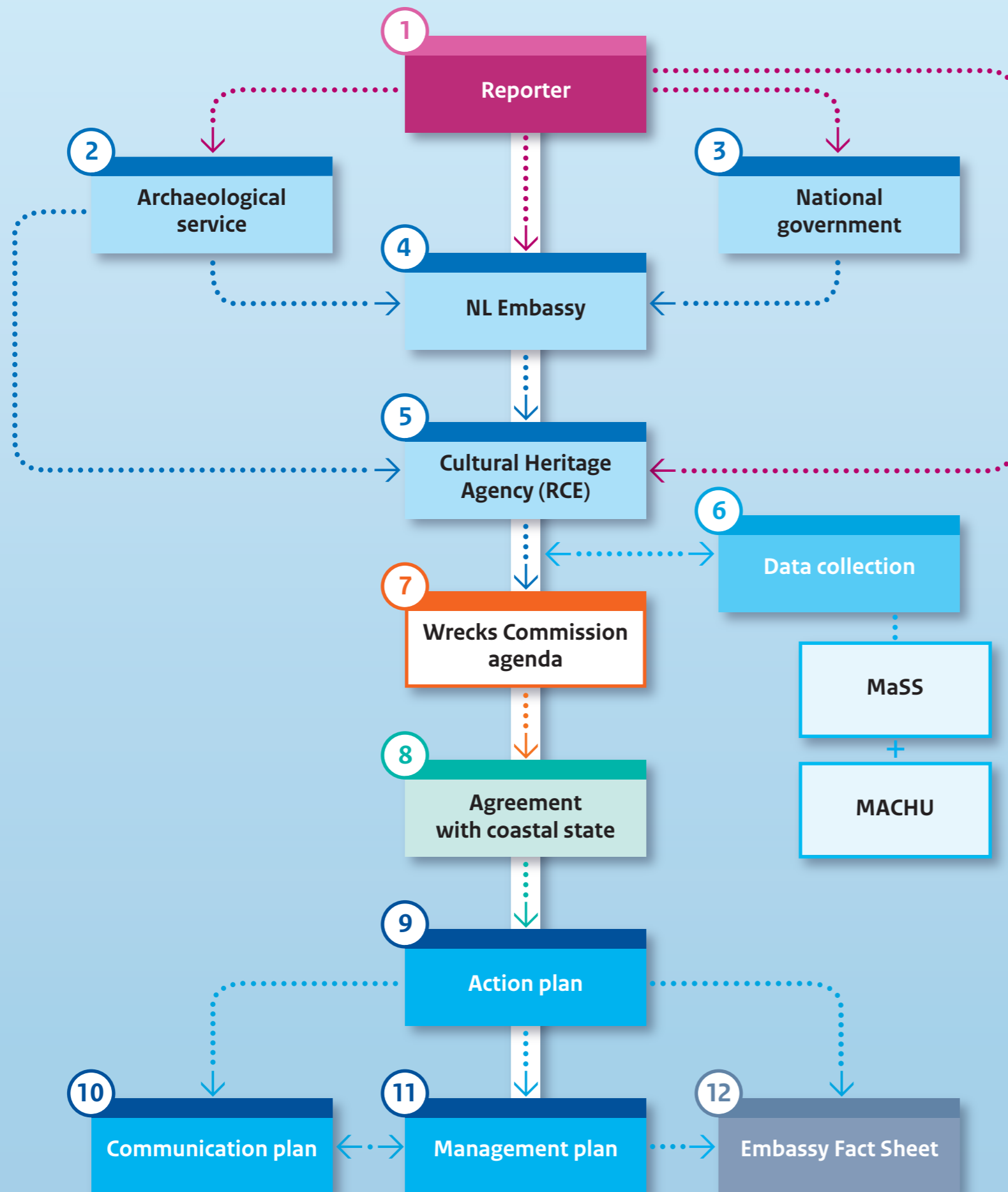
To this end the RCE employs two tools:  
**MACHU en MaSS**

**MaSS (Maritime Stepping Stones)** is a database of the histories of wrecks and underwater sites. MaSS intends to provide a full picture of a site, in its archaeological and historic setting, while not giving exact locations. MaSS is an application that allows everyone interested in cultural heritage underwater to contribute by adding new sites, information, images, and so on.

**MACHU** makes it possible to combine heritage information with other specific area-related subjects, such as research data on locations, environmental data, legal information and historic maps. Because of the sensitivity of this information (especially the exact location of sites), MACHU is only available to the research community and to professional maritime stakeholders.

Users must first register, using a registration form, in order to obtain access.

# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



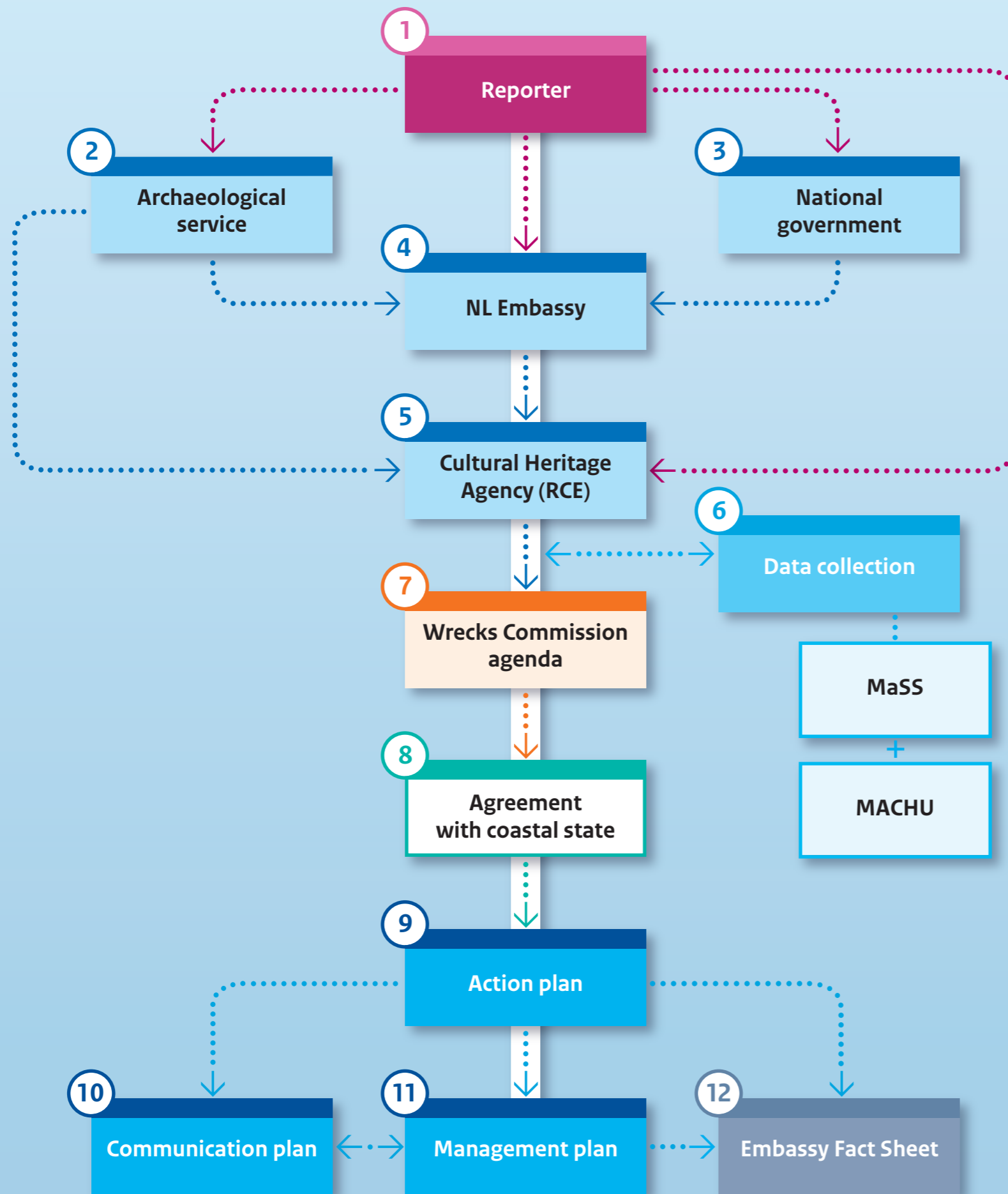
7

**Wrecks Commission agenda:** the case is submitted to the Wrecks Commission. In given cases this can also be done by other Ministries.

If another Ministry submits a wreck, then additional fact-finding is done in consultation. If the RCE submits a wreck, a check against the decision-making framework is performed in advance, and a proposal submitted to the Wrecks Commission.



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



8

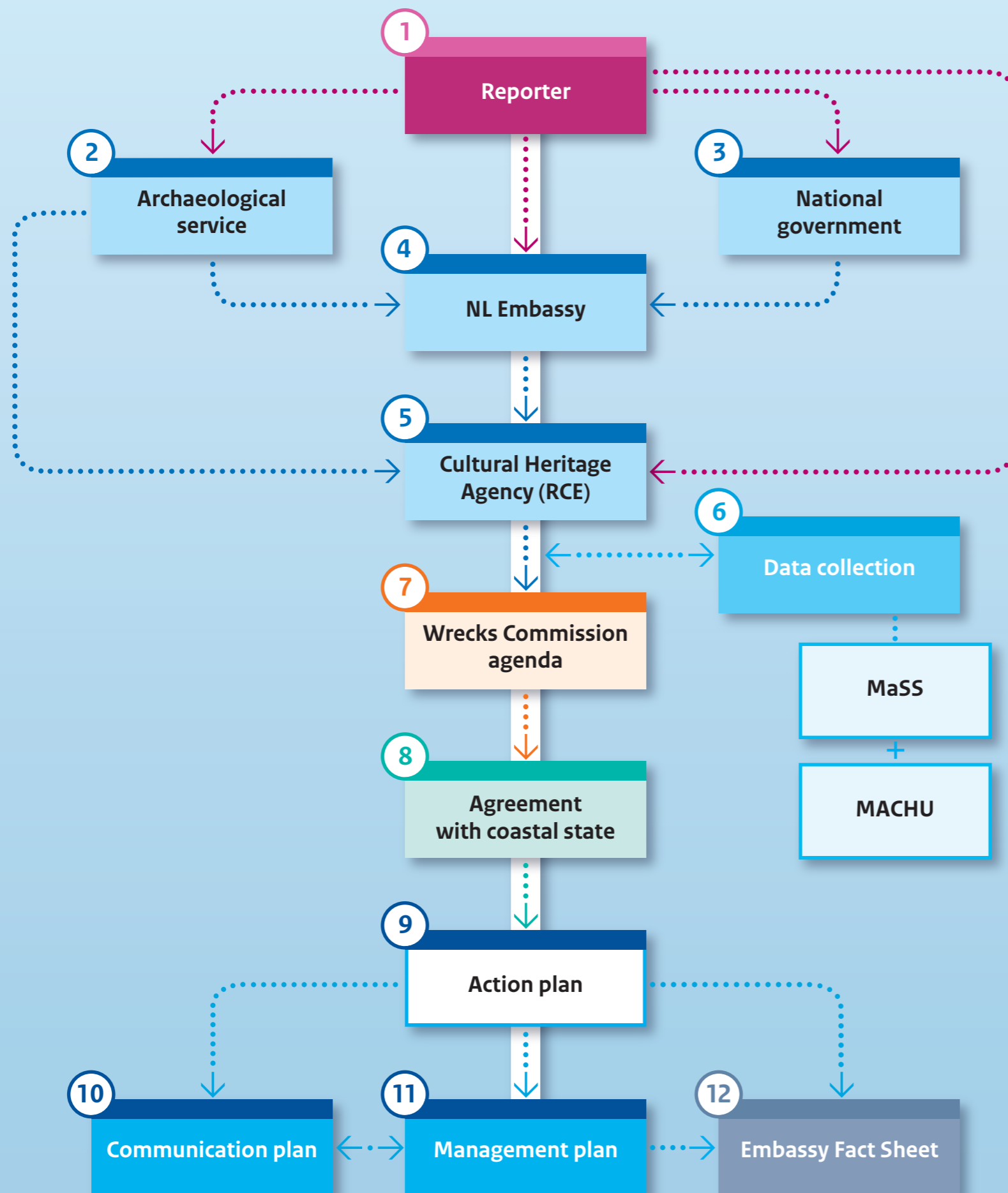
**Agreement with coastal state:** contact is made with the coastal state in order to reach an agreement. This is the task of the RCE, in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (embassies).

The Netherlands puts forward a proposal, and the coastal state and flag state take a decision together on whether to take action.





# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters

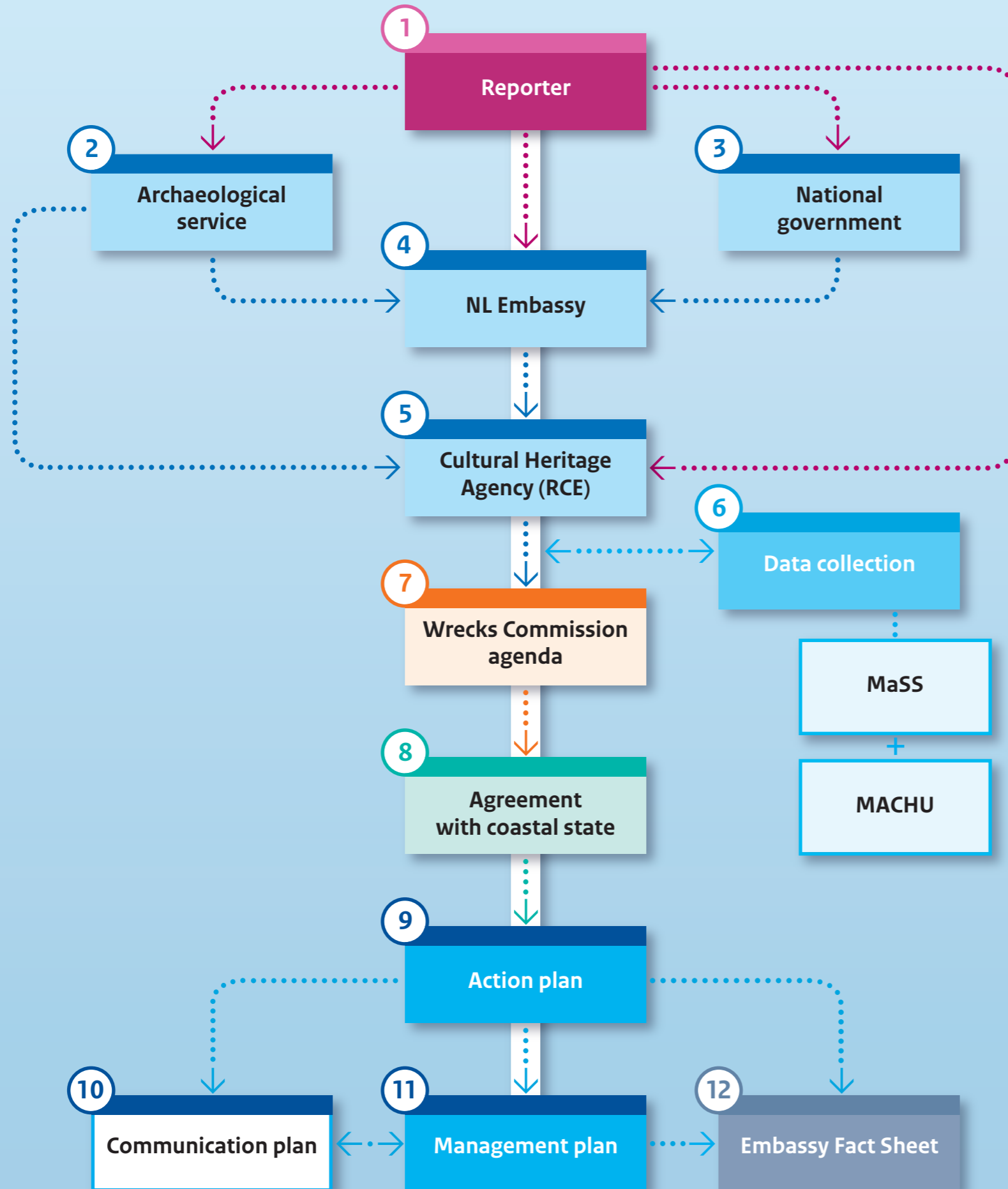


9

**Action plan:** an action plan is drawn up. This plan can mean that after due consideration no further action is taken, but it can also be decided to carry out an excavation, for instance.



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters

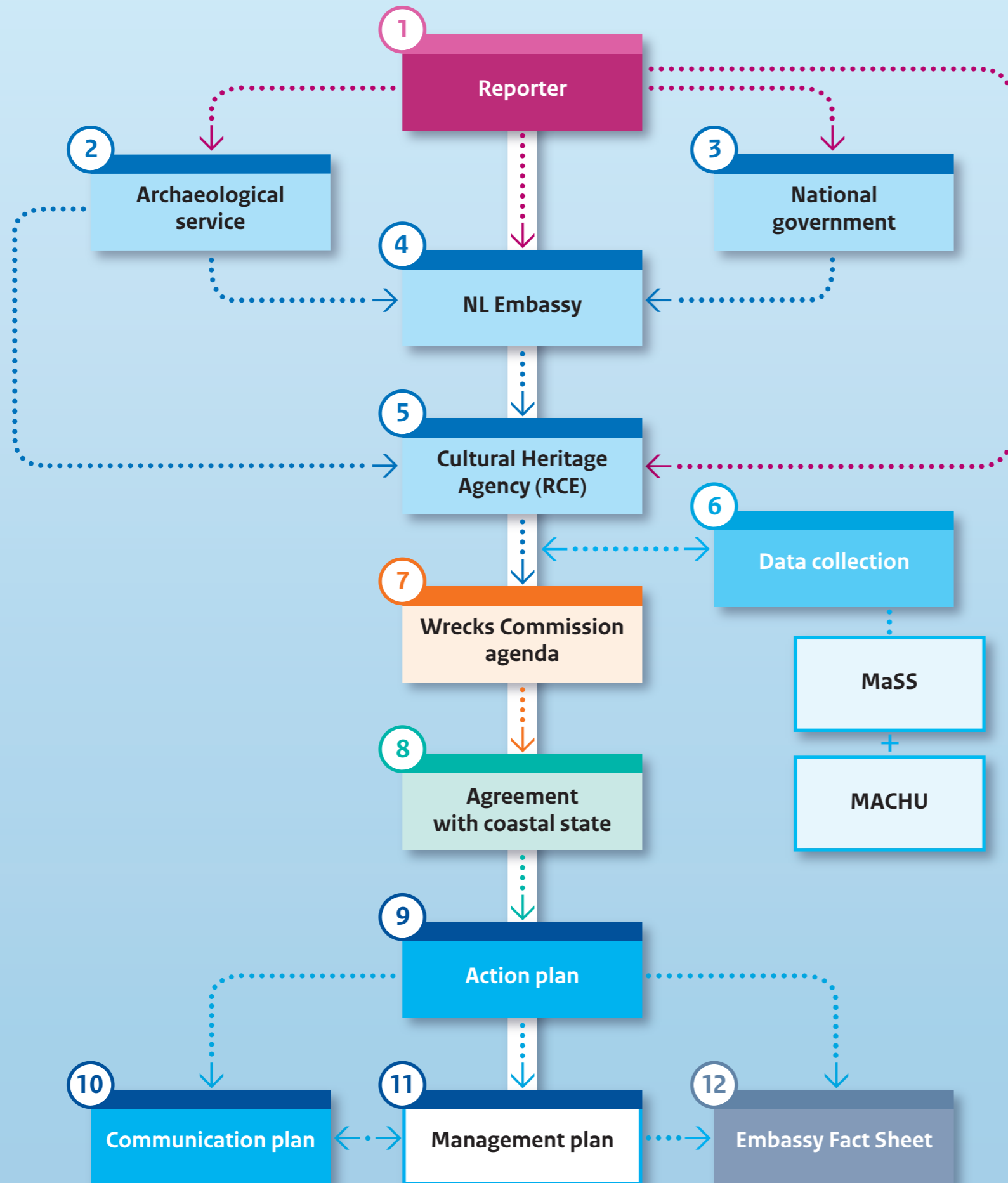


10

**Communication plan:** Agreements are made with regard to communications between national partners and the coastal state.



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



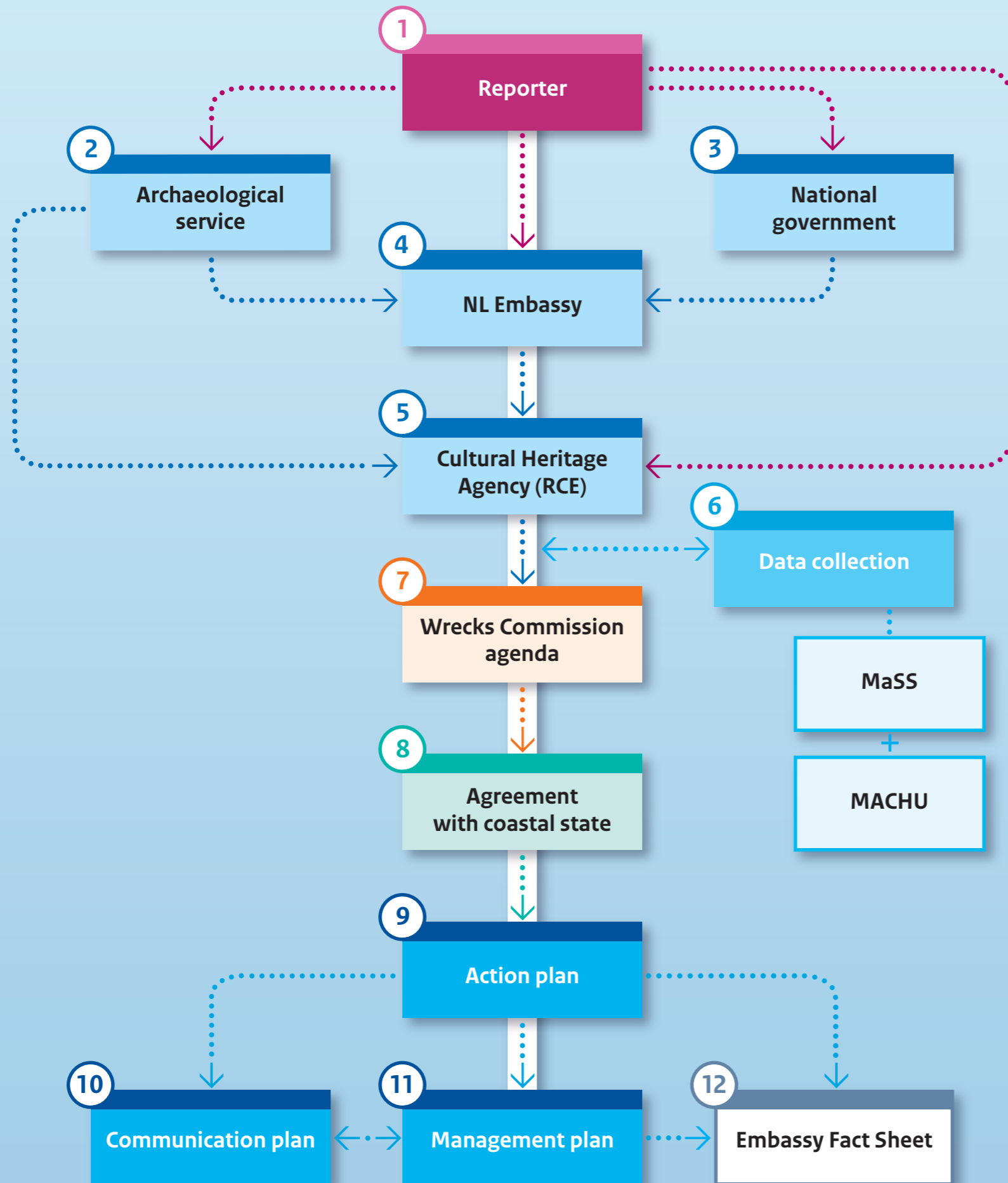
## 11

**Management plan:** everything is incorporated into an overall management plan, including for instance the agreements and actions on actual day-to-day management. In collaboration with the coastal state this often concerns a variety of management aspects, such as protection through both physical and policy provisions.

The management plan is a dynamic document that is updated over the course of different research phases or other activities. When working internationally the RCE generally adheres to the management plan employed in UNESCO Foundation courses. (See de Manuals)



# The reporting of Dutch shipwrecks in foreign waters



12

**Embassy Fact Sheet:** every year the Embassy Fact Sheet is updated. The fact sheet for Dutch embassies contains the RCE's reporting of ongoing or recently completed projects with regard to Dutch shipwrecks in the waters of the coastal state concerned, as well as serving as a noticeboard of the RCE's policy task in managing Dutch shipwrecks.

