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WHC-04/28.COM/INF.19

Paris, 24 May 2004

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eight session

Suzhou, China

28 June – 7 July 2004

Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the Global Training Strategy

AFRICA 2009 : Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Sub-Sahara Africa

SUMMARY

The AFRICA 2009 Programme, a partnership between African cultural heritage organizations, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and CRATerre-EAG, is an instrument for carrying out the strategy of the World Heritage Committee for training immovable cultural heritage professionals in sub-Saharan Africa. The Programme objective is to increase national capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa for management and conservation of immovable cultural heritage. The 1998 - 2001 period was conceived of as the pilot phase for the programme. The 2002-2005 period marks the consolidation phase of the programme. Main activities in 2003 included a three-month course (25 August – 14 November 2003) and a Directors Seminar (10 – 14 November 2003) in Mombasa (Kenya), a thematic seminar on *Legal Frameworks for Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage* (13 – 17 October 2003) in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), the first Technical Course on *Documentation and Inventory of Immovable Cultural Heritage* (30 June – 25 July 2003) in Bafoussam (Cameroon), and the implementation of seven new or continuing *projets situés* (*in situ projects*).

This document should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

WHC-04/28.COM/9

Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities

WHC-04/28.COM/19

Progress report on Global Training Strategy

AFRICA 2009: Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa



Report of Activities for 2003

Background

1. As a result of a survey and needs assessment carried out in 1996, AFRICA 2009 was introduced at a regional meeting of African cultural heritage professionals held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 1998. The programme is a joint effort of African cultural heritage organizations, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, and CRATerre-EAG. AFRICA 2009 was developed as the operational step of the *Training Strategy for Immovable Cultural Heritage in sub-Saharan Africa* approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 20th session in Merida, Mexico in 1996. The programme should be seen as an instrument for carrying out the overall strategy of the World Heritage Committee for training immovable cultural heritage professionals in sub-Saharan Africa.

2. The 1998 - 2001 period was conceived of as the pilot phase for the programme. A core set of activities was gradually introduced and improved upon during this period. The pilot phase was successfully completed in December 2001. In 2002, the Consolidation Phase was introduced taking into account the results of an independent evaluation of the programme and the recommendations of the Directors Seminar in 2001.

3. The Programme objective of AFRICA 2009 is to increase national capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa for management and conservation of immovable cultural heritage.

4. The programme will achieve the following four outputs by its conclusion in 2009:

- national awareness as a means of promoting political, institutional, financial, and community commitment
- trained national professionals and other skilled persons involved in the conservation and management of the immovable cultural heritage in the participating countries
- an active network for exchange of information and experiences
- an effective and efficient management and implementation of the programme.

Guiding principles

5. AFRICA 2009 tries to ensure that all of its activities take into account the need for cultural heritage to remain a vital, useful element within the variety of social and cultural contexts found in the region. With this in mind, the programme has developed the following series of guiding principles over its pilot phase to aid in the conception and implementation of activities:

- to involve local communities in planning for and protecting heritage resources within their territory
- to give priority to local knowledge systems, human resources, skills and materials
- to ensure capacity building and create a balanced and stable base on which further sustainable developments can be made
- to give priority to simple, incremental solutions to problems, that can easily be implemented within an existing framework

- to focus on prevention and maintenance as a cost effective and sustainable strategy for management and conservation
- to ensure tangible benefits to local communities
- to create awareness and respect for international conservation norms.

Structure and partners

6. AFRICA 2009 is structured to take action at two levels.
- At the regional level, the *Projet Cadre* favors reflection and the progressive development of ideas, guarantees continuity within individual activities, and allows for the dissemination of results obtained by the programme. Courses, seminars, research projects, and the improvement of networking are implemented, based on the fact that the best way to deal with problems is to work together, share ideas, and develop common frameworks, which can be adapted to specific local needs.
 - At the site level, the *Projets Situés (In situ projects)* ensure that AFRICA 2009 is deeply rooted in the realities of the field while responding to specific needs of selected sites in terms of training and implementation of conservation activities.
7. Partners in the programme include African cultural heritage organizations, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, and CRATerre-EAG. Financial partners for the *Projet Cadre* include the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Swedish National Heritage Board, NORAD, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Finland, the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, and ICCROM. Total funding for the *Projet Cadre* in 2003 was approximately US\$ 1,200,000. Beginning in 2002, funding from the *Projet Cadre* has been made available for the implementation of some *Projets Situés*. In addition individual *Projets Situés* have been supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, French Embassies in individual countries, World Monuments Fund, UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage, and local and national heritage agencies, and private firms.
8. At the launch meeting of AFRICA 2009 in Abidjan, a Steering Committee was set up to oversee the progress of the programme. The Committee is composed of 4 African cultural heritage professionals (2 from Anglophone and 2 from Francophone countries) and one member each from the three international partner organizations, ICCROM, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and CRATerre-EAG.
9. The Secretariat of the programme is at ICCROM, which is charged with the day-to-day management of the programme. Implementations of activities of the *Projet Cadre* are primarily overseen by ICCROM, while CRATerre-EAG is primarily responsible for implementation of the *Projets Situés* (in both cases, always in partnership with African institutions). The World Heritage Centre, in addition to participating in the strategic development of the programme, is also involved in the preparation, with States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*, of proposals for *Projets Situés*, fundraising for the *Projet Cadre* and *Projets Situés*, increasing awareness of African cultural heritage through publications, and work on the Global Strategy and Periodic Reporting exercises.

Activities carried out in 2003

10. During 2003, the following activities were carried out within the programme:
 - 5th Regional Course on Conservation and Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage, Mombasa, Kenya, 25 August – 14 November 2003
 - 5th Directors Seminar, Mombasa, Kenya 10 – 14 November 2003
 - 4th Regional Thematic Seminar, « Cadres Législatifs de la Conservation du Patrimoine Culturel Immobilier », Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 13 – 17 October 2003
 - Workshop on Documentation and Inventory of Dry Stone Structures, Gaborone, Botswana, 2 – 22 July 2003
 - Research Project on Legal Guidance for the Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Anglophone Countries
 - 1st Technical Course on Documentation and Inventory of Immovable Cultural Heritage, Bafoussam, Cameroon, 30 June – 25 July 2003
 - National Seminar on Culture and Development, Lilongwe, Malawi, 22 – 24 July 2003
 - National Seminar on the Preventive Conservation of Historic Buildings and their Collections, Mombasa, Kenya, 17 - 28 November 2003
 - Publication of the third *AFRICA 2009 Newsletter* (English and French)
 - Email newslst
 - Database of professionals part of the AFRICA 2009 network
 - Continued production of promotional material for the programme including posters and the AFRICA 2009 exhibition
 - Six regional professionals were sponsored to attend the ICOMOS General Assembly in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe as well as a pre-conference meeting in Kimberly, South Africa
 - 3 regional professionals were given scholarships to attend international courses at ICCROM (Urban Conservation and Stone Conservation)
 - 2 former participants of the 3rd Regional Course were give scholarships to study for a masters degree from the University of Zimbabwe in the field of Heritage Resource Management
 - 1 regional professional was given an internship to work for the 1st Technical Course held in Bafoussam, Cameroon
 - 1 former participant of the 4th Regional Course (from Burkina Faso) was invited to contribute to a conservation project in northern Ghana
 - Computers and other equipment were distributed to some institutions in the region
 - Advice was given to the National Heritage Trust of Mauritius on draft heritage legislation being proposed in that country
 - Meeting to review the 2002 Regional Course and plan the 2003 Regional Course, Grenoble, France, 11 – 13 March 2003
 - Steering Committee Meeting 10, Lilongwe, Malawi, 29 – 31 January 2003 (held over from 2002)
 - Steering Committee Meeting 11, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 4 – 6 June 2003
 - Steering Committee Meeting 12, Mombasa, Kenya, 12 November 2003 (extraordinary meeting held during Directors Seminar)
 - Steering Committee Meeting 13, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 15 – 17 December 2003.

11. The following *Projets Situés* (in situ projects) were also carried out:
- Burkina Faso – Conservation and Presentation of the Na-Yiri of Kokologho (new)
 - Gabon – Cathédrale de Sainte Marie (continued)
 - Ghana – Larabanga Mosque (continued)
 - Kenya – Leven House and Steps (continued)
 - Nigeria – Inventory of Bauchi State (new)
 - Nigeria – Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (new)
 - Tanzania – Kondoa Rock Art Site (continued).

Selected Results of the Programme from 1998 - 2003

12. Below are some selected results obtained during the past 6 years of the programme:
- A. Regional and Technical Courses (6 courses, 3 in English and 3 in French)
- 120 Professionals from Africa have been trained in these courses from 43 countries
 - 70% of the professionals who have taken part as resource persons within the courses have been from within Africa
 - 21 previous course participants have taken part as course assistants
 - Draft management plans were produced for 10 sites
- B. Meetings and Seminars (5 Directors Seminars and 4 Thematic Seminars)
- Thematic topics dealt with during seminars include Documentation and Inventory, Public Awareness, and Legal Frameworks
 - 159 professionals from Africa have taken part in meetings/seminars
- C. Research Projects
- Workshop to Establish a Research Programme for Dry Stone Masonry in Southern Africa, Great Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe, 11 – 13 December 2000
 - Production of a report entitled, *Research Project on Traditional Conservation Practices in Africa* with articles by 11 African professionals on traditional conservation practices in their countries
 - Production of a rock art documentation course manual for use during COMRASA-2001
 - Workshop on the Management Planning Process, Grenoble, France, 11 – 15 March 2002
 - Workshop on Documentation and Inventory of Dry Stone Structures, Gaborone, Botswana, 2 – 22 July 2003
 - Legal Guidance for the Conservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Anglophone Countries
- D. Promotion and Networking
- A web site in both English and French
 - Three issues of the newsletter have been published in both English and French
 - An exhibition of 14 panels (with versions in English and French) has been produced to promote African Immovable Heritage in general and the AFRICA

2009 programme specifically with additional panels created to promote the immovable cultural heritage of individual countries

- A computerized database and an email distribution list have been created
- An exhibition, *L'Architecture des Kassena du Burkina Faso, Une expression des espaces au féminin* (The Architecture of Kassena in Burkina Faso, An Expression of Feminine Spaces) has been produced

E. Publications

- A book and CD-ROM have been published by the Université Senghor on the theme of Laws and Heritage, with partial funding by AFRICA 2009
- A book on earthen mosques in Mali has been published within the framework of the programme

F. Technical Assistance

- 20 Computers and other assorted equipment have been purchased by the programme for institutions in the region
- Approximately US\$ 2,500 worth of books have been purchased for conservation libraries and institutions in 4 countries
- 1 conservation laboratory technician from Zanzibar was trained at ICCROM

G. Exchange, Internship, and Scholarship

- Six professionals have received scholarships to attend an ICCROM course on cultural landscape management, urban conservation, and stone conservation
- One intern has been taken on by the programme to work on the 4th Regional Course
- Six regional professionals were funded to attend the ICOMOS General Assembly in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe as well as a pre-conference meeting in Kimberly, South Africa
- Two former participants of the 3rd Regional Course were given scholarships to study for a masters degree from the University of Zimbabwe in the field of Heritage Resource Management
- One regional professional was given an internship to work for the 1st Technical Course held in Bafoussam, Cameroon
- One former participant of the Fourth Regional Course from Burkina Faso was invited to contribute to a conservation project in northern Ghana

H. National Seminars

- National Seminar on Culture and Development, Lilongwe, Malawi, 22 – 24 July 2003
- National Seminar on the Preventive Conservation of Historic Buildings and their Collections, Mombasa, Kenya, 17 - 28 November 2003

I. *Projets Situés*

- Burkina Faso – Conservation and Presentation of the Na-Yiri of Kokologho (2003)
- Cameroon – Stone Built Structures in the Mandara Mountains (2002)
- Gabon – Cathédrale de Sainte Marie, Libreville (2002, 2003)

- Gambia (The) – James Island (2000, 2001)
- Ghana – Asante Traditional Buildings (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)
- Ghana – Larabanga Mosque (2002, 2003)
- Kenya – Leven House and Steps (2002, 2003)
- Mali – Tombeau des Askias (2001, 2002)
- Niger – Niamey, Zinder, and Agadez (2000, 2001, 2002)
- Nigeria – Inventory of Bauchi State (2003)
- Nigeria – Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (2003)
- Tanzania – Kondoa Rock Paintings Site (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003)
- Togo – Koutammakou Cultural Landscape (2002)
- Uganda – Kasubi Tombs (1998, 2000)
- Zimbabwe – Khami Archaeological Site (1998).

Activities Related to the Promotion of the World Heritage Global Strategy and Periodic Reporting Process

13. Activities within AFRICA 2009 aim to further the goals of the *World Heritage Convention* in relation to identification, protection, conservation, presentation, and transmission to future generations of the immovable cultural heritage of outstanding universal value located in sub-Saharan Africa. Towards this end, the programme has worked to strengthen both the Global Strategy and Periodic Reporting process in the region. In specific, the programme has worked with the following States Parties on the preparation of nomination files and management plans for the World Heritage List:

- Uganda, Kasubi Tombs (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001)
- The Gambia, James Island and its Related Sites (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003)
- Mali, Tombeau des Askia (to be discussed by the World Heritage Committee in 2004)
- Togo, Koutammakou Cultural Landscape (to be discussed by the World Heritage Committee in 2004)
- Tanzania, Kondoa Rock Art Sites (submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2004)
- Nigeria, Osun-Osogbo Cultural Landscape (submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2004).

14. In regard to Periodic Reporting, the programme worked with the World Heritage Centre and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation to implement a periodic reporting seminar in Ethiopia in 2001. The programme has also been supporting the implementation of the recommendations of the African periodic reporting exercise through the establishment of research and inventories, the promotion of local participation and discussion of improved administrative structures, the development of courses, seminars, and better management planning techniques, and the promotion of networking in the region.

Funding for 2004

15. At its 27th session in 2003, the World Heritage Committee approved funding for the AFRICA 2009 programme for each of the two years within the 2004 – 2005 biennium. Funding for 2004 amounts to US\$ 100,000. Additional sources of funding for the programme for 2004 will come from the following sources:

- SIDA and the Swedish National Heritage Board
- NORAD
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy
- ICCROM