



FRANCE AND THE PROMOTION OF ARCHAEOLOGY ABROAD

STRATEGY



In a globalized world, marked by crises, political transitions and identity issues, archaeology is a discipline that increases our scientific knowledge of the past and, in doing so, helps us to identify and understand the fundamental challenges facing us today. As a vehicle of French diplomacy, it is an opportunity for exchange, civil society involvement and cooperation with local authorities, and helps to raise France's profile abroad in the field of science.

In this context, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development is responsible for supporting work in this field, guaranteeing both the scientific quality of the archaeological projects that it initiates and the project funding.

The Ministry draws on the scientific expertise of the Advisory Commission for Archaeological Research Abroad, created in 1945, which brings together top archaeological specialists from research and higher education establishments to help evaluate proposed research projects. For 2014, the Commission has approved and certified 148 projects in around 60 countries, for an overall budget of €2.4 million.

The Ministry also determines the main areas of focus for collaboration with host countries, taking into consideration any areas of mutual interest, as well as its partners' priorities.

These areas of focus include the following:

- high-level scientific research;
- promoting the academic dimension of the projects;
- setting up partnerships;
- expertise of French partners with regard to heritage;
- development of the sites.



Jean-François Carlotti, French architect and researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), at the Ramesseum archaeological dig, near Luxor in Egypt. © MAEDIVF, de la Mure



148

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECTS**

approved and certified
for 2014.

2.4

**MILLION
EUROS**

allocated by the
Ministry to
archaeological
projects in 2014.

63

COUNTRIES

hosting French
archaeological
projects.

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

Archaeology makes a significant contribution to French international cooperation, helping to improve scientific output and disseminate French knowledge and expertise.

Sharing high-level knowledge

Worldwide, there are 148 French archaeological initiatives underway, in about 60 countries, and each one represents an opportunity to form a network of different scientific communities. They give rise to projects enabling French teams to work closely with local researchers, who are welcomed by French research bodies. These partnerships lead to joint output of work (co-publications, scientific events, development of expertise, etc.), as well as the sharing of knowledge and research methodologies.

Enhancing French scientific expertise

Archaeological digs are a valuable opportunity for scientific and academic collaboration questioning the representation of national history, and also play a central role with regard to economics, tourism and sustainable development. At the intersection of these various disciplines, France offers unique expertise, through its contact with all those involved in heritage development. French archaeological teams are in communication with not only the government of host countries but also their

civil society, working in partnership with museums, ministries of culture, and local government in the countries concerned, as well as foundations and NGOs.

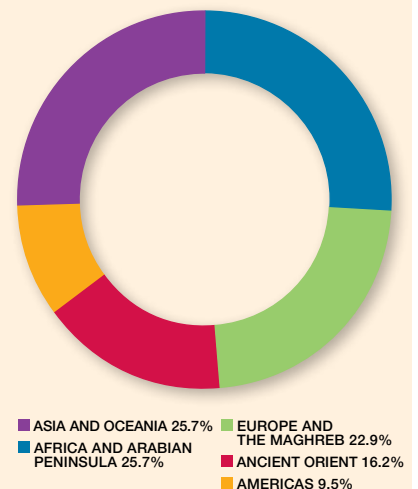
Providing support in all fields and regions

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, which receives archaeological research project applications for all periods of study and geographical areas, sets annual priorities depending on scientific contexts and needs in order to allocate funding to them. In addition, three calls for applications have been launched since 2013: two aiming to revitalize archaeological excavations in America and Asia, and a third seeking to support publications by young project leaders. The archaeological teams are also backed up in their work by the network of French research institutes abroad (IFRE) and French embassies, which assist them with practical arrangements and make sure that they are working in safe conditions.

ANCIENT ORIENT

This term refers in particular to Ancient Mesopotamia. Here it covers the Gaza Strip, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. It also includes projects in Iraq.

Geographical distribution of the 148 archaeological projects in 2014



NEW EXCAVATION PROJECTS IN THE AMERICAS

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development received eleven submissions in response to the call for applications launched in 2013 for excavations in the Americas. The Americas sub-committee for archaeological research abroad selected five projects out of the eleven applications:

- **United States:** searching for the earliest settlements in North America (Tanana valley);
- **Brazil:** prehistoric peoples of South America (Uruguay River valley);
- **Bolivia:** understanding the Pucara-Tiahuanaco cultural shift and chronology (Altiplano region, the Andes)
- **Chile:** the Andes, settlements, territoriality, pre-Hispanic era, colonial era (Parinacota province);
- **Peru:** cross-disciplinary study programme on the Inca site of Tambo Colorado (Pisco valley).

3 CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

launched since 2013: for excavations in America, support for publications by young project leaders (2013) and excavations in Asia (2014).

A STRATEGY ADAPTED TO NEW CHALLENGES

27
ESTABLISHMENTS
for research in human and social sciences and archaeology worldwide under the joint authority of the Ministry and CNRS, linked to form the network of French research institutes abroad (IFRE).

146
EXPATRIATES
work in IFRE establishments.

244
DOCTORAL STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS
benefit from the Ministry's international mobility assistance programme.

600
CONFERENCES
per year and 180 inter-university partnerships.

Taking account of broader issues

Archaeology is characterized by the fact that it uses science, engineering and innovation to increase our understanding of societies, civilisations and their development. It is directly concerned by discussions and changes relating to ecology and sustainable development, particularly environmental and climate change in different geographical areas.

Project management in countries in crisis

Changes in political, economic and social situations can make it difficult, or even impossible, to access land in certain countries. Such unforeseen events render it necessary both to adapt to the new circumstances by establishing strategies that will enable scientific activity to continue and to take steps to preserve the sites. In the case of the 14 archaeological projects suspended in Syria, for example, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development has made sure that funding continues to be provided for excavation sites to be maintained using protective measures, with the hope that the situation will improve.

EXAMPLE OF STEPS TAKEN IN YEMEN

Due to the fact that it has been impossible for archaeologists to access the sites since 2011, the French Centre in Sana'a for Archaeology and Social Sciences (CEFAS) has re-orientated its work, focusing on the following activities:

- pursuing editorial projects, with the publication of *Arabian Humanities*, an international journal for archaeology and social sciences on the Arabian peninsula;
- redeployment of some teams within the Arabian peninsula;
- laboratory analysis of samples in France.

www.cefasc.com.ye



Ramesseum archaeological dig in Egypt: mortuary temple of Ramses II. © MAED/IF. de la Mure

Employment assistance

Archaeology projects also aim to provide archaeology training, in order to transfer recognised knowledge and scientific expertise. A future priority of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development is to facilitate the training of young scientific researchers and their entry into professional science. In order to achieve this, from 2013, the Ministry will support young researchers by promoting the publication of their work, thereby helping them to build their career.

Using technological innovation

Whilst they are continually aiming to uncover historical truths, archaeological projects are also an expression of technological innovation. They now have access to techniques such as radar and sonar, which have greatly boosted their efficiency, particularly with regard to scanning and data analysis. Recently, DNA tests have begun to be used to obtain information on the origin and movement of populations, as well as their age, diet and living conditions.

PROMOTING EXCELLENT SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

Thanks to their activities on the ground, archaeology projects integrate scientific output into a broader process of development and learning.

Enhancing shared potential

Whether they are project leaders or associated archaeologists, those involved in French archaeology abroad have all received high-level training. Over the years, as fields of expertise have multiplied and the range of techniques required to gain optimal knowledge of sites, the environment, populations and their economic and social activities has broadened, French archaeologists, who are often called upon as experts by museums and international institutions such as UNESCO, have aimed towards scientific output of the highest quality. They coach local professionals and students by offering a large number of training courses and enhancing their work through workshops, seminars and peer-reviewed publications, not to mention dissertations and theses.

Adapting to the changing world of research

Archaeology is a valuable area of collaboration, enabling the maintenance and development of high-quality scientific output. It is necessary to redefine its goals and the scientific and political challenges, taking into consideration the expectations of host countries. With this in mind, the following priorities have been established:

- thorough assessment of projects at the end of the four-year programmes;
- presence on the ground for longer periods (bearing in mind that projects on the ground cannot be shorter than one month per year) and better institutional coordination with regard to goals and

resulting employment, particularly with CNRS, in association with the French National Research Agency (ANR);

- archiving of researchers' reports and personal documentation resources.

Supporting young teams

In order to promote generational renewal and create a larger pool of young researchers in fields threatened by a shortage of specialists, funding is granted to PhD-holders who do not yet have a permanent post but whose talent has been spotted by scientific experts. This funding is subject to conditions: the young archaeologist must be sponsored by his or her research laboratory. The laboratory undertakes to continue the work in progress and make sure that the findings are published, in the event that the young researcher leaves the project before the end of the four-year programme.

Guaranteeing the quality of publications

Under the four-year programmes, archaeological project leaders are responsible for presenting all of the research linked to the sites that they are supervising in the form of detailed scientific studies. Regular scientific publications, which serve to demonstrate the quality of the work and preserve the findings, are crucial to France's influence in science at an international level.

150

DOCTORAL STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

from host countries are trained each year as part of French archaeological projects. Around one hundred grants are also offered.

1.7

MILLION EUROS

This is the budget allocated by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development to the restoration of the Eastern Mebon in Cambodia for 2011-2014. It accounts for more than 50% of the total budget of €3.3 million.

2

ARCHITECTS

as well as three site supervisors and over 200 workers have been assigned to the Mebon project.

■ AN EXEMPLARY SCIENTIFIC OUTCOME: RESTORATION OF THE EASTERN MEBON AT ANGKOR

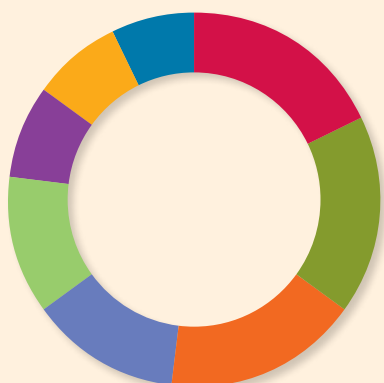
The Mebon restoration programme (2012-2016) is a leading example of France's influence in the world of science. Built in the 11th century in the middle of the Eastern Baray, this temple-island is situated in the largest reservoir of the Angkor site in Cambodia (8 km long, 2.2 km wide).

Its restoration, which will enable a unique architectural work to be preserved, is an original project in as much as it forms part of a huge operation to rehabilitate this Baray and promote sustainable, agricultural and tourist development in the area.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS AND JOINT FUNDING

Geographical distribution of external funding 2012

In 2012, half of this external funding was allocated to excavations in the Ancient Orient, Europe and Central Asia (approximately 17% for each region), followed by Africa and the Arabian peninsula. Lastly, the Americas, Asia and the Maghreb each received an equal share of the remaining quarter of the total external funding packet.



■ CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS 18%
■ AFRICA 12%
■ EUROPE 17%
■ ANCIENT ORIENT 17%
■ ARABIAN PENINSULA 13%
■ THE MAGHREB 8%
■ AMERICAS 8%
■ ASIA 7%

Change in external contributions to excavations

(in millions of euros)



On the site of Huaca las Balsas in Túcume, Peru, training and raising awareness among young people are key aspects of collaboration in archaeological research.
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Turning archaeology projects into a platform for academic cooperation

Project leaders, who are rooted in the worlds of science and academia, view their research project as a means to increase cooperation between institutions. In collaboration with the CNRS and their university of origin, these archaeologists organize joint supervision of doctoral theses and student mobility initiatives with host country universities.

Identifying new projects

Each year, the call for applications encourages new projects to be presented for evaluation by the committee. In the field of archaeology, there are whole scientific areas that have not yet been explored and French expertise constitutes a real advantage in this regard. In 2013, 15 new projects were selected, involving locations such as India, Uzbekistan, the Kingdom of Tonga, the Palestinian Territories and Iraqi Kurdistan.

Ensuring joint funding has a real impact

The funding granted by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development is topped up by outside contributions, which double the budget allocated to excavations. These contributions have largely remained stable over the past five years (see *graph opposite*). More than half of external contributions are from French public establishments, followed by contributions from host countries and private sponsorship, while about 10% come from European and international funding.



FRANCE UNDERTAKES TO:

1 PROMOTE CROSS-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Given the political, social and economic implications of each project, the teams must adopt an approach that is both all-encompassing, taking account of these different elements, and local, clearly defining the context in the host country. It is therefore a question of promoting innovative archaeological projects which contribute to our understanding of contemporary societies and major issues.

3 DEVELOP UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Project leaders, who carry out teaching and research within a laboratory, have access to the tools needed to encourage institutional and academic links between higher education and research establishments in France and abroad. This approach has the added advantage of helping to promote student learning on the ground and local development.

5 INCREASE ARCHAEOLOGY'S CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN HOST COUNTRIES

Each archaeological project, beyond its scientific dimension, must be viewed as a development project, offering benefits to the host countries. This is why archaeological research goes hand in hand with protecting heritage, enhancing the tourist appeal of sites and providing local employment on archaeological digs.

2 STRENGTHEN NETWORKS BETWEEN RESEARCH BODIES IN FRANCE AND ABROAD

In order to increase the competitiveness and visibility of French initiatives abroad, it is necessary to link bilateral agreements on archaeological collaboration to European and international instruments. To achieve this, institutional dialogue must take place between the various French stakeholders (including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, French schools abroad, CNRS, Institute of Research for Development [IRD]), European stakeholders and host countries.

4 PROMOTE TRAINING OF YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN PRIORITY FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Due to the shortage of researchers and the difficulties of generational renewal in the field of archaeology, it is necessary to develop a recruitment and training policy, in collaboration with higher education and research bodies in France. This policy must help to encourage new scientific interest in geographical zones that are of prime importance in archaeology.



FRANCE AND THE PROMOTION OF ARCHAEOLOGY ABROAD

French archaeology abroad upholds a tradition of excellence in research carried out alongside France's partners. As such, it makes a significant contribution to the country's international influence. The commitment made by host countries in terms of human and financial resources demonstrates that France's expertise is widely recognized and that local governments are interested in setting up scientific partnerships, which not only help train archaeology and heritage professionals but also boost economic and sustainable development.

Archaeology, which is fundamental to the understanding of territories, peoples and their identities, also helps to build lasting relationships with civil societies, including in countries in crisis, by establishing networks to link communities of researchers.

To support these partnerships, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development funds archaeological projects, in consultation with the Advisory Commission for Archaeological Research Abroad, while universities and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) provide researchers and develop teaching programmes on French areas of expertise and methodology. The institutional stakeholders involved in this French initiative work in a particularly complementary manner to ensure that all aspects of archaeology are covered, from planning the geographical distribution of French research abroad to meeting the scientific, economic and political expectations of their partners.



Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships

Cultural, Academic and Research Cooperation Directorate
Research and Scientific Exchanges Department
27, rue de la Convention
CS 91533 - 75732 Paris Cedex 15

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/