

German Colonial Restitution Monitor (Status: 09 July 2024)

- > Collaborative work in progress, to be continuously updated.
- > Covers only material cultural heritage from colonial contexts.
- > Lists specific commitments by public institutions in Germany; physical return or transfer of ownership possibly still pending.
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Country of origin	Entities	German institution(s)	Status of restitution/return	Comments
Australia 2023	Four entities from Kaurna indigenous community (spear, digging stick, club and net)	Ethnological Museum Dresden	Decision to return by State Government of Saxony as owner of the museum in recognition of identity-forming nature for Kaurna community. Handed over to Kaurna representatives on 16 August 2023 in Australia by staff of Dresden Museum. Return completed.	Entities sent to Germany in 1839 by missionaries of Lutheran Mission Dresden. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock delivered speech at ceremony on 3 May 2024 in Australia .
Cameroon 2024	28 royal entities such as throne stools, ceremonial fronds, swords from Nso' community.	Linden Museum Stuttgart	At the German-Cameroonian cultural dialogue on 16 January 2024 in Stuttgart, Minister of Science, Research and Arts Petra Olschowski announced decision by State Government of Baden-Württemberg as co-owner of Linden Museum to return the 28 Nso' entities. Return has not happened yet.	As equal co-owner of Linden Museum, City of Stuttgart consented.
Cameroon 2022	Royal beaded bracelet and small	Department of Anthropology & African	In 2022, Department decided to return the two culturally sensitive	Entities looted by German colonial officer Hans Houben in 1902. First

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	bag with medicine from Nso' community.	Studies at Mainz University	entities. Return has not happened yet.	transferred to Linden Museum Stuttgart, in Mainz since 1971.
Cameroon 2022	Ngonnso'	Ethnological Museum Berlin	In June 2022, Board of Trustees of Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation authorized President Parzinger to return Ngonnso'. Return has not happened yet.	The decision to return Ngonnso' to Cameroon was based on argument of unequal power relations and colonial violence. In addition, spiritual role of Ngonnso' as mother deity was recognised.
Columbia 2023	Two masks of Kogui indigenous community from Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Columbia	Ethnological Museum Berlin	Entities presented to Columbian President Gustavo Petro by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at ceremony on 16 June 2023 in President's Office Berlin. Handed over to community of Kogui on 28 June 2023 .	Entities brought to Berlin in 1915 by Konrad Theodor Preuss, curator of North American collections at Ethnological Museum. In preparation for return, masks were cleaned to remove contamination with biocides.
Namibia 2024	Cartridge belt of Kahimemua Nguvauva, leader of Ovambanderu community	Municipal Museum of Braunschweig (Brunswick)	City Council of Braunschweig voted unanimously in favour of restitution on 11 June 2024 . Municipal administration will now consult with German authorities to whom the item will be returned.	Restitution supported by Government of Namibia and German Foreign Office.
Namibia	23 entities (historical	Ethnological Museum	Returned as loan in 2022, followed	Entities were selected by Namibian

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2022	everyday objects, jewellery, tools and fashion)	Berlin	by transfer of ownership to Government of Namibia in 2024.	expert group, including National Museum of Namibia, due to special historical, cultural and aesthetic significance.
Namibia 2019	Stone Cross	German Historical Museum Berlin	Returned to Government of Namibia.	In 1486, Portuguese erected Stone Cross north of Swakopmund. In 1893 translocated to Berlin by German colonial authorities.
Namibia 2018	Family bible and riding whip of Nama leader Hendrik Witbooi	Linden Museum Stuttgart	As co-owner of Linden Museum, State Government of Baden-Württemberg decided in November 2018 to return entities to Government of Namibia.	As equal co-owner of Linden Museum City of Stuttgart consented.
Namibia 1996	Witbooi Journals II and III	Übersee-Museum Bremen	Two out of four journals kept by Nama leader Hendrik Witbooi. Returned to Government of Namibia.	Journals handed over to then Namibian President Sam Nujoma on state visit to Germany
Nigeria 2022	Benin Bronzes	As recorded by German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts , 1.259 Benin Bronzes held by 18 German museums.	In July 2022, Nigeria and Germany signed Joint Declaration for unconditional transfer of ownership for all Benin Bronzes in Germany to National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM).	On visit to Nigeria in December 2022, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Cultural Commissioner Claudia Roth handed over 22 Benin Bronzes to NCMM. Some Benin Bronzes to stay in German museums as loan.

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Samoa 2024	Boat stem. In 1888, German warship "Adler" took possession of a Samoan war canoe. Commander Wilhelm Souchon received the stem, which he donated to Übersee-Museum in 1932.	Übersee-Museum Bremen (owner: City of Bremen)	On 8 April 2024, the Minister of Education and Culture of Samoa submitted return request to Mayor of Bremen on behalf of Samoan government. On 18 June 2024, Senate (City government) of Bremen decided on restitution of stem to State of Samoa for ethical reasons. Costs of repatriation will be borne by Germany's Foreign Office	During her visit to Samoa in July 2024, State Minister Katja Keul of Germany's Foreign Office handed over the stem to Government of Samoa. Stem will be on display at National University of Samoa from September 2024 in exhibition developed jointly with Übersee-Museum Bremen.
Tanzania 2022	Unspecified entities	Ethnological Museum Berlin	In June 2022, Board of Trustees of Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation authorized President Parzinger to return unspecified entities related to anti-colonial wars in German East Africa. Return has not happened yet.	Entities will be part of Tanzania Exhibition jointly curated by Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Foundation Humboldt Forum and National Museum of Tanzania, opening October 2024 at Humboldt Forum Berlin.
USA (Hawai'i) 2023	Seven burial artefacts (spear, calabashes, stone disk)	Ethnological Museum Berlin	At end of 2021, Board of Trustees of Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation decided to return entities together with ancestral remains held by Museum of Prehistory and Early History Berlin. Entities were handed over to Hui Iwi Kuamo'o	Entities were taken from burial sites by Eduard Arning around 1885.

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			(organization of Hawaiian First Nations) representing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in April 2023.	
USA (South Dakota) 2021	Shirt that belonged to Chief Daniel Hollow Horn Bear (Mato He Oklogeca) of the Teton Lakota indigenous community	Weltkulturen Museum (Frankfurt am Main)	As owner of the museum, Cultural Department of the City of Frankfurt agreed to return. Entity handed over to Chief Daniel Hollow Horn Bear's great-grandson Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear, 12 June 2021 in Rose Bud, South Dakota.	Museum acquired entity from American Museum of Natural History (New York) in 1908, which had received it as donation by James Graham Phelps Stokes. Further provenance details unknown. For 30 years on permanent loan to Offenbach Leather Museum.
USA (Alaska) 2018	Nine burial artefacts from indigenous groups in Chugach region (Southwestern Alaska)	Ethnological Museum Berlin	Upon knowing that entities were from plundered grave, Board of Trustees of Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation decided in December 2017 to return them after consulting with Chugach Alaska Corporation, to be handed over to indigenous communities. Formal restitution on 16 May 2018.	Grave goods brought to Berlin by Johan Adrian Jacobsen in the 1880s from a collecting expedition commissioned by Berlin's Royal Museum of Ethnology, precursor of today's Ethnological Museum.
Zimbabwe 2003	Soap stone bird from Great Zimbabwe era	Ethnological Museum Berlin	Returned as permanent loan to President of Zimbabwe, later turned over to National Museums and Monuments Zimbabwe (NMMZ).	Legal option of permanent loan chosen to avoid formal procedures for restitution.

