



Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

Press release

Amsterdam, 10 March 2009

TEFAF and the Prince Claus Fund protect Rock-Art Site in Niger through Cultural Emergency Response

TEFAF is pleased to contribute to one of the recent projects of the Cultural Emergency Response (CER) programme of the Prince Claus Fund; the protection of Dabous rock-art site in Niger currently endangered by conflict.

Since the Tuareg rebellion in Niger in the early 1990s, the region of Dabous experiences regular outbursts of civil unrest. A fresh series of clashes erupted in 2007 and endangered the security of the valuable ancient rock art paintings in Dabous. These 7.000 year old engravings that, among other, depict two life-size giraffes are recognized as a masterpiece of prehistoric art. The site was previously regularly visited by tourists who were requested to pay a small fee which guaranteed the payment of the guards' salaries. As a result of the turmoil in the region, tourists now avoid it and the site has thereby lost its only source of income. In response to pleas from the Trust for African Rock Art and thanks to the generous support of TEFAF, CER was able to contribute to the protection of the site from vandalism and looting by paying the guards' salaries for two years and preserve this historic legacy for future generations.

TEFAF Maastricht decided to support CER, an initiative of the Prince Claus Fund, because it makes possible prompt and effective action to save cultural heritage damaged or destroyed by man-made or natural disasters. CER believes that rescuing cultural heritage provides hope and consolation to affected communities and thereby contributes to restoring human dignity, continuity and a sense of identity. CER and TEFAF believe that therefore culture is a basic need and cultural emergency relief should be an integral part of humanitarian aid.

TEFAF is the world's leading fine art fair and brings together top quality art dealers and collectors of cultural heritage from all over the world. It is the mission of TEFAF to provide an art market place where quality, integrity and safety when selling and buying art are core values, emphasized by severe vetting procedures and checks by the Art Loss Register, the largest database of stolen art.

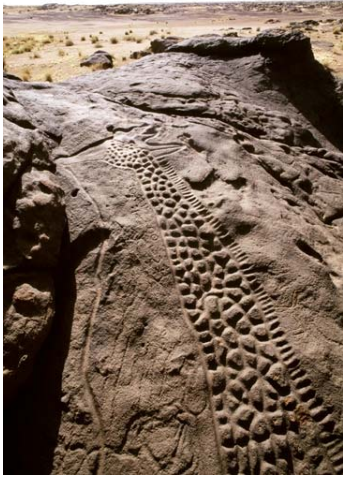
Cultural Emergency Response (CER) provides global "first aid" for cultural heritages that have been damaged or destroyed by man-made or natural disasters. CER is a Prince Claus Fund programme. CER was launched in 2003 in reaction to the looting of the National Museum of Baghdad that shocked the world. Since then it has provided aid to cultural heritage in emergency situations in over twenty countries throughout the world.

The Prince Claus Fund is a platform for intercultural exchange. It works jointly with individuals and organisations that are mainly located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean on the realisation of activities and publications that contribute to a positive exchange between culture and development. The Prince Claus Fund is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Postal Code Lottery.

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Giraffe in Dabous, Niger



Rock art paintings in Dabous, Niger