

**Seventh Meeting of Inter-American Ministers of Culture and
Highest Appropriate Authorities
Asunción, Paraguay
November 17-18, 2016**

**“EXPANDING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN”**

The purpose of the current phase of this Project is to strengthen the capacity of participating CARICOM countries in the preservation, development, and use of Cultural Heritage resources *with local community participation*. The Project is managed by the Culture and Tourism Section of the Department of Economic Development of the OAS and the private consulting firm Coherit Associates LLC.

Five main outputs are highlighted in this Project:

1. The establishment of a **Caribbean Heritage Network** to provide a medium of communication through which professionals, communities, and organizations will have a more official and permanent framework for mutual support and for sharing their particular skills and resources in complementary ways. This is being coordinated by the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.
2. The defining of a **Regional Standard for Evaluating and Improving Protective Heritage Legislation and Related Financial Incentive Policies and Laws**, to provide an instrument to improve legislation for heritage protection in all countries. This is being coordinated jointly by a team of three international legal experts and five regional expert advisors from Suriname, Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and the Faculty of Law of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.
3. The development of a **Regional Model for Establishing National Registers of Heritage Places**. This is coordinated by a team of regional and international experts in the relevant fields. Host institution is the St. Christopher National Trust of St. Kitts and Nevis.
4. The establishment of a regional **Model for Engaging the Public in Sustainable Heritage Tourism and the development of a Sustainable Heritage Tourism Endorsement Program**. Host institution is the Grenada National Trust – implemented in the parish of St. George.
5. **Curricular Enhancement of Heritage Education** - to identify, in collaboration with a panel of regional academic advisors, existing heritage programs and courses in the region, evaluate the main gaps in curricula, and the provision of two online courses in Heritage to fill existing curricular gaps. The Open Campus of the University of the West Indies will offer two online Heritage Courses: in Museum Conservation Skills Values-based Heritage Site Management.

With the exception of Outputs 1 and 5, models/ templates will be produced and will be shared with all Member States for implementation. It is proposed to hold a major presentation of the achievement of the project to date early in 2017, so that all countries will be given an opportunity to see what the ways in which the Project can contribute to the development of regional economies and to the strengthening of identities.

As the countries of CARICOM focus increasingly on the diversification of their economies and on the development of the Cultural and Creative Industries, this project has the potential to have a significant impact in this regard.