



PROTECTING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF MALI



Ministry of Culture
DNPC



“Protecting culture means protecting people, giving them the strength and confidence to rebuild and to look into the future.”

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO
(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Cover Art:
Djingareyber Mosque, Timbuktu © Alpha Diop
Roughcasting of the Mopti Mosque, © DNPC
Terra cotta statue, Djenné-Djeno © National Museum of Mali
Ceremony of masks, Land of the Dogons © DNPC

PROTECTING AND RESPECTING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF MALI

This mission is part of the mandate of MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali), created in April 2013 by the United Nations Security Council (Resolution 2100)



Cultural heritage includes:

- sites
- objects
- **living heritage** (cultural practices and events that belong to local communities)

Cultural heritage must be protected in the same way that you would protect hospitals and civilians.

Military, police and civil personnel of MINUSMA
Help Mali to protect its cultural heritage

By protecting Mali’s cultural heritage in its entirety, in its entirety, you are contributing to the safeguarding of the identity and traditions of the population and of future generations.

Respecting Mali’s cultural heritage is also to respect the cultural practices and events of the local people.

Cultural heritage is protected by national and international law.



ATTACK, DESTRUCTION, THEFT, LOOTING OR TRAFFICKING:
ANYONE WHO DOES NOT RESPECT CULTURAL HERITAGE CAN
BE PROSECUTED AND PUNISHED FOR HIS ACTIONS.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF MALI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE?

Over the course of this difficult period for Mali, cultural sites, objects and practices have been especially at risk.

Cultural sites deliberately attacked and destroyed

- 14 mausoleums destroyed in Timbuktu...



Alpha Moya Mausoleum, Timbuktu © Alpha Diop



Destroyed Cheick Sidi Aboulkhasoum Mausoleum © DNPC

Cultural objects looted and stolen

- More than 4,000 manuscripts from Timbuktu burned or stolen...



Ahmed Baba Centre, Timbuktu © UNESCO/T. Joffroy



Ahmed Baba Centre, Timbuktu © UNESCO/D. Stehl

- Clandestine excavations carried out at archaeological sites



Gao-Saneye archaeological site © DNPC



Funerary urn © DNPC

Living heritage (cultural practices and events) harshly affected

- ceremonies linked to the restoration of mosques and mausoleums and other earthen monuments suspended
- practice of musical instruments forbidden
- inter-community meetings aimed at reconciliation and peace cancelled ...



Making musical instruments © DNPC



Bankass, dance with masks © DNPC



PART OF MALI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE CUT OFF CULTURAL PRACTICES WEAKENED

IN THIS CRISIS SITUATION, BE PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE: THERE IS A REAL RISK THAT OBJECTS WILL BE ILLEGALLY SOLD IN MALI OR BEYOND ITS BORDERS.

1 IDENTIFICATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY



Toguna © DNPC



Djingareyber Mosque, Timbuktu © DNPC



Saho House, Djenné © DNPC



Municipal Museum, Timbuktu © DNPC



Tombstone © National Museum of Mali

? What is a cultural site?

It could be:

- a religious building (mosque, mausoleum, church...)
- a cemetery
- anthropogenic buttes or mounds (archaeological sites...)
- a museum
- a library/archives
- a monument
- sacred or forbidden places and sites



Site of the Kankou Moussa Mosque © DNPC

Certain cultural sites in Mali are particularly important for heritage and are included on UNESCO's World Heritage List, a register of cultural property having exceptional universal value. These sites are:

- Old Towns of **Djenné**
- Cliff of **Bandiagara** (Land of the Dogons)
- **Timbuktu**
- Tomb of **Askia**

These last two sites were placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2012.



Cheick Sidi Aboukhassoum Mausoleum, Cemetery of the Three Saints © DNPC



Ahmed Baba Centre, Timbuktu © UNESCO/L. Eloundou



Aerial view of Timbuktu © Serge Nègre



Cliff of Bandiagara © DNPC

Many more sites are also important for Mali's cultural heritage, some of which are located in the region where your mission will take you. For example, you might encounter:

- the historic city of **Es-Souk** and **rock carvings** in the Kidal region
- the archaeological site of the **Kankou Moussa Mosque** in Gao
- the archaeological site of **Djenné-Djeno**
- the archaeological site of **Gao-Saneye** near Gao



Djenné-Djeno archaeological site © DNPC



Es-Souk archaeological site © DNPC



Dia archaeological site © DNPC



Rock carvings © DNPC



Djenné-Djeno archaeological site © DNPC



Djenné-Djeno archaeological site © DNPC



Gao-Saneye archaeological site © DNPC



Kankou Moussa archaeological site © DNPC



YOUR EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE AS MILITARY, POLICE AND CIVIL PERSONNEL OF MINUSMA CAN BE VERY HELPFUL TO THE PROTECTION OF THESE CULTURAL SITES.

YOU MUST CONSIDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS AS SENSITIVE ZONES WHICH MAY ATTRACT GREED AND AFFECT INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR IDENTITY.

? How do you recognise a cultural site?

Pay attention to the clues indicating the presence of a cultural site: **fences, signs, commemorative plaques, emblems, etc.** However, some sites might not have such indications.



Tonomba archaeological site © DNPC



Site of the Oath of the Manden Charter © DNPC



Djenné-Djeno archaeological site © DNPC

? Qu'est-ce qu'un objet culturel ? What is a cultural object?

It could be:

- a manuscript
- a statue
- furniture
- jewellery
- clothing or fabric
- a musical instrument
- basketwork
- pottery...



Senoufo figurine © National Museum of Mali

Tamani © National Museum of Mali



Tellem fabric © National Museum of Mali

Funerary urn © DNPC



Manuscripts © National Museum of Mali



Jewellery © DNPC

! ATTENTION: SOME SITES THAT ARE **CULTURALLY IMPORTANT** FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION MAY BE **DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY** OR EVEN SEEM INSIGNIFICANT.

! ATTENTION: **CULTURAL OBJECTS** CAN BE VERY IMPORTANT AND PRECIOUS EVEN IF IN POOR CONDITION OR WITH AN INSIGNIFICANT APPEARANCE.

? What is living heritage?

It could be:

- a traditional ceremony or ritual (religious or otherwise)
- an artistic event (song, dance...)
- know-how related to a particular craft connected to a community



Site of the Oath of the Manden Charter © DNPC



Yaaraal Degal © DNPC



Ceremony of the Masks, Land of the Dogons © DNPC

2 RESPECTING CULTURAL SITES

As cultural sites comprise important elements of Mali's heritage, your role is to respect them and ensure that they are respected.

For the safeguarding of cultural sites, it is forbidden for anyone to:

- deface the site (making drawings, graffiti, leaving trash...)
- move or take away elements from the place (objects, stones, etc.)
- dig or make excavations



Wall with graffiti © UNESCO/F. Girard



Destroyed Ben Amar Mausoleum, Timbuktu © UNESCO

During your mission, you absolutely must not:

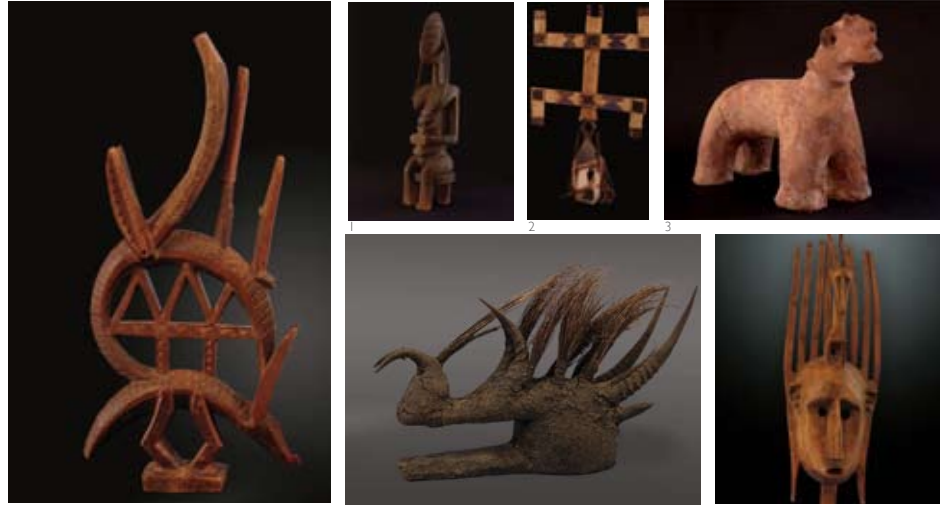
- settle on a site
- use a site within the scope of a military operation (for example as an observation post)
- use a site within the scope of a police operation, for instance as a check point



Check point © Carabinieri



3 PROTECTING CULTURAL OBJECTS



1. Ciwara, Sogonikun, Bamana © National Museum of Mali

2. Komo mask © National Museum of Mali

3. Ntomo mask © National Museum of Mali

Cultural property and discovered objects are the property of the Malian government. Therefore, in all matters related to Mali's cultural heritage, it is important to co-operate with the local authorities.

It is illegal to:

- search for or dig for objects at cultural sites
- buy, sell, exchange or export stolen or looted cultural objects
- collect and export cultural objects without the permission of Malian authorities

Under Malian law, only the Malian authorities can:

- authorise archaeological excavation
- regulate the prospecting, marketing and export of cultural property



 **MILITARY, POLICE AND CIVIL PERSONNEL OF MINUSMA**
YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE AND AUTHORITIES OF MALI TO **PREVENT**
THE DISPERSION OF THEIR IMPORTANT CULTURAL HERITAGE.

Malian law (Decree no. 299/PG RM of 19 September 1986) premises exportation of cultural goods upon authorisation from the National Museum of Mali. You must go to the museum with the object(s) which you have purchased to obtain this authorisation. It is granted after an expert concludes that the object does not have importance for the heritage of the nation. New objects without any air of age are excluded from this application for authorisation.

Warning: The exportation of archaeological objects is forbidden. Therefore, don't buy them.

1. Seated feminine figure, Jomogoni, wood © National Museum of Mali
2. Kanaga Mask, land of the Dogons © National Museum of Mali
3. Ram, terra cotta, Natamatao archaeological site © National Museum of Mali

 **HELP TO PROTECT MALIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE** WHEN BUYING
OBJECTS, FOR INSTANCE AS SOUVENIRS.
IF YOU HAVE A DOUBT ABOUT THE ORIGIN, DO NOT BUY.

POLICE FORCES

Inspection operations can be very important for discovering illicit trafficking activities.

Even during routine operations, your competence as police forces may be essential in the fight against this trafficking.

For example, during inspections of:

- **sites and monuments**

Pay attention to people exhibiting unusual or inappropriate behaviour, especially if they do not have permission to be at the site.

- **shops or warehouses**

Pay attention to contents in storage, even in boxes. Sometimes, stolen objects stay in the same location for a long time, until they find a buyer.

- **private homes**

Even if you are there for a different reason, do not forget to be alert to the presence of cultural objects. These objects may be illegally stored and detained.

- **vehicles or individuals**

Here, you might find cultural objects that have been transported from one place to another.

For example, during inspections of vehicles, to detect trafficking of cultural property, pay attention to the behaviour of people:

An suspicious conduct might reveal an attempt to hide stolen property or downplay the property's importance

IN ANY CASE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE OFFICIAL EXPERTS, THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, AND THE MALIAN POLICE.

4 RESPECTING LIVING HERITAGE



Living heritage is an important element of Mali's cultural heritage.



Kôrêdugaw © DNPC



Sanké Mon © DNPC



The sacred hut of Kangaba © DNPC

! ATTENTION: SOME CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND SOME COMMUNITY PLACES REQUIRE CERTAIN CONDUCT THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME THAT IS REQUIRED WHERE YOU COME FROM.

- Don't hesitate to ask the local people for information about cultural practices and events in order to ensure proper respect.
- Ask for permission before photographing people, touching objects or entering into sacred places.
- With the goal of respecting local cultural practices, it is highly recommended to:
 - **Not photograph cultural** practices or events without the people's permission
 - **Not take part in an event** or a practice if you are not authorised
 - **Not enter sacred places**

5 THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Cultural heritage is protected by:

Decree 275 of 1985
on the regulation of
archaeological excavations

1954 Convention for the
Protection of Cultural Property
in the Event of Armed Conflict
and its two Protocols (1954 and
1999)

Law 86-61 AN-RM of 1986
on the profession of trading
in cultural property

**AT THE
NATIONAL LEVEL
BY MALIAN LAW**

**AT THE
INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL**

1970 Convention
for the Fight against
the Illicit Trafficking
of Cultural Property

Law 10-061 of 2010
amending Law 85-40
AN-RM of 1985 on the
protection of cultural
heritage

1972 Convention
concerning the
Protection of the World
Cultural and Natural
Heritage

2003 Convention
for the Safeguarding
of Intangible Cultural
Heritage



FAILING TO COMPLY WITH MALIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
CONSTITUTES **A CRIME** THAT IS PUNISHABLE BY SANCTIONS ESTABLISHED
BY LAW.

BY HELPING TO PROTECT MALI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, YOU ARE
PROTECTING A PART OF **HUMANITY'S HERITAGE**.



HAVE YOU WITNESSED LOOTING,
THEFT, DAMAGING, DEFILING,
TRAFFICKING, OR ANY OTHER
DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR TOWARD
CULTURAL PROPERTY?

ARE YOU UNSURE ABOUT WHAT
CONDUCT TO ASSUME IN THE SCOPE
OF YOUR MISSION?

**DO NOT HESITATE TO WARN AND INFORM OR ASK FOR THE ADVICE OF
YOUR SUPERIORS SO THAT THEY CAN CONTACT THE LOCAL CULTURAL
AUTHORITIES.**



**HELPING THE PEOPLE OF MALI TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THEIR
CULTURAL HERITAGE** IS PART OF THE MISSION THAT HAS BEEN
ENTRUSTED TO YOU.

FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR MISSION AND FOR THE REPUTATION OF
YOUR UNIT AND YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR DUTY IS TO MAKE SURE THAT
THIS CULTURAL HERITAGE IS NOT SUBJECTED TO ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

Cooperating with Malian governmental institutions, police forces, customs, and military forces can help ensure the protection of Mali's cultural heritage.

GAO

- Chief of the Cultural Mission of Gao
Mr Mahamadou Assalia Maïga
Email : maigamahamadou901@yahoo.fr
Tel.: + 223 75 38 22 76

Regional Director of Culture (DRC)
Mr Abdoulaye Bocoum
Tel.: + 223 76 04 82 89

- Director of the Sahel Museum
Mr Aldiouma Yattara
Email : aldioumayattara@yahoo.fr
Tel.: + 223 65 59 72 25

TIMBUKTU

- Chief of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu
Mr El Boukhari Ben Essayouti
Email: benessayaouti@yahoo.fr
Tel.: + 223 21 79 130 2 / 76 02 35 53

- Regional Management of Culture
Mr Boubacar Diallo
Tel.: + 223 21 79 13 01 / + 223 76 05 36 29

DJENNÉ

- Chief of the Cultural Mission of Djenné
Mr Mahamane Djitteye
Email : mahadjit@yahoo.fr
Tel. : + 223 76 14 59 76

**For more information, please visit the Ministry of Culture's website:
www.maliculture.gouv.ml**

Contact :

By SMS/MMS: +223 65 70 06 31 / +223 77 54 40 17
By e-mail: dnpcmali@gmail.com
By post: SOS patrimoine Mali, BP 91 BAMAKO



Ministry of Culture
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Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Convention
pour la lutte
contre le trafic illicite
des biens culturels



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Convention du patrimoine mondial



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Patrimoine
culturel
immatériel

This brochure was completed with the support of the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999).