The Atlantic World and the Dutch 1500-2000

A mutual heritage project
This project was possible thanks to
Netherlands Culture Fund

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1500-2000
A mutual heritage project
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While formal European colonialism is a phenomenon of the past, its legacies are omnipresent. Wherever European metropolitan powers landed, settled and took over, they began interfering in local economies, political systems, cultures – barely scratching the surface in some places, while drastically rearranging the order of things in others. Crucial were demographics, colonial migrations and scale. Whereas the Americas were literally remodelled by massive voluntary migration of Europeans and involuntary migration of enslaved Africans, in most of Asia and Africa the scale and impact of colonial migrations were far less significant.

An unanticipated late consequence of European colonialism has been the large-scale migration from former colonies in the wake of the post-World War Two rounds of decolonization. Whether in Paris, London, Lisbon or Amsterdam, it is visible that colonialism has literally come home. The emergence of these new post-colonial migrant communities has certainly helped to increase metropolitan awareness of the colonial dimension of national history, as the case of the Netherlands illustrates.

While colonialism thus caused a series of migration circuits and hence demographic legacies, it left many other inheritances as well. Economic and political legacies rank high among these, as does cultural heritage. It is widely accepted that the concept of cultural heritage includes both tangible and intangible dimensions. The former, more conventional dimension refers to legacies ranging from colonial landscaping and built environment through artefacts to archives – tangibles presenting themselves prima facie and often screaming for concerted efforts to be made in order to rescue and/or preserve them. Tangible heritage has long been the near-exclusive forte of archaeologists, art historians and archivists. Intangible heritage includes language, oral and musical traditions on and from the colonial period, mental legacies and the like. The uncovering, recording and interpretation of this intangible heritage requires the expertise and effort of another community of specialists, particularly anthropologists, historians and musicologists.

Experts working in the field of cultural heritage have increasingly come to appreciate the need and the opportunities to combine the practices and insights of these once rather discrete traditions. Today it is conventional wisdom – expressed by UNESCO and many other prestigious institutions – to emphasize that the two can and should benefit from one another. No colonial fortress without its contemporary stories and interpretations, no collective remembrance which does not invite research in old archives or art collections.

The contested nature of cultural heritage from the colonial period is obvious. The recourse policymakers take to adjectives such as ‘common’, ‘mutual’ or ‘shared’ only underlines the awareness that this past and its legacies arouse divergent and at times strongly confrontational memories and interpretations. The sensible approach to cultural heritage policies departs from this understanding while attempting to provide a forum where divergent approaches to the past and its legacies may engage in a constructive and fruitful manner.
The Netherlands has a long colonial history; the days when this past was unconditionally celebrated are gone. In recent years quite some effort and means have been invested in developing a policy for cultural heritage cooperation with the various nations affected by either the former Dutch East India Company or its West India counterpart. In 2001 the policy framework of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the shared heritage with Surinam explicitly formulated the following objectives:

- to strengthen public support for and public awareness of the common cultural heritage;
- to increase and exchange knowledge about the common cultural heritage;
- to conserve and restore the common cultural heritage;
- to strengthen the cultural heritage infrastructure in the partner countries;
- to take stock of, document and enable access to the common cultural heritage.

Interest in colonial history and its associated cultural heritage has gone through various phases. The Netherlands’ oldest and most important colony, Indonesia, and with it the exploits of the Dutch East Asia Company throughout Asia and in South Africa, have always dominated the Dutch memory of colonialism. Interest in Dutch Atlantic history has traditionally lagged behind and centred on the two most enduring colonies, both located in the Caribbean: Surinam and the six islands briefly known collectively as the Netherlands Antilles.

Over the past few decades, considerable means have been made available for preserving and researching tangible cultural heritage in the former domain of the Dutch East India Company. ‘The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000’ (AWAD) has been the first concerted effort to develop a programme on Atlantic history and its cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, linking all countries on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean once colonized by the Dutch – whether it be for a few decades or several centuries. The project began in 2003 with funding from the Dutch government as well as from various Dutch heritage and scholarly institutions.

In the summer of 2008 we completed the first phase of AWAD. This report presents in some detail the origins, structure and accomplishments of the project and offers reflections on challenges and possible future paths. The report systematically discloses the wealth of resources available on Atlantic-Dutch colonial encounters, provides data on important research, archival and educational projects and expertise, while summarizing priorities defined in the many countries involved regarding preservation, research and education. Implicitly, it also highlights the excitement felt by all those involved in AWAD to finally build a network of interested parties, linking many countries with oft-forgotten historical links.

In this report we do not shy away from discussing the obstacles we encountered along the way. During 2006 AWAD sponsored workshops on cultural heritage throughout the ‘Dutch Atlantic’, in Albany NY and Brazil, Ghana and Guyana, Curaçao, the Netherlands and Surinam. In November 2006 we hosted an international conference at the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam, where experts from these countries discussed their visions and priorities. In all of this, we were aware that good plans alone do not suffice. Little significant progress would be made without sustained financial and institutional backup. At the time of these meetings, the prospect of continued and increased funding seemed favourable. In the following two years, the outlook became somewhat uncertain.

By the summer of 2008 we could point at several recent successes in procuring funding from Dutch heritage and scholarly institutions for work in the field of Atlantic history and heritage. The Dutch government financed a short-term project broadening the scope of comparison to include the entire former Dutch colonial orbit. Recently, AWAD’s institutional continuity has been secured by a foundation financed by the Dutch government: Erfgoed Nederland (Netherlands Institute for Heritage) which, together with KITLV and the Nationaal Archief (National Archives), has signed a cooperation agreement, ensuring the future of AWAD. This means that AWAD will continue to function as a network organization and a research tool for a good number of years.

Yet we should also point out that so far AWAD has been unable to secure substantial long-term funding either in the Netherlands or abroad to start the implementation of the many wonderful projects in cultural heritage discussed during the various country workshops and at the 2006 Amsterdam conference.

Continuity is the key. This is a challenge for all of us who have worked very hard in the AWAD programme. At the same time it serves as a reminder for our original governmental funding agencies: now that we have had such a positive start, do not leave us high and dry.

At the end of this pilot phase we would like to thank first and foremost our colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic who worked hard, without remuneration or guarantees of any follow-up, to make this all happen. Thank you for responding to our surveys, for alerting us to data we had missed, for your fresh ideas and perspectives, for participating in the country workshops and for making the Amsterdam conference a success. A particular word of thanks goes to the members of our Advisory Committee, our Steering Committee and our External Coordinators (all listed at the end of this report).

AWAD is financed mainly through the Netherlands Culture Fund (HGIS programme) of the Dutch Ministries of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and Foreign Affairs (BZ). Additional funding was provided by the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies and at a later stage the Institute of Netherlands History (ING). We thank all of the above for their indispensable funding and support.

From 2003 until October 2008, KITLV in Leiden housed the AWAD project. We thank our colleagues at the institute for their generous help.

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1. The project

Background and context

In 2001, a year before the 400th anniversary celebrations of the Dutch East India Company (VOC, 1602-1795), the first steps were taken to initiate a cultural heritage project focusing on the former West India Company (WIC, 1621-1791). In 2000 TANAP (Towards a New Age of Partnership) had been launched, an international project for the history and cultural legacy of the Dutch presence in Asia. The idea to develop a similar mutual heritage project encompassing the Atlantic region was initiated by Dr W. Bloemberg of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and further developed by Dr Jan Boomgaard, director of the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam and Professor Gert Oostindie, director of the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies.

After a series of preliminary informal talks with various experts, in the summer of 2002 a meeting was organized to discuss the initiative with representatives from the principal Dutch cultural heritage institutions and specialists in Dutch Atlantic history. Based on the conclusions drawn from this gathering, the outlines of a project were formulated. Following this, to get the ball rolling, a memorandum was written, entitled ‘Nederland, de West-Indische Compagnie en de Atlantische Wereld, 1500-2000’. Gemeenschappelijk cultureel erfgoed, gemeenschappelijke vragen’ (The Netherlands, the West India Company and the Atlantic World, 1500-2000. Shared Cultural Heritage, Shared Questions).

It was clear that before a more concrete plan for an Atlantic project could be drawn up, it would be necessary to further investigate the possibilities and hurdles of international cooperation, the needs and wishes of cultural institutions and researchers in the Netherlands and abroad. Also, there was the need to obtain a better overview of the nature, scope and condition of the tangible and intangible heritage. In November 2003 we received a positive decision regarding our application for financial support from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and the Netherlands Culture Fund (HGfS programme) of the Ministries of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and Foreign Affairs (BZ). This gave us the green light to carry out an identification mission or pilot project of an explorative nature. Two additional grants from the Netherlands Culture Fund, received in 2005 and 2006 respectively, allowed us to broaden the scope of this initial stage of the project. The total amount of the subsidy received was € 500,208 (2005-2008 stage).

Objectives

In February 2004 the identification mission was launched of a project named ‘Nederland en de Atlantische wereld, 1500-2000’. The project was soon renamed ‘The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000’, or AWAD for short, to express the international character of the venture and to avoid the suggestion of a Dutch-centric approach. A first objective was to identify relevant written
sources held within collections both in the Netherlands and abroad. A secondary element of this pilot project involved investigating current and future historical research projects, in particular those pertaining to the tangible and intangible legacy of the Dutch overseas presence, as well as initiatives regarding the management and preservation of records.

The overall goal of the pilot project was to stimulate bilateral and multilateral cooperation with regard to the preservation and study of the mutual cultural heritage formed during centuries of interaction between the Dutch and the peoples of Africa and the Americas, with a principal focus on the countries where a significant Dutch presence was established: Aruba, Brazil, Ghana, Guyana, the Netherlands Antilles, Surinam and the United States.

Approach
It was decided that the project would be hosted by the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden and supervised by the institute’s director, Professor Gert Oostindie. The coordination and execution of the project were carried out by Han Jordaan, MA (February 2004-September 2006) and Barbara Consolini, MA (October 2005-October 2008). The first Advisory Committee was formed consisting of Dr Henk den Heijer (Leiden University), Dr Pieter Koenders (National Archives), Dr Bas de Melker (Municipal Archives of Amsterdam), Professor Alex van Stipriaan Luïscius (Eurasmus University Rotterdam and Royal Tropical Institute), Dirk Tang, MA (National Library of the Netherlands) and Dr Glenn Willemsen (National Institute for Dutch Slavery and its Legacy). In addition, the project was monitored by an International Committee made up of representatives of cultural organizations in the countries involved (see appendices I, II, III and IV).

Although initially modest, the AWAD identification mission was able to develop into a more ambitious programme thanks to the additional funding mentioned above. Four consecutive stages can be distinguished:

- a preparatory stage involving the gathering of information through desk research, which led to the compilation of an elementary database and the establishment of contacts with (potentially) interested parties in the Netherlands and abroad;
- a second stage during which the database was transformed into a professional digital tool, accessible through the Internet;
- a third stage focusing mainly on the organization of a series of preparatory workshops in Brazil, Curaçao (combined workshop of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles), Ghana, Guyana, Surinam and the United States, and of a concluding international conference;
- a final stage concentrating on further improving and fine-tuning the AWAD database and website, implementing suggestions expressed at the conference.

We will discuss these four stages in more detail below and in the following chapters.

Preparatory stage – The first year was mostly spent identifying (potentially) interested parties both in the Netherlands and abroad, for example museums, archives, libraries, research institutions, as well as individual historians, archaeologists and archivists. At the same time an inventory was drawn up of relevant projects and archival collections. All the information gathered was compiled in an elementary database. Contacts were established through a series of mailshots.

Second stage – With the assistance of the NIWI (Netherlands Institute for Scientific Information), an institute of the KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), the information in the initial, rather basic database was transformed into a professional tool and prepared for publication on the Internet. The NIWI also built the AWAD website, which was launched in July 2005. Although the database was not complete at that time, it was decided to publish it as work in progress.

Third stage (see chapter 3) – By the end of 2005 preparations started for a series of workshops to take place in the Netherlands, Brazil, Ghana, Guyana, Surinam and the United States, with the intention of obtaining a better understanding of the needs and wishes of the participating countries. In addition, in Surinam two pilot studies aimed at the shared tangible and intangible heritage were to be carried out. Initially, the organization of a workshop in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles was uncertain. As parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, these countries could not be included in the grant application since the Netherlands Culture Fund only supports international initiatives with partners in foreign countries. It was immediately realized, however, that this would lead to a rather odd situation and in the spring of 2006 an additional grant by the Netherlands Culture Fund enabled the full participation of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles in AWAD.

The results of all workshops and pilot studies were presented during a three-day international conference organized in the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam at the end of November 2006. The workshop and pilot study reports as well as the conference resolutions were published on the AWAD website.

Final stage (see chapter 3) – During the conference it became clear that the AWAD database and website were highly appreciated and should play an important role in the future both as a platform for the exchange of information and as a useful research tool. At the same time it was suggested that the AWAD partners in the respective countries be given the possibility to add and update information. Following these suggestions the website was adjusted. In order to keep the partners informed a digital newsletter was created and issued as and when necessary.
Products and achievements

In short, the identification mission – first project phase – yielded the following results:

- a website with a freely accessible online database containing an inventory of archival collections, relevant projects, institutions and experts;
- a digital newsletter;
- the organization of a series of workshops in the partner countries (organized jointly with the counterparts abroad);
- the organization of an international Atlantic conference in the Netherlands;
- the organization, in the Netherlands, of several Atlantic Days*.

These results will form a solid foundation for the second phase of AWAD, which aims to:

- elaborate the AWAD database with an in-depth archival sources guide (research and publication);
- initiate joint projects (one of AWAD’s main objectives);
- secure additional financial support;
- further develop and implement the online inventory;
- further develop and implement the Atlantic network;
- stimulate the further improvement of the accessibility, preservation and study of the tangible and intangible mutual cultural heritage, in close collaboration with the partner countries.

AWAD’s achievements and future prospects will be discussed in more detail in the following chapters.

* Although not part of AWAD’s original agenda, an Atlantic Day has been organized once a year in the Netherlands. This was a spontaneous initiative to present, on a yearly basis, the progress of AWAD and to keep contacts and the network updated.
Database structure and content

The AWAD website/database is the primary achievement of the AWAD project so far. Since its first publication as work in progress, in July 2005, this website/database has become an important research guide for the study of the history of the Dutch in the Atlantic World and its legacy.

Starting as an online inventory of archival collections, relevant projects, institutions and experts, both in the Netherlands and abroad, it strove to include a broad overview of the cultural heritage shared by the Dutch with countries in Africa and in the Americas, including both tangible and intangible elements, such as oral history registrations, museum collections and monuments. However, due to capacity constraints, so far the work has largely focused on tangible heritage.

A welcome additional asset of the website/database is that it functions as the hub for a network of experts and institutions, all related to cultural heritage in the Atlantic World. This function was supported by a series of activities intended to strengthen the network, such as the organization of workshops in the partner countries and the international Atlantic conference in Amsterdam and the annual organization of ‘Atlantic Days’ in the Netherlands.

The ‘Index to the guide’ is categorized as follows:
1. Regions
2. Countries
3. Settlements
4. Organizations
5. Experts
6. Publications
7. Projects
8. Records
9. Creators of records

An earlier version of the website/database also included the categories ‘Tangible heritage’ and ‘Intangible heritage’. In the renewed website these have now become part of the web pages of the individual partner countries.

The renewed AWAD website includes information under the following headings:

Introduction

This section provides general information on the AWAD project. In addition to the introduction, contact details and colophon, information can be found here on the organization and its objectives. All relevant documentation (reports, proceedings, resolutions, participants, et cetera) is listed under documents and proceedings. This information relates to the country workshops, the international conference and the Atlantic Days. A brochure, poster and a link to the newsletter can also be found here.
Calendar
This section provides news and information regarding relevant forthcoming events and activities (congresses, lectures, conferences, symposiums), announcements (calls for papers, vacancies), a newsletter and an AWAD news archive. The newsletter – which was first issued in the summer of 2007 – offers general information on the AWAD project, as well as news on current developments and forthcoming activities and events. It is sent by email to AWAD’s partners in the Netherlands and abroad and to other interested subscribers in addition to being published on the website. The newsletter has been issued as and when necessary.

Partners
In this section the web pages of the individual countries participating in the project can be found, along with a discussion forum. These web pages are added to and updated by the respective countries with information regarding both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Since cooperation is a major objective of AWAD, the partner country web pages also aim to improve communication between all concerned.

Links
This section contains a list of relevant resources related to the AWAD project and Atlantic cultural heritage in general. The list includes databases, institutions, websites, discussion forums, journals and finding possibilities.

Through the link ‘how to add and correct information’, all details relating to specialists, organizations and projects can be added via the use of electronic forms. The information received is edited by the webmaster.

Current state of affairs AWAD database
At present the index to the online database includes the following categories:

Table 2.1 General content
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aruba</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Ghana</th>
<th>Guyana</th>
<th>NL Antilles</th>
<th>Surinam</th>
<th>USA</th>
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</thead>
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<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>88</td>
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<td>Countries</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experts</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>Projects</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>Creators</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If we categorize the projects according to partner countries (table 2.2), we notice that most are related to Surinam and Brazil. A division of the data relating to organizations reveals that the majority of institutions focusing on Atlantic history are located in the United States (see table 2.2).

Table 2.2 Partner countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aruba</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Ghana</th>
<th>Guyana</th>
<th>NL Antilles</th>
<th>Surinam</th>
<th>USA</th>
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</thead>
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<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>Settlements</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Experts, publications and creators of records are included in the database, but are not directly linked to a specific country.
2 Other (European) countries with archives and/or institutions connected to the Dutch-Atlantic and its history, such as Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and France, are included in the database but not listed here.
3 The settlements listed in the AWAD database are taken from the Atlas of Mutual Heritage. However, single settlements in the Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba, St. Maarten) and Aruba are not specified in our database whereas they are in the Atlas of Mutual Heritage.

Table 2.3 Other countries listed in the database

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Angola</th>
<th>Benin</th>
<th>Cayenne</th>
<th>Congo</th>
<th>Gabon</th>
<th>Guinea Equatorial</th>
<th>Liberia</th>
<th>Mauritania</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
<th>São Tomé e Principe</th>
<th>Senegal</th>
<th>Sierra Leone</th>
<th>Togo</th>
<th>Trinidad and Tobago</th>
<th>Venezuela</th>
<th>Virgin Islands (UK)</th>
<th>Virgin Islands (USA)</th>
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Table 2.4 Summary

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<th>Projects</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
<th>Records</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
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<td>Guyana</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Surinam</td>
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<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.4 gives a summary of the entries according to partner country for the three main index categories (projects, organizations and records). The totals for Aruba/the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam generally exceed by far those of the other countries. This is not surprising, considering the present constitutional status of the islands as autonomous but non-sovereign parts of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands (see appendices VI and VII).

The tables demonstrate the database’s bias towards the identification of archival collections; the database includes large numbers of entries on records held in archives and libraries, for the most part located in the Netherlands. Data related to AWAD’s network function (organizations, projects and experts) are also quite extensive. The database, however, is far from complete and should be considered as a continually expanding research guide. The limited time for the execution of the first stage necessitated the formulation of priorities; as mentioned, the incorporation of a broader selection of tangible and intangible heritage in the database could not be realized.

Progress made and future perspectives

From the beginning of 2006 onwards focus shifted from the website and database to the organization of workshops in the partner countries and of the international conference in Amsterdam, as well as to future planning. However, during both the workshops and the conference it became evident that the website/database should maintain its important central role in the future – serving as a platform for sharing information and exchanging ideas, and as such inspiring and stimulating international cooperation. To secure the continued correction and addition of information to the expanding research guide, it was suggested that some of the central tasks be delegated to the partner countries. While it was agreed that the core of the online database – the archival part and the network of experts, institutions and projects – should be coordinated centrally, information concerning the tangible and intangible heritage could become the responsibility of each individual partner country. The resolutions (see chapter 3 and 6; appendix VIII for full text) formulated during the international conference offer guidelines for AWAD’s future development in general and for the database and website in particular. Proposals for the implementation of these resolutions were presented at the conference (see chapter 6; appendix IX for full text).

Collaboration with the Institute of Netherlands History

In September 2006 the Institute of Netherlands History (ING), together with KITLV, has launched the follow-up project ‘The Dutch and the Culture in the Atlantic Region, 1670-1870’, which will run until September 2011. This project aims to secure a more in-depth disclosure of archival sources pertaining to Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles, Guyana and Surinam. The final product will be a digital research guide on the ING website that will complement the AWAD database. A direct link will be established between both websites (see also chapter 4). To complete the survey of archival repositories in the aforementioned countries, a number of study and research trips are planned.

Extension and renewal of AWAD website/database

Between January 2007 and September 2008 we concentrated on completing the existing core data, in particular the entries regarding archival resources, adding further information on the condition, type, scope and location of the records. Besides this, the network of institutions, experts and projects was updated. The AWAD website has been redesigned, in line with the renewal of the KITLV website, which has made it possible to create better services for visitors to the site, to offer new options and to reach a wider public. Earlier changes to the website, as suggested during the conference in 2006, such as the addition of a newsletter and brochure, can be found on the renewed site. A calendar section containing relevant news items was also added. The renewed website offers a forum for discussion and individual web pages for each partner country, which are listed under the partners section.

One of the consequences of AWAD’s initial focus on archival sources has been that as yet the categories ‘Tangible heritage’ and ‘Intangible heritage’ are insufficiently represented in the database. At the same time the need to work on these areas was explicitly expressed during the international conference of 2006. Within the restricted time frame allowed for the initial stage of the project, it was impossible to complete an up-to-date overview of all tangible and intangible heritage and related projects in all individual partner countries. One of the assumptions leading to the creation of a web page for each country was to delegate the adding and updating of information on tangible and intangible legacies to our partners. Each partner country is now able to add this type of information to the database. Preferably, for this task each partner country should nominate a single institution to act as a webmaster. Consequently, on the new website the categories ‘Tangible heritage’ and ‘Intangible heritage’ have been removed. The upgraded website is online since November 2008.

Whenever possible, records in the AWAD database are linked to the url’s of specific institutions, while cross-references are made to other index categories, such as settlements and related projects. In future, these tasks will be assigned to a central webmaster in the Netherlands who will also be responsible for updating all sections of the database (publications, records, etcetera), for registering completed electronic forms and for supervising the discussion forum on different themes and issues relating to the history and cultural heritage in the Atlantic region, with the intention of stimulating participation in and further expansion of a broad and active Atlantic network. On various occasions our partners have stressed the importance of keeping these connections alive. The AWAD website/database has proven to be an indispensable instrument for the AWAD network. However, other activities have also been very important: the country workshops, the international Atlantic conference and the annual Atlantic Days. We will discuss these activities in more detail in the next chapter.
3. Building an Atlantic network

The overall goal of the international Atlantic conference held in 2006 in Amsterdam in combination with the preceding series of local country workshops, was to stimulate cooperation and strengthen the connections between all countries involved in the project. In addition, these gatherings offered the opportunity for partner countries to express their needs and wishes and to draw up an inventory of priorities. In Surinam, besides a local workshop, two pilot studies on national cultural heritage were executed. From the very start, AWAD has aimed to stimulate the building of a network by organizing an annual Atlantic Day held in the Netherlands. These Atlantic Days were also intended to inform interested parties of the development of the project and to receive feedback. In addition, prior to the country workshops a workshop was organized at the KITLV in Leiden with representatives of the principal Dutch cultural heritage organizations.

Local workshops and Surinam pilot studies

As a preliminary to the international conference, a series of workshops was held in countries where a significant Dutch presence was established: the United States, Guyana, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Surinam, Brazil and Ghana. All workshops were held between June and November 2006. In Surinam two separate pilot studies were executed by Jerome Egger, MA and Dr Jack Menke: one on the tangible dimension of cultural heritage, the other on oral history. The main objectives of these pilot studies were to improve the conservation and disclosure of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and to transfer know-how by training local personnel.

The primary objectives of the local workshops were:

- to draw up for each country an individual inventory of current activities, collections, expertise, needs and wishes regarding the study, preservation, restoration and availability/accessibility of the mutual cultural heritage in its broadest sense;
- to discuss the improvement and extension of the AWAD database/website as an integrating tool for developing and implementing the activities and projects for the second project phase;
- to establish priorities and points of focus for each individual country in the fields of preservation, accessibility and research of the mutual heritage.

For each workshop one or two coordinators as well as a local counterpart were nominated. Together they made a list of relevant representatives of the major cultural institutions and specialists in the heritage field, who were then invited to attend the workshops. The discussions focused on a series of topics regarding various aspects of the shared heritage, including:

- archives and libraries (paper heritage, both printed material and manuscripts);
- museums/moveable heritage;
- monuments and archaeological sites;
- intangible heritage (oral history, rituals, et cetera);
The Atlantic World and the Dutch 1500-2000

- research and universities;
- other topics, such as the extension of the AWAD database/website, funding, activities for a broader public, spin-off projects, public awareness.

Each workshop was concluded with a report covering the outcome of the discussions, compiled jointly by the counterparts and the coordinators. These reports, available on the AWAD website, formed the starting point for the discussion on the outlines of the second phase of AWAD during the international Atlantic conference. Apart from investigating the state of affairs of the heritage field and each individual country's needs and wishes, the gatherings offered the opportunity to present the AWAD database and to complement the existing information. Last but not least, the workshops underlined AWAD's intention to establish and extend international cooperation and partnerships within the Atlantic region.

The results of the two pilot studies carried out in Suriname were presented and discussed during the Surinam workshop, see Surinam Country report.

### Table 3.1 Workshops schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Coordinator(s)</th>
<th>Counterparts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GUYANA</td>
<td>GEORGETOWN</td>
<td>20 JUNE 2006</td>
<td>Johan van Langen (National Archives) Lodewijk Wageniaar (Amsterdam Historical Museum)</td>
<td>James Rose (National Trust and University of Guyana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARUBA / NL ANTILLES</td>
<td>WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO</td>
<td>4-5 JULY 2006</td>
<td>Han Jordaan (Institute of Netherlands History and KITLV) Alex van Stipriaan Luiscius (Royal Tropical Institute and Erasmus University Rotterdam)</td>
<td>Ieteke Witteveen (NAAM) Nolida Römer-Kenepa (National Archives) Arminda Franken-Ruiz (Archaeological Museum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURINAM</td>
<td>PARAMARIBO</td>
<td>13-15 JULY 2006 (pilot studies)</td>
<td>Alex van Stipriaan Luiscius (Royal Tropical Institute and Erasmus University Rotterdam) Glenn Willemsen (Ninsee)</td>
<td>Jack Merke (Anton de Kom University) Jerome Egger (Anton de Kom University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>RECIFE</td>
<td>19-20 JULY 2006</td>
<td>Barbara Consolini (KITLV)</td>
<td>Marcos Galindo (Pernambuco Federal University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SÃO PAULO</td>
<td>24 JULY 2006</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIO DE JANEIRO</td>
<td>26 JULY 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHANA</td>
<td>ACCRA</td>
<td>13-17 NOVEMBER 2006</td>
<td>Michel Doortmont (University of Groningen)</td>
<td>Emmanuel Hagan (Ministry of Tourism) Kofi Baku (University of Ghana) Nicholas Ivor (Ghana Museum Monuments Board)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workshop in the Netherlands

On 3 March 2006 the first workshop was organized in the Netherlands. It was attended by some twenty representatives of the principal Dutch heritage institutions (universities, archives, museums, built heritage institutes, et cetera). The following subjects were discussed: intangible heritage, historical and archaeological research, archival and printed sources, monuments and archaeological sites, museums and moveable cultural heritage and the AWAD website/database.

Apart from stimulating research and improving accessibility to the sources, it was concluded that education on the history of the Dutch in the Atlantic should be enhanced in the Netherlands. In addition, the public should be given more insight into this subject through the organization of events and the use of the possibilities offered by the new media. An interdisciplinary approach was advocated. Archaeological research, for instance, should be extended to cover the colonial period, making use of historical sources. It is important that measures are taken to protect the built heritage and sites of archaeological interest.

International Atlantic conference

The concluding international conference was held at the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam from 28 until 30 November 2006. This event represented an important step towards the preservation and dissemination of knowledge on shared cultural heritage in the Atlantic region.

Representatives of various cultural heritage organizations and research institutes in Aruba, Brazil, Ghana, Guyana, the Netherlands Antilles, Surinam and the United States, in addition to several experts from Dutch cultural heritage sectors and research organizations were present.

The discussion focused on the necessity for future action regarding the preservation, accessibility and research of the shared heritage. Other points on the agenda were the need to extend and implement the digital research guide (database) set up during the previous project.
phase, as well as broadening the AWAD website; thus turning it into an international forum for discussion and the exchange of knowledge regarding the shared history in the Atlantic world.

The main objective of this meeting was to outline the follow up stage of the project. Barbara Consolini coordinated the preparations for the conference, in collaboration with Dirk Tang of the National Library of the Netherlands and Lodewijk Wagenaar of the Amsterdam Historical Museum.

For the participants from the partner countries, in addition to the conference a two-day cultural programme was organized, including visits to a number of important Dutch heritage institutions and a guided tour highlighting the history of Amsterdam, as well as visits to the Amsterdam Historical Museum, National Archives and National Library in The Hague. Twenty-six guests from partner countries attended the conference: four from Brazil, two from the United States, three from Ghana, four from Guyana, three from Suriname, three from Aruba, six from the Netherlands Antilles and one from Venezuela.

During the first day of the conference, representatives of the partner countries’ cultural sectors presented the results of the local workshops. The second day saw various groups participating in workshops on archives and libraries, material culture as well as research and intangible culture, in doing so formulating their ‘ideal heritage projects’.

The results of these workshops were presented on the third and final day of the conference, together with each group’s proposal for a shared heritage project to be realized in the future. The congress was concluded with the formulation of a set of resolutions (see appendix VIII for the full text). All partners of AWAD agreed to cooperate in order to preserve and develop our shared heritage, realizing concrete projects which give priority to the following areas: identification and registration, knowledge exchange and know-how transfer, local commitment and awareness processes, language training and interdisciplinary work.

In addition, all partners agreed that for AWAD to develop as a truly international endeavour and to accomplish these resolutions, there was a need for substantial and long-term funding from multiple sources. Dutch involvement is requisite and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are to be considered full partners in the AWAD network. All cultural heritage projects developed in the context of AWAD should be firmly grounded in the local communities and, finally, continuity is considered essential in all aspects (see chapter 6).

Atlantic Days

To celebrate the commencement of AWAD an event named the Atlantic Day was held in the National Library in The Hague on 15 April 2004 to introduce the project. Due to the popularity of this day, it has become an annual event in the Netherlands and is now a firm fixture on the cultural agenda. Consecutive gatherings were all hosted by NINsee, the National Institute for Dutch Slavery and its Legacy, in Amsterdam.

The rationale behind the Atlantic Day is to inform a wider audience of the aims and development of the AWAD project, to present new and interesting studies on topics of relevance for the history of the Atlantic region and, last but not least, to strengthen contacts within the Dutch Atlantic network. Many experts, both from the Netherlands and abroad, were invited to present their ideas and in-depth analyses on relevant themes. So far, five Atlantic Days have been organized – the last one, on 13 June 2008, took ‘Brazil’ as its central theme. Themes of previous events have been ‘Guyana; the Former Colonies of Berbice, Demerary and Essequibo’, ‘Military Violence in the Atlantic World’ and ‘Slavery, Its Past and Legacy’. The last meeting was made possible thanks to the cooperation between NINsee, KITLV, National Archives and the magazine Historisch Nieuwsblad.

Thanks to the valuable cooperation between the partners, these events give space for reflection on themes relating to the Atlantic. They are also an occasion for gathering new information, discussing and exchanging opinions, obtaining feedback on the AWAD project and regularly meeting with individual experts and representatives of institutions that form part of the Atlantic network. It would be of great benefit for these meetings to continue into the future.

To conclude, we consider all activities discussed above as important achievements of the AWAD project, while at the same time these achievements have helped to expand upon the initial ambition of the pilot project. At present, AWAD offers the infrastructure for the construction of a wide and open Atlantic network, allowing for spin-off effects in the form of other new initiatives focusing on the preservation and further development of the study of our shared cultural heritage. We will discuss these additional beneficial results in the following chapter.
From its inception, AWAD has never been nor was intended to be an institute for funding. Instead, AWAD’s aim is to build a network of heritage institutions and researchers from various nations on both sides of the Atlantic. In short: AWAD strives to become a hub for information on sources, institutions and experts, desiderata, initiatives and priorities, and for opportunities to bring these to fruition. In this and the following chapter, we will briefly review AWAD’s positive spin-off effects as well as some structural drawbacks encountered along the way.

International network

The AWAD project has been successful in bringing together – both digitally and physically – experts from a range of countries that otherwise would have had little or no contact. For this reason in particular, the 2006 Amsterdam conference was a refreshing and stimulating experience for all involved. As the resolutions formulated at this event indicate (see appendix VIII), there was no shortage of ideas or enthusiasm for the engagement in joint projects in a wide range of fields relating to cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.

At the same time we cannot shy away from the fact that outside of the Netherlands no funding has been generated for financing related projects – whether in conservation, digitization or research – beyond the national or at best bilateral (‘x and the Dutch’) level. Perhaps reluctantly, the Netherlands remains at the heart of the network. We will return to this issue and its consequences in the following chapter.

Preceding the AWAD project, there has been a long tradition of solely bilateral cooperation programmes and projects with the ‘Dutch Atlantic’. The bulk of these centred on Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, covering all dimensions of cultural heritage. Often this type of cooperation has taken the form of cultural development aid focusing on material heritage (built environment, archives) as well as on improving the cultural infrastructure, stimulating joint research projects in tangible and intangible heritage, in addition to work carried out in permanent museums and temporary exhibitions. In the Netherlands, a great number of heritage and academic institutions are involved in this kind of programme, as are many at the municipal level.

It seems fair to say that this particular kind of bilateral cooperation and support exists and often flourishes independently of AWAD. Yet participants in AWAD did express on various occasions that AWAD could function as an institutionalized umbrella to stimulate and coordinate this kind of cooperation in cultural heritage. So far our contribution in this respect has been to organize the country workshops which helped the relevant actors in Surinam and the Dutch Antillean islands to define their own priorities. Moreover, many of the Surinamese and Antillean participants in the Amsterdam conference found engagement with a much wider field of experts in the ‘Dutch Atlantic’ to be an eye-opener.

Ghana was among the selected group of countries initially prioritized in the Dutch cultural
cooperation policy. In 2008 Brazil was added to this list. Apart from the country workshops, AWAD itself has not developed new bilateral projects with either of these countries. However, the results of the workshops and of the international conference have confirmed the wisdom of including both in the Dutch priority list.

Neither the United States nor Guyana figure on this list. AWAD has recently developed some initiatives in the hope of inserting the New York-based New Netherland Project in the great number of activities during the 2009 ‘Henry Hudson year’. Prospects in this respect seem favourable. Conversely, despite the evident relevance and well-defined priorities formulated for Guyana, proposals for this former colony – part of the Dutch empire until the early nineteenth century! – have so far fallen on deaf ears in the Netherlands.

New partnerships within the Netherlands

As the database attests, a great number of Dutch institutions and experts are involved in the ‘Dutch Atlantic’. Again, most of these were already focused on this area prior to the establishment of AWAD and we may anticipate the commencement of many new projects and programmes in the coming years. There is certainly no lack of initiative and there is funding from many sources – never quite enough, but certainly sufficient to engage in much serious and useful work.

The overwhelming majority of this multitude of projects has a bilateral character, linking Dutch experts and institutions to just one other Atlantic country. Projects attempting to link more countries are few. Recently, three such multilateral projects were initiated in which the AWAD link was of significance. AWAD’s host institution KITLV was actively engaged in all of these.

The first of these is a joint programme co-financed by the Institute of Netherlands History (ING) and KITLV. This programme, ‘The Dutch and the Culture in the Atlantic Region, 1670-1870’, runs from 2006 until September 2011 and aims to identify and secure the in-depth disclosure of archival sources pertaining to the Antillean islands, Surinam and Guyana from the 1670-1870 period. More information on this programme is available on the ING website and AWAD database.

Secondly, financed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), is the recent historical research project ‘Dutch Atlantic Connections. The Circulation of People, Goods and Ideas in the Atlantic World, 1680-1800’, undertaken by Leiden University, the VU University Amsterdam and KITLV. In the funding application for this programme explicit reference was made to AWAD – and certainly the focus on the development of networks over time dovetails nicely with the tenets of AWAD. It should be added though that the periodization of the project implies that Dutch Brazil and New Netherland are not part of the research; moreover, the actual research group is exclusively based in the Netherlands.

Finally, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) funded KITLV to carry out the project ‘Dutch Colonialism, Migration, and Cultural Heritage’ which began in the summer of 2007. It was completed one year later with the publication of a book edited by Gert Oostindie discussing migrations within the Dutch colonial orbit (Asia, Africa and the Americas), while also addressing challenges and opportunities for comparative work in cultural heritage. Part of this project was an international conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa (2008) with participants from all over the former Dutch colonial world and departing from much the same ideas as AWAD. The resolutions of the Stellenbosch conference again testify to the relevance of the debates at the earlier Atlantic conference. While this wider programme is therefore an evident spin-off of AWAD, it is at this point unclear what kind of follow-up in terms of backing the Dutch government will give to either programme.

Institutional continuity

Over the past five years, AWAD has benefitted from the support of the foremost Dutch institutions in the field and has stimulated cooperation between these various actors. AWAD’s host institution KITLV has indicated the urgency of finding additional means for continuity after the completion of this first phase. KITLV has also made it clear that the transfer of AWAD to another competent institution is an option. Three Dutch institutions have expressed an interest in co-financing AWAD and/or succeeding KITLV as host.

The National Institute for Dutch Slavery and its Legacy (NiNsee) has expressed an interest in co-financing and becoming a more clearly defined partner in AWAD. This interest has as yet not materialized into a concrete offer, partly due to the sad and untimely death of NiNsee’s director, Dr Glenn Willemsen.

Meanwhile, two new government-sponsored institutions in the field of cultural heritage were founded, the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) and the national sector institute for cultural heritage Erfgoed Nederland (Netherlands Institute for Heritage). Both expressed an interest in becoming future hosts of AWAD and submitted concrete proposals to this end. After discussing these proposals, AWAD’s Advisory Committee decided in favour of Erfgoed Nederland. At around the same time we were given another option when the Nationaal Archief (Dutch National Archives) expressed its willingness to play a significant long-term role in the project.

Subsequently, a proposal was made to set up a collaboration between Erfgoed Nederland, KITLV and the Nationaal Archief. One of the advantages of this cooperation is the way in which research, collection and coordination expertise will be brought together. After concluding the formalities of their cooperation, the three institutions will formally define which future direction AWAD will be taking (agreements on procedure are still to be finalized). As a partnership, Erfgoed Nederland, KITLV and Nationaal Archief will be steering the project from a distance, advised by a group of renowned scholars and experts (Advisory Committee).
The AWAD office will move from KITLV to Erfgoed Nederland. AWAD coordinator Barbara Consolini, MA will continue her work for AWAD at Erfgoed Nederland, in Amsterdam, under the supervision of its programme manager for international heritage, Astrid Weij, MA. Consolini will be primarily responsible for the AWAD website/database and will cooperate with the AWAD committees. From now on, both the AWAD website and database will be hosted by the company Gridline. Erfgoed Nederland has guaranteed continued funding for one year with the intention of securing long-term funding. This bodes well for the much-needed institutional continuity. While this is very good news indeed, the ideal of enduring transatlantic cooperation in the field of cultural heritage continues to come up against financial and institutional constraints, as will be discussed in the following chapter.
Immediate institutional continuity for AWAD has been secured, yet the wider challenge of how to make AWAD succeed remains – the bottom line being that without sizeable funding all good intentions, fruitful exchanges and hard work will not result in a truly successful multilateral programme. This statement will be substantiated with some reflections on the lessons learned in the past few years.

Valuable lessons

A first lesson relates to the inherent ambiguity of the very concept of ‘Dutch Atlantic’ which is at the heart of AWAD. ‘The Atlantic World and the Dutch’ involves a series of countries on either side of the Atlantic and while there is a growing awareness of historical connections and contemporary legacies within and between the various places, by definition the Dutch dimension remains the common denominator. As, moreover, the Dutch government has expressed a distinct interest in broadening its cultural heritage policies beyond the bilateral while unequivocally choosing to prioritize former colonial countries in its international cultural policy, it is both feasible and inevitable that a Dutch institution be the driving force. For the Atlantic world, this is AWAD. For the former domain of the East India Company a similar project may be valuable. In the longer term, a combination of the two might be even more promising.

We have encountered widespread support for the idea that a Netherlands-based institution should be this driving force – as long as this does not imply that the definition of concepts, perspectives and concrete projects is dictated by the Dutch. Former colonies are enthusiastic about engaging in work on shared history and the resulting cultural heritage, but demand that they can do this on their own terms. AWAD has attempted to work in this spirit. The general mood and the final resolutions of the conference held in Amsterdam in 2006 demonstrate that there is room for significant consensus amidst the existence of conflicting feelings and ideas about the significance of the colonial era.

Alongside the acceptance of Dutch steering, there is an expectation of Dutch funding. This is not illogical. As one participant remarked, shared heritage not only implies sharing culture and traditions, but also responsibilities, challenges (funding, training, research) and problems, such as a lack of expertise and of access, in addition to challenge of sharing access to financial means and modern technology.

This is not to say that the various countries involved would not and do not invest in cultural heritage projects. Brazil and possibly the United States invest even more than the Netherlands in projects relating to the early Dutch period of their history. But this does not apply to many other countries, firstly due to their lack of means and, secondarily, a lack of expertise. From this

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2 Professor Alex van Stipriaan Luïscius intervention at the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba workshop, Curaçao, 4 and 5 July 2006, see report p. 21.
perspective it is not surprising that supranational projects are widely seen as the prime challenge and responsibility for the one common denominator, the Netherlands.

While we have always made it clear that AWAD is not a funding agency and that there were no guarantees that substantial finance would become available on the basis of the country workshops or the Amsterdam conference, we could not but raise expectations by the simple fact that AWAD was organizing all of this with government money. Why would the Dutch government subsidize this kind of pilot work, many foreign participants reasoned, if no follow-up was envisaged? This was the kind of rhetorical question not easily countered by any of the many Dutch experts involved in AWAD.

With almost two years having transpired since the Amsterdam conference, hopes for substantial Dutch government funding in the spirit of AWAD seemed to evaporate. The only new ministerial initiative was the comparative project on migration and cultural heritage in the entire former Dutch colonial orbit (see chapter 4). At the concluding Stellenbosch conference, unsurprisingly, very similar expectations about subsequent Dutch funding were voiced. In the AWAD newsletters and personal communications we could only be transparent about the fact that no substantial funding seemed forthcoming.

Inevitably, such sobering news has affected the enthusiasm of our partners, overseas as well as in the Netherlands. This is not to say that initiatives have stopped. In all countries many useful projects are under way. But many other plans have been put on the back-burner and the exciting prospect to engage in truly supranational comparative work is fading. We cannot ignore this disappointment. It reveals itself in reduced feedback to our surveys and newsletters. Solely Internet contact and nothing promising on the horizon are a sad combination. In the long run, this is a threat to the legitimacy of AWAD.

Future funding

More substantial funding is needed. This may be more crucial for some countries than for others – Guyana with its deteriorating archives and monuments dating from the Dutch period is a good example of the more needy in this respect. Many major Dutch heritage institutions invest in cooperation with Atlantic partners, but their focus is mainly on Surinam and the Antilles. Dutch embassies do have some means of their own to invest in cultural heritage – but only rarely have they shown an interest in connecting with AWAD. All Atlantic countries involved could deploy more external funding very usefully. All have at least expertise and facilities to contribute.

If we are not to give up on our ambition of making the ideas of the Amsterdam conference work, where should we procure additional funding? Thinking of Dutch contributions, we have every reason to first consider the prime movers behind AWAD, the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science. AWAD could also take the initiative to request the Dutch government to act as a co-financing broker along with NWO, Dutch universities and heritage institutions.

At this point, it seems both unrealistic and undesirable for AWAD to procure funding from the other Atlantic countries concerned. One promising new avenue would be to search for international or supranational funding. EU funding may be the key here, but there are some caveats to this strategy. On the one hand, significant Dutch government support would be a requisite. On the other, to obtain European funding, a further widening of the approach might be demanded. This broadening would entail including other European nations and/or moving from the Atlantic to all continents formerly colonized by European states. Needless to say that this type of application could imply a watering down of the initial AWAD objectives and definitely would entail a heavy workload and very strong leadership.

By way of conclusion, we may briefly resume the lessons learned:

- without sufficient financial means and central coordination, AWAD will not survive;
- fruitful continuation presupposes strong institutional roots in the Netherlands, as well as permanent maintenance of the international network;
- long-term international participation cannot be limited to virtual contacts via the website but should include finance for the execution of concrete projects;
- multilateral projects need to be encouraged and should include financing from other sources than Dutch government subsidies.
On the completion of the first phase of the AWAD project, we present a database which is rapidly developing into an invaluable research tool for experts and those interested in the Dutch dimension of Atlantic history and its legacies. The elements of the database concerned with archives, libraries, projects, experts and organizations are to a large extent complete. While institutions in the field will hopefully continue to open up their treasures to the public, it is unlikely that many new monuments or extensive collections will be discovered. The dynamic part of the database will continue to require regular updating, as ongoing projects are completed, new ones initiated and new experts enter the field. As indicated above, we have every reason to be confident that this part of AWAD will continue and develop in the coming years. AWAD will thus offer an ever-growing database and a virtual platform linking partners throughout the Atlantic.

What about priorities for future programmes, provided that substantial funds will become available? The proposals and results of the AWAD workshops and the Amsterdam conference remain relevant and valid. Below we will summarize the conclusions of the November 2006 meeting (for the resolutions in their entirety, see appendix VIII).

- Further expansion of the AWAD website through direct country input, a forum for discussing priorities regarding projects and information sharing, for example via the digital newsletter. The AWAD website/database could function as a ‘virtual Atlantic junction’ with central coordination and direct input from all partners. This would ensure the continual addition and updating of content, an improved communication structure for ongoing projects, a forum for possible new sets of priorities, the publication of results and improved links and connections. The network character should be further developed and, as agreed at the conference, the responsibility for keeping the website updated will be a shared one.

- Projects should aim to identify and link the tangible and intangible dimensions of cultural heritage, as well as stimulating best practices in the recording and record management of intangible heritage. Since the interest in intangible heritage is continually increasing, more efforts should be made to preserve this legacy through better cataloguing and improved accessibility. The use of technology in this is essential.

- Improve accessibility to 16th-18th century Dutch archival records in the Netherlands and abroad. Much-needed projects reveal themselves in areas such as inventories and digital catalogues, the conservation and digital publication of archival records, the transcription and translation of primary sources, training in the form of Dutch-language courses and the transfer of know-how, condition surveys and information databases to provide knowledge of and access to archives. The use of technology and new media in this is essential. Therefore cooperation and support at a local level are necessary.

- To accomplish these recommendations, joint research projects should be initiated and/or promoted.
All participants in the conference agreed that these should be the final recommendations for the future of AWAD and have committed themselves to a shared responsibility in achieving these goals. As an undisputable condition, they added that all cultural heritage projects and programmes developed in the context of AWAD should be firmly grounded in the local communities, thus ensuring a strong outreach dimension. But given the fact that these recommendations serve as the guidelines for future actions of AWAD, how can we translate these in a more tangible way?

During the conference many exciting ideas were expressed to this end. These included a comparative study of interactions between indigenous peoples and the Dutch during the early age of expansion; a platform for sharing cultural heritage information and best practices in this field; the development of a joint programme for combining the rehabilitation of historical architecture with the training of local experts and the promotion of cultural heritage tourism [awad.kitlv.nl/documents].

Many of the most promising projects have an intercultural and multidisciplinary character and can be integrated into wider heritage programming. Research and education are key to these ambitious new projects, but there is also the option of embedding smaller activities and pilot projects in extant programmes and networks, such as the Encompass programme3 on Asia. It is certainly possible to draw students, researchers and heritage professionals from the Atlantic area into programmes already developed for Asia, but one may also envisage a more active and creative role here for Dutch embassies and consulates in the Atlantic area.

3 ENCOMPASS, which stands for Encountering a Common Past in Asia, is the follow-up of the successful TANAP Research Programme (Towards a New Age of Partnership). The programme started in 2006 and is hosted by Leiden University. For more information see www.hum.leiden.edu/history/encompass/
I. Organization

An initiative of
Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) and Municipal Archives of Amsterdam

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Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)

Municipal Archives of Amsterdam

Institute of Netherlands History (ING)
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Barbara Consolini, MA, project coordinator AWAD project and website (October 2005-October 2008)

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**United States**
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VI. Relevant mutual heritage projects (classified according to heritage type)

Archives
- Ghana sources guide, National Archives
- The Dutch and the culture in the Atlantic world 1670-1870, ING
- New Netherland Project/Rensselaerswyck, New Netherland Institute
- Project Landsarchief Surinam, National Archives Surinam
- Projeto Resgate, Brazilian Ministry of Culture
- Projeto Ultramar and Monumenta Hygina, Líber Laboratório/UFPE
- Sailing Letters, KB/National Library and National Archives/PRO
- Slave Trade Archives Project, UNESCO

Mutual heritage databases
- Atlantic World, KB/National Library and Library of Congress
- Atlas of Dutch Brazil, New Holland Foundation and Laboratório de Arqueologia/UFPE
- Atlas of Mutual Heritage, De Nieuwe Collectie
- Caribeao History, National Archives (Public Records, London)
- Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS), SEACR
- Digital Atlas History, KB/National Library and Rijksmuseum
- Memory of the Netherlands, KB/National Library
- Knowledge base Slavery, NiNsee
- Colonial Surinam, National Archives
- Surinam 1599-1975, UVA/University of Amsterdam
- Transatlantic Slave Trade 1500-1876, Emory and Hull University
- Free in Surinam, NA/National Archives
- Free from slavery, NA/National Archives

Mutual heritage management
- Elmina 2015 Strategy
- Elmina Cultural Heritage and Management Programme, Monumentenzorg, GMMB, Ghana University and IHUDS
- Henry Hudson 400 years commemorations, New Netherland Institute and others
- Joseph Project, Ghana, Ministry of Tourism
- Shared Memory of the Dutch Caribbean, various heritage institutions

Tangible heritage
- Excavation Fort Orange, Itamaraca, Brazil, MOWIC, IPHAN and UFPE
- Court of Policy Hall at Fort Island Project (Dutch Heritage Museum) and restoration of Fort
Brazil

Since 2008 Brazil has been enlisted as a priority country in the Dutch policy for cultural cooperation. This status will hopefully facilitate and stimulate activities between the Netherlands and Brazil regarding the conservation, accessibility and implementation of shared cultural heritage. Although brief, the Dutch experience in Brazil is of great importance for Brazilian historiography. Over the last decades Brazil itself has initiated many relevant projects and collaborations, focusing on rescuing and improving the accessibility to the cultural legacy shared with the Netherlands, for example the Projeto Resgate and the database of the Líber Laboratório of the University in Recife. Research on this period has increased, resulting in many remarkable publications, in Recife as well as in São Paulo. Still, for most Brazilian experts, the Dutch language remains the main obstacle. Therefore Dutch-language courses, academic exchange programmes and translations of sources into English and Portuguese are desirable and should be encouraged.

- Projeto Resgate, Brazilian Ministry of Culture
- Projeto Ultramar and Monumenta Hygina, Líber Laboratório/UFPE
- Excavation Fort Orange, Itamaraca, Brazil, MOWIC, IPHAN and UFPE

Ghana

Since 1998 cultural cooperation between Ghana and the Netherlands has culminated in a series of important activities and projects regarding the conservation, revitalization and development of the shared heritage. The main focus has been on the restoration of the forts and castles along the Gold Coast. These activities were intended to promote cultural cooperation and public awareness and were included in broader programmes such as the Elmina Cultural Heritage and Management Programme and the 300 years of diplomatic relations celebrations of 2001-2002, when the Cultural Framework Treaty was signed. The recent publication of the Ghana sources guide by the National Archives is an important springboard for further disclosure of relevant documentation on the mutual history of Ghana and the Netherlands. Therefore all projects aiming to catalogue, publish and digitize archival sources should be stimulated, in the Netherlands and particularly in Ghana. To facilitate this investigation, the organization of an intensive Dutch course for people in the field and the publication of sources in English would be desirable. The preservation of intangible heritage is also perceived as a priority by the people in Ghana.

- Elmina 2015 Strategy
- Elmina Cultural Heritage and Management Programme, Monumentenzorg, GMMB, Ghana University and IHUDS
- Joseph Project, Ghana, Ministry of Tourism
- Restoration ‘Fort Amsterdam’, Abandze, GMMB
- Ghana sources guide, National Archives
Guyana

Cultural cooperation with Guyana is still neglected, even though it is evident that the legacy left by the Dutch deserves more attention. Thanks to the commitment of the National Trust of Guyana, in the last few years some valuable local initiatives have been undertaken, such as the restoration of Dutch monuments from the colonial era. Nevertheless, problems relating to climate, storage and handling make the restoration, conservation, digitization and publication of archival sources a priority for Guyana, in addition to the need for expertise. The translation of Dutch sources into English and the organization of Dutch-language training for the study of the 17th and 18th century archival records will be of great importance as it will encourage research. Safeguarding the cultural heritage will increase public awareness and will boost tourism, and thus the local economy. Another aspect in need of attention is Guyana’s intangible heritage; projects and means should be tailored to rescue and divulge the immaterial dimension of the country’s culture. For all these purposes Guyana seeks expertise; therefore an even closer cultural cooperation with Surinam would be advisable.

Court of Policy Hall at Fort Island (Dutch Heritage Museum), National Trust of Guyana
Restoration of Fort Zeelandia at Fort Island, National Trust of Guyana

The Netherlands

Many of the shared heritage projects are initiated and hosted by Dutch institutions, due to the fact that these projects mainly pertain to digital catalogues of cultural heritage and the majority of the collections are located in the Netherlands. Others focus on research while the creation of a website/database is more of a knock-on effect. These projects have contributed significantly to an improved documentation and accessibility to shared heritage.

- The Dutch and the culture in the Atlantic world 1670-1870, ING
- Atlas of Mutual Heritage, De Nieuwe Collectie
- Memory of the Netherlands, KB/National Library
- Digital Atlas History, KB/National Library and Rijksmuseum
- Dutch Atlantic Connections, 1680-1795, UL, KITLV, VU and ING
- Dutch Colonialism, Migration and Cultural Heritage, KITLV and UL
- Knowledge base Slavery, NiNsee
- Colonial Surinam, National Archives
- Surinam 1599-1975, UVA/University of Amsterdam
- Free in Surinam, NA/National Archives
- Free from slavery, NA/National Archives
- Bringing History Home. Postcolonial Identity Politics in the Netherlands, KITLV and IISS
- Inventory of the Dutch slavery/slave trade heritage, NMV

Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are autonomous parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and therefore continue to have a direct constitutional relationship with the Netherlands. Due to their constitutional status, however, initially the islands could not benefit from funds such as the Netherlands Culture Fund (HGIS), supporting international cultural cooperation. Fortunately, this odd situation has been addressed and thanks to an additional grant from the Netherlands Culture Fund the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba can now be considered full partners in the AWAD network. Complicating this matter, the Netherlands Antilles are currently dealing with another round of constitutional changes. In the near future, they will become two autonomous countries (Curaçao and St. Maarten), while the three remaining islands have opted for a status on a part with municipalities in the Netherlands. This will have repercussions for the cultural legacy of these islands, which should be considered as unique and inseparable. Therefore, cooperation and local commitment are essential, as is the development of joint research projects to identify commonality. Most of the existing projects and programmes are in fact aimed at underlining this common cultural ‘Caribbean’ identity. Priorities are: oral history courses and projects, the creation of inventories/databases relating to current research and the preservation of archival records and cultural exchange. Relevant institutions on the islands are already actively involved in cooperation programmes aimed at coordinating and preserving the shared cultural heritage on a national level, for example the platform ‘Shared Memory of the Dutch Caribbean’. However, there is the intention to stimulate an even broader Caribbean cooperation. The combined workshop of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles was also attended by a representative from Surinam, while representatives from the Netherlands Antilles attended the workshop in Surinam.

- Shared Memory of the Dutch Caribbean, various heritage institutions
- Pranasi and Kunuku, Erasmus University Rotterdam and NiNsee
- Caribbean History, National Archives (Public Records, London)
- Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS), SECAR

Surinam

Shared cultural heritage is a relevant part of the cooperation policy between the Netherlands and Surinam. At the same time Surinamse experts have also emphasized the importance of cultural cooperation with other countries in the Caribbean. Priorities are the identification and improved accessibility to archival records and intangible heritage, specifically oral history. In achieving these goals, training, the transfer of know-how and the use of technology play an important role. Some projects have been proposed, such as the realization of a centre for tangible and intangible heritage and the development of cultural routes (for example the Anansi and Plantation trails), aimed at attracting tourism and promoting local awareness, as well as the restoration of historical
buildings and sites. At the moment, many research projects are being developed in Surinam and the Netherlands, mostly focusing on the intangible dimension of heritage, the oral legacy of a common past. There is close collaboration between the National Archives of Surinam and those in The Hague and the Amsterdam Municipal Archives. At present, a new repository for the Surinam archives is being built. It has been agreed that Surinam's colonial archives, that were transferred to the Netherlands at the beginning of the twentieth century and are currently held in the National Archives in The Hague, will be returned to Surinam in the near future.

- Project Landsarchief Surinam, National Archives Surinam
- Bidesia Project, Anton de Kom University and KIT
- Pranasi and Kunuku, Erasmus University Rotterdam and NiNsee
- Surinam 1599-1975, UVA/University of Amsterdam
- Free in Surinam, NA/National Archives

United States
In the United States, so far, the main area of interest with regard to cultural relations with the Netherlands has been in the field of genealogy. However, in the last decades, thanks to the New Netherland Institute, many relevant sources on Dutch-American history have been published, giving a great impulse to the study and research of the Dutch legacy in the United States. Furthermore, in some American universities considerable attention is being paid to the Atlantic World, albeit that it is often narrowed to include only the American sphere of action. In 2009, with the commemorations of 400 years of relations – the Henry Hudson year – we hope that the attention and interest in the shared heritage with the Netherlands will be stimulated, reaching new and interesting topics and connecting with the rest of the Atlantic. A closer cooperation with those universities already focusing on the American Atlantic could broaden our mutual networks, thus encouraging research programmes.

- International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500-1825, Harvard University
- Rensselaerswyck Seminars, New Netherland Institute
- New Netherland Project/Rensselaerswyck, New Netherland Institute
- Henry Hudson 400 years commemorations, New Netherland Institute and others

Others (transnational)
There are a few projects which are not nation-centered but are developed by various countries working together. It is a major objective of the AWAD project to promote this kind of cultural cooperation, in the form of projects and programmes that can be considered transnational and multidisciplinary, embracing the Atlantic as a whole. By doing this, the knowledge of the heritage in the Atlantic will become more complete and accurate, stimulating new and significant insights as well as encouraging cooperation among the partners in the Atlantic network.

- Sailing Letters, KB/National Library and National Archives/PRO
- Slave Trade Archives Project, UNESCO
- Transatlantic Slave Trade 1500-1876, Emory and Hull University
- Atlantic World, KB/National Library and Library of Congress
- Caribbean History, National Archives (Public Records, London)
- Atlas of Dutch Brazil, New Holland Foundation and Laboratório de Arqueologia/UFPPE

Collections in the Netherlands
The most important collections in the Netherlands (tangible heritage other than archival collections)\(^4\) relating to the Atlantic region are housed at:

Amsterdam
- KIT/Royal Tropical Institute
- Amsterdam Historical Museum
- Rijksmuseum (Dutch History room, Post)
- Scheepvaart Museum (Maritime Museum)

Hoorn
- Westfries Museum

Rotterdam
- Boijmans van Beuningen (Post)
- Maritiem Museum (Maritime Museum)

The Hague
- Mauritshuis (Eckhout and various movable objects)

Vlissingen
- MuZEEum (Maritime Museum)

Temporary Exhibitions
- Eckhout at Mauritshuis, The Hague
- Schouten at Teylers Museum, Haarlem
- Slavery at NiNsee, Amsterdam
- Slavery in Surinam and the Antilles at Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam
- Sugar at Amsterdam Historical Museum, Amsterdam

\(^4\) Source: workshop AWAD the Netherlands, 3 March 2006.
VIII. AWAD conference resolutions
26-30 November 2006

We, the partners of AWAD,
Sharing a deep concern for the preservation and further development of our shared cultural heritage,
Agreeing that preservation and further development are crucial both for inherent cultural and historical reasons and for the development of balanced cultural heritage tourism,
Convinced that continuity in our endeavours is essential,
Recommend the following:
1. The identification of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
2. The production of digital catalogues, condition surveys and information databases in order to provide the broadest possible knowledge of, and access to, archival resources.
3. The identification and stimulation of best practices in the recording and record management of intangible cultural heritage.
4. Joint research projects to meet these ends.
5. Further expansion of the AWAD website through:
   • direct country input;
   • a forum for discussing priorities regarding projects;
   • information sharing, for example through a digital newsletter.
6. That cultural heritage projects developed in the context of AWAD will be firmly grounded in the local communities, thus ensuring a strong outreach dimension.
7. That projects aim to link the tangible and intangible dimensions of cultural heritage.
8. The transfer of expertise (e.g. Dutch-language training for the study of 16th - 18th century archival records), taking into account that financial means, technology and expertise are unevenly distributed among the various national partners in AWAD.
9. That the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will be considered full partners in the AWAD network.

And conclude
That to accomplish these recommendations, there is need for substantial and long-term funding from multiple sources in order for AWAD to develop as a truly international endeavour.
However, in this, Dutch involvement should be evident and is certainly requisite.

IX. AWAD conference proposals
26-30 November 2006

1. AWAD MEETING
Proposal: Group 1 Third Session (Research and Intangible Culture Workshop)
30 November 2006

The group proposes the establishment of an online comparative study of interactions between indigenous peoples and the Dutch during the age of expansion in the Atlantic world (as defined by the interests of the Dutch West India Company). This might entail comparing subregions and subperiods and may eventually be expanded to include a comparison with the experiences of peoples touched by other colonizing powers.

This would be a collaborative, open-ended pilot project with the aim of creating a resource tool available to a wide range of researchers. It would serve as a test phase for similar projects.

1. Outcomes
   a. Stimulation of interest in an under-researched area.
   b. Creation of [a] physical product[s]: exhibition, virtual exhibition, publication.
   c. Encouragement of interest in and support for sustaining heritage sites and archival resources.
   d. Identification of problematic areas and issues to be addressed in other projects.
   e. Creation of a permanent information source for the AWAD database.
2. Funding sources
   a. Government (national, regional and local).
   b. Private (foundations, corporations).
   c. Income from products and copyrights (images, publications, et cetera).
3. Steps to reach goals
   a. Define and refine topic.
   b. Create infrastructure: governance, technology, et cetera to establish continuity.
   c. Disseminate information.
   d. Identify experts (local and academic) and create preliminary bibliography.
   e. Identify participants.
   f. Coordinate projects by country or region.
   g. Establish standards and recommended procedures.
   h. Identify potential stumbling blocks and problems with the goal of finding collaborative or cooperative solutions that can be transferable to other similar projects.
   i. Design and create database.
4. Characteristics
a. Open-ended; can be expanded at any time.
b. Non-hierarchical.
c. Built through collaborative contacts.
d. Appeals to broad range of people: academic researchers, genealogists, anthropologists, archaeologists, museum staff, archivists, local historians.

2. AWAD MEETING
Proposal: Group 2 Third Session (Archives and Libraries Workshop)
30 November 2006

The group proposes to create a platform to be used as a communication medium in order to disseminate knowledge and information about the shared heritage in the Atlantic. Each country will be responsible for the content of this platform/database/website and will make a complete survey of its shared heritage. This survey will give information on aspects such as condition, type, amount and location of the heritage concerned. The AWAD infrastructure could be extended to provide this platform.

OUTCOMES
• Create a platform that will be used as a means of communication and to share information.
• Generate a complete survey of the shared heritage in each country (condition, type, amount and location).

FUNDING SOURCES
• Through the commitment of one relevant local institution in each country, ensuring infrastructure and labour facilities. Funds will be locally procured in both the public and the private sector.
• Institutions and foundations in the Netherlands and in Europe.

STEP-BY-STEP PLAN
Within six months:
• Each country will nominate a core group of experts, one for each specific heritage field (archives, museums, monuments, archaeology, intangible culture, research).
• This core group will nominate one person who will act as the administrator of the database/website for his/her country.
• The administrator must be linked to an important institution which is willing to commit to the project and support it jurisdictionally and financially.

• An agreement should be signed by all parties committing themselves to participate in, support and host this project.
• The administrator will be responsible for implementing the content for his/her country with regard to the shared heritage in the Atlantic world.
• The administrator, together with the core group of his/her country, will decide what will be published on the database/website.
• Create a discussion forum.

Within one year:
• Have an inventory of the condition, amount, type and location of our shared heritage.
• Set up priorities.
• Set up project to develop cooperation between the people involved.

Options:
A. The administrator together with the core group of his/her country adds directly to the database.
B. The administrator adds to the database indirectly by sending information to a central administrator (webmaster) using a content management system.
C. The administrator together with the core group in his/her country adds directly to the database with regard to tangible and intangible culture, content, experts, projects and agenda. Information related to archives will be added by the webmaster through a content management system.

3. AWAD MEETING
Project: Group 3 Third session (Material Culture Workshop) 30 November 2006

Sharing our Monuments – Stimulate awareness through education

Project 1 – Film – The Dutch presence and impact on the indigenous people, particularly the impact of military fortifications. Film will also document the reconstruction of various forts/batteries across the Dutch Atlantic.

Project 2 – Publication – Coffee-table style book (illustrated), which will document the reconstruction of various forts/batteries across the Dutch Atlantic.

Project 3 – Reconstruction – Forts will be reconstructed by locally trained people who then become stakeholders in these and future restoration projects.
Methodology – step-by-step plan

1. In each country a committee will be established, consisting of academics, specialists, NGOs, cultural representatives and members of the public sector.

2. Each committee will be responsible for generating public awareness through essay, photographic and art competitions among various age groups. Those selected will be published in the final document. This area will attract private sector input – through sponsorship of the various competitions.

From each country a representative will be selected; together they will form a general council, meeting in person once every six months and regularly via the Internet to submit progress reports.

The publication will be produced in French, Spanish, English and Dutch.

Profits generated through the sale of this publication will be offered as a grant for restoration projects in various countries, based on the submissions by heritage preservation agencies. Monument and military organizations will be persuaded to participate at all levels.

Periodically articles will be published in the print and electronic media, both internationally and locally to reach a wide public.

X. Resources

Digital resources
- AWAD website homepage (awad.kitlv.nl)
- Index to guide AWAD database (awad.kitlv.nl/index)
- Country reports (awad.kitlv.nl/documents)
- Conference proceedings (awad.kitlv.nl/documents)
- Follow-up proposal (awad.kitlv.nl/documents)
- Newsletter (awad.kitlv.nl/newsletter)
- Brochure (awad.kitlv.nl/documents)
- Funding possibilities (awad.kitlv.nl/links)
- Dutch colonialism, migration and cultural heritage site (www.kitlv.nl/home/Projects?id=18)
- Dutch Atlantic connections project site (http://www.kitlv.nl/home/Projects?id=19)
- The Dutch and the Culture in the Atlantic World 1670-1870 (www.inghist.nl/Onderzoek/Projecten/NederlandersEnDeCultuurInHetAtlantischeGebied1670-1870/index_html_en)
- KITLV site (www.kitlv.nl)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs site, web page on cultural heritage (http://www.minbuza.nl/nl/organisatie/jaarverslag/hgis)
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, web page on cultural heritage (http://www.minocw.nl/icb/index.html)
- NiNsee site (www.ninsee.nl)
- Nationaal Archief (www.nationalearchief.nl)
- Erfgoed Nederland site (www.erfgoednederland.nl)
- Centrum voor Internationale Erfgoedactiviteiten site (www.heritage-activities.nl)
- De kracht van cultuur site (www.krachtvancultuur.nl)

Written resources
- AWAD Progress report September 2007 (not available online)
- AWAD Website/Database overview 2007 – State of affairs (not available online)
- AWAD Local workshops scheme (not available online)
- AWAD Minutes Advisory Committee December 2007 (not available online)
- AWAD Minutes Advisory Committee June 2008 (not available online)
- Policy framework 'Mutual cultural heritage with Surinam', Paramaribo 11 September 2001, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Note

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- photographs taken during the AWAD workshop in Curaçao, July 2006 (NAAM collection);
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- photographs taken during work trips, depicting heritage, people or other elements relating to the Atlantic region (by Oostindie, Consolini).