

## Project title

### **Preservation of Documentary Heritage through Policy Development and Capacity Building**



## Background

This three-year project supported by **Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT)** responds to the **Memory of the World (MoW) Programme's** emphasis on helping Member States to prevent irrevocable loss of collective memory and to protect endangered documentary heritage, in support of national institutions seeking to **preserve documentary heritage, specifically for disaster risk reduction and management.**

The goal of this proposed project is thus to enable UNESCO Member States and their related national memory institutions to develop, or take steps towards developing, appropriate policy guidelines and strategies as well as practical know-how of sustainable preservation of documentary heritage, integrating disaster risk reduction and management. This goal will be achieved through hosting a Global Policy Forum, a series of regional consultations and capacity building workshops, based on inter-sectoral collaboration within UNESCO in order to stress the multidisciplinary nature of such interventions.

The **Global Policy Forum**, in particular, will include inputs on policies and strategies from several stakeholders, including policymakers, representatives of professional associations and academic researchers. It will also focus on good preservation practices by UNESCO Member States as well as institutions and organizations at multiple levels, from national to global. The regional consultations and capacity building workshops will give practical measures and techniques for disaster risk reduction and management and foster the capacities of the related institutions, using the UNESCO 2015 *Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form* as a normative framework for such actions.

## **Objectives**

- 1) To identify, through the exchange of information and experiences among experts and memory institutions, the key thematic issues addressed in the preservation of documentary heritage, specifically by linking such themes to disaster risk reduction and management as a preservation strategy that can be applied at national and international levels.
- 2) To promote international cooperation in response to the endangerment of documentary heritage due to various factors, including natural disasters.
- 3) To support national efforts to put in place appropriate preservation policies and strategies.
- 4) To enhance the capacities of memory institutions in preserving their documentary heritage, focusing on disaster risk reduction and management strategies.

## **Main Activities**

- [1<sup>st</sup> MoW Global Policy Forum](#) (December 2018, UNESCO, Paris)
- [2<sup>nd</sup> MoW Global Policy Forum](#) (27-28 October 2020, UNESCO, Paris)
- [20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Memory of the World Program of UNESCO \(MOWLAC\)](#) (Sep 2019, La Paz, Bolivia)
- [1<sup>st</sup> regional capacity development workshop on Preservation of Documentary heritage for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management](#) (Nov 2018, Thimphu, Bhutan)
- [2<sup>nd</sup> Regional capacity development workshop on Preservation of Documentary heritage for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management](#) (Oct 2019, Adelaide, Australia)
- Global survey on documentary heritage at risk especially in SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) [ongoing]