

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SOUTH AFRICA HERITAGE DAY 2008 ZEIST

THE NETHERLANDS

Conclusions and Recommendations

Built Heritage:

Conclusions

There is a lack of maintenance of buildings that have been preserved and restored. In addition, there is a lack of area protection. Another problem is the exodus of people out of historical cores (e.g. the districts in Pretoria). Chances for the mutual built heritage are the exchange of expertise on both sides and through revitalization of parts of the cities that have become slums. There are tangible and economical benefits to gain. The Netherlands can offer South Africa: knowledge exchange in maintenance and preservation techniques, knowledge and expertise on area protection and integrated conservation and advance techniques of documenting.

Recommendations

There are possibilities and there is a need for knowledge exchange in maintenance and preservation techniques, expertise exchange on area protection and integrated conservation.

Archives:

Conclusions

Digitising the archives is very important to open up and save them. The Netherlands and South Africa should keep each other informed about the different digitising initiatives.

It is important to invest in Dutch language education in South Africa. Only in this way can local scientists study the South African archives. Language is an important tool to open up sources. More attention should be given to the archives of the anti-apartheid movement; especially photo and audiovisual material in the Netherlands is interesting for South Africa. Other interesting archives are the missionary archives and archives of the Boer movement.

Recommendations

Archives need funding for digitizing, opening up and investigating different periods of South Africa besides the VOC period and the VOC archives.

Museums:

Conclusions

More information should be shared on museum projects. Digitization is a modern tool and is still in a learning process; the technology can be simplified: contents should be made visible to the people. Bring the museum into the street and try to attract young people and 'their' culture. Museum staff can still be more trained and enlarged. It is important to build up local know-how and work with local people.

There are two levels of cooperation between countries: by joining forces for digitizing at museum level and to make a platform to share mistakes, knowledge and share collections.

Recommendations

Digitizing is also an important subject in the museums today. More information about projects should be shared through this medium and a platform is necessary to share collections, information and knowledge. The contents should be made visible to a broad public.

Mutuality of Mutual heritage:

Conclusions

Mutual heritage is perhaps important for the development of Dutch international cultural policy and heritage, but for South Africa it is more important to focus on their own perspectives.

The Dutch policy also tends to create new heritage by influencing the development of mutual heritage projects.

Case study: there are several ideas for a (mutual) policy at Cape Castle in Cape Town: the celebration of diversity, curiosity and a willingness to learn from both 'sides' is important. There is a need to develop a potential platform for future research into the local public opinion in order to develop value-based policies. The ideal sustainable model of Cape Castle is as a tangible center for the celebration of both tangible and intangible heritage.

Recommendations

The Netherlands should not only develop a mutual heritage policy based on their own sentiments and judgments. What we think important for Dutch international cultural policy is often not shared with the partner country. South Africa focuses more on their own perspectives than on mutual cultural heritage. For Cape Castle in Cape Town it is stressed that the celebration of diversity, curiosity and willingness to learn from both sides is important.