

PRESS RELEASE**11 April 2022****Cooperation contract signed with the National Museum of Tanzania
Joint exhibition on Tanzania's history in Berlin****Tanzanian and German cultural institutions collaborate on an exhibition on the history of Tanzania. The exhibition will be on display in the Humboldt Forum in 2024.**

The National Museum of Tanzania (NMT), the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation - SPK) and the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace - SHF), have agreed to jointly stage a special exhibition on the history of Tanzania in the Humboldt Forum in 2024. To this effect, the NMT and the SHF signed a contract yesterday in Dar es Salaam in the presence of Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, Katja Keul who is on her first visit to Tanzania. The contract builds on the long-term working relationship between NMT and SPK and now enables the three institutions to work together.

The purpose of the exhibition on the history of Tanzania is to present the rich and complex history of the area of today's Tanzania on the basis of objects selected from the East Africa Collections in the SPK's Ethnologisches Museum and the NMT. It aims to mount a diverse and critical range of perspectives, stories and information about the selected objects. The collaborative exhibition will be curated by a team made up of curators from the NMT, the Ethnologisches Museum and the SHF.

The contracts were concluded thanks to the support of the German Embassy in Dar es Salaam. The embassy also takes part in several other projects initiated by German institutions in Tanzania.

Noel Lwoga, Director General of the NMT: "NMT has been collaborating with the Ethnologisches Museum for about six years in areas of research, joint exhibition, educational programs such as joint conferences and workshops, and on staff capacity building. Today, we are entering in a new phase of our collaboration, opening the doors for a much larger collaborative portfolio to include a jointly curated exhibition that will

**National Museums of Tanzania (NMT)**

be firstly placed at the Humboldt Forum, and subsequently in Tanzania. The exhibition will involve joint research and sharing of knowledge through workshops, conferences and publications.”

Katja Keul, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs: “I welcome the strengthening of the museum cooperation between the National Museum of Tanzania and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz and the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss. It is a pivotal political goal of the German government to encourage public reflection on colonialism and its consequences. At the same time, we want to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties with African countries by fostering exchange and new collaborations. The collaborative exhibition on the history of Tanzania will be an important contribution and visible realization of these objectives.”

Claudia Roth, Minister of State for Culture and the Media: "Dealing with the present-day consequences of colonialism is a question for the future of Germany and Europe - and for our museums and institutions. It is important that federal cultural policy as well as the institutions it funds lead the way here. The cooperation concluded today between the Humboldt Forum and the National Museum of Tanzania is a further step along this way."

Hermann Parzinger, President of the SPK: “Since 2016, the Ethnologisches Museum has been working intensively with various partner institutions from Tanzania in the collaborative projects *Tanzania–Germany: Shared Object Histories?*, *Humboldt Lab Tanzania*, and *Collaborative Provenance Research on the Collections from Tanzania at the National Museum and House of Culture in Dar es Salaam and Ethnological Museum in Berlin*. The starting point for the projects was a critical examination of the history of Berlin’s collection of Tanzanian objects in cooperation with Tanzanian artists, scholars, and actors from the objects’ societies of origin. We are therefore very pleased that these international collaborations will now be continued and culminate in a large, jointly curated exhibition at the Humboldt Forum. It is intended to show the exhibition subsequently in Tanzania.”

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum and CEO of the SHF: “The Humboldt Forum is a place for the arts and sciences, for exchange and a polyphony of voices. We are therefore very much looking forward to hosting this transnational

exhibition. It is intended to show the long and varied history of present-day Tanzania in the context of cultural interdependencies, but also of colonial oppression. It will provide an opportunity to experience history from different perspectives through the exhibits.”

The National Museum of Tanzania is a body corporate established by the Act of Parliament No 7 of 1980. It is an educational, scientific and cultural institution charged with the duties of collecting, conserving, displaying and researching on all materials relating to Tanzania’s cultural and natural heritage.

The museum disseminates knowledge to the public through cultural and education programmes, exhibitions, publications, print and electronic media. The NMT is currently instituted by seven museums: Museum and House of Culture and Village Museum, in Dar es Salaam, Natural History Museum and Arusha Declaration Museum in Arusha, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere’s Memorial Museum in Butiama, Musoma, Mara region, and Maji Maji Memorial Museum and Kawawa Memorial Museum in Songea, Ruvuma region. The NMT also oversees over 90 heritage sites which located all over the country.

The polyphony that characterizes the program of the Humboldt Forum is also reflected in the interplay of the partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a cooperation of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz with the collections of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin with the Humboldt Lab; and the Stadtmuseum Berlin with the Berlin exhibition.

Colonialism and racism are part of the history and present of the site as well as of the collections on display at the Humboldt Forum. The Humboldt Forum has made it its responsibility to deal with the violent history of colonialism as well as current colonialities by cooperating with representatives of the societies of origin and (inter-)national partners. The Humboldt Forum aims to engage in a continuous interrogation and decolonization of knowledge and practices in science, art and culture, both in its exhibitions and through its events program and educational offerings.

PRESS CONTACTS

Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Michael Mathis, Press Officer

+49 30 265 950-525, michael.mathis@humboldtforum.org

humboldtforum.org/presse

Ethnologisches Museum und Museum für Asiatische Kunst

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (National Museums in Berlin) – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Stefan Müchler, Press Officer

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin im Humboldt Forum

+49 30 266 411-422, s.muechler@hv.spk-berlin.de

Timo Weißberg, Press Officer Dahlem

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin im Humboldt Forum

+49 30 266 426-803, t.weissberg@smb.spk-berlin.de

smb.museum.de; preussischer-kulturbesitz.de