



Federal Foreign Office

## The Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office



Since 1981,  
the Federal Republic of Germany  
has supported the preservation  
of cultural heritage worldwide  
via the Cultural Preservation Programme  
of the Federal Foreign Office.



*The cambodian team of the German Apsara Conservation Project GACP performing conservation work at the Angkor Wat Temple © Leisen@gacp*

Around 80 million euros were provided from 1981 to 2018 to fund more than 2860 projects in 144 countries through the Cultural Preservation Programme.

The focus here is on supporting projects in countries where cultural property and heritage sites are threatened yet there is insufficient funding for steps to preserve them.

Cultural preservation projects are usually projects that can be implemented within the course of one year; in individual cases, measures can be approved with runtimes lasting for two or three years.



*The impressive Narathihapatae Hpaya Temple dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century is one of around 400 sacred buildings in Bagan in which the interior wall murals are preserved © A. Teufel/GEKE e.V.*

## The Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office is an instrument of German foreign policy in crisis regions.

Cultural property and objects are endangered in many different ways: The threat to cultural heritage posed by armed conflict is an ongoing problem. Natural disasters, climate change and infrastructural expansion have put cultural heritage at risk on a wide scale in recent years. At the same time, there has been a growing awareness of the stabilising character of cultural preservation measures. That's why the Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office works with German



and international partners, including UNESCO and private foundations, to preserve major historical and cultural testimonies to the history of mankind.

## The Cultural Preservation Programme fosters knowledge transfer and cultural dialogue among partners.

Cultural heritage projects are usually developed and implemented together with experts and the local population. They are often supplemented with a training component in the area of conservation and restoration, which creates employment and income opportunities. This helps to enhance the sustainability and success of the measures and intensifies cooperation with foreign partners.

## Our goal is to protect cultural diversity and preserve its original character.

Protecting and maintaining cultural diversity is one of the priorities of the Federal Foreign Office's cultural work abroad. By preserving cultural heritage, we are supporting the cause of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding in times dogged by insecurity. Cultural heritage helps people understand their own origins and home regions while at the same time promoting respect for and dialogue with other cultures.





*Dzivaguru Shrine – documentary film of drum culture of Chiweshe in Zimbabwe © Will Ramsay*

## A selection of outstanding cultural preservation projects in recent years:

- Conservation and training work to preserve the temples in Bagan following the 2016 earthquake
- Virtual museum to maintain the cultural heritage of the Aché indigenous people in Paraguay
- Conservation work on archaeological architecture in Uruk (Iraq) by the German Archaeological Institute together with young Iraqi archaeologists
- Restoration of the Merklin Schütze organ in Havana
- Documentation/digitisation of traditional sound archives in South Africa and Afghanistan
- Securing the West Iwan of the Takht e Soleyman in Iran

*Restoration of the West Iwan of the Takht e Soleyman  
© Sebastian Bartsch/TU Dresden*



*Documentation, preservation and recognition of immaterial cultural heritage in South Africa © Tiago de Oliveira Pinto*

*Dedication of the restored Walcker organ in the main synagogue in Buenos Aires © Bundesregierung/Kugler, organist: Víctor Garelik*

## Funding goes to projects

- to preserve cultural heritage abroad
- to conserve German cultural heritage abroad\*

*\* excluding the locations of historical German settlements in Eastern Europe (which fall under the remit of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media)*

## Possible measures:

- Restoring and conserving historic buildings or objects
- Supporting the restoration and conservation of World Heritage sites
- Collecting and documenting oral traditions in music and literature
- Conserving and digitising historic manuscripts and film/ audio archives, as well as data on cultural property
- Providing basic and further training for restorers, archivists, museum staff and researchers
- Providing equipment

*Manuscript digitisation in Wat Sak Noi Temple, Chiang Mai, Thailand*

© David Wharton, National Library of Laos





*Conservation, restoration and training for restorers at Phung Tien Temple in the Imperial City of Hue, Viet Nam © A. Teufel/GEKE e.V.*

*Hyderabad "Hakim and Commander" © Lisa Eichhorn*

For more information, visit:

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#### **Publication data**

Published by: Federal Foreign Office, Task Force on Cultural Preservation

Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30 1817-0, Internet: [www.diplo.de](http://www.diplo.de)

Front page photo: Restoration work on Khwaja Parsa Shrine, Balkh, Afghanistan

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Layout: [www.kiono.de](http://www.kiono.de)