



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

34 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-10/34.COM/10D

Paris, 19 July 2010

Original: English/French

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth session

Brasilia, Brazil

25 July – 3 August 2010

**Item 10D of the Provisional Agenda: Final report on the implementation of
the Africa 2009 Programme**

SUMMARY

This document summarises the achievements of the 12 year period of the Africa 2009 (1998-2009) as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its decision **33 COM 11C** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009).

Draft Decision: 34 COM 10.D, see Point V

I. 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, Côte d'Ivoire in 1998. The programme was a joint effort of African cultural heritage organizations, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, CRATerre-ENSAG, the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), and the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA). Financial partners included the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the Swedish National Heritage Board, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Italy and Finland, the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, and ICCROM. The Africa World Heritage Fund (AWHF) also became involved in some AFRICA 2009 activities after its creation. The period 1998 - 2001 was conceived as the pilot phase for the programme. The Consolidation Phase ran from 2002 – 2005, and was followed by the Final Phase (2006-2009). The programme was implemented in phases in order to take full advantage of the lessons learned and improve the delivery of the services over time. To attain this, an independent evaluation was carried out at the end of each phase.
2. The main Developmental Objective (goal) of the programme was to improve the management and conservation of immovable cultural heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa, while the Immediate Objective (purpose) of the programme was to increase the capacity of national institutions to better manage and conserve immovable heritage places in sub-Saharan Africa. The immediate objective was further divided into four sub-programme objectives, which were:
 - to increase professional knowledge and skills in the conservation and management of heritage places in Sub-Saharan Africa;
 - to develop a better informed perception of the importance of the immovable cultural heritage and its role in the national development process among (a) professionals, (b) decision makers and (c) local communities;
 - to strengthen the network of African cultural heritage professionals in order to share common approaches (vision and practices) and information;
 - to strengthen the capacities of sub-Saharan training institutions to continue with capacity building for national institutions managing and conserving immovable heritage places.
3. The programme was implemented taking into account a series of guiding principles including involving local communities in planning for and protecting heritage resources within their territory; giving priority to local knowledge systems, human resources, skills, and materials; focusing on prevention and maintenance as a cost effective and sustainable strategy for management and conservation; and ensuring tangible benefits to local communities;
4. At the launch meeting of AFRICA 2009 in Abidjan, a Steering Committee was set up to oversee the progress of the programme. The Committee was made up of 6 African cultural heritage professionals and one member each from the 5 institutional partners. The Secretariat of the programme was at ICCROM, while CRATerre-ENSAG was 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, was 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.

II. Activities Carried Out between 1998 and 2009

5. Over the 12 year period of the programme, the following activities were carried out by the programme.

a) *Regional Training*

11 three-month courses on Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage were carried out which trained approximately 220 African professionals from 42 countries. These courses taught the basic concepts of management planning while also looking at issues such as documentation, inventory, and legal frameworks for conservation. Over the period of the course the number of professionals from the region teaching on the course rose from approximately 50% to over 80%. In addition, a number of participants in earlier courses became course assistants and eventually resource persons for later courses. 7 technical courses were also held training approximately 130 professionals from 40 countries. Topics for these courses included preventative conservation, documentation and inventory, and environmental impact assessment.

b) *Research and Publication*

6 books were published with the participation of 57 authors from the region on the following topics: *Traditional Conservation Practices in Africa* (English and French translations); *Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Africa*; *Cultural Heritage and the Law, Protection Juridique du Patrimoine Culturel Immobilier* ; and *Projets Situés: 10 Years of Field Experience*. Materials were also developed on documentation of rock art and dry-stone structures, as was a database of African heritage sites.

c) *National and Regional Seminars*

17 regional and national seminars were carried out as part of the programme covering issues such as documentation, legal frameworks, conservation of sacred sites, and sustainable tourism. Of these seminars 2 were on special topics related to heritage and development. The first dealt with the role of cultural heritage in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the second covered the topic of cultural heritage and poverty alleviation. 11 Directors Seminars were also held which brought together the directors of cultural heritage on an annual basis, both to discuss the progress of the programme, and to cover topics of particular interest to those leading their national heritage organizations. In total, over 800 professionals from the region took part in these seminars.

d) *Projets Situés*

37 *Projets Situés* (site projects) were carried out by the programme in 23 countries in the region. These projects covered various aspects including documentation, maintenance, management planning, conservation, and site promotion. Projects covered various typologies of sites such as individual buildings, historic towns, cultural landscapes, and the projects were spread out to cover all of the sub-regions within sub-Saharan Africa. In total over 1,500 people including community members, masons, heritage professionals and authorities participated actively to the *Projets Situés*, allowing mutual exchanges of knowledge and capacity building.

e) *Strengthening Networks*

In the area of strengthening networks in the region, the programme has probably reached its most significant success. The continued involvement of professionals over the life of the programme has led to much stronger connections amongst professionals in the

region and between those in the region and professionals at the international level. The staff of the programme have noted a marked increase of communication and cooperation across the region, and the network has been used by institutions such as the AWHF, EPA, and CHDA for other activities. On a more formal level, the programme has maintained a website and email news-list, and published annual newsletters to ensure a wide diffusion of information on conservation in general and the programme in particular. The programme also maintained a database of professionals in the region which will continue to be of use to the AWHF, EPA, CHDA, ICCROM, and the World Heritage Centre.

f) *Strengthening of the Two Regional Training Institutions*

One of the objectives of the programme was to provide support to the two regional training institutions in the region, EPA and CHDA. Both have been working closely with the programme since its beginnings, and have been responsible for the implementation of the three-month courses and other activities. Since 2006, both became formal partners and have had a role in the planning and implementation of the programme as a whole. In addition, the programme has provided equipment and some support for staffing at both institutions.

III. Specific Benefits for World Heritage System

8. In addition to the overall results of the programme listed above, the programme has produced a number of specific benefits for the World Heritage system. *7 Projets Situés* were implemented which lead to the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List. These include the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi in Uganda (listed in 2001), James Island and Related Sites in the Gambia (2003), Tomb of Askia in Mali (2004), Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba in Togo (2004), Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove in Nigeria (2005), Kondoa Rock Art Sites in Tanzania (2006), and the Stone Circles of Senegambia in Senegal and the Gambia (2006). Indirectly the programme contributed to the inscription of another 20 properties on the World Heritage List through participants of regional courses being responsible for, or making major contributions to, the nomination process using the skills gained in AFRICA 2009 activities.
9. The programme has also been involved with a number of other site projects which have benefited World Heritage Properties such as the development of a management plan for the Khami Ruins National Monument in Zimbabwe, the Island of Mozambique in Mozambique, and the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi in Uganda. At the Ashanti Traditional Buildings property in Ghana, a number of activities such as maintenance plans and site promotion have been carried out. Research on traditional construction and conservation practices has also been carried out at the Kasubi Tombs, and Ashanti Traditional Buildings already mentioned above, and in addition, the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests in Kenya, and Timbuktu in Mali. Indirectly, the programme has also contributed to the creation of management plans for many other sites in sub-Saharan Africa.
10. The programme has also benefited World Heritage through the emphasis placed on networking. Activities such as the Periodic Reporting exercise has benefited a great deal from the AFRICA 2009 network, with most, if not all, of those participating in the exercise, having participated previously in one or more of the AFRICA 2009 activities. As stated above, the network is also of strong benefit to the AWHF in carrying out many of its capacity building activities in favour of World Heritage properties.

IV. Conclusion and Next Steps

11. In looking at the overall benefits of AFRICA 2009, that the programme had a very strong beneficial effect for conservation of the immovable cultural heritage of sub-Saharan Africa. Through the training of over 350 professionals in regional training courses and the involvement of many more in other activities, the programme has left the region with a higher capacity to identify, protect, conserve, present, and transmit to future generations, the important cultural heritage of the region. In addition, by giving priority to the participatory approach and traditional knowledge systems, the programme has ensured that local communities around the region are now empowered to protect and manage the sites located in their communities. The programme was also able to promote a better recognition of the richness and diversity of the African heritage, as well as to give countries the tools to improve their legal and administrative frameworks. Perhaps most importantly, however, the programme was able to strongly promote the recognition of African expertise, thus improving the long-term capacity for conservation in the region.
12. Despite the gains made the AFRICA 2009 programme, however, the benefits remain somewhat fragile. There remains a need for continued support to the region in order to consolidate the gains achieved, and in particular to continue to strengthen the regional training institutions involved in capacity building for African professionals.
13. Towards this end, a follow-up programme is being designed with EPA and CHDA as lead partners. The programme is designed to consolidate and build on the successes of AFRICA 2009, but expand the scope of activities. Towards this end, it is projected that for the first time, this new, long-term programme will combine activities for both cultural and natural heritage conservation.
14. The development of the new programme began with an evaluation of the AFRICA 2009 programme and a needs assessment to identify ongoing issues of concern. Several consultative meetings were then held to further the programme development.
15. The main aim of the new programme will be to identify and promote opportunities for sustainable development in communities in Africa through the effective conservation, management, and use of heritage resources, using the framework of the World Heritage Convention.
16. The principle objectives will be:
 - to develop and strengthen methodological approaches and conditions for better contribution of heritage conservation, management, and use for sustainable development in communities in Africa;
 - to strengthen the capacity of institutions and professionals to work together with communities to promote opportunities for sustainable development through heritage conservation, management and use in Africa;
 - to strengthen the ability of heritage institutions in Africa to ensure a regional mechanism of capacity building for sustainable development in communities through heritage conservation, management, and use.
17. Activities of the new programme will include:
 - development of curriculum/methodology;

- sub-regional workshops/ field activities (field schools);
- regional workshops;
- thematic seminars/research and dissemination;
- regional courses on conservation;
- public awareness programs.

18. The new programme is scheduled to continue through 2020.

V. Draft Decision 34 COM 10D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/10D,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 11C** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Notes the strong results obtained by the AFRICA 2009 programme from 1998 - 2009;
4. Notes with appreciation the work done by the 5 institutional partners, ICCROM, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, CRA Terre-ENSAG, EPA, and CHDA to contribute to the successful implementation of the programme;
5. Also notes with strong appreciation the role of the financial partners, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the Swedish National Heritage Board, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Italy and Finland, the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, and ICCROM in the success of the programme;
6. Endorses the concept of a new programme to be managed by the regional institutions to consolidate the gains of AFRICA 2009 and to expand its scope to include natural heritage conservation;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to continue to support capacity building efforts in Africa and to ensure that the new programme's objective takes into account results of the second cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for Africa;
8. Further requests State Parties to prioritise the allocation of additional financial resources to ensure the successful implementation of the new programme.