



Cultural Heritage Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-tiered stone fortification with grass-covered roofs, situated on a coastal hillside. The fortification is surrounded by a paved road and a green field. In the background, there are residential buildings and a beach with waves. A white bus with a red stripe is visible on the road in the lower right. The sky is clear and blue.

Shared Cultural Heritage Programme

Sustainable preservation through reciprocity

The Netherlands boasts a rich history. As a maritime mercantile nation, a colonial power and a nation of migrants and internationally renowned artists, the Netherlands left its mark across the globe. Conversely, other countries and cultures have left their traces in the Netherlands.

These traces are more than just relics of the past. They reflect our links with those countries and cultures. In today's globalising world, that is a matter of topical interest.

With our Shared Cultural Heritage programme, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands focuses on the themes of Maritime Archaeology, Collections,

Built Environment. In the context of these themes, we provide training and advice, share our expertise, and develop tools. Through knowledge exchange we are able to constantly give new meaning to our cultural heritage in a changing society. We work closely with ten partner countries and with Dutch partners within an extensive international network.

Reciprocity is the programme's greatest strength. Together with our partner countries, we aim at the sustainable maintenance and utilization of our shared cultural heritage, and to build a prosperous future, thus increasing the significance of our shared heritage.



Susan Lammers
General Director
Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands



A sustainable future for our shared heritage

The Netherlands and countries and cultures across the globe have a common past. This has left traces that remind us of the rich and sometimes complicated history we share. Examples of that are buildings, landscapes, archives, archaeological finds, museum collections and intangible heritage.

Shared cultural heritage also encompasses traces left behind in the Netherlands by other countries and cultures. These can be found in Dutch museums and archives, in Dutch soils and waterways and in the built environment. The food we eat and the language we speak are also a reminder of that shared past.



Knowledge exchange

Through its Shared Cultural Heritage programme, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands works towards a sustainable future for this shared past. We achieve this by means of international collaborations and knowledge exchange.

Jinna Smit, Programme Director for Shared Cultural Heritage: “In our Shared Cultural Heritage programme, knowledge exchange is key. This is what I love about international heritage collaboration: we all work in different circumstances and have different approaches to heritage management. Yet, as professionals, we always find a common ground in our commitment to ensure a sustainable future for heritage. To this end, each partner brings in and takes home specific know-how.”

Jinna Smit

Programme Director Shared Cultural Heritage
j.smit@cultureelerfgoed.nl
+31 33 421 7 456

An extensive network

In the field of shared heritage, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands partners with the National Archives of the Netherlands, DutchCulture, and the Dutch embassies in the partner countries, each organisation operating on the basis of its own expertise. We also work with experts and organizations that either provide or require additional expertise. We seek partners in and outside the Netherlands, ranging from international networks, administrations and heritage experts to universities, local companies and residents.

Three programme themes

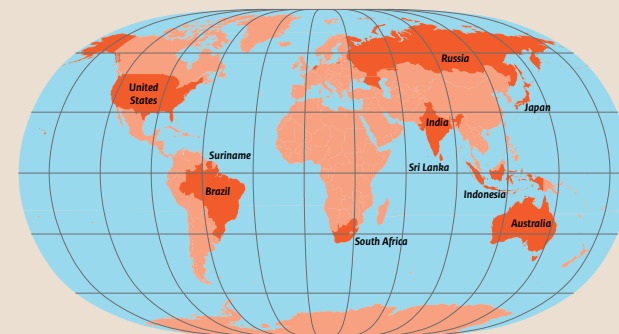
The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands has opted for three main themes under the umbrella of the Shared Cultural Heritage programme:

- Maritime Archaeology
- Collections
- Built Environment

Ten partner countries

Due to limitations regarding capacity and funds, a collaboration with all countries would not be feasible. In the context of shared heritage, the Cultural Heritage Agency collaborates with the following partner countries:

- Australia
- Brazil
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Russia
- Sri Lanka
- Suriname
- United States of America
- South Africa





Examples

Shared Cultural Heritage of Japan and the Netherlands

Japan and the Netherlands share a dynamic history and still maintain close cultural ties. The foundations were laid in the year 1600, when a Dutch galleon, 'De Liefde', ran aground off the shore of Japan. Researchers have recorded the heritage that Japan and the Netherlands share, including maritime heritage, archives, historical architecture, urban planning and museum collections. A spin-off has been created in the form of several research projects, including a joint project with Kyushu National Museum and the University of the Ryukyus, to investigate the story behind the wreck of 'Van Bosse' (1857), an underwater monument in Japan.



Investigation of the wreck of 'De Utrecht'

In 2012, an exploratory survey was conducted of the wreck of the Dutch seventeenth century *Admiraliteiten* vessel 'De Utrecht' that was lost in the Baía de Todos os Santos (Bay of All Saints), off the coast of Brazil. The research resulted in a number of publications and featured in a Dutch television programme. Although the wreck is the property of the Dutch State, it is situated in Brazilian waters, thus creating a shared interest. "This is why we also assist in the training of Brazilian archaeology students of the Federal University of Bahia", Martijn Manders explains. "We lack the capacity to maintain all ship wrecks worldwide. They can help us to protect our own heritage."



Collections

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands assists local curators of, for example, archives, museum collections, auditory heritage and archaeological collections in the conservation, maintenance and accessibility of their collections. Acting in response to actual questions, the Agency provides the required expertise in the form of advice, training and tools, in close collaboration with collection curators, universities and other partners at home and abroad.



Yolanda Ezendam, coordinator of the Collections theme: “Collections that reflect historical links with the Netherlands can be encountered around the world. Think of the paintings by Frans Post in Brazil, archaeological objects from what was once New Netherland (today the east coast of the United States), or the organs, carillons, bells and timepieces in Suriname. Such collections are sources of information about the history we share with these countries. Upon request, we are happy to provide tailor-made solutions for the protection and preservation of collections in other countries and for rendering them more accessible, for example in the fields of climate control, the safeguarding of heritage and the revitalization of museums. In the course of our collaboration with foreign professionals, we are constantly learning and gaining new insights.”

Yolanda Ezendam
Coordinator Collections
y.ezendam@cultureelerfgoed.nl
+31 33 421 7 456

Collaboration in practice Railway heritage in Indonesia – Ella Ubaidi



Most of the stations, railways, and even the rolling stock of the Indonesian railways were constructed by the Dutch during the colonial period, which makes them shared cultural heritage of Indonesia and the Netherlands.

The Historical Building Division of the Indonesian Railway company is currently revitalizing the old Indonesian railways and its associated colonial buildings and heritage. Therefore, in 2009, it asked the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands for assistance. Since then, the Agency has been involved in several projects.

Ella Ubaidi, former Executive Vice President of Building Maintenance, Preservation and Architecture Planning, PT Kerata Api Indonesia Persero: “After the initial identification mission in 2009, we defined three primary goals for future cooperation on this issue: documentation of railway stations, revitalisation of the railway stations and the refurbishment of the Ambarawa railway museum. In a four day workshop, we worked on a business model for the railway museum. I think the Cultural Heritage Agency is the right organisation to provide this support. We share the same historic moments, historic sites and historic experience.”

Examples

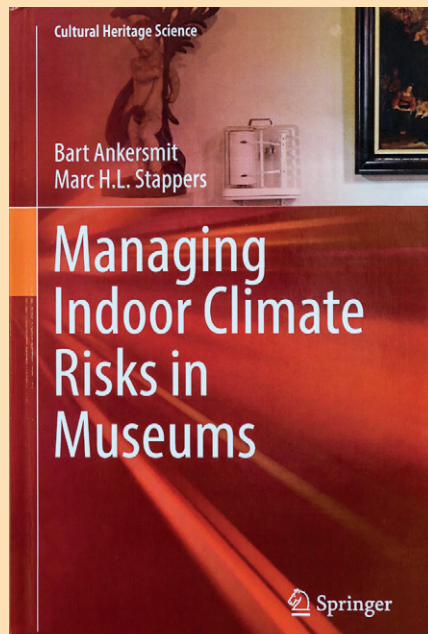
Climate Control manual

In the past few years, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, together with a number of countries, has organized a workshop in Climate Control for professionals of various heritage organisations. The focus was on the identification, analysis and containment of potential risks to which museum collections are exposed. The participants applied their newly acquired knowledge to a case study they themselves had chosen. All this expertise has been compiled into a manual.

Sounding heritage

Paramaribo (Suriname) boasts an extensive collection of organs, carillons, bells and timepieces. In 2014, this heritage was inventoried and assessed, and its state of maintenance was recorded. This was followed by a report with recommendations as to the maintenance and use of this heritage.

Thanks to the owners and curators of Paramaribo's auditory heritage and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, this heritage has now a new future.



Built Environment

The spatial heritage of a shared past can manifest itself in many different forms. Examples include the seventeenth century town hall of Jakarta (Indonesia), the urban layout of Galle (Sri Lanka), the former sugar plantations along the Commewijne River (Suriname), Moscow's Lefortovo Park (Russia), or the Oosterspoorlijn (Eastern Railroad) in the former Transvaal (South Africa). The preservation of these built and planned structures demands an approach that enjoys the support of all parties.



In its collaboration with the partner countries, the Netherlands focuses on issues that are urgent in the Dutch case: urban renewal, rural transformation, growing water management challenges and the changes associated with shrinking regional populations. In doing so, the Netherlands not only provides partner countries with up-to-date expertise, but also acquires new knowledge that can be applied back home. Mutual interests are expected to lead to long-term collaboration.

Jean-Paul Corten, coordinator of the Built Environment theme: "We possess a wealth of knowledge but equally a love for heritage, which we are eager to share. There are numerous examples of successful collaborations whereby countries were able to benefit from our expertise. Conversely, we frequently gain insights that can be successfully applied in our own country. Our extensive network is equally important, since it may happen that we learn something in Brazil which then turns out to be useful in India. Such cross-fertilization is invaluable."

Jean-Paul Corten
Coordinator Built Environment
j.corten@cultureelerfgoed.nl
+31 33 421 7 456

Collaboration in practice

Mapping a Future for Westfort-Village, South Africa – Job Roos

Since 2015, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands has conducted several projects in collaboration with Delft University of Technology aimed at the conservation of the former Westfort Leper Colony in Pretoria, South Africa. Built in the 1890s, following designs by Dutch architects employed by the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, the former asylum was abandoned in the 1980s and has since been squatted. The current residents of Westfort-Village approached the Netherlands for advice.



Job Roos, architect and professor at Delft University of Technology, supplied expertise in design-thinking in regard to Westfort's future, which was subsequently used in the Agency's recommendations to the local authorities. "By bringing in students, and by carefully mapping the situation and sensing what the problems might be, they came up with these research questions which are very topical."

This unique partnership between Dutch and South African students was one of mutual knowledge exchange, and it has produced excellent and interesting results.

"From experience, it is very interesting to work with students because they are very sensitive to this topic of shared heritage. When working on location, you have a sharper perspective. Heritage gives character to a place. To use heritage to characterise a place, and to make places accessible – giving people some kind of sense of belonging –, that is the quality of heritage."

Examples

Urban Heritage Strategies

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands and the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam) have jointly developed a training course on the revitalization of historical urban centres. The training course aims to provide participants with a better understanding of the complex relationship between urban development and heritage preservation, and the ability to immediately apply this knowledge to local situations. A good example was the development, during a two-week tailor-made programme, of a strategy for the redevelopment of former industrial areas along the Youza River in Moscow, Russia, utilizing existing characteristic features.



Revitalization of Ternate

In the seventeenth century, Ternate, one of the islands in the Molucca Archipelago (Indonesia), was an important trading post of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). The historical centre of Kota Ternate is currently under intense pressure from over-development and neglect. At the request of local authorities and in collaboration with local heritage organizations, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands has produced a report on the development potential of the area's historical features. This report, which serves as a basis for future planning, explains how history can be a tool for making the city once again an attractive place to live, work and relax.



Instruments

The preservation and maintenance of shared heritage are the responsibility of the country in which that heritage resides. The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands supports local experts by means of knowledge exchange in the form of training, advice and tools in response to socially relevant and urgent issues and in situations whereby collaboration with the Agency will produce added value. The Netherlands therefore exports knowledge abroad and at the same time acquires knowledge and additional expertise that are relevant to current and important themes in the Netherlands. In addition, the Shared Cultural Heritage programme enables other Dutch organisations and professionals to broaden their scope and use their knowledge and expertise to strengthen the Dutch heritage sector. We greatly value this reciprocal aspect of our collaborations.

Advice

We supply tailor-made advice while assisting partner countries in the realization of their own ambitions in regard to shared cultural heritage.

Training

Our training courses and workshops contribute to capacity building and an exchange of knowledge with local professionals.

Tools

In order to safeguard all this knowledge, we develop tools such as step-by-step plans, instructions, manuals, guidelines and inventories.

Contact and information

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to find out more on how to utilize shared heritage or on how to enter into a collaboration for sharing and developing expertise in this area. Contact details for each theme are provided in the relevant section. For general information, please contact the Infodesk at info@cultureelerfgoed.nl or call +31 33 421 7 456.

Colophon

Published by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

Photo credits

All photos are property of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands unless stated otherwise.

Cover: Galle Fort, Sri Lanka ©Threeblindmen photography
Sustainable preservation through reciprocity (left):
Traders & Culture Gallery ©The Albany Institute of History & Art
Maritime Archaeology (front): Objects from the wreck of VOC
vessel the 'Batavia' ©ANCODS Project
Built Environment (below, left): Urban Heritage Strategies
Training for Russian professionals ©G.J. Luijendijk

A national programme

The shared cultural heritage activities of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands are part of a national Shared Cultural Heritage programme. Within the framework of the Netherlands' International Cultural Policy, The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, the National Archives, DutchCulture, the Dutch embassies and various organisations and experts in the partner countries are collaborating in this national Shared Cultural Heritage Programme. Like to know more about projects, news, events, networks and financing? Go to <https://sharedheritage.dutchculture.nl/>

Disclaimer: No rights can be derived from this publication.

Cultural Heritage Agency
of the Netherlands
P.O. box 1600
3800 BP Amersfoort
+31 33 421 7 456
www.cultureelerfgoed.nl

**SHARED
CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

