



Cultural Heritage Agency  
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

# UNESCO Foundation Course in the Caribbean

*Underwater Cultural Heritage Management  
St. Eustatius 2014*

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## COLOPHON

UNESCO Foundation Course in the Caribbean  
Underwater Cultural Heritage Management  
St Eustatius 2014

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# 1. Introduction

On November 16 2014, the second UNESCO Foundation Course for Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Caribbean started on St. Eustatius. The first edition took place in 2012 in Port Royal, Jamaica. Sixteen students from the Netherlands, St. Eustatius, Saba, Bonaire, Curacao, Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Belize, South Africa and Surinam participated in the course, see table 1. During a month six trainers trained students in the protection and management of cultural heritage under water, see table 2.

The course was structured according to the Training Manual for the UNESCO Foundation Course on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific (Manders & Underwood (eds.), 2012). Other similar courses were earlier on executed for the Asian-Pacific region between 2009 and 2012. In 2015 the Vietnam Underwater Archaeology Training (VUAT) was organised in Hoi An, Vietnam. The results of the fieldschool in Vietnam are also published (Manders & Borghuis, 2017).

The seabed in the Caribbean is filled with historic shipwrecks and associated maritime infrastructure for example ports, buildings and lighthouses. All these traces together are part of the maritime Caribbean history and global trade over centuries. Many of them are frequented visited by tourists, others are barely recognizable by affecting vegetation or coral. Other wrecks are still undiscovered. How do we deal with these wrecks? How can we protect the wrecks and simultaneously use them for cultural tourism or as a hotspot for biodiversity? What should we do

if something needs to be built into the water or dredged? These and many more questions will be answered during the course.

This course consisted of a theoretical and practical part. The first part of the course was held in the building of SECAR, the St. Eustatius Center for Archaeological Research. The practice consisted of the mapping of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch warehouses lying at a depth of up to 5 meters off the coast of St Eustatius and a supposed manmade wall parallel to the coast and at the same depth. In addition to the mapping of the buildings, suggestions were made about how to handle this in the future. The dive operations were supervised by Scubaqua Dive Centre.

The organizers and trainers were Martijn Manders (the author) of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) and the University of Leiden and Chris Underwood of PROAS Argentina and the Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS). Together they have already done many capacity building projects in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Jamaica and now here on this Caribbean island – which is, along with Saba and Bonaire, a special municipality of the Netherlands. Ruud Stelten and Ryan Espersen are respectively working on St Eustatius (SECAR) and Saba (SABARC) and do their PhD research (University of Leiden) on the two islands. They helped with the local organization and also helped in providing training. There was also a trainer of UNESCO (Haiti), Tatiana Villegas and from the United States (NOAA), Hans van Tilburg was also involved.

The course was made possible by the Maritime Programme and the Shared Heritage Programme of the RCE as the main sponsor, assisted by the University of Leiden, The NEXUS 1492 Project, UNESCO and the ICOMOS Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH). The main reason for the RCE to finance this course was that we assume that people are the most important asset in cultural heritage management. It is the people who can do the management. They can appreciate, learn to love, use and protect heritage. Therefore, capacity building is also a primary activity in both the Maritime Programme as the Shared Heritage Programme of the RCE.

The training in the Caribbean is part of as many as three important tasks of the RCE: first, the agency is involved in the management and

protection of Dutch shipwrecks overseas. Shipwrecks of which the Dutch claim ownership have priority, of the VOC, WIC and admiralty (and more modern warships). Some of these ships are in Caribbean waters, just think of the Huis te Kruiningen in Tobago, but also the Alphen in Curacao and the privateers ships around Cuba. Good management can only take place with the approval and cooperation of the countries where these ships are. The aim is to have the wrecks included in the overall management of those countries. Well trained archaeologists make that job a lot easier. The claim of the Netherlands on the property is just a safety net in case a country wants to, or cannot take care of the wrecks.

The second reason for funding is the Shared Heritage Programme of which the maritime



fig. 3: The SECAR building. Our Base during the month of training (Photo: M. Manders)

part is performed by the Maritime Programme. The Netherlands work very closely with 10 priority countries in the field of Cultural Heritage Management. Again, the highest priority is capacity building. In this course three priority countries are represented: South Africa, Surinam and the US.

A third reason to create a capacity building project for underwater cultural heritage on St. Eustatius has to do with the role of the RCE in the Netherlands and the goals of the Maritime Programme for the deployment of a sound management in Dutch waters. Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba are special municipalities of the Netherlands. So far, there has been very little attention to creating a management strategy for underwater cultural heritage in any one of these municipalities. This also applies to the other countries in the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten. By educating people, but also by encouraging them afterwards, we can initiate great projects. After all, the islands also largely depend on dive tourism in the Caribbean. There lies a challenge: to integrate heritage management in the conservation of the islands. It could even give the economy a boost! In the course Curacao, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba are present.

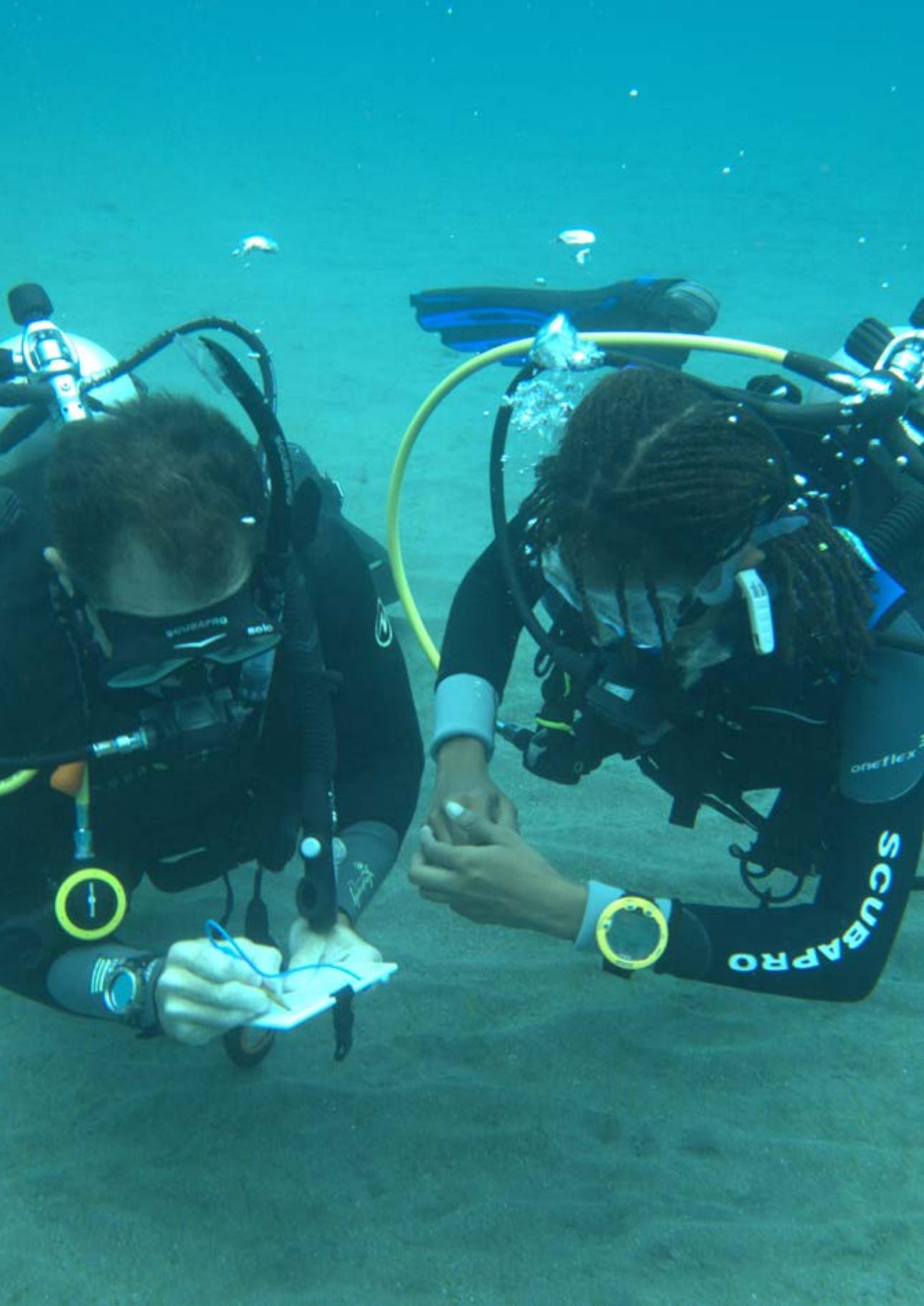
With some goodwill the Netherlands may ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in 2016. This is very important for the mainland of the Netherlands, but perhaps even more for the Dutch Caribbean islands. The Latin American and Caribbean



region has the highest number of countries that have ratified the convention. So there is already a platform for cooperation between the states. An integrated management approach seems to be crucial in this region. That is why several countries were present. Building a platform is stimulated by cooperating in this course. Because the ratification is one thing, building a responsible management of underwater cultural heritage is another. To achieve this you need knowledge but also help, which can be found in the region by supporting each other's work.

In other words, this training was only a start; there should be a spin off for more projects.

fig. 4: Instructions on the collection at SECAR (Photo: M. Manders)



## 2. Preparation of the Course

Originally the foundation course had been developed for the Asian-Pacific region (2009-2012). In 2015 the Vietnam Underwater Archaeology Training (VUAT) was organised in Hoi An, Vietnam. The results of the fieldschool in Vietnam are also published (Manders & Borghuis, 2017). For the first training in the Caribbean in Jamaica 2012 the Units of the Manual (published in 2012) were adapted to the region. This was the basis for the 2014 training in St. Eustatius (in short: Statia).

After planning for the course to take place in November and December 2014, first partners for the organization were sought and found in the UNESCO Cuba office (assisted by the Haiti office) to identify students. The National Commission of UNESCO in the Netherlands also worked with us to identify students and arrange the travel for

students and staff. The University of Leiden en the NEXUS 1492 project also provided contacts and possible students as well as two Phd's, who were appointed as assistant trainers in the course. Chris Underwood and Martijn Manders scheduled the course. It needed to be balanced between practical training and theory, grouped in such a way that there would be variation of trainers and also trainers who were there for only a short period of time should be able to give their appointed Units.

It proved difficult to get every student and trainer in time on St Eustatius. The connection to the island is through St Maarten. The small connected plane was often full and making reservations wasn't possible. Due to the effort of the NatCom Netherlands it all worked out in the end.



fig. Page 10, Fig. 5:  
Discussions  
underwater  
(Photo:  
M. Harterink)

fig. 6 Preparation  
before diving  
(Photo:  
M. Manders)







### 3. The Students

Sixteen out of 32 applications were selected for the course. The selection procedure as described in the Training Manual has been followed. Important criteria were: diving skills, English language skills, gender balance, geographical spread and possibility for future involvement in UCH management.

Eventually 10 males and six females were selected from 9 different countries. For the Netherlands, Curacao is regarded as a separate country while students from the mainland Netherlands, Stata, Saba and Bonaire were regarded as one country.

The youngest person was 19 years of age, the oldest 52.

The background of the students was very different, from newly started students in

archaeology to marine biologists. All however had the drive to go working or were already working in cultural heritage management, preferably underwater.

The students from Surinam and Haiti were non-divers not long before the course started. They had been encouraged to get their diving papers prior to the course. If they could achieve this, they would be accepted for the course. The Surinam students accomplished this task, while there were some problems in the last moment for the Haiti students. They were however taken in (there was also no time to look for alternatives). This fortunately proved to be a good choice. The Haitian students eventually passed their exams during the Foundation course and are now certified divers. This is a

fig. Page 12, 13, Fig. 7: The old jetty by sunset (Photo: C. Underwood).

fig. Page 14, Fig. 8: Students about to go into the water (Photo: C. Underwood).

fig. 9: Students looking to the end results of the storyboard (Photo: M. Manders)



	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Cv</b>	<b>Profession / Qualification</b>
1	Jimmy van Rijn	Netherlands	Male	Yes	Marine Ranger
2	Joost Morsink	Netherlands	Male	Yes	Archaeologist
3	Johan Schaeffer	Saba	Male	Yes	Media & communication
4	Pardis Zahedi	St Eustatius	Male	Yes	Archaeologist
5	Reese Cook	St Eustatius	Male	Yes	Archaeologist
6	Cimberly M. A. Symister	Curacao	Female	Yes	Student
7	Syndy Alte	Haiti	Female	Yes	Art history / archaeology / good prospect
8	Camille Louis	Haiti	Male	Yes	Archaeologist
9	Rambharosa, Dharwiendre	Suriname	Male	Yes	Student - History with archaeology
10	Phagu Guno, Kenneth	Suriname	Male	Yes	Student - History with archaeology
11	Tara van Nierkerk	South Africa	Female	Yes	Heritage manager – Masters in archaeology
12	Jose Miguel Perez Gomez	Venezuela	Male	Yes	Good question
13	Jané Isabel Salazar	Belize	Female	Yes	Student Natural Resource Management
14	Diana Pena Bastalla	Dominican Republic	Female	Yes	MA Archaeologist / Art History
15	Maickel Cáceres Suárez	Cuba	Male	Yes	Heritage Management
16	Fernando Simal	Bonaire	Male	Yes	Nature Conservation Manager

*Table 1: Participants of the Foundation Course.*

major step for UCH management in Haiti, the place where not long ago UNESCO dispatched a team of experts to a wreck, located off the town of Cap-Haitien, to examine the remains, which were found in the area where Columbus' the ship is said to have run aground. This was done by foreign experts. Soon there may be

Haitian experts who can take up the work. The dive training was perfectly organized by the Scubaqua Dive Centre on Statia.

<b>Diving Qualification</b>	<b>Pre-Selected</b>	<b>Selected</b>
PADI ADV + 200 / NITROX	Yes	X
PADI O/W + 30	YES	X
PADI O/W INSTRUCTOR	YES	X
PADI RESCUE DIVER	YES	X
PADI RESCUE	YES	X
PADI DIVE MASTER	YES	X
IN TRAINING /	YES	Subject to training being started
IN TRAINING	YES	Subject to training being started
IN TRAINING /	YES	Subject to training being started
IN TRAINING	YES	Subject to training being started
COMMERCIAL CLASS IV DIVERS (HSE PART IV) CERTIFICATE / PADI RESCUE	YES	X
CEMAS 1980	YES	X
RESCUE DIVER/DIVE MASTER	YES	X
IN TRAINING	YES	X
CMAS INSTRUCTOR	YES	X
TDI MIXED GAS - CAVE DIVER	YES	X



## 4. The trainers

The teaching staff had to be kept relatively small. Still six trainers were present. The two organizers Manders from the Netherlands, Underwood from Argentina, two Phd candidates from Leiden University and the Dutch Islands (Saba and St

Eustatius), the coordinator for UCH in Haiti and former employee of the Regional office in Cuba, Tatiana Villegas and NOAA (USA) archaeologist Hans van Tilburg. The first four stayed for the whole month, the last two for a part of it.

Nr	Country	Name
1	Argentina – UK	Chris Underwood, National Institute of Anthropology Buenos Aires, Argentina
2	Hawaii, USA	Hans K Van Tilburg PhD, Maritime Heritage Coordinator, unit diving supervisor NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Maritime Heritage Program
3	Holland	Martijn Manders Head of Maritime Programme Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Cultural Heritage Agency)
4	UNESCO Port-Au-Prince	Tatiana Villegas Zamora, Underwater Archaeologist / Program Specialist, UNESCO HAVANA Office
5	Bonaire	Ruud v Stelten
6	Saba	Ryan Espersen

Table 2: The six trainers of the Foundation Course.

fig. 10: Page 18, Fig. 10: The structures were not fully submerged. Some recordings was done above and some underwater (Photo: Mike Harterink).

fig. 11: The inauguration speech as a start to the course (Photo: C. Underwood)





## 5. The course

See for details on the course structure in Appendix I. The course consisted of a first week of introduction to the field of UCH management. An important aid of the course are the methodologies developed by Nautical Archaeology Society in this first week. The second week Units on – for example – GIS, data management, significance assessment, archaeological resources and conservation were given. Both theoretical weeks were spiced up with practical exercises. The idea is to do this even more in next courses. Two weeks of theory is long. The third week was set for the practical work: diving on underwater cultural heritage and do mapping, developing a management plan and preparing storyboards. The fourth and last week was partly filled with theory on for example museology

and UCH management, but also to finish the management plans for the sites, the storyboards and a final presentation. This final presentation was given to the public at the public library on the island and in conjunction with students from the University of Wageningen (The Netherlands) who were doing a study on cultural heritage in relation with tourism. The aims of both groups coincided very well and added to interesting discussions. The storyboards (six A0 posters with the story on the course and especially the cultural heritage of the island of Statia) were presented at the Historical Museum of Statia thanks to the St Eustatius Historical Foundation. All the products of the course have been handed over to SECAR, the archaeological organization on the island.



fig. Page 20, Fig. 12:  
Measuring the  
stone walls of  
the warehouse  
(Photo:  
C. Underwood).

fig. 13: Dive sessions  
(Photo:  
M. Manders)







## 6. The Venues

The theoretical courses were held at the SECAR building. This large venue provided two dormitories (student men and women) and two separate rooms for the trainers. The living room served as a class room and food was also served there. The place was not ideal and needed some maintenance. However due to the willingness of the students as well as the trainers and the dedication of the local organizers this was not a major issue. Presentations were given on a beamer that the author bought himself just before coming to St Eustatius. For a next course it might be a good idea to have the venues checked out during an identification mission by the organizers themselves.

The fieldwork training was coordinated by the trainers and the diving supported by Scubaqua Dive Centre. This dive school has done an

excellent job in providing support for the diving and even organized additional fieldtrips, fieldwork and a course on underwater photography. Also additional dive training was given to the Haitian students in order for them to have their dive certifications before the fieldwork and one of the Surinam students even did his advanced open water course during the Foundation course.

Additional venues were provided by the St Eustatius Historical Foundation and the public library on the island.

fig. Page 22, 23, Fig. 14: Measuring the warehouses which stands partly above and partly underwater (Photo: C. Underwood).

fig. Page 24, Fig. 15: The survey with the whole group in Jenkins bay. (Photo: C. Underwood)

fig. 16: Surveying underwater (Photo: M. Manders)





## 7. Project results

All sixteen students passed the course. The archaeological research underwater revealed new information on the sites. The supposed manmade wall along the coast turned out to be mainly natural outcrop, but was here and there alternated to become the basis of a planned breaker. This has supposedly never been finished. Historical research did reveal a plan for it though.

The warehouses have been investigated and the structures provided information about their specific use.

Also the life of a nineteenth century pier has been investigated and alterations to the structure were found and recorded. Two cannons were found. One, an exploded large iron cannon revealed the place of a lost battery in Oranje Bay and another smaller but well

preserved iron one must have been dropped by a ship and is now incrustated in reef outcrops. A sugar melting pot was also found on the seabed. Additionally the students also recorded large manmade constructions underwater, 200 meter left of the diving school that probably belonged to an 18th Century stone pier construction that has now fully submerged. A survey was also done to the right of the dive centre and a small military craft was discovered there. For one of the Leiden Phd students the students and trainers organized a survey of Jenkins Bay. The whole area was searched which was a great practice for all. Nothing was found however. All information, including the management plans, was handed over to SECAR. The information can be used to manage the underwater cultural heritage on the island.



fig. Page 26, Fig. 17:  
Photographing a  
newly discovered  
canon. (Photo:  
M. Manders)

fig. 18: Group photo  
(Photo:  
M. Manders)



## 8. Budget

Initially the course was part of an application for the scientific funding organization in the Netherlands, NWO. However due to the vast amount of applications for a relatively small call for the Caribbean (also including other disciplines), the project was not accepted although well received. The RCE's programmes of Shared Heritage and Maritime Archaeology have eventually financed the whole project. Due to the fact that the primary organizers themselves were based far from St Eustatius it took a long time before good budget figures were available and the right budgeting of the project could be executed. During that process it was decided only to station the project in Statia and not also to go to Saba, which was the plan at first. This would cost too much.



fig. Page 28, Fig. 19: Jenkins bay. (Photo: M. Manders)

fig. 20: On excursion to one of the batteries St. Eustatius (Photo: C. Underwood)



## 9. Follow up

It is the aim to repeat such a Foundation course again in the Caribbean. This can be done for example in another two years. The students pointed out that they are in need for more specialized training. This can be done in the form of an advanced course. This can be for example a course in in situ protection or GIS. Other subjects are also possible. This needs to be expressed from the students of this and the former courses in Jamaica and also Campeche. The next time training will be held, it might be a good thing to start off with a fact finding mission. A strong local cultural heritage partner is also very important and was lacking here a bit. The diving school was however a perfect partner for the field training. They are very much willing to do this again and even to take on all the organization (excluding the archaeological coordination, but including the food and lodging). They would certainly be capable of doing so. The food always remains a delicate matter. It is not only the specific demands people have, but also to make sure there is always enough for everybody, each time of the day and with enough variation. On St Eustatius this sometimes proved to be difficult since all food needs to be imported on the island.

*fig. Page 30, Fig. 21:  
On land practice  
in measuring  
(Photo:  
C. Underwood).*

*fig. 22: Underwater  
photography  
was also part  
of the course  
(Photo:  
M. Harterink)*

The student balance was good, as well as that of the trainers.

A platform for the students was created through Facebook. Already new projects have started from the course. The former students should actually best be monitored on their way into underwater cultural heritage management and supported there where it is possible and opportune.

The Maritime Programme of the Netherlands is now supporting a project of three former students on Bonaire and also the further development of UCH management and underwater archaeology in Surinam (in cooperation with the Surinam government and Anton de Kom University in Paramaribo). In conjunction with the University of Leiden projects in Venezuela, St Eustatius and Saba are being guided. The student from Curacao is starting her Master in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management in Leiden in September. The students of Haiti are now preparing their own survey project and will be supported by UNESCO in developing UCH management in their country. Also other students are preparing new researches in the field.



# Appendix I: Course structure

## WEEK 1

	Monday 17th November Day 1	Tuesday 18th November Day 2	Wednesday 19th November Day 3	Thursday 20th November Day 4	Friday 21st November Day 5	Saturday 22nd November Day 6	Sunday 23rd November Day 7
90 minutes	Introduction to students, trainers, hosts and support team (all)	Unit 2: CU RE RS Back to the Basics- The scope of underwater and foreshore archaeology	Unit 2 CU RE RS 2D survey wet practical (swimming pool or shallow water)	Unit 2: CU Project design	Appendix D: CU RS RE 3D survey practical	UNIT 1 & 2 CU Informal review	Free day
Break							
90 minutes	Opening ceremony (all)	Unit 2: CU Sites types	Unit 2: CU RE RS 2D survey wet practical (swimming pool or shallow water)	Unit 2: CU Project Planning and safety	Appendix D: CU RE RS 3D survey practical	Unit 7: RE RS Data Management + Management plan intro	Free day
Break							
90 minutes	Unit 1: TV Introduction to the UNESCO Convention/Annex	Unit 2: CU Introduction to 2Dimensional survey techniques	Unit 2: CU Remote sensing, area search and position fixing	Appendix D: CU Review of 2D survey and introduction to 3D survey techniques	Appendix D: CU RE RS Process the results of the 3D survey	Unit 10: CU Intrusive techniques in Underwater Archaeology	Free day
Break							
90 minutes	Unit 1: TV Introduction to the UNESCO Convention/Annex	Unit 2: CU 2D survey dry practical session	Unit 1: TV International and Caribbean National Legislation	Appendix D: CU How to use Site Recorder-practical Exercises	Appendix D: CU RE RS Process the results of the 3D survey and presentation of the results	Unit 16: MM Museology (Part 1)	Free day
30 minutes	Country presentation	Country presentation	Country presentation	Country presentation	Country presentation	Country presentation	

## WEEK 2

	Monday 24th November Day 1	Tuesday 25th November Day 2	Wednesday 26th November Day 3	Thursday 27th November Day 4	Friday 28th November Day 5	Saturday 29nd November Day 6	Sunday 30nd November Day 7
90 minutes	Unit 8: MM GIS	Unit 4: HT Underwater Archaeological resources	Unit 5: HT Desk-based Assessment	Unit 18: HT Archaeological Publication	Unit 11: RS + RE + SECAR Conservation and findshandling	Free day	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving Project
Break							
90 minutes	Unit 8:MM GIS	Unit 4: HT Underwater Archaeological resources	Unit 5: HT Desk-based Assessment	Appendix B: CU Wooden Shipbuilding Technology	Appendix C: CU Metal Shipbuilding Technology	Free day	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving Project
Break							
90 minutes	Unit 8: MM GIS	Unit 4: HT Underwater Archaeological resources	Unit 6: HT Significance Assessment	Appendix B: CU Wooden Shipbuilding Technology	Appendix C: CU Metal Shipbuilding Technology	Free day	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving Project
Break							
90 minutes	Unit 13: Caribbean Themes	Unit 13: Carribean Themes	Unit 6: HT Significance Assessment	Unit 11: RS + RE + SECAR Conservation and findshandling	Unit 12: CU + MM Diving Project- Introduction to the aims and objectives of the project	Free day	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving Project

## WEEK 3

	Monday 1st December Day 1	Tuesday 2nd December Day 2	Wednesday 3rd December Day 3	Thursday 4th December Day 4	Friday 5th December Day 5	Saturday 6th December Day 6	Sunday 7th December Day 7
<b>WEEK 3</b>							
	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Free day					
	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Free day					
	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Appendix E: Management plan	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Free day
	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Appendix E: Management plan	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Unit 12: CU/MM/RS/RE/MH Diving project	Free day

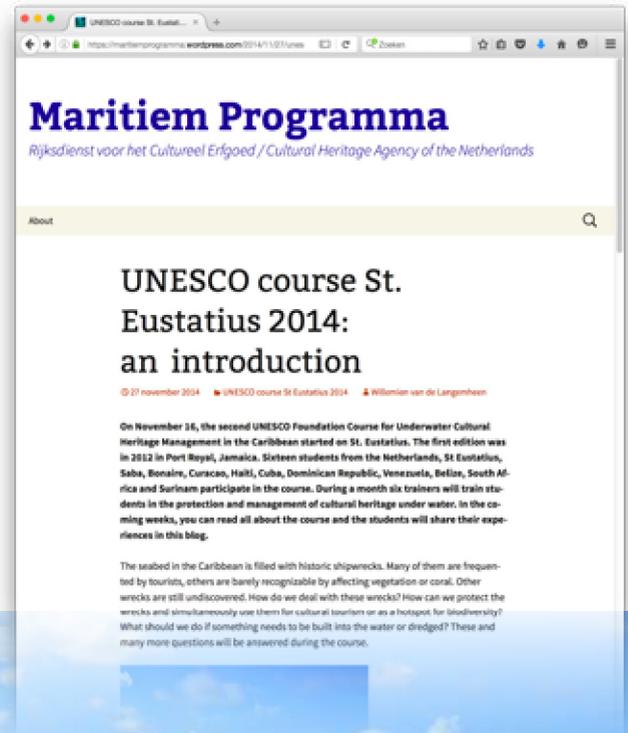
## WEEK 4

	Monday 8th December Day 1	Tuesday 9th December Day 2	Wednesday 10th December Day 3	Thursday 11th December Day 4	Friday 12nd December Day 5	Saturday 13th December Day 6	Sunday 14th December Day 7
<b>WEEK 4</b>							
90 minutes		Unit 16: MM Museology Part 2	Unit 3: MM CU Management of UCH role play	Unit 9: MM In Situ Preservation	Course Review	Free day	Travel Day
Break							
90 minutes		RS + RE Material Culture Analyses	Unit 3: MM CU Management of UCH role play	Unit 9: MM In Situ Preservation	Appendix E: MM/CU Finalise Management Plan/Story Board	Free day	Travel Day
Break							
90 minutes		Unit 3: MM Management of UCH	Unit 17: CU Public Archaeology	Appendix E: MM/CU Finalise Management Plan/Story Board	Appendix E: MM/CU Finalise Management Plan/Story Board	Free day	Travel Day
Break							
90 minutes	Survey/ dive Saba	Unit 3: MM Management of UCH + explanation role play	Unit 17: CU/MM Public Archaeology	Appendix E: MM/CU Finalise Management Plan/Story Board	Closing ceremony	Free day	Travel Day
30 minutes		Country presentation	Country presentation	Country Presentation			

## Appendix II: Blogs by students of the course

During the Foundation Course the students were required to write a blog on their experiences. They were published on: <https://maritiemprogramma.wordpress.com/2014/11/27/unesco-course-st-eustatius-2014-an-introduction/>

The text of these blogs can be read in the following pages.



## UNESCO COURSE ST. EUSTATIUS 2014: AN INTRODUCTION

DATE: 27 NOVEMBER 2014

**On November 16, the second UNESCO Foundation Course for Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Caribbean started on St. Eustatius. The first edition was in 2012 in Port Royal, Jamaica. Sixteen students from the Netherlands, St Eustatius, Saba, Bonaire, Curacao, Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Belize, South Africa and Surinam participate in the course. During a month six trainers will train students in the protection and management of cultural heritage under water. In the coming weeks, you can read all about the course and the students will share their experiences in this blog.**

*The seabed in the Caribbean is filled with historic*

*shipwrecks. Many of them are frequented by tourists, others are barely recognizable by affecting vegetation or coral. Other wrecks are still undiscovered. How do we deal with these wrecks? How can we protect the wrecks and simultaneously use them for cultural tourism or as a hotspot for biodiversity? What should we do if something needs to be built into the water or dredged? These and many more questions will be answered during the course.*

*This course consists of a theoretical and practical part. The first part of the course will be in the building of SECAR, St. Eustatius Center for Archaeological Research. The practice will consist of the mapping of the 18th century Dutch warehouses lying at a depth of up to 5 meters off the coast of*



Group foto before going into the water (Photo: M. Harterink)

St Eustatius. In addition to the mapping of the buildings, suggestions will be made for how to handle this in the future. The dive operations are supervised by Scubaqua Dive Centre.

The organizers and trainers are Martijn Manders of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) and the University of Leiden and Chris Underwood of Proas Argentina and the Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS). Together we have already done many capacity building projects in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Jamaica and now here on this Caribbean island – which is, along with Saba and Bonaire, a special municipality of the Netherlands. Ruud Stelten and Ryan Espersen are respectively working on St Eustatius (SECAR) and Saba (SABARC) and do their PhD research

in Leiden on the two islands. They help with the local organization and will also help in providing training. There is also a trainer of UNESCO (Haiti), Tatiana Villegas and from the United States (NOAA), Hans van Tilburg is also involved.

The course is made possible by the Maritime Programme and the Shared Heritage Programme of the RCE as the main sponsor, assisted by the University of Leiden, The NEXUS 1492 Project, UNESCO and the ICOMOS Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH). The main reason for the RCE to finance this course is that we assume that people are highly important in cultural heritage management. It is the people who can do the management, they can appreciate, learn to love, use and protect heritage. Therefore, capacity building



Preparations before diving (Photo: M. Manders)

is so important in both the Maritime Programme as the Shared Heritage Programme of the RCE.

The training in the Caribbean is part of as many as three important tasks of the RCE: first, the agency is involved in the management and protection of Dutch shipwrecks overseas. Shipwrecks of which the Dutch claim ownership have priority, of the VOC, WIC and admiralty (and more modern warships). Some of these ships are in Caribbean waters, just think of the Huis te Kruiningen in Tobago, but also the Alphen in Curacao and the privateers ships around Cuba. Good management can only take place with the approval and cooperation of the countries where these ships are. The aim is to have the wrecks submitted in the overall management of those countries. Well trained archaeologists make that job a lot easier. The claim of the Netherlands on the property is just a safety net in case a country wants to or cannot take care of the wrecks.

The second reason for funding is the Shared Heritage Programme (head of the programme is Jean Paul Corten) of which the maritime part is performed by the Maritime Programme. The Netherlands work very closely with 10 priority countries in the field of Cultural Heritage Management. Again, the highest priority is capacity building. In this course three priority countries are represented: South Africa, Suriname and the US.

A third reason to create a capacity building project for underwater cultural heritage on St. Eustatius has to do with the role of the RCE in the Netherlands and the goals of the Maritime Programme for the deployment of a sound management in Dutch waters. Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba are special municipalities of

the Netherlands. So far, there has been very little attention for creating a management strategy in one of these municipalities. This also applies to the other countries in our kingdom: Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten. By educating people, but also by encouraging them afterwards, we can initiate great projects. After all, the islands are also largely dependent on dive tourism in the Caribbean. There lies a challenge: to integrate heritage management in the conservation of the islands. It could even give the economy a boost! In the course Curacao, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba are present.

With some goodwill we can ratify the 2015 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. This is very important for the mainland of the Netherlands, but perhaps even more for the Dutch Caribbean islands. The Latin American and Caribbean region has the highest number of countries that have ratified the convention. So there is already a platform for cooperation between the states. An integrated management approach seems to be crucial in this region. That is why several countries are present and building a platform is stimulated by cooperating in this course. Because the ratification is one thing, building a responsible management of underwater cultural heritage is another. To achieve this you need knowledge but also help, which can be found in the region by supporting each other's work. In other words, this training is only a start, it should be a spin off for more. In the coming weeks we will provide you with this blog to keep you informed of the course.

#### **MARTIJN MANDERS**

Head of the Maritime Programme (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands), organizer and trainer

## THEORY AND LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ON UNDERWATER HERITAGE TOPICS

DATE: 29 NOVEMBER 2014

**The St. Eustatius Center for Archaeological Research (SECAR) is situated in a big house with large rooms. The story goes that the building was designed in centimeters, but built in inches instead. This past mistake, makes the center perfectly capable to host a bunch of students in bunk beds for a UNESCO course on Underwater Cultural Heritage. The incredibly rich colonial history of St. Eustatius is of course also a welcome addition.**

*Sixteen students from Haiti, Bonaire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Curaçao, St Eustatius, Saba, Belize, Venezuela, Surinam, South Africa and the Netherlands form a diverse group. Their diverse professional backgrounds make for lively discussions on topics like the significance of underwater*

*heritage, the way to go about in a reef and what should be done with artefacts. The first weeks are filled with 8-hour days of theory, where everybody slowly sinks into the comfortable couches at SECAR.*

*Luckily the occasional excursion, a little volleyball, a strenuous work-out regime, lead by our Venezuelan 'Jean-Claude van Damme', and the promise of a full week of archaeological diving around the sunken warehouses of St. Eustatius keep everybody quite lively.*

Johan Schaeffer is one of the students participating in the course. On Saba, he is the General Manager of SABARC, the Saba Archaeological Center. SABARC has three main tasks: establishing a cultural heritage center, coordinating community and youth projects and managing archaeological activities on Saba.



Surveying underwater (Photo: M. Manders)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IN SURINAME

DATE: 1 DECEMBER 2014

**As you already know, two students from Suriname are also participating in the UNESCO Foundation Course for Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Caribbean to protect their cultural heritage. Both participants (Guno Phagu and Rambharosa Dharwiendre) are students from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname. We study History with a minor in Archaeology at the faculty of humanities.**

*In Suriname there is not a lot done in the field of underwater cultural heritage management, so this training was the golden opportunity for us. Suriname has a lot of underwater cultural heritage that has to be managed. Some of them are: the Goslar, a 2nd world war ship that is in the Suriname river. The Leusden, which is an 18th century slave ship that sunk in the mouth Marowijne river. We also have the Prof. dr.ir.W.J. van Blommestein lake, where 27 villages drowned because of the building of the Afobakka dam for hydroelectricity in 1958. We know about these sites based on historical documents, but underwater research has not been done yet.*



The old jetty (Photo: M. Manders)

*After completing the Foundation course, we are planning to start with the research in the Prof. dr.ir.W.J. van Blommestein lake to investigate the opportunities this area has in terms of cultural heritage resources. The visibility is good in the lake and we are eager to know more about the structures of the villages. All were maroon (runaway slaves) communities living there from the colonial period. There are rumors that there must also be a church in one of the villages with a bell. We are eager to look for the evidence ourselves.*

*This course will help us a lot in doing all this, we learn here how to recognize, record and preserve artefacts underwater. During this training we learn a lot from not only the trainers but also our fellow students, some of which are already working in the field of (underwater) cultural heritage management. We learn about the heritage and heritage management in different Caribbean countries too. We have built up a team and become friends with each other. We expect to work together and help each other in the future to manage our underwater cultural heritage. When doing projects in Suriname we will surely need the help of our friends, because in Suriname we don't have all the experienced people. Maybe they can also help us with finding funds for the projects. And we will also help them if needed. In this regard we are very happy to know that one of our trainers is from the RCE in the Netherlands. Suriname being one of the priority countries for Mutual Heritage we have already started to discuss the possibilities of setting up joined projects. Will be continued!*

### GUNO PHAGU

Rambharosa Dharwiendre  
Anton de Kom University, Suriname

## CURACAO IS ALSO IN THE UNESCO FOUNDATION COURSE

DATE: 3 DECEMBER 2014

**My name is Cimperly Symister (21) and I represent the island of Curaçao in this UNESCO Foundation Course in Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Caribbean. By just participating in this course, it will have many benefits for the island of Curaçao.**

*As a little girl I always wanted to become an archaeologist and I didn't want to change it for any other profession. In 2009 I started doing volunteer work at the National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM). After graduating from a school of higher general secondary education I got as a present of my parents a vacation trip to the Dominican Republic. There I did a single scuba dive and it changed my whole life. I was a little confused. An archaeologist or a scuba dive?*

*Both became my passion day after day. But after doing some research I have finally found a profession where I can practice both of my passions. Since then I wanted to become a Maritime Archaeologist. When I got back from that vacation trip, the first thing I did was follow the Scuba Diving courses. Now I am a PADI Divemaster. Meanwhile I was studying at Social Work and Sciences at the University of Curaçao and I graduated this year.*

### **Curaçao**

*Curaçao is one of the Caribbean islands with a lot of maritime history, especially in the busy harbour of Willemstad. Willemstad is the capital and is the place for commerce and trade since the 17th century. We also have a wreck of a steamship called the SS Mediator, which sank in our harbour in 1884.*

### **Course**

*During this course I have learned a lot. The first two weeks we got more like theory about project design, data management, different survey techniques and much more. This is already the third week and it is the Diving Project Week. The students are divided in three groups, that each take up a part of the site that we are working on. We have to come up with a management plan for the 18th century building construction and the 19th century pier in the lower town of Oranjestad. Besides that we also have to make the people of St.Eustatius aware of the beautiful history the island has.*

### **Future**

*By doing this course I have confirmed that this is what I want to be: a Maritime Archaeologist. I'm looking forward to the future. Next year I want to study Archeology at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands and later on I want to go on and study Maritime Archaeology at the University of Southern Denmark. My biggest dream is to come back to my lovely island and support my island in the field of underwater cultural heritage.*

### **CIMBERLY SYMISTER**



*Survey with the whole group in Jenkins bay (Photo: M. Manders)*

## THE POTENTIAL OF VENEZUELA'S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2014

**When Christopher Columbus landed in Venezuela in 1498 he introduced Europe to one of the most impressive places he had ever seen. He and his crew called it “Tierra de Gracia,” or “Land of Grace”, because it made them think of paradise.....Nothing closer to the truth.... Since today there are still places in the Venezuelan geography where paradise remains frozen in time.**

*Soon after these first discoveries the Europeans turned their heads to the New World, mostly because of the richness already reported by many conquerors and explorers, a fact which triggered a huge race among the most important European nations of that time to explore and develop these newly discovered territories.*

*Today, five hundred years after, the remains of these enterprises can be seen not only in the Venezuela's maritime landscape, represented by many fortresses and old towns along the coast, but also by hundreds of shipwrecks, some of which still are in place waiting to be studied by the present and next generations of underwater archaeologists, some of whom are already being trained thanks to the aid and support of institutions such as the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE), the University of Leiden, the Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS), the UNESCO, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).*

*My interest in shipwrecks started in 1998 when I had the opportunity to arrange and participate in the initial survey of the French Fleet of the American*



Jenkins Bay (Photo: M. Manders)

*Islands, wrecked in the Archipelago of Aves in 1678. After performing an initial research in the French Maritime archives and other historical resources I got very impressed not only by the fact that I probably was in front of one the most catastrophic and larger shipwrecks in the whole Caribbean, but that also I was among the few fortunate people in the world that had the opportunity to explore and research this extraordinary shipwreck at first hand. A fact which not only impressed me the most but also made me think of the importance of studying underwater archaeology in order to comprehend and protect this site.*

*Today this shipwreck, among many others also reported by fishermen and enthusiasts like me, along the Venezuelan coast, are of a great opportunity not only to know more about the Caribbean and the world history, but also of great relevance to awaken the importance and potential of the Venezuela's underwater cultural heritage. Not only to the general public opinion, but also as a way to develop at the same time the necessary projects and programs which might help to study, protect and preserve these archaeological sites for future generations, with the hope that they might evolve through time into educational and museum projects, which may contribute to enrich not only Venezuela's but also the world's underwater heritage as well.*

*As a participant in the UNESCO Foundation Course for Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Caribbean being held at St. Eustatius, I wish to say thanks to Martijn Manders, Chris Underwood, Tatiana Villegas, Ruud Stelten, Reese Cook, Ryan Espersen, Hans van Tilburg and the professors*

*Marlena and Andrzej Antczak for the opportunity of being part of this magnificent course, which eventually will be of great support for all the Venezuelan future underwater projects. Also I would like to thank my colleague students from Cuba, Bonaire, Curacao, Belize, Suriname, Republica Dominicana, The Netherlands, Haiti and South Africa for their kind friendship and support along the course.*

**JOSE MIGUEL PEREZ GOMEZ**

Fundacion Manoa

Undergraduate Student / School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester

## FINDING THE WAY UP IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

DATE: 6 DECEMBER 2014

**My name is Diana Pena Bastalla, archaeologist from the Dominican Republic. I am currently participating in the UNESCO Foundation Course in St. Eustatius. I am very excited to be part of this group of wonderful individuals with a strong passion to protect our underwater cultural heritage.**

*I come from the heart of the Caribbean, 'La Hispaniola', which is now divided in two countries: the Dominican Republic and Haiti. My island is full of tremendous energy, diverse population, and vibrant cultures. For as long I can remember, I have always wanted to be an archaeologist. At some point during my adolescence, I remember talking to my parents about it. They hesitated as soon as I mentioned the topic because archaeology was not*

*considered as a career in Dominican Republic. Today after many years of studies I hold the Master's Degree in Archaeological Studies from Glasgow University in Scotland and I have returned to my country to work and contribute to my Dominican society.*

*Around the coasts of the Dominican Republic, there is a vast amount of shipwrecks that perished since the beginning of the contact with the Europeans in the 15th century in their endless endeavours to find gold and other valuable resources from the new world - 'America'. These shipwrecks are the silent witnesses of tragedies and stories of unfulfilled lives that were cut short by storms, wars, privateers and pirate attacks. If the underwater cultural heritage could speak thousands of stories would be told.*



Measuring underwater (Photo: M. Manders)

The Dominican Republic government has an Underwater Archaeology Department (Oficina de Patrimonio Subacuático). Sadly it is understaffed: the lack of underwater archaeologists, funding, and technology threatens the existence of our underwater cultural heritage. As a solution to canalize funding, the Dominican government granted contracts to 'Treasure Hunters' companies from North America.

For decades these companies have used uncontrolled exploitation, indiscriminate and unsuitable research methods such as excavating with explosives, intense use of punches, strong suckers, prop-wash and trawling. As marine salvors they are entitled to 50% of the material culture (objects) found during the excavations and used for commercial purposes abroad. Recently the majority of these contracts were cancelled but some companies still with the pretext of salvaging our underwater cultural heritage keep conducting excavations in our waters and exploiting our underwater cultural resources. Nevertheless, there is still hope that this situation will get better. It is – in this light - important for our country to ratify the UNESCO 2001 CONVENTION on protection of the underwater cultural heritage.

During this course we have learned about Data Management, Underwater Cultural Heritage, Underwater Archaeological Techniques, Project designs, Legal protection of Underwater Cultural heritage, and Geographical Information Systems. At the moment, we have been divided into groups and each group has been assigned a project in which we have to put into context everything we have learned throughout the first weeks of training. My team

is in charge of surveying the ruins of the 'Old Pier' located in Orange Bay, Lower Town, St. Eustatius. In its original form, Oude Pier or Old Pier was used as a landing for commercial activities and for passengers of larger ships to disembark.

Participating in the UNESCO Foundation Course has given me the opportunity to learn more about the importance of underwater cultural Heritage. As delegates of our countries the aim is to create a strong network that would enable us to manage and protect the underwater cultural heritage of our Caribbean waters.

The Foundation Course has inspired me to further my studies in underwater archaeology and to re-create the initiative in my country of the importance of ratifying the UNESCO CONVENTION to preserve and protect our underwater cultural heritage.

**DIANA PENA BASTALLA**

## COMBINING NATURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IN A BONAIRE BASED PRIVATE COMPANY

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2014

**They are wild, conscious and in for challenging work. This is probably how Fernando and Jimmy got into the UNESCO Foundation Course on Underwater Cultural Heritage. With their recently founded company in mind, this course was a fantastic opportunity.**

*Their love for the Caribbean islands and vision for sustainable resources management inspired the creation of Wild Conscience NV. Underwater Cultural Heritage management was a subject both men were familiar with, but not experts on and thus it was a great and exciting addition to their resume.*

*The course is locally facilitated by SECAR and the students reside in the two (boys and girls separate) dorm rooms. Their spacious living room and kitchen functions as a study, lecture room, archaeological exhibition room, rec-room, theater and conference room. Evenings are spent working, socializing and many interesting topics are discussed with such a multi cultural group. Several participants have already mentioned interesting projects in their home country and are currently discussing future partnership. Fernando and Jimmy would love to be a partner in future underwater cultural heritage projects.*

*After two weeks of intensive theoretical training and a fieldwork week the course is getting to an end. The group that is divided in three teams are finishing their management plans, storyboards and mapping process. It has been an interesting and exciting three weeks, with great participants and energy. The camaraderie is high and this many people with different professions is bound to create an*



*interesting end product. This course is bound to give a great stimulus to Caribbean underwater cultural heritage management. The Wild Conscience team is excited about the work and potential and look forward to future projects in this field.*

*Luckily the course is not over yet and all of us look forward to the final days.*

**FERNANDO SIMAL & JIMMY VAN RIJN**

## BELIZE, A COUNTRY THRIVING ON ITS NATURAL AND CULTURAL RICHNESS

DATE: 11 DECEMBER 2014

**It is innate to wonder about where we come from, our origins and what inspired our ancestors. It is innate to wander also, to explore so as to learn the past and thereby plan for the future.**

*It's been a privilege attending the UNESCO Foundation Course for Underwater Cultural Heritage. I'm even more thrilled to have represented my country, my little Belize, whose growth is slow but steady, even as it relates to underwater cultural heritage. There hasn't been much research in the discipline in Belize, but the potential is there. We are a nation with a rich culture and history! A diverse group of individuals met on this tiny island of St. Eustatius. Strong characters with a profound passion for*

*conservation: managers, biologists, archaeologists – a plethora of disciplines all under one roof who share a common goal.*

*The dynamics of the past month, from theory to practical, set a platform on how to better manage underwater cultural heritage in our home countries with both government and public participation, especially the latter.*

*Before the start of the course I pondered what attending the course would mean to me. Underwater cultural heritage for a marine biologist? Of course the "underwater" appealed to me, but I hadn't realized that the two disciplines are integral in the grand scheme of underwater cultural heritage management. Especially for a country like*



On excursion to one of the batteries on the island (Photo: M. Manders)

*Belize where our economy thrives on the natural environment and history.*

*Belize is a diverse mixing pot of people. Sure, we have our challenges (who doesn't?), but we are a proud people who cherish and love our home. That being said, as a proud Belizean, what am I taking back from this course? Knowledge and a network of wisdom. Tools which can and will be used to assist in the sustainable management of our cultural heritage.*

*Why should we protect our underwater cultural heritage? Simple. It is our heritage – be it on land or underwater – it provides a sense of belonging; belonging to a place our ancestors built, a place we continue to mould, a place for future generations to learn from and to appreciate.*

*I've learned plenty this past month. Not only from the course trainers but also from my fellow comrades. It's interesting to hear the tales from other countries. From countries that have ratified the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and the laws subsequent to the ratification but also, and especially, from those that haven't and the actions they are currently undertaking in order to protect their underwater cultural heritage. Belize has not ratified (not that we don't want to – as I type this colleagues back home work diligently to update and amend our legislation). However, we do have legislation in place to protect underwater cultural heritage (though signing on the 2001 Convention would lead to better laws and more stringent penalties).*

*Though cultures differ (as do their values and ethics, their significance) we all came together for a successful month of thought provoking lectures and discussions, a means of planning ahead for the future. Meeting so many people from all over the globe, connecting with people that share that passion and all who aspire to great things has been inspirational. Chris, Martijn, Ryan, Ruud, Hans, Tatiana, much thanks for imparting your wisdom to us!*

*As the end of the course nears, we prepare to leave Statia with a sense of accomplishment, gratitude to each other, new friendships and fond memories.*

*A big thank you to the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) and the Institute of Archaeology of Belize for your support in this venture...*

*Thank you everyone for being truly amazing!*

*Cheers!*

### **JANÉ I. SALAZAR**

Executive Assistant - Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) - Belize Chapter

Executive Assistant - International Forestry Students' Association-University of Belize (IFSA-UB)

Certified Rescue/Scientific Diver - University of Belize Dive Control Board

1. Marine Sciences & Biology | University of Belize 2010

B.Sc Natural Resources Management | University of Belize 2016

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR HAITI TO EXPLORE IT'S UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2014

**Haiti is well known as the First Black Republic in the World and the second country that has been independent in the American continent. Back to the time before its independence, a lot of things happened. It was the place where the indigenous people, named Taino, lived, there were pirate conflicts, conflicts between Spanish and French ships and so on. The conflicts often took place in the many bays of the Pearl of the Islands (the ancient name of Haiti) and also near Il-a-vache and Ile de la Tortue.**

*This longtime maritime history must have left traces in the waters surrounding Haiti. However, our country hasn't yet made an inventory and explored its Underwater Cultural Heritage, even though it is*

*such an important part of its identity! Fortunately in November 2009 Haiti signed up the 2001 UNESCO convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.*

*This year for the second UNESCO Foundation Course in the Caribbean, Haiti sent two participants: Syndy Alte, undergraduate student in Art history and archaeology and Camille Louis, a master in Cultural Resources: Archaeology/conservation. We believe that this Underwater Course is a great opportunity for Haiti. Through this capacity building programme the both of us can set up a management plan for underwater cultural heritage and hopefully also a unit that will be in charge to take care of and promote the underwater cultural heritage. During this month of intensive training, we*



*On land practicing the survey before going into the water (Photo: M. Manders)*

*learned a lot. Our schedule was very interesting and quite busy. It took two weeks of intensive theoretical training, learning about the UNESCO convention, project design, different survey methods, fieldwork practice, we have learned about the component of ships, identify ceramics, site significance, and how to write a site management plan.*

*In week three we did our fieldwork. Through diving on the historical structures in Oranje Bay we put the significance assessment, recording underwater and the writing of the Management Plan into practice. An additional assignment was to come up with a storyboard about the site, aimed at the visitors of the local historical museum in Oranjestad, where the boards will be installed.*

*The group of students consists of people from different countries. It was a great experience for each of us to work with people from such a diversity of cultures. There are many things to do in Haiti in terms of underwater culture heritage. It would be a great benefit for our country if more research will be done, if there will be more opportunity for jobs and of course a sustainable plan for the management of the underwater cultural heritage will be developed. The good news is: all our friends of the course are willing to come in Haiti in order to work hand in hand with us to help us fulfill this dream. And they are more than welcome!*

**SYNDY ALTE**

undergraduate student in Art history and archaeology

Camille Louis, master in Cultural Resources:  
Archaeology/conservation



## SOUTH AFRICA HANGING OUT IN THE CARRIBEAN

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2016

**My name is Tara Van Niekerk and I'm all the way from the beautiful Republic of South Africa. It truly has been a privilege to participate in the UNESCO Foundation Course taking place on the sleepy island of St. Eustatius in the Dutch Caribbean. Being from what seems to be the odd country out, it has been amazing to be welcomed so completely into the world of all these wonderful people and learn about archaeology in the Caribbean.**

*You may ask why would someone from South Africa be participating in a course with a focus on Caribbean archaeology, but it is pleasantly surprising to realise how similar the two regions are. South Africa is considered to be one of the priority countries for mutual heritage by the Netherlands as it was once, like many of the islands in the Caribbean, a former Dutch colony during the 16th to late 17th centuries. There are many cultural heritage sites both on land and underwater that are considered to be shared heritage with the Netherlands. As a Heritage officer working for the South African Heritage Resources Agency, it is my job to help manage and promote this diverse maritime and underwater cultural heritage.*

*South Africa has a rich maritime history with close to 3000 underwater cultural heritage sites, with quite a few of these being shipwrecks of Dutch nationality. Sites older than 60 years are currently protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 but there is still room for improvement in protecting our UCH sites. Recently approval was given in Parliament for the accession of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural*

*Heritage which has been an important step in the right direction for the professionals in the Maritime Archaeology field and the protection of our UCH.*

*The UNESCO course has therefore been a valuable source toward the work that we do and has allowed me to learn more about the different aspects of heritage resource management around the world. Through topical discussions such as the UNESCO convention, site significance assessment and management, data management we have been pushed to think about the different needs within our own country. It has been an intensive few weeks with both class room work and field work but I can say that I will go away from it having built on my previous experience, refreshing some of my skills and having learnt many new skills. I am truly grateful to our instructors Martijn and Chris for this opportunity and would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the course.*

### TARA VAN NIEKERK

Heritage Officer Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit South African Heritage Resources Agency SAHRA

## FLYING OUT

DATE: 17 DECEMBER 2014

**After a month of training, after many laughs, conversations, diving, analysing data, writing, presenting, eating, sleeping and even karaoke together all the students and trainers have left St. Eustatius (or Statia). All except for our two Statian participants Pardis and Reese.**

*The moment I flew out, an empty feeling came over me. What a characters! Each and every one of them. An unlikely group of people, now known colleagues and hopefully partners in future projects. Will they? I have good hopes. Including the Foundation Course in Jamaica more than 30 people have done the training and with the Spanish training in Campeche, Mexico it is even more!*

*I truly hope they will find each other. There are so many great possibilities! We will definitely support those new cooperations: the trainers, the UNESCO and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE). Underwater archaeology and cultural heritage management organised and executed from within the region. Maybe by doing so, more emphasis will be laying on trying to unfold the mysteries of indigenous seafaring in the Caribbean. At this point, still, after so many years of (mainly foreign) research in the area hardly any archaeological evidences of boats or other crafts of indigenous origin have been found. They must be somewhere! A challenge therefore! But of course other sites like submerged prehistoric sites and e.g. colonist ships from France, England, Spain and the*



Group photo with the deputy governor (Photo: M. Manders)

*Netherlands are important as well. The Caribbean has become a melting pot of different cultures. All the sites are part of the complex past that has made the region what it is today. So most important to do now, is to set up responsible management for the underwater cultural heritage in the different states in the region. This takes time, especially time, and some convincing of the need to do so. Starting small and extending to more if possible. A place to report sites, a database to register, laws to protect. Interviews with the fishermen, the sportsdivers, surveys on the beach... these are all possible even with a small budget. Even the cultural significance assessments underwater as taught at the course will not cost a lot more money than the diving itself.*

*I would say: go for it!*

*My last words are that of 'thank you'.*

*Thank you participants: Jose Miguel, Cyndy, Cimperly, Jane, Joost, Jimmy, Johan, Reece, Pardis, Darwin, Guno, Camille, Diana, Fernando, Maickel, Tara.*

*Thank you trainers: Chris, Hans, Ruud, Tatiana and Ryan Thank you all that have made this training possible: Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE), Leiden University, NEXUS 1492 project, UNESCO, ICUCH/ICOMOS, SECAR, Scubaqua Dive Center, the people of St Eustatius and all these other individuals that have made the month an extremely pleasant one, a month hard to forget.*

*A goodbye to you all*

**MARTIJN MANDERS**

Trainer and course coordinator

## Appendix III: Collaboration letter to announce the UNESCO Foundation Course



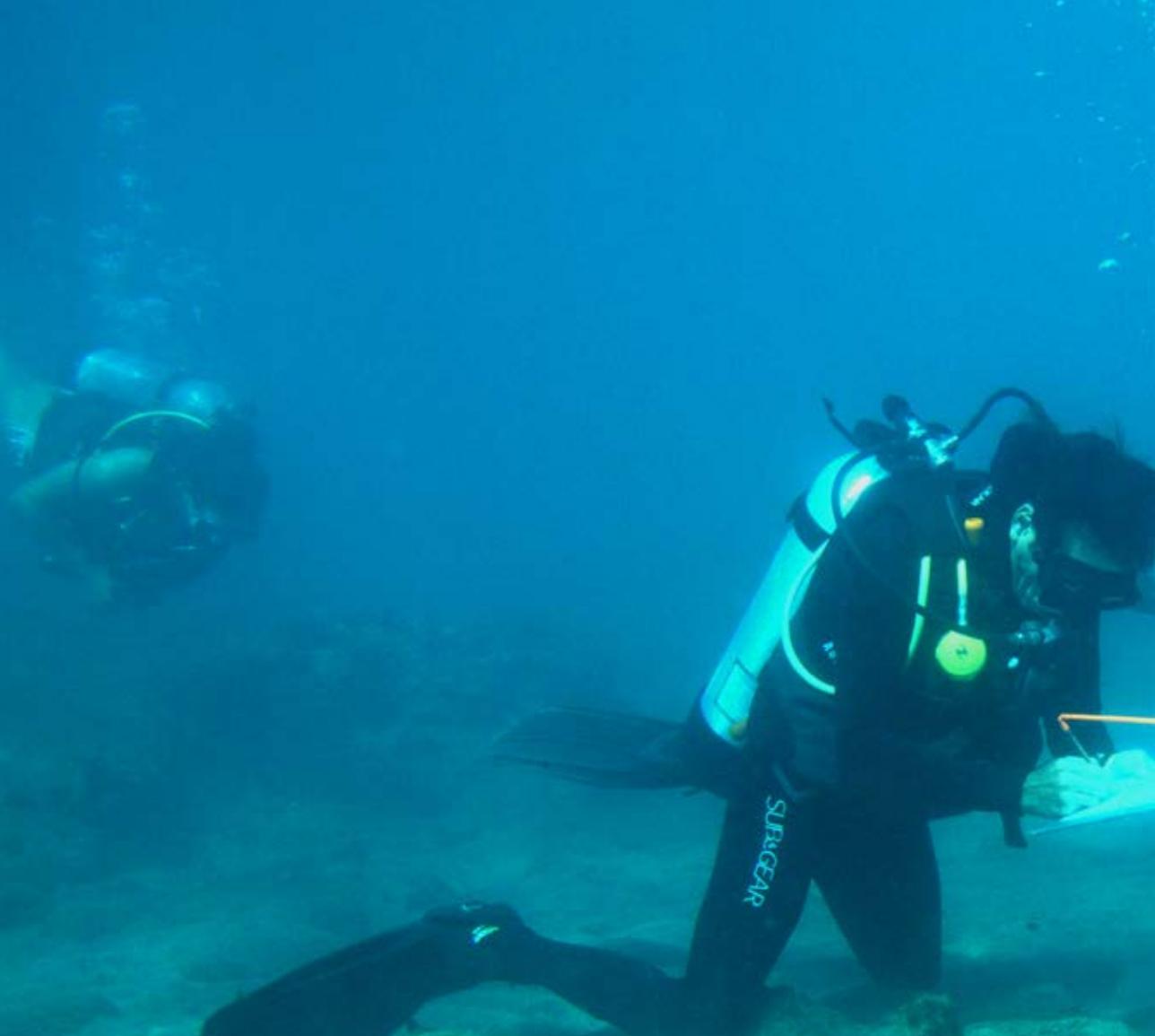
The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, the Nexus 1492 Heritage research project in the Caribbean in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana and the Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean are pleased to announce the UNESCO Foundation course on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage for the Caribbean States to be held from November 17 to December 13, 2014 in St Eustatius.

The course addresses participants who are working professionally in the field of (underwater or maritime) archaeology, conservation and (underwater or maritime) cultural heritage protection. Candidates are required to have an internationally valid dive qualification. Their candidatures will be reviewed by a panel of experts in order to ensure the level of expertise required for this training. The course will be held in English.

Interested participants should address their candidature with their CV, diving and medical certificate to their respective National Commission for UNESCO and to the UNESCO office in Havana and Kingston, to Ms. Himsichun Gurung, ([h.gurung@unesco.org](mailto:h.gurung@unesco.org)), Tatiana Villegas ([t.villegas@unesco.org](mailto:t.villegas@unesco.org)) and Lenia Gamonal ([l.gamonal@unesco.org](mailto:l.gamonal@unesco.org)).

List of national Commission in the Caribbean. In PDF





This report presents the development and outcome of the second UNESCO Foundation Course for Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Caribbean. The seabed in the Caribbean is filled with historic shipwrecks. Many of them are frequently visited by tourists, others are barely recognizable by affecting vegetation or still undiscovered. International cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of maritime heritage is of great importance, as it is a crucial factor for the management and preservation of this unique heritage. Organising and participating in the international UNESCO foundation course is one of the instruments to reach this goal. This Foundation Course was organised on St. Eustatius in 2015 in cooperation with The Maritime Programme, The University of Leiden, The Nexus 1492 Project, UNESCO and the ICOMOS Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage.

The Cultural Heritage Agency provides knowledge and advice to give the future the past.