



Saba Cultural Agenda

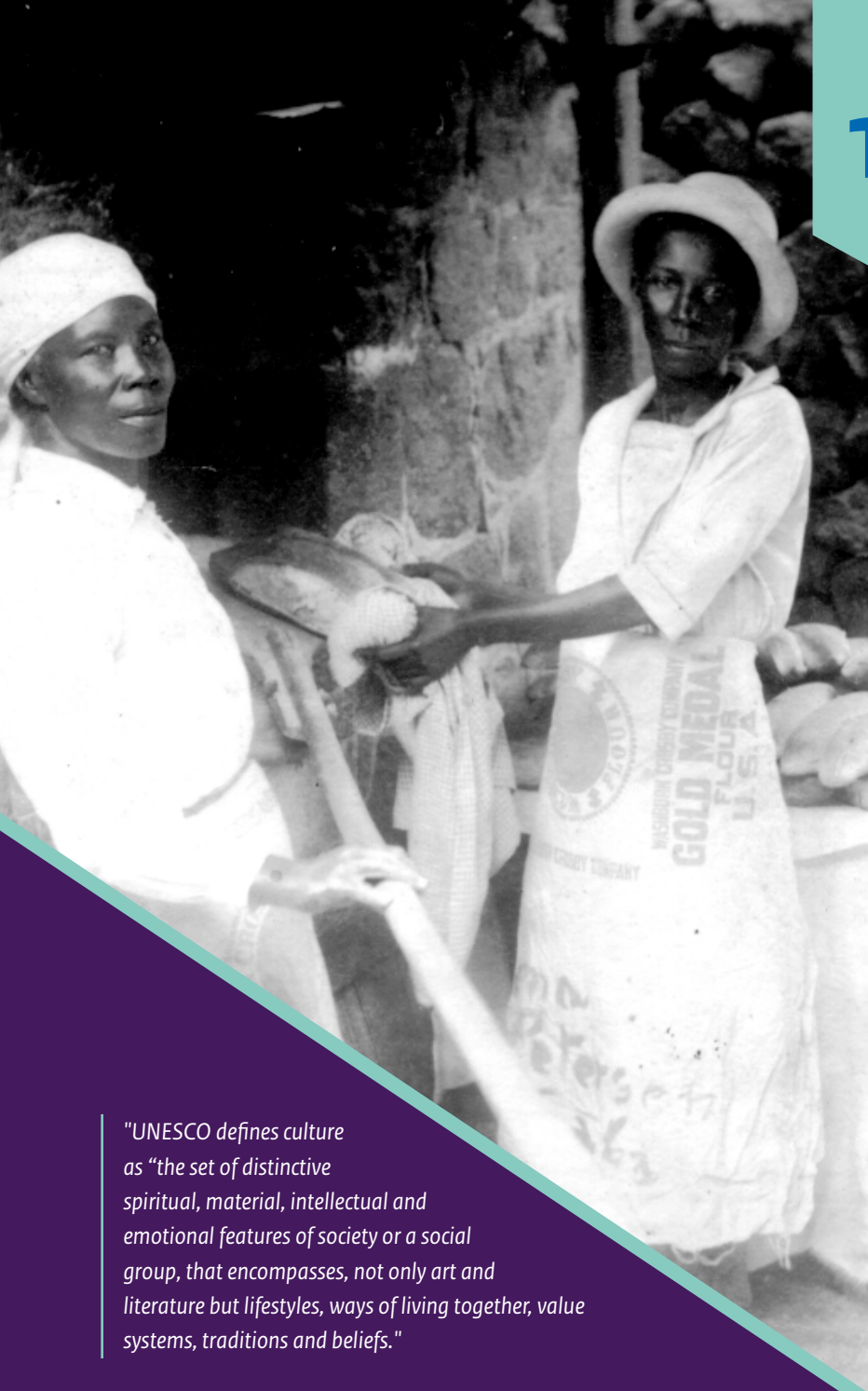
Priorities

2024 – 2028



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1

Introduction

In September 2022, former State Secretary Gunay Uslu (Culture and Media) and the public entities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (Caribbean Netherlands) signed a cultural covenant¹. It was agreed to take joint responsibility for the cultural infrastructure in the Caribbean Netherlands. The aim of the covenant is to create a solid foundation through increased cooperation between the parties involved, to stimulate knowledge sharing and to make national policy instruments available to applicants in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Relationship between the cultural covenant, the cultural agenda, the priorities and the island's cultural policy

The Public Entity of Saba (OLS) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) have further elaborated the agreements in the covenant in a joint cultural agenda. The cultural agenda consists of this priority document and an overview of the relevant themes, which are also set out in the cultural covenant. The overview lists objectives, instruments, actions and responsible parties, set out by theme. This priority document highlights some of the key objectives of the agenda up to 2028, which are also linked to national policy (Meerjarenbrief 'De kracht van creativiteit' [The power of creativity], nov 2022). In addition, the objectives will be aligned with Saba's new cultural policy for the 2024 – 2030 period (Saba Cultural Policy Plan 2024 – 2030).

UNESCO defines culture as “the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs” (UNESCO, 2001)².

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¹ <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stcrt-2022-26750.html>

² Cultures - IIEP Policy Toolbox (unesco.org)



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The intended priorities in brief

The OLS has identified a number of priorities that are important in the coming years to create a solid foundation for the cultural sector on Saba. We (OLS and OCW) will focus primarily on these priorities, which are set out in more detail in Section 3. They are as follows:

A. Positioning and implementation of culture and heritage within the Department of Community Development and Culture (DCDC)

1. Better positioning of culture and heritage within the OLS.
2. Better positioning towards local stakeholders.
3. Use of national policy instruments for professionalisation.

B. Strengthening cultural infrastructure

1. Community engagement to gain access to culture and to organise broader decision-making on culture and heritage.
2. Strengthening and engaging cultural stakeholders (visibility).
3. Strengthening and embedding cultural education policy within the community.

C. Better alignment between cultural funds and applicants

1. Increasing the visibility and effective accessibility of the schemes and programmes of the national culture funds (Rijkscultuurfondsen) and other funds.
2. Providing guidance to local grant applicants on Saba.
3. Exchanging knowledge and experiences on cultural funding.

"Creating a solid foundation for the cultural sector on Saba"



3

Further elaborating the priorities

The priorities set out in Section 2 are further elaborated here, and the roles, responsibilities and intended outcome are clarified. The OLS, cultural institutions and other stakeholders will find alignment and synergy between the cultural agenda and the local cultural policy plan. For each priority, the intended outcome and timeline, responsible parties and available support are specified.

To align and streamline the entire process of implementing the cultural agenda, learning evaluations will take place between OCW and the OLS every six months (2024 – 2028). The OLS will conduct its own evaluations every three months.

A. Positioning and implementation of culture within the DCDC

The OLS aspires to have a strong culture department, but is not currently equipped to achieve this objective. It does not yet have sufficient knowledge, information, personnel and resources to fulfil its role and responsibilities as a local government in the cultural domain. A transition is needed from the current way of working – with a heavy emphasis on local events and relationship management – to a strong policy organisation.

Strengthening the DCDC will contribute to better internal and external positioning, and therefore to better visibility. By enhancing knowledge and increasing capacity, the department will be able to respond more adequately to the local cultural sector and offer effective support. This will allow culture to become an inherent part of local government policy and strategy. Cultural heritage, for example, could be included as a permanent component in other policy areas, such as spatial planning and climate adaptation. Further operationalising, implementing and enforcing existing legislation and the Monument Island Ordinance is a prerequisite for good heritage care. In addition, this will make it easier to respond to the needs of local communities and increase their involvement.

A.1 Better positioning of culture and heritage within the OLS

The DCDC aims to implement the cultural agenda and its own cultural policy (Saba Cultural Policy Plan 2024 – 2030), which has yet to be completed. This is being done with Faro funding and support from the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE). The management and preservation of heritage (both intangible and tangible) is a key focus of the policy plan. It is vital that staff are aware of international treaties and national legislation, to ensure that cultural heritage policies and cultural participation activities are well formulated. We aim to position culture as a central element in broader social issues within other policy domains, such as youth participation and spatial planning. This will require enhanced visibility and a strong cultural policy. Special attention will be paid in 2024 – 2025 to the Monumentenwet BES [BES Heritage Act] and the Monument Island Ordinance³.

The budget for the OLS resources needs to facilitate the desired staffing. As such, a sufficient amount must be allocated. The OLS currently has an incidental staffing budget, which needs to become structural to ensure continuity of cultural development.

"Culture as a central element in broader social issues"

A.2 Better positioning towards local stakeholders

DCDC will strive to:

- Strengthen its connections with cultural stakeholders on Saba (through networking) and create a platform.
- Work closely with OCW to increase its knowledge position and gain better access to national policy instruments.
- Increase the visibility of culture on the island.

³ [Monumenteneilandsverordening Saba 2010 | Lokale wet- en regelgeving \(overheid.nl\)](#)

A.3 Use of national policy instruments for professionalisation

There is a need for better access to national policy instruments, such as training courses focused on cultural entrepreneurship or co-funding. This will support the professionalisation of artists and cultural organisations.

Intended outcome and timeline, responsible parties and available support

Intended outcome and timeline:

A1: By Q3 2024, the DCDC has finished its own policy plan (Saba Cultural Policy Plan 2024 – 2030).

A1: 25% annual budget increase for culture within the OLS's budget.

A1: Include culture in new policy plans.

A1: Review of the Monumentenwet BES [BES Heritage Act] and Monument Island Ordinance in 2024 – 2025.

A1: Structural staffing budget (2 FTEs) by the end of 2025.

A2: Q2 2024, establish cultural network/platform with stakeholders.

A3: Q3 2024, local artists and cultural organisations have access to national policy instruments for professionalisation.

A3: Q4 2024, creation of an action plan for the Caribbean Netherlands together with OCW and support organisations for the professionalisation and positioning of the cultural sector (such as Cultuur+Ondernemen and Platform ACCT).

A3: Q4 2024, support organisations start facilitating training courses, networking opportunities and events for the cultural sector in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Responsible parties:

- The DCDC has the lead in the implementation of its policy plan and connecting with stakeholders. Where necessary, there is contact with the ministries for support.
- OCW:
 - Offers support where requested and provides active feedback, also through knowledge partners. The aim is to offer Saba access to the same opportunities, arrangements and support that are available to municipalities in the European

Netherlands. To this end, coordination also takes place with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) and other ministries.

- Submits request from the OLS to the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), acts as a sparring/twinning partner and facilitates further contact.
- Improves access to national policy instruments for professionalisation in the Caribbean Netherlands. It will also develop national policy that is more focused on the needs of the Caribbean Netherlands.

Available support:

- OCW provides full funding for a culture coach (1 FTE) for the period from 2023 to 2025. It also works together with the OLS's DCDC to help it acquire more knowledge about access to (and support from) knowledge partners in the European Netherlands and national policy instruments (including subsidy schemes). In addition, OCW reviews the Monumentenwet BES and the Monuments Island Ordinance together with the public entities.
- VNG acts as a source of information when it comes to determining which municipality in the European Netherlands is the best fit for Saba as a sparring or twinning partner.
- The RCE, the National Knowledge Institute for Cultural Education and Amateur Art (LKCA), the National Knowledge Institute for Culture and Digital Transformation (DEN) and the Digital Heritage Network (NDE) ensure knowledge sharing, for example through training/education.

B. Strengthening the cultural infrastructure

The OLS is developing a coherent structure of cultural and heritage facilities that are necessary for a strong, stable cultural sector.⁴ The DCDC would like to enhance community engagement to improve access to culture. Furthermore, the department would like to organise broader decision-making on culture and heritage plans in order to give a stronger voice to local communities. To this end, it wants to create a list of monuments through a participatory process.

⁴ Library facilities are part of the integral cultural infrastructure.

The envisioned physical platform will enhance the visibility of the department and will be better able to respond to the needs of the cultural stakeholders. There is also a need for development opportunities for local artists and cultural organisations. It is difficult for individual artists to generate an income from their artistic practice, and there are few development opportunities to stimulate cultural entrepreneurship.

B.1 Community engagement to gain access to culture and to organise broader decision-making around culture and heritage

The OLS wishes to enhance community engagement, including by using an area biography (gebiedsbiografie) to integrate the Saban people's cultural experience in its decision-making and make the local culture visible. This can also provide tools for decision-making around the stories that Saba wants to tell. This could include the story of the Saban people's ancestors and their resilience, as well as stories that commemorate the island's history of slavery.⁵ Furthermore, attention is paid to the application of the Faro Convention, which focuses on the societal relevance of heritage and responds to local heritage initiatives.

B.2 Strengthening and engaging cultural stakeholders

Providing physical spaces where culture can be practised and enjoyed (including community centre as part of the Region Deal) can strengthen and promote the cultural sector. Cultural stakeholders can use the Saba Canon, which is a regional canon, as a framework to base their cultural education activities on.

B.3 Strengthening and embedding cultural education policy within the community

The OLS would like to enhance the visibility of Saban identity, culture and heritage. The aim is to make cultural education a part of the island's broader cultural policy. Collaboration with schools and other stakeholders is needed. Moreover, cultural events, townhall meetings, a Saban culture week and the digitisation of oral histories will contribute to strengthening and embedding cultural education policy in the community.

⁵ To achieve this goal, archives are important as well. Creating a solid foundation in this domain is vital and will be pursued through other means.

Intended outcome and timeline, responsible parties and available support

Intended outcome and timeline:

B1: Q3 2024, local stakeholders are informed about Faro grant application opportunities. An important criterion here is whether there is structural change in the organisation and functional heritage care.

B1: 2024, an application for an area biography is submitted to the RCE.

B1: 2024, the OLS asks the RCE for a digital version of the existing monument inventory.

B1: 2024, collection of existing documents for an inventory of the other cultural heritage domains (such as archaeology, museum collections and historic landscape).

B1: 2025, co-creation of an updated list of monuments and other sites in various cultural domains.

B1: 2025–2026, amendment to the Library Act (WSOB) and the provisions specific to the Caribbean Netherlands.

B2: Q3 2024, action plan for the creation of a cultural centre (Region Deal).

B2: Q3 2024, Saba Canon is approved by the executive council and linked with the national canon.

B2: No later than Q1 2025, OCW (Labour Market & Entrepreneurship Team) and support organisations for the professionalisation and positioning of the cultural sector (such as Cultuur+Ondernemen and Platform ACCT) make an agreement with public entities.

B3: Once approved, the Saba Canon is integrated into cultural education (e.g. school curricula).

B3: After three years, there is more active community participation in culture and an increased awareness of Saban culture.

B3: Saban culture reaches a wider audience through digital strategies.

Responsible parties:

- The OLS (DCDC) is committed to participatory working methods. It responds to local initiatives, has internalised the Faro Convention, seeks to achieve a stronger island fund by initiating consultations, and encourages employees and stakeholders to participate in training.

- OCW:
 - Ensures the effective accessibility and visibility of national policy instruments, including those for cultural education.
 - If desired, OCW and the RCE can provide support in the implementation of the Faro Convention, creating a participatory list of monuments and an area biography, and/or helping the OLS to connect with other partners.
 - Can offer advice through support organisations on digital strategy, such as DEN.

Available support:

- The RCE supports the OLS (DCDC) with expertise.
- OCW provides full funding for a culture coach (1 FTE) for the period from 2023 to 2025. It also funds a media researcher to inventory the needs of local journalists.
- OCW, the RCE, LKCA, DEN, NDE and the national culture funds can contribute to knowledge sharing.
- Besides knowledge sharing and training sessions, the Royal Library also helps modernise and update the Queen Wilhelmina Library's collections.
- Stichting Lezen promotes language skills by expanding school libraries.
- Region Deal includes the creation of a community centre.

C. Better alignment between cultural funds and applicants

At the moment, there is insufficient alignment between the subsidy providers (national culture funds, private funds and the OLS) and local applicants (individuals and institutions). This is because the existing schemes and programmes do not adequately cater to the context of the Caribbean Netherlands, or because they are insufficiently visible. In addition, grant applicants do not always have the right skills (e.g. writing skills) to submit a grant application or to be held accountable. The NGO Project Bureau (subsidised by the OLS) can assist applicants, but this is not sufficient for the cultural sector on Saba.

C.1 Increasing the visibility and effective accessibility of the schemes and programmes of the national culture funds (Rijkscultuurfondsen) and other funds

Our aim is to increase the visibility and accessibility of the schemes and programmes of the national culture funds. The national culture funds themselves are also working to enhance their visibility and accessibility, for example by launching

a shared portal and hiring a project coordinator specifically for the Caribbean region. They are working on other forms of application and better integration of the Caribbean context. Saba's specific wishes for the application procedure are:

- Adapt criteria and deadlines to CN context.
- Simplify procedures and forms.
- Give applicants the option of having someone explain the application process to them.
- Option to submit English-language applications.
- Local point of contact for guidance.

C.2 Providing guidance to local grant applicants on Saba

The aim is to support local grant applicants by means of writing courses, training and referrals from both the OLS and the NGOs.

C.3 Exchanging knowledge and experiences on cultural funding

Together we can learn from each other's practices. Exchanging practices could take place between parties on Saba, between municipalities in the Caribbean and European Netherlands, and on local-national level.

Intended outcome and timeline, responsible parties and available support

Intended outcome and timeline:

C1: 2024 – 2025, OCW uses the consultations with both the national culture funds and private funds to raise awareness about the efforts in the Caribbean Netherlands and to promote mutual cooperation. Culture funds will be better aligned with Saba's needs.

C1: Q3/Q4 2024, there is an increase in applications and a higher number of granted applications on Saba.

C1: From 2024 – 2028, the national cultural funds will maintain an annual overview of the funding applications (including awarded applications) from the CN, and Saba in particular.

C1: From 2024 onwards, the OLS will deploy a culture coach and an NGO to improve alignment with funds and provide guidance to local grant applicants.

C1: From 2024 to 2028, OCW will actively work with the national culture funds to increase accessibility and visibility.

C2: The OLS and OCW will create opportunities for the culture coach and NGO staff to receive training and information so they can provide better guidance to local applicants.

C3: The local cultural sector will become more knowledgeable about various funding options.

C3: OCW and support partners (e.g. Cultuur+Ondernemen) can offer training courses on co-funding, if possible related to existing policy on entrepreneurship.

Responsible parties:

- The OLS (DCDC) is committed to improving alignment with the national culture funds and providing guidance to local grant applicants through the culture coach and the NGO.
- OCW is working with the national culture funds to increase the effective accessibility of their subsidies and subsidy schemes.
- The national culture funds are committed to adjusting the criteria for programmes and schemes. They also keep an annual overview of the number of grant applications from the Caribbean Netherlands (and Saba in particular) to determine whether these have increased.

Available support:

- Support from organisations for the professionalisation and positioning of the cultural sector (such as the Royal Library, Stichting Lezen, DEN, NDE, Cultuur+Ondernemen and Platform ACCT).
- OCW encourages the national culture funds to work on cooperation with local/private funds in the Caribbean Netherlands, and specifically on Saba.



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Key Stakeholders

Saba Association of Caribbean States (SACS), Sacred Heart School, Saba Girls and Boys Sports Society/After School Care, Child Focus Foundation, The Spot, Queen Wilhelmina Library, Saba Comprehensive School, Laura Linzey Day Care Center, Saba Heritage Center, Saba Lion's Club, Saba Conservation Foundation, Saba Tourist Office, Saba LIFE Center, Harry L. Johnson Museum, Major Osmar R. Simmons Museum

5

Signature Saba

Eviton Heyliger

Commissioner of Education & Youth, Culture & Sport,
Social Affairs, Housing, Public Health & Health,
Telecommunications, Archiving, Gender Affairs
Public Entity of Saba

Barbera Wolfensberger

Director-General for Culture and Media (DGCM)
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6

Overview of themes

This overview reflects the topics addressed in the cultural covenant concluded by the Public Entity of Saba (OLS) and OCW in September 2022. It is a dynamic document that will be updated periodically, every three months.





Theme	Objective	Explanation/need	Instrument/means	Time frame	Who/parties and role	Monitoring agreements/evaluation
General	<p>A. Positioning and implementation of culture within the Department of Community Development and Culture (DCDC).</p> <p>B. Strengthening the cultural infrastructure.</p> <p>C. Better alignment between cultural funds and applicants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are insufficient sustainable resources available to improve cultural infrastructure. • The unconditional grant (vrije uitkering) is not sufficient for culture. • A cultural policy plan for better positioning within the OLS and towards local stakeholders. • Engaging community and cultural stakeholders. • Strengthening and embedding cultural education policy (see also Theme 3). • Increasing the visibility and effective accessibility of the national culture funds (<i>Rijkscultuurfondsen</i>) and other subsidy opportunities. • Guidance for local grant applicants on Saba: more personal contact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of culture coach. • Saba Cultural Policy Plan 2024 – 2030. • Project Bureau to provide assistance/ guidance for grant applications. • Knowledge sharing, training, professionalisation opportunities through support organisations. • LKCA writing courses from 2024 to 2025. • Sparring/twinning possibilities (through VNG). 	From 2024 onwards	Public Entity of Saba (OLS) Project Bureau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCW • RCE • BZK • LKCA • DEN • National culture funds • VNG • Royal Library (KB) • KIEN • Dutch Culture • Cultuur+Ondernemen Platform ACCT 	See also priorities document
1. International cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase cooperation opportunities internationally and regionally. • The international cultural policy (ICB 2024) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands offers possibilities for international cultural cooperation within the region and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingdom-wide framework for culture and arts education (inspired by UNESCO)? 	-	-	BZ, OCW, funds	-

Theme	Objective	Explanation/need	Instrument/means	Time frame	Who/parties and role	Monitoring agreements/evaluation
2. Inter-island cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More cooperation between 3 S-islands. • More inter-island cooperation on slavery history ('<i>na de komma</i>' process). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a shortage of local expertise. Cooperation between S-islands and other islands was discontinued after 10-10-10. • Specific need for exchange on slavery history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange between cultural departments on S-islands, but also with ABC islands, to improve cooperation, knowledge exchange and resources. 	From 2024 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLS, OCW • 4LO (various working groups) • Inter-island network 	-
3. Cultural education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the development of cultural education in CN inside and outside school. • Identify what is lacking in the culture and arts education infrastructure. • Improve connections between schools and stakeholders in the cultural sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMK scheme: there is more demand (students) than supply. • Need for continuity after the CMK scheme. • Infrastructure to provide schools with knowledge and expertise (professional teachers). • Exchange knowledge and resources in the region. • Improve digital cultural education opportunities. • Auditorium needed in new school building (theatre, etc.) with storage (climate controlled) for musical instruments. • Train the trainer opportunities needed, as traditional musicians on Saba do not read music and cannot pass on their art through sheet music. • A standard, long-term system to support knowledge sharing and capacity building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saba Region Deal: multipurpose culture centre will be realised. • Saba Canon to be finalised (to be approved by the Island Council). • Culture coach. • CMK scheme and good contact with LKCA and FCP about the needs. CMK programme also provides opportunities to highlight various art forms through cultural education (lessons and curriculum development, specialised workshops, teacher training, etc.). • Culture and Arts Education working group (4LO) 	From 2024 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLS • OCW, 4LO • LKCA – training • Stakeholders • FCP: CMK • BZK 	-
4. Talent development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening talent development among Saban children, adolescents and young adults, with a particular focus on individual young people with exceptional qualities and/or skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities in the region for talent development, showcases and exchanges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OLS is to work with stakeholders to identify and stimulate local talent through activities such as a yearly performing arts festival. • Together with stakeholders, the OLS should guide cultural talent and identify opportunities for growth. • Work with various funding schemes like BES4Kids and 13+ programme to develop cultural activities for young people on Saba. 	From 2024 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLS • BES4Kids • 13+ programme • Stakeholders like After School, Child Focus, schools • Possible FCP involvement in performing arts festival 	-

Theme	Objective	Explanation/need	Instrument/means	Time frame	Who/parties and role	Monitoring agreements/evaluation
5. Cultural participation and the Faro Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster and promote cultural participation. Foster and promote heritage participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faro project will be implemented to assist with writing Saba's cultural policy and ensuring community participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCP scheme for cultural participation 2021–2024. Faro implementation agenda. 	2024–2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS RCE (Faro) OCW Saba Life Center and other cultural stakeholders 	-
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid foundation for heritage: leveraging heritage in addressing societal challenges (SDGs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on inventories of designated or protected heritage (intangible, monuments, archaeological sites, collections), that are public and digitally accessible. 	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS, OCW, RCE BZK Heritage Center 	-
6. Colonial history/abolition of slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More knowledge and awareness about the history of slavery and its impact on the present. Emancipation Day (1 July) should have a festive character, celebration of liberation. Involve education – programming for funds that will be made available by BZK. Monument with 700+ names (multi-purpose space). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More structural attention, recognition and awareness of the past. Provenance research (<i>herkomstonderzoek</i>) in archives (in addition to DNA research supported by BZK). Digitise register of 700+ names of freed enslaved people and make it available online. Involve diverse communities (diverse voices/polyvocality). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region Deal: multi-purpose space. Metamorfoze, or other possibilities through National Archives and KB. Local link with National Slavery Museum. Funding for Commemoration Year activities, such as liberation through healing and educational/school projects. Funding from De Nederlandsche Bank. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS OCW National Archives National Slavery Museum Commission on Slavery History BZK ('<i>na de komma</i>' process) NGOs like Saba Heritage Center, museums, library working group, inter-island network 	-
7. Museum collections (public collection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid foundation for collections. Return of Saban heritage from EN. Create a space for those artefacts and reflection of Saban history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process for researching, identifying, inventorying and managing collections, especially after completion of Saba Canon and community engagement (Faro project). Initiate process for return from EN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expertise and means (e.g. the RCE) to carry out this research and analysis. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS OCW, RCE (Faro) Colonial collections consortium Saba Heritage Center Commission on Slavery History 	-

Theme	Objective	Explanation/need	Instrument/means	Time frame	Who/parties and role	Monitoring agreements/evaluation
8. Built heritage	<p>Solid foundation for heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of historic buildings through the creation of a list of monuments based on an existing inventory. • Update legislation/regulations where necessary (Monumentenwet BES [BES Heritage Act], and Saba's Monument Island Ordinance). • Ensure that relevant procedures and instruments are fit for purpose (e.g. with regard to licensing). • Ensure proper implementation (including advice, supervision and enforcement). • Adequate financial system. • Heritage as part of spatial development plans. • Make heritage more sustainable within social real estate (including heritage) and stimulate re-allocation. • Creation of a policy framework for built heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create monument policy and refer to it in new cultural policy. • Identify, inventory and list historical buildings as monuments (including the legal process). • Explore the possibility of establishing a national trust in order to manage built heritage. • Explore the possibility of a monument fund and monument foundation. • Special attention to maintenance of Ladder Bay and traditional cisterns (erosion problems). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCE's knowledge and expertise. • Opportunities for strengthening implementation through OCW's Erfgoed & Overheid [Heritage & Government] programme. • Monumentenwet BES [BES Heritage Act], Saba Monument Island Ordinance 2010. • NRF budget in revolving fund for business owners (not private owners). • Tax deduction for private owners (see info on RCN website). • Subsidy scheme for sustainable social real estate (DUMAVA). • Heritage Deal. • Networking through Dutch Caribbean Heritage Platform (DCHP). • Training opportunities through DCHP: use Heritage Academy (e.g. module on making monuments more sustainable, or to think about networks and tasks). 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saba Heritage Center • OLS: responsible for monument policy • Saba Conservation Foundation in relation to Ladder Bay • BZK, OCW: monuments in relation to DUMAVA and ROP • NRF, OCW (E&K and RCE): setting up NRF budget, exploring possibility of revolving fund for private individuals • E&K (in cooperation with RCE, IPO and VNG): exploring link between OLS and Erfgoed & Overheid [Heritage & Government] programme 	-

Theme	Objective	Explanation/need	Instrument/means	Time frame	Who/parties and role	Monitoring agreements/evaluation
9. Intangible heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid foundation for intangible heritage. • Valuing intangible heritage and its stakeholders. • Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003 UNESCO Convention). Preparing nominations for UNESCO Intangible Heritage list: basket weaving, Saba lace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking the status of the inventory that has been drawn up. • Oral History Project to preserve and celebrate Saba's unique cultural heritage. Fostering a sense of community identity by using it for intergenerational knowledge transfer. Ensuring the island's stories and traditions are passed on to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible subsidies and expertise from FCP and KIEN. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intangible heritage working group (in the context of 4LO) • Saba Heritage Center • RCE (Faro) • KIEN, FCP 	-
10. Archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid foundation for archaeology: regulations and related instruments, procedures and implementation (including capacity and expertise for advice, monitoring and enforcement) and physical facilities. • Designate known archaeological sites as protected areas. • Inventory archaeological expectations across the island and incorporate the results in spatial instruments/procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erfgoed & Overheid [Heritage & Government] programme should also be accessible to CN to help create a solid foundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCE's knowledge and expertise, including connection to digital registration system Archis. • Monumentenwet BES [BES Heritage Act], Valletta Convention. • Policy response <i>Archeologie bij de Tijd</i> (2022): • MF scheme/grant for public archaeology presentations and public participation. • Opportunities for strengthening implementation through OCW's Erfgoed & Overheid [Heritage & Government] programme. • Research and innovation platform for archaeology is accessible on Saba. • Accessibility and knowledge of available budgets for research and internships. 	From 2024 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLS • Saba Heritage Center • Saba Conservation Foundation • RCE • Cooperation with <i>Natuurbeheer</i> in relation to landscape, e.g.support RCE in drawing up area biographies (<i>gebiedsbiografieën</i>) • NDE, DEN • E&K (in cooperation with RCE, IPO and VNG): exploring link between OLS and Erfgoed & Overheid [Heritage & Government] programme. 	-

Theme	Objective	Explanation/need	Instrument/means	Time frame	Who/parties and role	Monitoring agreements/evaluation
11. Underwater heritage	Solid foundation for heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of underwater heritage. Improving maritime heritage management in practice with the aim of promoting sustainable tourism, highlighting the island's rich marine ecosystems and any historic shipwrecks, while encouraging environmental conservation for the long-term benefit of the island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in ratification process of the 2001 UNESCO Convention. After ratification, parties continue to work together for a smooth landing. More collaboration between local communities, government agencies and marine conservation organisations. Inter-island collaboration to exchange personnel (capacity and expertise) and equipment. More expertise and knowledge are needed in order to be able to conduct underwater surveys. Sustainable management and protection of the island's maritime history by implementing effective conservation policies, promoting responsible diving practices together with dive companies, and conducting regular underwater archaeological surveys. OCW commissioned a legal analysis for BES island in relation to 2001 UNESCO Convention. Among other things, this will lead to draft regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access expertise (RCE), including by establishing connection to MaSS and MACHU systems. RCE Maritime Heritage: affiliation with working group on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on Underwater Heritage. Monumentenwet BES [BES Heritage Act], Valletta Convention. Policy response <i>Archeologie bij de Tijd</i> (2022). MF scheme/grant for public archaeology presentations and public participation. Opportunities for strengthening implementation through OCW's Erfgoed & Overheid [Heritage & Government] programme. Research and innovation platform for archaeology is accessible on Saba. 4LO working group. Accessibility and awareness of budgets available for research and internships. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS 4LO: underwater heritage Saba Heritage Center Saba Conservation Foundation Saba Tourist Bureau Dive Shops RCE 	-
12. Heritage and spatial development	Solid foundation for heritage: better alignment between heritage policy and spatial planning (operational objective).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected cultural heritage sites (monuments, protected cityscapes, archaeological sites) will be defined based on the area biography. These will also be included in the future spatial development plan (ROP). Heritage conservation combined with sustainable spatial development (responsible tourism). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BZK: ROP for BES islands. Collaboration with the Planning Bureau, which is working on a spatial development plan. This is important to help balance conservation and development, fostering community involvement, local input and ownership. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS: Planning Bureau BZK (updated ROP for BES islands) RCE 	-

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13. Cultural heritage in times of crisis	<p>Solid foundation for heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using existing inventories to create an integral digital inventory of designated or protected heritage and making it digitally accessible. Include culture and heritage in disaster and emergency preparations. Include heritage in crisis plan and digital crisis map. (Annual hurricane season.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual hurricane season and sea level rise/ coastal erosion threaten heritage. Crisis manager and heritage policy officer in close contact. Be well prepared for crises. Connection to network with Caribbean Civil Protection Mechanism (CCPM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowing what is protected: digital inventory and map. Formalise that a heritage expert (RCE) must be available for civilian mission after crisis. OCW and BZ in contact with RCE about hub for wider Caribbean region. VNW fund for 6 islands: learning from traditions and customs with regard to hurricanes, learning from historical construction. 	From 2024- onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS OCW, VNW connection with CCPM network RCE Private property owners 	Discuss with public entities how OCW, RCE and VNW can support them

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14. Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation and expansion of Saba's library (QWL) to bring it closer to EN standards and ensure compatibility with the WSOB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to expand QWL so that it can fulfil its societal function. Need for long-term support regarding the expansion/transition into a cultural and media centre. More cooperation with other libraries in the region. Need for a wider selection of materials (in the English language) General inventory of the needs of the Saban community is necessary (e.g. ICT skills). By the end of 2025, the QWL must have made significant progress in updating and renewing its collection. Local library members should have access to the online library collection in EN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty of care in the revised library act (WSOB) KB provides training sessions and knowledge sharing, assists QWL in expanding its network with other libraries in the region and helps improve cooperation with EN libraries. KB supports QWL in modernising and updating its collection, focusing on English-language materials as well. It also provides a connection to its online library collection. Cooperation between QWL and Sint Maarten library, which is also connected to American e-book platforms (wider access to English-language collections). Stichting Lezen takes care of the rollout of the Library at School in primary and secondary education, Bookstart handles rollout in childcare and trains reading consultants (as part of the Basic Skills Master Plan). Provincial Support Institute (after this: POI) pilot: assessment and inventory of what is needed to support the libraries in their further development. QWL consultants are working on policy plan for next 5 years. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS OCW QWL KB Stichting Lezen POI 	

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15. Digitisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting expertise, innovation and cooperation on heritage preservation, usability and accessibility. Implementing digital transformation in all aspects of cultural institutions' operations, as well as in the way the public is engaged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The island's history is not yet sufficiently accessible to residents and visitors. The OLS, cultural institutions, the library and citizens need support in the digital transformation. This should lead to accessibility of existing knowledge, collections and objects, which requires better digital skills as well as new organisational models and a good ICT infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture coach. DEN's training offering (e.g. in the form of webinars on digital strategy and transformation; will be fleshed out in a new activity plan). Exploring possible deployment of a digital heritage coach through the Digital Heritage Network (including possibility of networking with other islands). Cultuurloket DigitALL created a scheme for CN at the request of OCW. The scheme went online at the end of March. In collaboration with NDE, taking stock of needs on the island regarding knowledge sharing and networking around digital heritage care. The findings can help inform the updated National Digital Heritage Strategy. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS OCW DEN, NDE Cultuurloket DigitALL 	
16. Archives and archive repositories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professionalising the archive (creating a solid foundation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitisation of archives to assist land and property owners, connect family histories and make artefact collections available for education and research purposes. Creating a solid foundation for archive and information management involves: The realisation of suitable archive repositories. The sustainable preservation and digitisation of paper archives Making archival materials accessible to the island's residents, which is important after the Dutch government's apology for its past involvement in slavery. There is a need to experience, discuss and process the past, and to come to terms with it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory needs through an archival agenda (to be created). Inventory what is needed to preserve, manage and make archives available (accessible). Support from and knowledge sharing with archival and information professionals. Explore the possibility of connecting to the National Archives' e-Depot. Explore the possibility of combining archive, archaeology, and possibly library functions. 	From 2024-onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLS OCW National Archives 	

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In addition to covenant:						
17. Culture and entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting cultural entrepreneurship and professional development in the creative sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-interest loan scheme through Qredits insufficiently known among small entrepreneurs and artists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BES Culture Loan available (see Qredits website). Ability to adapt existing training courses, webinars, etc to CN context. Permanent Professional Development programme (PPO programme) for the creative sector. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support organisations, such as Cultuur+ Ondernemen and Platform ACCT 	
18. Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering and professionalising journalists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An independent study on journalism and the media landscape in CN found that journalists need professionalisation and training support. Most journalists in CN depend on advertisers for their income and livelihood. There are no incentives and support facilities as in EN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A temporary media and journalism researcher to further identify the needs of local media professionals and stakeholders, and to support the sustainable development of a local network and media infrastructure. 	2024 – 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCW OLS RCN 	

