Sharing the ASCL photo collection on
Wikimedia Commons:
what’s in for whom?

African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL)
The African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL) is a knowledge institute that undertakes research and is involved in teaching about Africa. It aims to promote the dissemination of knowledge and better understanding of African societies in the wider public sphere. Learn more: https://www.ascleiden.nl/

The ASCL photo collection in Commons
Since 2015 the ASCL library has been uploading copyright cleared Africa photographs of its collection to Wikimedia Commons. The collection now contains well over 6,000 images. It comprises, among others, photos captured by Roel Coutinho during his work as a medical doctor in the liberated areas of Guinea-Bissau, in 1973 and 1974 as well as images taken by anthropologist Sjoerd Hofstra among the Porol and Mende in Sierra Leone in 1934 and 1935.

Find out more!
Scan the QR-Code to visit the ASCL photo collection on Wikimedia Commons.

Contributing to Wikimedia Commons: what’s in for whom?

For the ASCL library:
• Better visibility of the ASCL photo collection
• Increased usage of the ASCL photo collection

For African societies:
• Documentation of material cultural heritage that has partly been lost or destroyed.

For everyone:
• Accessibility to and the usage of the images free of charge for all

Statistics
122 language editions of Wikipedia use the images from the ASCL photo collection:
(1) English Wikipedia - 347 images used
(22) Western Armenian Wikipedia - 1 image used
Total image usages: 1655

Top 3 images used:
(1) Chico Mendes 1973 – used 38 times
(2) Luis Cabral 1973 – used 36 times
(3) Map Ruanda Urundi – used 19 times

Statistics
Most images viewed:
(1) Weapons of the liberation movement PAIGC in Guinea-Bissau, 1973. Photo by Dutch medical doctor and later professor Roel Coutinho - article AK-47 - clicked 190,799 x in January 2023
(2) Idi Amin in Monrovia, 1976. Photo by Dutch economist Fred van der Kraaij - article Idi Amin clicked 159,386 x in January 2023
Total monthly page views: 2,292,196

Most viewed images
(January 2023)