

Prospects

Activities for future implementation include:

1. contributing to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent (2013-2022);
2. celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Slave Route Project in 2014;
3. mounting a travelling exhibition on the African diaspora's contributions to modern societies;
4. compiling an Atlas of Interactions and of African Diaspora;
5. conceiving new approaches to teaching about this human tragedy;
6. suggesting innovative ways of depicting slavery in museums;
7. producing a methodological guide and training modules to build national capacities in the management of sites and itineraries of memory;
8. developing new awareness-raising and educational materials for young people;
9. organizing a travelling festival entitled "African Diasporas Past and Present";
10. contributing to the establishment of new networks on specific themes (memory tourism, slavery in the Middle East and Asia, etc.).

Partnerships

In order to enhance the Project's visibility and impact on the local, national, regional and international levels, UNESCO intends to consolidate and renew cooperation with numerous partners, including institutes, research centres, UNESCO Chairs, museums, educational institutions, civil society associations, local authorities, policy-makers, youth organizations, foundations, the media and artists.

These new partnerships will be built on the following themes:

- ❖ the duty to remember and plural identities;
- ❖ the African Diaspora's multifaceted contributions;
- ❖ artistic interactions and expressions;
- ❖ action to combat racism and discrimination;
- ❖ youth and education for citizenship;
- ❖ networks and new technologies;
- ❖ enhancement, management and promotion of sites and places of memory.

Contacts

To ensure the continuation of the Project's mission, join us at
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/theslave.route>
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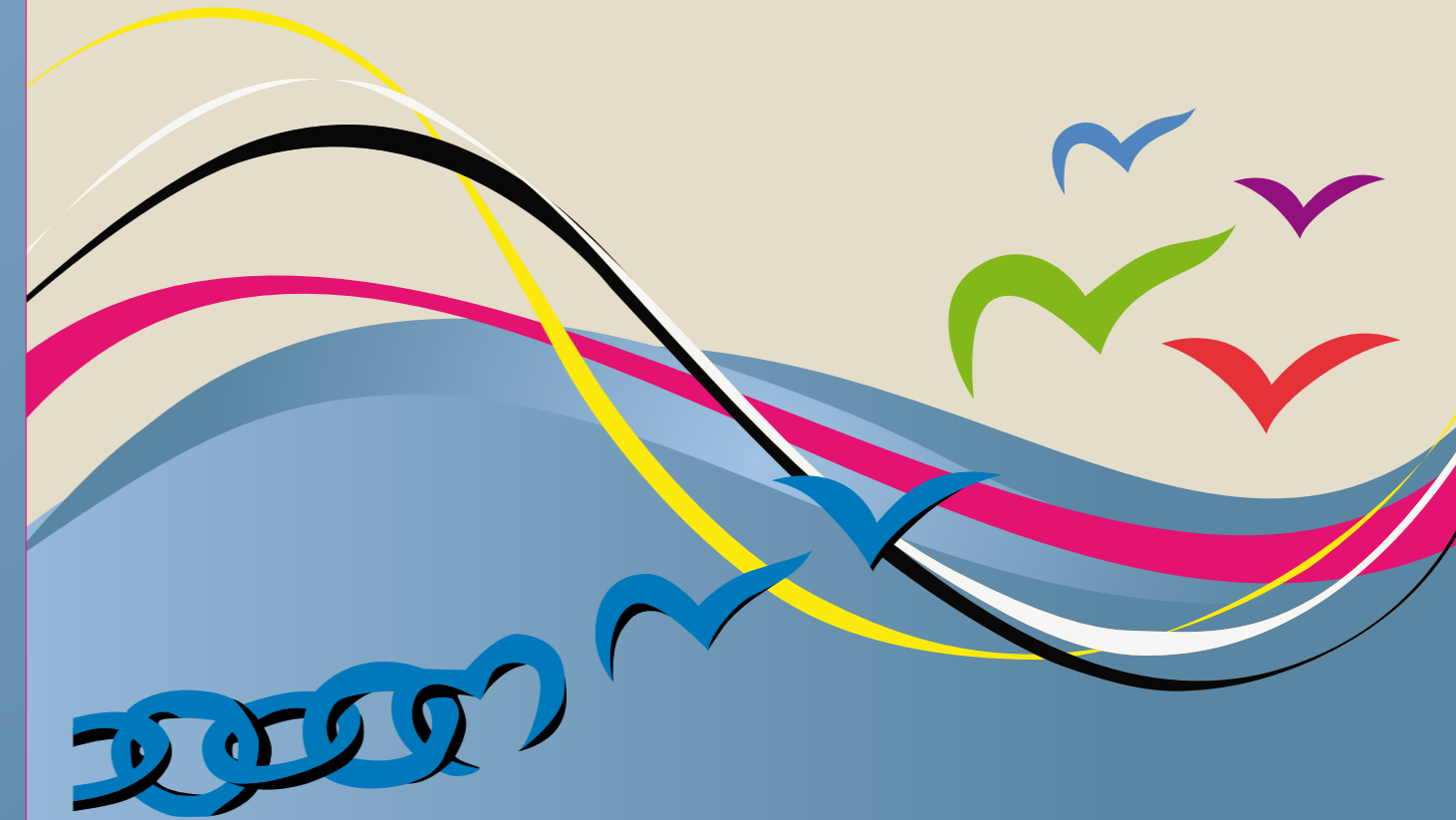
Site: www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute

*Linking memory, freedom and heritage
for better living together*



The Slave Route

Resistance, Freedom and Heritage



*Working together to make the histories and memories of the past, however tragic,
a source of inspiration for future generations*

The spirit of the project

Resistance: because the victims of slavery never ceased to resisting, by all available means, the systematic oppression and exploitation of human beings.

Freedom: because the struggle against slavery redefined the very notions of freedom, dignity and humanity and highlighted the universality of rights.

Heritage: because this tragedy gave rise to a common cultural heritage that unites us on many levels and must be preserved for posterity.

Why is UNESCO involved?

- ❖ because it is the United Nations agency dedicated to combating ignorance, cultivating peace and promoting intercultural dialogue;
- ❖ because ignoring or concealing major historical events can impede peace, national reconciliation and international cooperation; and
- ❖ because the slave trade and slavery are core issues and challenges in the world today.

Background

At its (27th) session in 1993, the UNESCO General Conference, at the instigation of Haiti and a number of African countries, affirmed, the need to respond concretely to the duty to remember by establishing the Slave Route Project (27 C/Resolution 3.13). This initiative is an integral part of the "Routes of Dialogue" (Silk Road, Iron Road, etc.) and serves to reinforces UNESCO's efforts to achieve a culture of peace.

Since its launch in 1994 in Ouidah (Benin), the Project has endeavoured to establish the truth about that long-concealed history and to raise awareness of the multifarious aspects of that human tragedy, the changes that it has wrought and its ethical, sociocultural and economic consequences. The innovative and multidisciplinary programme "Slave Route Project: Resistance, Freedom, Heritage" project, advances the global reflection on the future of multiethnic and multicultural societies.

Main issues and impact

- ❖ Ethics: familiarize the general public with a part of humanity's history that has enhanced our understanding of universal values.
- ❖ Education: teaching the history of slavery and the slave trade to youth as food for thought on the conditions required to live together more harmoniously.
- ❖ Culture: highlighting the fruitful cultural interactions that were sparked by that history and have deeply and permanently shaped modern society.

Goals

The Project aims to:

- break the silence about the slave trade and slavery in various regions of the world;
- shed light on its historical consequences, the many transformations and cultural interactions sparked by those forced encounters, which have brought forth the diversity characterizing contemporary societies;
- contribute to thinking on new issues and challenges that must be addressed by contemporary societies.

Strategy

Adopting a holistic and interdisciplinary approach, the Project highlights the historical links between the various regions of the world by promoting living cultures and preserving the monuments sites and expressions resulting from that common heritage. Capitalizing on UNESCO's experience and expertise in the promotion of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace, the Project is involved in the following areas:

- ❖ remembrance, history and shared heritage;
- ❖ interculturality, transculturality and new forms of citizenship;
- ❖ human rights, action to combat racism and discrimination and new forms of solidarity;
- ❖ the African diaspora's contributions to the modern world;
- ❖ living cultures and contemporary artistic creation;
- ❖ intercultural education, culture of peace and dialogue.

The following types of action are taken to implement the Project's strategy:

- ❖ expanding the scope of multidisciplinary research;
- ❖ developing educational material to be used in school curricula;
- ❖ organizing festivals, exhibitions and events to promote common cultural heritage;
- ❖ collecting and preserving archives and oral traditions;
- ❖ inventorying places of remembrance so that itineraries for memory tourism can be developed;
- ❖ producing and broadcasting information and awareness-raising material (films, clips, exhibitions, etc.).

Milestones

Under the guidance of its International Scientific Committee, the Project has placed the issue of slavery and the slave trade on the international agenda owing to the following achievements:

- ❖ substantive contribution to the recognition of the slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity at the World Conference Against Racism held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001;
- ❖ proclamation of the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (2004), marking the 200th anniversary of the Haitian revolution;
- ❖ proclamation of 23 August as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition;
- ❖ launch of research in the Horn of Africa region and the Pacific and the study of the psychological consequences of slavery;
- ❖ production of two films: *Slave Routes: A Global Vision*, a DVD-ROM and related teaching tools and *The Slave Route Project: The Soul of Resistance*, a multilingual documentary with an educational booklet for young people;
- ❖ completion of the first phase of the International Design Competition for a Permanent Memorial at the United Nations in New York to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

