

# Knowledge Sovereignty · Ocean Layer — civilian ocean-science alignment for the UK–Eelam axis — MP Evidence Pack

A civilian-only ocean-knowledge programme aligned with UNESCO-IOC and the UN Ocean Decade. Coastal memory, maritime cultural heritage and area-level oceanography — never extraction, never naval, never named sites in homeland waters.

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## Audience

- UK MPs
- APPG for Tamils
- FCDO
- DEFRA
- DSIT
- UNESCO National Commission UK
- House of Lords Science & Technology

## Best used for

- Written questions on UK support for UN Ocean Decade-aligned civilian research in the Bay of Bengal and Palk Bay
- Letters to FCDO on UNCLOS-consistent civilian science cooperation
- Questions on UNESCO 2001 UCH Convention adherence for Tamil maritime heritage
- Adjournment debates on UK–South Asia ocean science collaboration

## Tier-A evidence anchors

- The Archaeology of Seafaring in Ancient South Asia
- Sri Lankan Maritime Trade with the Mediterranean World
- Indian Ocean Civic Situation Board — TLTE
- Knowledge Sovereignty · Ocean Layer (TLTE) — <https://docs.tlte.cloud/doctrine/sovereignty/ocean>
- UN Ocean Decade 2021–2030 — <https://oceandecade.org/>
- UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage — <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/convention-protection-underwater-cultural-heritage>
- UNCLOS — Part XIII Marine Scientific Research — [https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/texts/unclos/part13.htm](https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/part13.htm)
- UK National Oceanography Centre — <https://noc.ac.uk/>
- HMG Integrated Review Refresh 2023 — Indo-Pacific tilt — <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-review-refresh-2023-responding-to-a-more-contested-and-volatile-world>

- IMO — International Maritime Organization — <https://www.imo.org/>

## Policy asks

- UK Government (FCDO): Affirm UK support for civilian, UNCLOS-consistent ocean-science cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and Palk Bay under the UN Ocean Decade.
- UK Government (DSIT/DEFRA): Note opportunities for UK–South Asia partner-led ocean-science collaboration through the National Oceanography Centre and UK academic consortia.
- UK Government (DCMS): Reaffirm UK alignment with the principles of the 2001 UNESCO Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention for protection of Tamil maritime heritage sites.

## Draft parliamentary questions

- [FCDO] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment has been made of opportunities for UK participation in UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) activities in the Bay of Bengal and Palk Bay.
- [DSIT] To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what discussions the National Oceanography Centre has had with South Asian partners on civilian ocean-science cooperation under the UN Ocean Decade.
- [DCMS] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what HM Government's position is on the principles of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage with regard to Tamil maritime heritage in the Indian Ocean.

## Civic remembrance

Coastal memory is part of civic memory. Reading the sea — its currents, its wrecks, its language — is a peaceful exercise of knowledge sovereignty under UNCLOS and the UN Ocean Decade. This pack proposes only civilian, partner-led, peer-reviewed cooperation. UK Lobbying Act 2014 transparency note applies on every printed brief.

## Pack rules

- Never proposes military, naval, intelligence, or surveillance activity of any kind.
- Never names individual research sites in homeland waters; only area-level descriptions.
- Never frames as resource extraction, EEZ assertion, or proto-state maritime claim.
- All field activity is partner-led under UNCLOS Part XIII consent rules; TLTE never operates a vessel.
- UNESCO 2001 UCH Convention principles (in situ preservation, no commercial exploitation) apply to all heritage references.
- Lobbying Act 2014 transparency note on every printed brief.

## Transparency

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