

120 years of Ethiopian – Belgian Relationships

10 - 15 NOVEMBER 2026

Workshops in Art Conservation

Institute of Ethiopian Studies,
Ethiopian Art Conservation
Program AfricaMuseum, DACER-
BDU: Bahir-Dar University &
Antwerp University

A full week of thematic workshops,
deepening dialogue between Ethiopian
and Belgian researchers.

For participation, registration, and further
information, please contact:

info@eacp.be

info@africamuseum.be

Introduction to Ethiopia

Cultural Heritage and Diplomatic Relations

Ethiopia, one of the oldest sovereign states, boasts a rich tapestry of religious, artistic, and architectural heritage. Its diplomatic relations with Belgium began in 1906, fostering deep cultural ties.

The AfricaMuseum in Tervuren houses an extensive 2,800-object Ethiopian collection. Focused on decolonisation and ethical collection management, it plays a vital role in preserving Ethiopia's cultural heritage alongside the Ethiopian Art Conservation Program (EACP).



Key Details

Location, Installation, and Exhibition Dates

Location	Date	Event	Workshop
IES Gallery Excursion	10 Nov 2026	Workshop	Introduction sessions
IES Gallery Excursion	11 Nov 2026	Workshop	Documentation
IES Gallery	12 Nov 2026	Workshop	Conservation in practice
IES Gallery	13 Nov 2026	Workshop	Policy Development
Addis Abebe	14 Nov 2026	Visit	Entoto and historic visits

About the Exhibition

Exploring Diplomatic and Cultural Connections



The exhibition explores **Historical Ties** through early diplomatic contacts, missionaries, and educators who bridged the cultural divide between Belgium and Ethiopia. These foundational relationships laid the groundwork for ongoing cooperation and mutual respect, fostering understanding across continents.

Economic Cooperation evaluates the collaborative trade efforts and development assistance initiatives that have strengthened the ties between the two nations. The focus on joint projects and technical cooperation has enriched both cultures while promoting sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

Workshop Programme

10–16 November 2026

The Workshop Week (10–16 November 2026) brings together Ethiopian, Congolese and Belgian heritage professionals for three thematic training days, each led by a different partner institution, followed by two optional days of heritage site visits in and around Addis Abeba. Sessions are deliberately low-threshold and hands-on, so participants from museums, universities, conservation studios and heritage authorities can follow along regardless of prior technical experience, and leave with concrete tools and methods they can apply back home.

Day1

Documentation

Day2

Conservation

Day3

Policy

Day4

Heritage Visit

Day5

Heritage Visit

Day 1 — Documentation and Innovation

Led by the AfricaMuseum, with input from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies

Day 1 opens the Workshop Week with a focus on documentation and innovation in heritage collections work. Participants are introduced to digital collections management, inclusive and culturally sensitive registration practices, and emerging tools such as VR and 3D scanning for recording objects and sites.

The session is built to be practical rather than theoretical. Participants see live demonstrations of documentation workflows, try scanning and registration tools themselves, and discuss how these methods can be adapted to their own institutions, whatever their current level of digital infrastructure.

By the end of the day, participants leave with a concrete documentation checklist and a first-hand sense of what digitisation realistically takes to set up and sustain, so the session can be followed by newcomers and specialists alike.

Day 2 — Conservation and Installation

Led by the University of Antwerp and Bahir Dar University (DACER-BDU), with the AfricaMuseum

Day 2 turns to conservation techniques and the physical installation of heritage objects and exhibitions. It is led jointly by the University of Antwerp and Bahir Dar University, through the DACER-BDU partnership that is establishing Ethiopia's first Master in Art Conservation, together with the AfricaMuseum.

Participants work through practical conservation exercises alongside doctoral researchers and faculty, covering both the science of object conservation and the craft of preparing and mounting material for display. The day deliberately pairs conservation science with hands-on installation practice, so the two are learned together rather than as separate specialisms.

As with Day 1, the session is designed to be followed by participants with a wide range of backgrounds, from conservation specialists to museum staff handling installation for the first time, with practical techniques everyone can take back to their own collections.

Day 3 — Policy and Future

Led by the University of Antwerp, Bahir Dar University and the AfricaMuseum

Day 3 closes the training programme by turning from technique to policy. Discussions focus on the frameworks that make heritage management sustainable at an institutional level, and on the new Master in Art Conservation at Bahir Dar University as a concrete example of what long-term capacity-building looks like in practice.

Rather than abstract policy theory, the day works from real examples: how the DACER-BDU partnership was structured, what it took to get institutional buy-in, and what other institutions represented in the room might learn from it or contribute to it.

Participants leave Day 3 with a clearer sense of the frameworks and relationships that keep heritage work going after a workshop ends, and with direct contacts at Bahir Dar University and the University of Antwerp for anyone considering a similar training partnership.

BRIDGES ACROSS CONTINENTS



Collaborative Institutions

Discover the collaborative spirit among various institutions enhancing Ethiopian heritage conservation and fostering international relations.

Our
Partners

Partnership Achievements

Pathway to inclusive conservation campaigns

Highlights

DACER-BDU

Established Ethiopia's first Master's in Art Conservation, enhancing local expertise and education in heritage preservation.

REFORCE PROJECT

Post-conflict initiative focused on conserving Tigray's cultural heritage, facilitating recovery and community rebuilding efforts.

COLLABORATION IMPACT

Strengthened ties between Belgian and Ethiopian institutions, fostering mutual understanding and shared goals in cultural preservation.

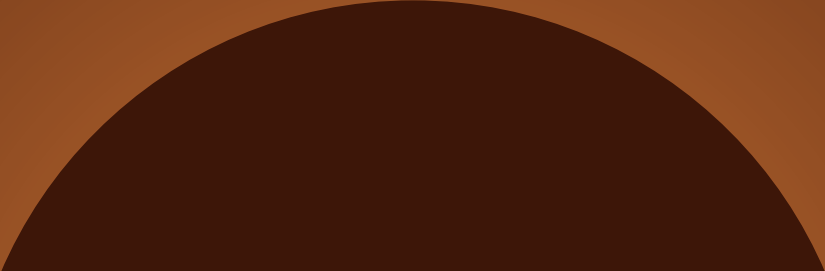
Practical Information

Registration, Fees, and Support Options

The registration fee is €50 for participants from outside Ethiopia. Ethiopian nationals/residents can register for free with proof of nationality or residency, ensuring broad accessibility for all.

Accommodation, visa support letters, and travel assistance are available through the Ethiopian Art Conservation Program (EACP) for supported participants. To register, please use the Tally registration form online.





Contact Us

For inquiries, please reach out to us at:
info@africamuseum.be or info@eacp.be

AfricaMuseum.be