

Dossier “Cultural heritage international”

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Table of Contents

Scope.....	1
In-Depth	2
KIT projects in the spotlight	2
KIT’s Involvement.....	3
Promoting inclusive local governance	3
Services and products	3
KIT projects	4
Resources.....	5
Documents	5
Websites	6
KIT Library catalogue.....	6

Scope

'Cultural heritage ('national heritage' or just 'heritage') is the legacy of physical and intangible attributes of the past of a group or society that are selected from the past, and inherited, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. What is considered cultural heritage by one generation may be rejected by the next generation, only to be revived by a succeeding generation.'
(source: Wikipedia, December 2009)

This dossier is about cultural heritage in the international development cooperation field. The preservation of cultural heritage and national cultures is part of Dutch foreign policy and development cooperation. The focus of this dossier is on international cultural heritage work, with particular

references to the Netherlands, including activities of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). Due to its colonial past, KIT has cultural relations with countries such as Ghana, Brazil, Suriname, Indonesia, and South Africa.

This dossier is a joint activity of KIT Tropenmuseum (TM), KIT Tropentheater (TT), and KIT Information & Library Services (ILS), developed by Sonja Wijs, Paulien Schuurmans and Minke Valk.

If you would like to make comments on this dossier, or suggest additional information and resources, please contact Minke Valk, KIT ILS at m.valk@kit.nl

In-Depth

Culture in all its aspects is at the heart of KIT's activities: by promoting expressions of culture through theatre and music, by preserving cultural heritage through its collections and by helping other countries to strengthen their capacity to preserve and promote their own cultures.

KIT Tropenmuseum supports the cultural heritage sector through capacity building work in the field of preservation, conservation and management of collections of museums in developing countries.

- [International projects \(Tropenmuseum\)](#)

KIT Information & Library Services is involved in library processes, including digitization. Through its capacity building work, ILS aims to support the preservation, conservation and presentation of historical documents and heritage collections in developing countries.

- [Dutch colonial historical maps](#)
This website gives access to a searchable database of historical maps of the former Dutch colonies.
- [Colonial heritage website](#)
Gives access to searchable database of a selection of digitized books and journals that are part of the colonial heritage collection.

KIT projects in the spotlight

Preservation and digitization of academic resources and heritage material, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

During an exploratory mission to the University of Ghana (UG) in September 2008 it was found that the Balme library of the UG housed a very valuable collection of heritage material, called 'the rare books collection' as it is known at the UG. This collection of Ghana's colonial history past (15th-20th century) is stored in the university library. In March 2009, ILS carried out a mission to the UG. A major objective of the mission was to make an inventory of the heritage material, assess the status of the collection and to suggest concrete actions for the preservation and conservation of the material. Training was given and a start was made with the actual preservation and conservation of 'the rare books collection'.

Museological cooperation with museums of DKI Jakarta (DKI II), Indonesia

DKI II is a continuation of the 2nd phase of cooperation with the 10 museums of the DKI Jakarta aimed at long term museological cooperation and capacity building in the field of exhibition management and

active conservation techniques and policies for the Conservation Laboratory of DKI Jakarta. In the present DKI II project KIT works with the Office of Culture and Museum Affairs of the DKI Jakarta, which covers both the 10 museums of the DKI Jakarta as well as the Balai Konservasi (the Conservation Laboratory) and the City of Rotterdam. In 2009, project activities focused on exhibition management training. Six participants have been trained and they have developed a new exhibition concept which was discussed and worked upon by the different departments of the Tropenmuseum.

The Kapuas Raya Museum, Sintang, Kalimantan, Indonesia

On 11 October 2008, the Kapuas Raya Museum opened in Sintang, Kalimantan, Indonesia. Since 2005, the Tropenmuseum has been closely involved in the realization of this cultural centre, which consists of a museum and a library. It was set up to promote positive cultural interaction between the different population groups in the district: the Dayak, Malayu and Chinese. The Tropenmuseum has provided training in museum organization, education, and the conceptual development and technical implementation of exhibitions.

'The new museum was intended to be a place where the three local population groups could learn about each other's culture. Together with the museum staff and the local people, we selected the themes for the exhibitions, purchased the collection and put the exhibitions together. It was very special to see how visitor's from the different groups were able to observe that each culture gives meaning to major life events like birth, marriage and death in a similar way.' Itie van Hout, senior curator textiles, KIT Tropenmuseum

KIT's Involvement

Promoting inclusive local governance

KIT has thematic expertise in the fields of local economic development, basic service delivery (health, water, education), natural resource management, land governance, and participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation. It aims for the inclusion of marginalized groups in local governance to enhance equity of development outcomes.

Services and products

We work with central and local government institutions, non-governmental and civil society organizations and knowledge and research institutes. International partners include the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dutch embassies, Danida, GTZ, SDC, FAO, the World Bank, NGOs (ICCO, SNV, Cordaid). Specific services include:

- **Policy advice and programme development** at the request of national ministries, embassies and multilateral institutions in the fields of decentralization, governance, alignment and accountability, particularly with respect to macro-micro challenges in sector-wide approaches.
- **Collaborative write-workshops** to monitor, analyse and document good practice on the ground. The resulting publications (evidence-based papers, books, policy briefs) are used to inform practitioners and policymakers and promote debate through seminars.
- **Learning trajectories** through participatory action-research and workshop series to strengthen knowledge and capacities of a range of actors and to develop, test and evaluate tools and approaches that are used to facilitate local governance.

- **Tailor-made training and short courses** in The Netherlands and abroad to develop capacities of organizations which support decentralization and local governance processes. These include civil society, NGOs, local government associations, local capacity builders, representatives of central and local government, ministries and agencies. KIT further provides courses on health and governance. See: www.kit.nl/training.
- **Facilitation of international networking** to strengthen a knowledge base and community of practice by promoting sharing of experience and information, developing joint products and building alliances between professionals.

Decentralization changes the context of participation and local governance, and therefore also influences PM&E processes. KIT supports the exploration of new avenues for institutionalising PM&E and sustaining community level interventions, by strengthening functional relations between local government, communities and service providers.

KIT aims to strengthen capacities of local actors in the process of planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, while ensuring the involvement of all actors with consideration of equity and gender. Specific support entails:

- **Development of planning guidelines** to enhance the preparation of realistic and feasible local development plans based on the national policies and local needs assessments.
- In the area of budgeting and implementation, KIT supports local governments in formulating **resource mobilization strategies**.
- **Monitoring and evaluation** is seen as a learning process between multiple stakeholders. KIT's approach focuses on the development of effective participatory monitoring and evaluation tools that support joint decision making in basic service delivery.

One large programme KIT is involved in, is the World Bank African initiative on Community Driven Development. CDD is broadly defined as giving control of decisions and resources to community groups. It is based on the following approaches:

1. Empowering communities: communities can be organized quickly and productively to diagnose local problems, come up with solutions, lay down priorities, elaborate action plans and strengthen community organizations and accountability.
2. Empowering local governments: community empowerment needs to be embedded in an institutional framework of local governments; local government needs powers to levy taxes and user charges; local government development planning should be integrated, participatory, inclusive and based on the subsidiarity principle.
3. Improving accountability: the empowerment of communities and local governments will provide downward accountability to users of frontline services.

KIT projects

1. Community Driven Development: design of World Bank CDD projects (Sierra Leone, Gambia, Cameroon); support to World Bank CDD program in Burkina Faso and Guinea; CDD stocktaking and review toolkit development and training ([Nigeria](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Senegal](#), [Mozambique](#)).
2. Local government planning: Analysis of local government planning approaches (Benin), development of national local government planning guides (Mali, [Guinea](#)).

3. Local government budgeting and financial resource mobilization: Action research on possibilities for local financial resource mobilization based on NRM (Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso), publication on SNV West Africa experiences with support to local governments in financial resource mobilization.
4. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation: [Guidance paper](#) which explores how a Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) process can enhance participation, empowerment and governance in World Bank-supported projects and programs, and thus the performance, efficiency and sustainability of interventions.
5. Framework contract KIT-SNV 2006 for local governance/ decentralization activities: [governance of investments in local infrastructure](#).

Resources

- Hereunder you will find Documents and Websites.
- At the bottom of the page you will find a link to the KIT Library's catalogue to conduct your own search.

Documents

2011

[Culture, education and media projects in Afghanistan: what lessons can be learned?](#)

UNESCO/Netherlands Commission for UNESCO | 2011 | 34pp

2010

[Shared heritage Shared futures](#)

MUSEUM International | No. 245-6 | 2010

The webpage offers a Table of Contents and short descriptions of the articles.

2009

[Evaluation of Norwegian support to the protection of cultural heritage](#)

NORAD | 2009 |

[The publication can be downloaded in English and in Norwegian, and as a summary in English]

[Universal rules, local approaches: reflections on capacity building programmes to support the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural heritage 2001](#)

Parthesius R. and Jeffery B. | 2009 | 16pp.

2007

[The cultural heritage of democratic South Africa: an overview](#)

Bredenkamp H.C. Iziko Museums of Cape Town, 2007

[Heritage and the politics of nationalist discourse](#)

Legene S. | 2007 | 15pp.

2006

[Delivering shared heritage: building for the future. An analysis of responses from heritage infrastructure partners. Summary report](#)

Odumosu T. and Coaston M. | 2006 | 28pp.

[Atlantic heritage: Mutual, shared....?](#)

Stipriaan A. van | 2006 | 5pp.

2005

[Partnerships in cultural heritage: the international projects of the KIT Tropenmuseum](#)

Beurden, J. van | 2005 | 62pp.

[Indigenous curation as intangible cultural heritage: thoughts on the relevance of the 2003 UNESCO convention](#)

Kreps C. | 2005 | 8pp.

Websites

- [Erfgoed Nederland](#)
- [Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage](#)
- [Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office: Asia/Pacific Centre for UNESCO](#)
- [Centre for International Heritage Activities / Centrum Internationale Erfgoedactiviteiten](#)
- [Centre for Heritage Development in Africa](#)
- [Asian Academy for Heritage Management](#)
- [Prins Claus Fonds – Cultural Emergency Response](#)
- [The Atlantic World and the Dutch](#)
- [Atlas of Mutual Heritage](#)
- [Ministerie van OCW - Internationaal cultuurbeleid](#) (in Dutch)
- [AusHeritage](#)
- [New Holland Foundation: Foundation for Mutual Heritage](#)
- [Cultural Heritage Connections](#)
- [Mutual cultural heritage & the Dutch: gateway to networks and expertise](#)
- [Mutual heritage: Euromed Heritage](#)

KIT Library catalogue