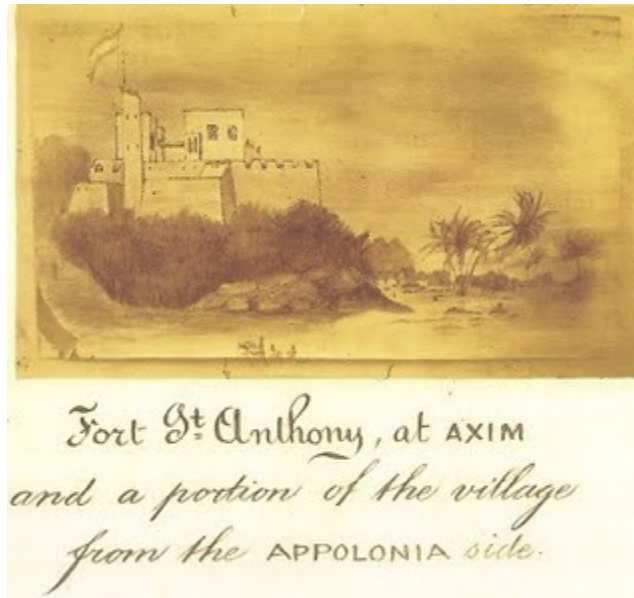


The Ankobra Gold Route: Common Ghanaian-Dutch Historic and Cultural Heritage in Western Ghana



The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has granted funding for the project 'The Ankobra Gold Route: Common Ghanaian-Dutch Historic and Cultural Heritage in Western Ghana' to a partnership formed by Ricerca & Cooperazione, an Italian development NGO with extensive experience in Ghana (R&C), the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), and the University of Pavia (Italy).

The project will be implemented by the three partners in close collaboration with various stakeholders, namely the Atlantic World and the Dutch Programme (AWAD), the Ghana Tourist Board, the Public Records and Archives Administration Department of Ghana (PRAAD), the University of Ghana at Legon, and the University of Groningen (The Netherlands)

The project focuses on the identification and revitalization of outstanding objects of mutual cultural heritage of Ghana and the Netherlands in the Western Region of Ghana.

The project has a scientific aspect involving the identification, restoration and conservation of outstanding legacies of mutual cultural heritage (objects, documents and artifacts), all along with archeological, historical, and anthropological work on the Dutch fortified trade lodges Elize Carthago (17th-18th century) and Fort Ruychaver (17th Cent.), both on the Ankobra River, and the neighboring African settlements.

A second component focuses on sustainable tourism as an important contribution to the economic and cultural development of the communities and institutions involved in the project.

"The Ankobra Gold Route" has three concrete goals: (1) The enhancement of our knowledge of the early Dutch-Ghanaian interaction in the hinterland of Ghana and the conservation of monumental and archaeological remains from that period. (2) The creation of a sustainable historical and cultural touristic route along the Ankobra River into the hinterland, which will link into the already existing 'Ghanaian – Dutch Historical Path' along the coast. (3) The promotion of an integrated development plan for the region, based on sustainable management of natural and cultural resources, in close cooperation with local communities.

The project budget is 344,000 euro, of which about 150,000 euro is funded by the Government of the Netherlands within the framework of the Mutual Cultural Heritage Policy 2009-2012. The length of the project is eighteen months.