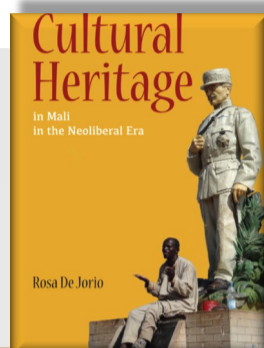
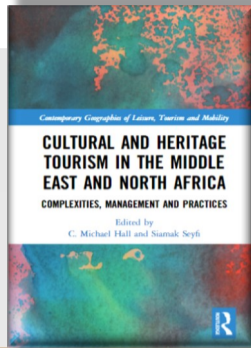
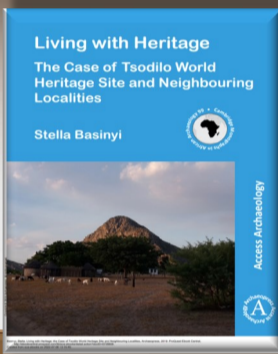
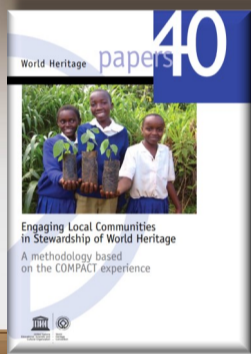


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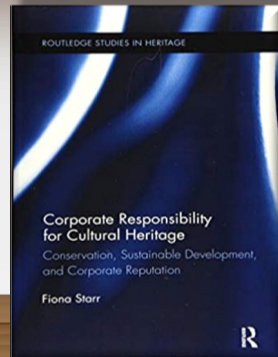
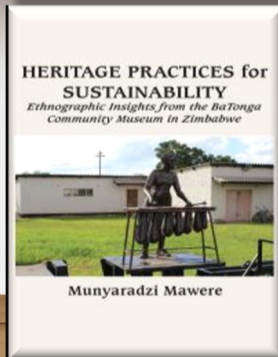
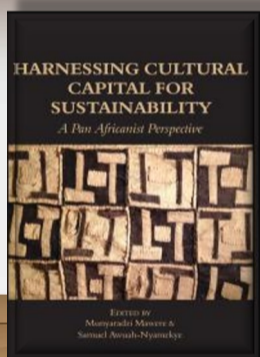
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA



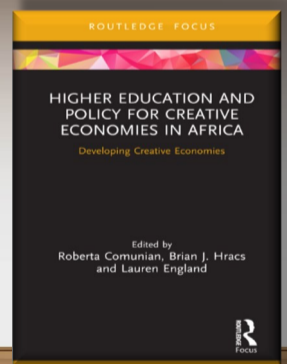
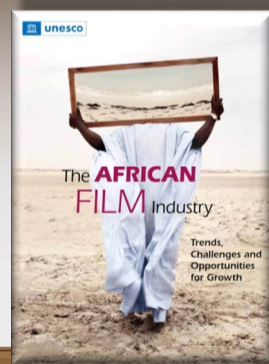
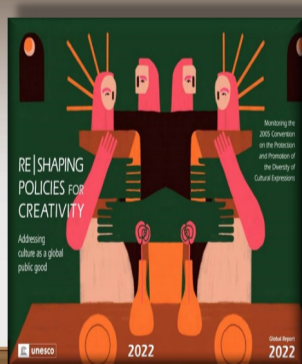
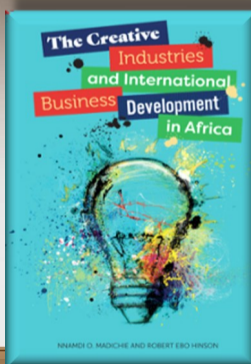
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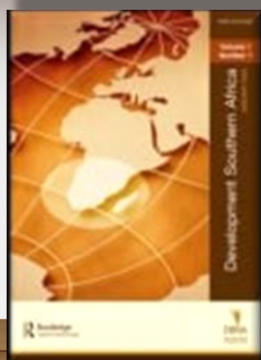
CONTRIBUTION OF THE ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE TO THE SDGs IN AFRICA



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# RESTITUTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN AFRICA

## Benin bronzes: Artistic colonisation vs restitution

The Benin bronzes, a collection of over 1,000 cast metal objects, were looted from the Kingdom of Benin in the 16th and 17th centuries. The objects, which include bronze plaques, altars, and other ritual objects, are now housed in museums across Europe and North America. The Benin bronzes are considered some of the finest examples of African art ever created. They were looted by British soldiers in 1892, and their subsequent sale and display in European museums is seen as a form of artistic colonisation. The Benin bronzes have become a symbol of the cultural heritage of West Africa, and their restitution is a major goal of the African diaspora and the African continent.

## Belgian king returns mask to Congo in symbolic gesture of restitution

Belgian King Philippe has returned a traditional mask to the Democratic Republic of Congo as a symbolic gesture of restitution. The mask, which was looted from the Congo during the Belgian colonial era, is now being returned to the Congo as a gesture of goodwill. The mask is a traditional Congolese mask, and its return is seen as a significant step towards the restitution of African cultural heritage. The Congo has long been a vocal advocate for the return of its cultural heritage, and the return of this mask is a welcome sign of progress.

## Germany to return looted artifacts to Africa

Germany has agreed to return some of the looted African colonial artifacts, including over 1,000 Benin Bronzes that will be repatriated to Nigeria. The artifacts were looted from the Kingdom of Benin in the 16th and 17th centuries and are now housed in museums across Germany. The return of these artifacts is a significant step towards the restitution of African cultural heritage. Germany has long been a vocal advocate for the return of its cultural heritage, and the return of these artifacts is a welcome sign of progress.

## Colonial looted art: Namibia recovers 23 objects from Germany

Objects from Berlin's Ethnological Museum collection will be presented to the Namibian public. But while their origins are being studied, why is this return only a loan? The objects were looted from Namibia during the colonial era and are now housed in museums across Germany. The return of these objects is a significant step towards the restitution of African cultural heritage. Namibia has long been a vocal advocate for the return of its cultural heritage, and the return of these objects is a welcome sign of progress.

## BEYOND THE BRING-THE-TREASURES ADVOCACY

The clamour for the restitution of looted African artworks should also include a global recognition of the right of Africans to the intellectual and cultural property rights of these artworks, Professor Sylvester Obichere argues in a recent lecture at the African Cultural Centre, Lagos. The lecture was part of a series of events organized by the African Cultural Centre to promote the protection of African cultural heritage. Professor Obichere is a leading expert on African cultural heritage, and his lecture was a significant contribution to the ongoing debate on the restitution of African cultural heritage.

## 'Return originals of our looted cultural heritage'

It is time to return the originals of our looted cultural heritage, not just copies. The originals are the only ones that can tell the true story of our culture and history. The return of the originals is a significant step towards the restitution of African cultural heritage. The African continent has long been a vocal advocate for the return of its cultural heritage, and the return of the originals is a welcome sign of progress.

## 'Time to return Africa's stolen heritage'

It is time to return Africa's stolen heritage. The artifacts were looted from Africa during the colonial era and are now housed in museums across Europe and North America. The return of these artifacts is a significant step towards the restitution of African cultural heritage. The African continent has long been a vocal advocate for the return of its cultural heritage, and the return of these artifacts is a welcome sign of progress.

## Africa's lost heritage and Europe's restitution policies

France is returning artworks acquired in colonial times to Benin. Germany is also open to restitutions. How are other European countries addressing the issue? The return of these artifacts is a significant step towards the restitution of African cultural heritage. The African continent has long been a vocal advocate for the return of its cultural heritage, and the return of these artifacts is a welcome sign of progress.

“

Culture is also a powerhouse – an employer of millions, an engine of economic progress, a force for social cohesion. It is a call for using the continent's rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage as a catalyst for Africa's growth and transformation. [\(Find out more\)](#)

ANTONIO GUTERRES, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

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## ECA, AUC ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS TO PROMOTE PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

In line with the implementation of the AU theme of the year for 2021 on "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa we Want", AUC, in collaboration with ECA, and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), organized a Community Engagement Workshop with Community Leaders on the Promotion and Protection of Heritage Resources in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22- 24 June 2022. The aim of the workshop was to build capacity of Community Leaders on the Promotion and Protection of Heritage Resources to turn communities into positive stakeholders in the promotion and protection of their heritage.



Ms. Irene Onyancha, Chief Knowledge Management Services Section, noted that ECA recognizes the socio-economic importance of the arts, culture, and heritage as a potential powerhouse in creating employment for millions of people, promoting social cohesion, and strengthening national and regional identities as underscored by the UN Secretary General during the 2021 Africa Dialogue Series on the theme, "Cultural identity and ownership: reshaping mind-sets". She noted that, like every dynamic institution, ECA has undertaken the task of revising its strategic programme framework and focus, to align its delivery with the new changing demands of the continent. Accordingly, ECA is implementing a heritage management programme with the goal of contributing to continental initiatives in the Arts, Culture and Heritage sectors of the Member States.

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