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**EXPANDING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN  
OUTPUT 5**

A Regional Directory and  
Curricular Enhancement of  
Heritage Education

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Organization of  
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# Welcome

## to the OAS Caribbean Cultural Heritage Project

This orientation guide will introduce the rationale and objectives of **Output 5: A regional directory and curricular enhancement of heritage education**, designed to provide new resources for undergraduate, graduate, and professional development in the varied skills required by 21st century heritage management. It is focused on providing online access to a region-wide directory of heritage programmes and faculty; compiling a comprehensive listing of skills and competences required in current heritage management; and testing a process for the development and delivery of distance learning courses that fill current curricular gaps.

The formulation and dissemination of these educational resources is part of a wider initiative of the Tourism and Culture Section, Department of Economic Development, Organization of American States, entitled “Expanding the Socio-Economic Potential of Cultural Heritage in the Caribbean,” with the participation of 14 OAS member states: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, with Haiti participating as an observer.

### HOST ORGANIZATION



The University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus, which has nearly 50 physical site locations in 17 English-speaking Caribbean countries, offers multi-mode teaching and learning services through virtual and physical site locations across the Caribbean region. The Open Campus has developed a unique approach in the Caribbean region to enhancing the student experience in innovative continuing and professional education, undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education study programmes and courses by distance, blended, online and face-to-face learning modes.

The Open Campus works closely with sister UWI Campuses at Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine to offer academic options in many key areas for Caribbean and global markets.

The two online courses developed as part of this project will be developed and delivered on the UWI Open Campus platform and will undergo an academic quality assurance review within the UWI system.

# Five Programmes — Five Outputs

The **Regional Director and Curricular Enhancement of Heritage Education** is one of five simultaneous programmes that address priority issues in strengthening the economic value and social significance of the region's cultural heritage resources. The five programmes' outputs build on the recommendations of regional stakeholders from public, private, NGO, and academic sectors collected during the earlier [needs assessment phase](#) of the project (2012-2014).

These other four programmes are:

## **A CARIBBEAN HERITAGE NETWORK**

To facilitate communication and sharing of capacity between heritage agencies, professionals, and students in all of the participating member states. It will feature online resources such as plans, reports, and teaching materials; regional directories of educational programmes, heritage specialists, and traditional practitioners; as well as online forums and information exchange tools for network members. Hosted at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill (Barbados).

## **A REGIONAL STANDARD FOR PROTECTIVE HERITAGE LEGISLATION AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES**

To provide an instrument to assess and strengthen the effectiveness of protective heritage legislation and financial incentive policies in all countries. Hosted by a task force of regional experts and international cultural property lawyers.

## **A REGIONAL MODEL FOR NATIONAL REGISTERS OF HERITAGE PLACES**

To document and monitor a wide range of heritage resources through an effective and adaptable register process, for ongoing conservation efforts and risk preparedness. The project is intended to serve as a model to develop and improve registers in the entire region. Hosted by the Archives, Monuments, and Museums Corporation (Bahamas) and the St. Christopher National Trust (St. Kitts and Nevis).

## **A SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE ENDORSEMENT PROGRAMME**

To implement a new model to help develop viable and responsible heritage tourism economies throughout the Caribbean. It is focused on encouraging the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible heritage among communities that now receive direct few benefits from the regional tourism industry. It will be implemented in Grenada, hosted and coordinated by the Grenada National Trust.

# What Challenges Does this Programme Address?

The Phase I needs assessment identified a range of challenges related to regional heritage education, which could be broadly divided into two categories:

1. Challenges related to integrating heritage into primary and secondary educational curricula;
2. Challenges related to delivering quality education and practical skills to potential and current heritage professionals at the higher and vocational educational levels.

Although both categories are important, consultations with regional experts and stakeholders indicated that many ongoing initiatives and human resources have been directed at the first category whereas less attention has been given to the second on a regional scale. Therefore, this project prioritizes the second category, which includes vocational, higher education, and continuing education.

The project will address three specific challenges identified in the Phase I Needs Assessment:

1. A range of heritage programs in the region exist, but they are often poorly publicized.
2. Prospective students are often unaware of heritage-related career paths or the potential of heritage education to enhance career opportunities in related sectors such as regional planning, community development, and tourism management.
3. Significant gaps in existing curricula hinder regional students from gaining important skills essential to 21st-century heritage conservation and management needs.



# The Sequence of Activities

## **1. COMPILATION OF DIRECTORY OF HERITAGE-RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE REGION**

The project team will document the present academic offerings as well as faculty involved in heritage education in the Caribbean region. It will serve the dual purpose of providing greater regional awareness of present educational opportunities and will inform the identification of possible curricular gaps.

## **2. FORMULATION OF A GUIDE TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF HERITAGE COMPETENCE AND ASSOCIATED SKILLS**

Based on the range of disciplines and technical requirements required for effective heritage management, the project team will compile a resource to raise awareness among students and professionals regarding the widening range of skills required for 21st century careers in heritage protection and promotion.

## **3. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CURRICULAR GAPS**

International and regional heritage educators will participate in a workshop to assess the current curricula in the context of the competences guide to identify priority subjects for distance learning courses to supplement the present educational opportunities in the region.

## **4. DEVELOPMENT OF TWO ONLINE COURSES**

Working closely with the staff of UWI Open Campus, regional heritage educators will develop and deliver two online courses to offer training in heritage management competences and skills that are not presently offered by educational institutions in the Caribbean region. The process of formulation and delivery will serve as a test for further curricular expansion in the coming years.

## **5. DISSEMINATION OF AN IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE**

The project team will prepare a report of lessons learned in the development of the two online courses and will provide a step-by-step guide for the development and delivery of additional heritage courses through UWI Open Campus to fill curricular and capacity gaps.

# What Happens after the Project Ends?

The participants and advisors in this activity will lead an ongoing heritage education working group within the Caribbean Heritage Network in order to monitor results of subsequent online offerings and promote the expansion of heritage curricula throughout the region.

## Contact Information

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