

12 January earthquake Heritage at Risk Crisis Unit¹

Targeted sites

- Heritage buildings, completely or partly destroyed by the earthquake, which contain archives, administrative records, photographs, books, records on various media (CD, DVD, tapes etc) works of art and any other material components of the Haitian cultural and historical heritage.
- The premises of public cultural institutions and institutions which care for the national memory and aspects of Haitian cultural heritage.
- Private buildings housing important collections and archives which constitute part of the Haitian cultural and historical heritage.

Rescue operations for movable heritage

Public and private archives

Public and private libraries, works of art and archaeological objects

Audiovisual records

Movable cultural objects

1. Emergency intervention

1.1. Short term

- 1.1.1. Shore up damaged buildings
- 1.1.2. Staff training in handling and transport of cultural objects
- 1.1.3. Recover, inventory and box archives, records, books, movable objects and works of art.
- 1.1.4. Transportation of cultural objects to a secure location and ensuring that minimum preservation standards are being met

1.2. In the medium term

Setting up a national inventory system and digitisation process for cultural items

1.3. In the long term

Rebuilding damaged locations whilst ensuring that minimum preservation standards are met

2. Urgent requirements

2.1. Human Resources

- 2.1.1. Specialists in shoring up damaged buildings
- 2.1.2. Archivists and preservation experts experienced in salvage following natural disasters

¹ “Patrimoine en Danger”

- 2.1.3. Specialists in restoring frescos
- 2.1.4. Teachers of archives management, handling and transport of administrative records
- 2.1.5. Records management practitioners specialising in archival software applications
- 2.1.6. IT experts conversant with archival software applications
- 2.1.7. Digitisation and database experts who will carry out short and long term missions (either wholly or partially at the expense of their institutions)
- 2.1.8. 40 volunteer archivists, from Haiti and elsewhere (team leaders), including IT experts, conservators and digitisation specialists
- 2.1.9. Groups of between 10 and 15 people to collect exposed loose archives, in effect between 200 - 300 volunteers (historians, archivists, painters, numismatists, sculptors, notaries, students, associations and friends of heritage)
- 2.1.10. 40 computer operators
- 2.1.11. Conservation specialists and technicians for paper, paintings etc
- 2.1.12. Specialists in setting up systems for inventorying movable heritage
- 2.1.13. Experienced photographers

2.2. Equipment

- 2.2.1. 60,000 acid-free archive storage boxes (350 x 350 x 350 mm)
- 2.2.2. 150,000 plastic gloves
- 2.2.3. 150,000 protective masks
- 2.2.4. 30,000 rolls of adhesive tape (neutral glue)
- 2.2.5. Pencils, felt-tips, labels, acid-free wrapping paper, glue, string, zinc-coated paper clips, staplers, needles, 8½ x 11, 8 ½ x 14 size paper
- 2.2.6. 50 laptop computers
- 2.2.7. Three computer servers
- 2.2.8. 100 tents to act as temporary shelters for records and salvage personnel
- 2.2.9. 20 two-way handheld radio transceivers
- 2.2.10. 20 mobile phones
- 2.2.11. 15 digital cameras of semi-professional specification
- 2.2.12. 8 GPS (global positioning system) devices

- 2.2.13. 200 safety helmets with lamps (miner's helmet-style)
- 2.2.14. 30 heavy duty flashlights
- 2.2.15. 10 pick-up trucks
- 2.2.16. 5 lorries
- 2.2.17. Temporary storage facility measuring 10,000 square meters.
The managers of the Canne-à-Sucre historical park have offered a storage facility, which is far too small
- 2.2.18. 2000 struts or props with hydraulic jacks
- 2.2.19. 2000 tubular scaffoldings with gaskets
- 2.2.20. 30 20 x 40 feet containers
- 2.2.21. 100 metal trunks (or durable plastic)

2.3. Financial Resources

We need money to:

- 2.3.1. Provide logistical support (fuel, food, transportation, communication expenses, etc.)
- 2.3.2. Rent storage facilities
- 2.3.3. Rent or buy second hand containers
- 2.3.4. Offer incentive pay for non volunteer workers
- 2.3.5. Purchase records, photographs, audio and video material created prior to the earthquake
- 2.3.6. Write a damage report with photographic evidence
- 2.3.7. Purchase inventory software and set up a database
- 2.3.8. Etc.

Your cash contribution can be sent to the following account number: Archives Nationales d'Haïti **BRH 111 00 60 38** or by check payable to: "Archives Nationales d'Haïti" sent to the following address:

Archives Nationales d'Haïti
22, Angle des rues Borgella et Geffrard
Port-au-Prince, Haïti (WI)

3. **Conditions for participating in the rescue operation**

Foreign volunteers will be their government's responsibility, either through their institution or through the national or international organizations or NGOs. Moreover, they will take care of their travel, subsistence and all-risks insurance expenses.

The Haitian National Archives will welcome the volunteers, take care of their accommodation and will apportion and coordinate tasks.

4. Contacts

Please contact us as soon as possible because archives, historical or reference libraries, and works of art, especially paintings, are still under the rubble. Should it rain, a very likely possibility as the rainy season is approaching, the risks will become greater.

Jean Wilfrid BERTRAND, Director of Haiti National Archives
Telephone: (509) 36 78 05 31/ 35 58 03 29/ 34 58 55 28
E-mail : bertrandlouissaint@yahoo.fr

Joseph Harold GASPARD, Monuments architect, ICOM Haiti Chair
Telephone: (509) 34 46 2888
E-mail: icom.haiti_01@yahoo.com , haroldgaspard@yahoo.ca

Lewis A. CLORMEUS, sociologist. and collector
Telephone: (509) 34 57 3659
E-mail: lclormeus@yahoo.fr

Port-au-Prince, Wednesday 26 January 2010