

Country Report Ghana

The Atlantic World and the
Dutch, 1500-2000

Institutions involved

- ◆ Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations
- ◆ National Commission on Culture (NCC)
- ◆ Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB)
- ◆ Public Records and Archives Administration Department (PRAAD)
- ◆ University of Ghana at Legon (UG)
- ◆ Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi (KNUST)
- ◆ UNESCO Cluster Office in Accra
- ◆ Royal Netherlands Embassy at Accra
- ◆ University of Groningen

Paper Heritage

- ◆ Public Records:
 - Almost all materials in the Netherlands – *Nationaal Archief* in the Hague
 - Almost all materials in Dutch
 - Problems: accessibility
 - Solution: proper research guide (being prepared); projects on digitization, etc.
- ◆ Furley Collection:
 - Dutch public archival materials in Balme Library, University of Ghana; useful notes from Dutch archives; not complete.
- ◆ Private Records:
 - Archives and photo's with Ghanaian families of Dutch descent

Monuments and Archaeological sites 1

◆ Forts and castles

- Most important expression of Ghana-Netherlands mutual cultural heritage
- UNESCO World Heritage
- Remembrance of Atlantic slave-trade (esp. Castle St. George d'Elmina)
- Tourist attractions
- Conservation with GMMB; many projects for conservation and development supported by foreign funding

Monuments and Archaeological sites 2

◆ Other monuments

- Private monumental buildings from Dutch period (mainly Elmina and Accra)
- *Posubans*, or posts of the traditional Asafo military companies
- Dutch cemetery and other Dutch remnants in Elmina
- Streetscapes and townscapes in full, developed in Dutch period

Monuments and Archaeological sites 3

◆ Projects

- Contextual approach to heritage
- *Elmina Cultural Heritage and Management Programme*
- *Old Accra Integrated Framework*
- Part projects including restoration and museum building (e.g. Ussher Fort, Accra)

◆ Archaeological sites

- Many; some developed; materials partly on display (e.g. St. Jago at Elmina, Old Elmina Town, Ussher Fort)

Museums, movable tangible

- ◆ National Museum Accra
 - Limited resources and possibilities to show mutual cultural heritage
- ◆ Elmina Castle: history of town
- ◆ Elmina-Java Museum at Elmina
 - Private initiative
 - Emphasis on Ghanaian-Dutch relations (African soldiers in Indonesia; Euro-African families of Dutch descent)
- ◆ Challenges for new types of exhibitions: materials?, topics? Ussher fort as first effort at new approach.


Intangible heritage

- ◆ Elmina festivals of *Bronyibima* and *Bakatue*.
 - *Bronyibima* = Dutch Christmas, goes back to Dutch presence
 - *Bakatue* celebrates Elmina fishing culture and identity of the Elmina state
- ◆ Families with Dutch surnames
 - E.g. Van der Puije; Zwennes; Bartels; Plange; Van Hien; Van Dijk; De Heer
- ◆ Possibly: remnants of Dutch language
- ◆ Tradition of Atlantic slave-trade

Research and Universities

- ◆ Research on complete European presence necessary
 - Dutch, Danes, Portuguese, German, English
- ◆ Euro-African family history
 - Impact on Ghanaian culture
- ◆ History of forts and castles
 - Documentation
 - Analysis
- ◆ Town histories of towns where Dutch were present
- ◆ Cultural heritage, identity and development
 - Tourism aspects
 - Role of mutual monuments and heritage in society

Economic development

- ◆ Tourism as foreign currency earner
 - ◆ Role of Ministry of Tourism
 - ◆ Joseph Project as example
 - ◆ Other possibilities?
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