

# SHARED CULTURAL HERITAGE *fact sheet 2017 - 2020*

## Shared Cultural Heritage Policy of the Netherlands

### A shared history, a shared future

How does the history of the Netherlands as a former world power continue to influence Dutch society and our international relations? The language we speak, the food we eat, the buildings that surround us and the stories we pass on bear many traces of a shared history with other countries, among them Australia, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Suriname, Sri Lanka, the United States and South Africa. The Netherlands is now working with these countries to preserve the significance of these historical links for future generations.

The Shared Cultural Heritage programme is part of the Netherlands' international cultural policy. For the 2017-2020 period, the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Education, Culture and Science have formulated a policy for this programme that focuses on ten partner countries: Suriname, Brazil, the United States, Russia, South Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan and Australia.

#### The programme operates on three basic premises:

- Cooperation based on equality, reciprocity and respect for ownership is at the core of our commitment to our shared cultural heritage.
- International cooperation is needed if we are to preserve and manage this shared cultural heritage and make it accessible.
- The participation of the public is essential for the sustainable development and repurposing of cultural heritage.

The embassies of the Netherlands in the ten partner countries support local Shared Cultural Heritage projects. In the Netherlands, three institutes execute the Shared Cultural Heritage policy in close cooperation with governments, institutions and organisations in the Netherlands and in the partner countries. The three executive organisations are **DutchCulture, centre for international cooperation**, the **National Archives of the Netherlands** and the **Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands**. Jointly, these organisations aim to foster local demands in the partner countries and link the individual projects. More information on their roles and responsibilities can be found in this factsheet and or on their websites.

You are more than welcome to participate in the Shared Cultural Heritage programme. The Dutch Embassies and the three institutes in the Netherlands can help to provide Dutch and international heritage professionals and organisations with expertise, networks or financial support.

### The embassies of the Netherlands in Shared Cultural Heritage partner countries

An embassy can support Shared Cultural Heritage projects in a number of ways:

- **Supporting local Shared Cultural Heritage initiatives.** The embassies have the financial means to support Shared Cultural Heritage projects of local organisations.
- **Connecting partners.** The embassies can connect you to relevant institutions and experts in the Netherlands to support the exchange of knowledge and collaboration.
- **Understanding local circumstances.** The embassies can help Dutch organisations to better understand local circumstances and adapt their projects accordingly.
- **Identifying opportunities.** The embassies can help identify economic and cultural opportunities for local and Dutch organisations. In turn, the embassies can support endeavours that wish to make use of these opportunities.

**Website:** [www.government.nl/topics/embassies-consulates-and-other-representations](http://www.government.nl/topics/embassies-consulates-and-other-representations)

### DutchCulture, centre for international cooperation

DutchCulture, which is situated in Amsterdam, aims to strengthen Dutch international cooperation in the areas of culture, media and heritage.

Regarding heritage specifically, DutchCulture's main objective is to improve the coherence and visibility of Shared Cultural Heritage. It does so by offering a number of services to Dutch and international heritage professionals and institutions:

- **Advice on Shared Cultural Heritage projects.** DutchCulture can connect you to its network of international heritage professionals.
- **Matching Fund.** Dutch legal entities (companies and registered freelancers) are able to apply for partial funding for Shared Cultural Heritage projects.
- **Compensation for travel expenses.** DutchCulture offers Dutch organisations working on a Shared Cultural Heritage project the opportunity to apply for compensation for travel expenses to one of the ten Shared Cultural Heritage countries.
- **Information.** DutchCulture is in charge of managing information channels about Shared Cultural Heritage in the digital space. This includes the Shared Cultural Heritage database and newsletter.
- **Visitors' Programmes.** DutchCulture organises customised visitors' programmes for international heritage professionals. These programmes are an opportunity to get to know Dutch experts and institutions. The visitors are selected in consultation with the other Shared Cultural Heritage executing partners.

If you are interested in one of these services or have questions, please contact us:

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## The National Archives of the Netherlands

The National Archives of the Netherlands (Nationaal Archief), which is situated in The Hague, holds over 3,5 million records that have been created by the central government, organisations and individuals and are of national significance.

Many records relate to the colonial and trading history of the Netherlands in the period from 1600 to 1975. The Dutch presence in countries in North and South America, Africa and Asia is reflected within these collections.

Within the Shared Cultural Heritage programme, the goals of the National Archives are:

- **Expanding the National Archives' international cooperation** to stimulate international and interdisciplinary (historical) research.
- **Improving and enlarging the accessibility of Shared Cultural Heritage archives** by the digitisation and online publication of relevant collections from the Netherlands and the partner countries.
- **Increasing the visibility and awareness of shared heritage/history** through digitisation of Shared Cultural Heritage archives, which is further underpinned by the National Archives' national and international public programmes.
- **Advising and supporting** Dutch and international heritage professionals and organisations in the field of restoration, conservation and the digitisation of their (Shared Cultural Heritage) archives.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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## The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed) is a branch of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The Cultural Heritage Agency focuses on tangible heritage. The head office is based in Amersfoort, the Netherlands.

Within the Shared Cultural Heritage Programme, the Cultural Heritage Agency supports local experts in partner countries by promoting the exchange of knowledge and capacity building. The instruments that the Agency uses are training, advice and knowledge products such as handbooks and inventories.

The Cultural Heritage Agency focuses on three themes within the Shared Cultural Heritage programme, based on the needs and wants of local experts in partner countries and the available expertise at the Agency:

- **Maritime Archaeology.** The traces of shared maritime history can be found everywhere around the globe. International cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of maritime heritage are of great importance. The Shared Cultural Heritage Programme enables the Agency to develop and support projects focused on maritime archaeology.
- **Collections.** The Netherlands is a worldwide leader when it comes to managing and conserving museum collections. The Agency shares this expertise with professionals in Shared Cultural Heritage partner countries.
- **Built Environment.** The spatial legacy of a shared past manifests itself in a great variety of appearances. The conservation of these built structures asks for an integral approach. The Agency shares its knowledge and experience on this subject with professionals in the partner countries through training and advice.

If you are interested in collaborating within one of these themes or if you have any questions, please contact:

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Kingdom of the Netherlands

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centre for international  
cooperation