Evaluation mission on the reconstruction of

Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga
Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi

A World Heritage property of Uganda

Mission undertaken from 25th November to 5th December 2015 by
Sébastien Moriset, architect, CRAterre

Activity managed by the UNESCO regional office for East Africa in Nairobi
This mission was implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the Buganda Kingdom

Project implemented with funding provided by the Government of Japan

December 2015

CRAterre project code: UGA022
Evaluation mission report on the reconstruction of

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Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi
A World Heritage property of Uganda (C 1022)

This document is the result of the mission undertaken in Kampala from 25th November to 5th December 2015
by Sébastien Moriset, CRAterre

This mission is the third of a series of 4 missions financed by the Japan Funds in Trust at UNESCO to evaluate the reconstruction process. It is part of contract N°4500235487 between the UNESCO regional office for East Africa in Nairobi and CRAterre in France.

This mission was implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the Buganda Kingdom

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Acknowledgements

We wish to thank all those who contributed to the activities carried out during the mission:

**UNESCO**

Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO
Mechtild Rössler, Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Vitalice Ochieng, Programme Specialist in Culture at the UNESCO office for East Africa in Nairobi
Lazare Eloundou, Officer in Charge of the UNESCO Office in Bamako
Laura Frank and Karalyn Monteil, World Heritage Centre, Paris

**The Government of Japan**

The Government of Japan who funded the mission through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage

**The Uganda National Commission to UNESCO**

Augustine Omore-Okurut, Secretary General of the National Commission to UNESCO
Daniel Kaweesi, Uganda National Commission to UNESCO, Programe officer
David Kalanzi, former NatCom member involved in the documentation of the reconstruction process

**The Department of Museums and Monuments**

Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
Remigius Kigongo, conservator, Department of Museums and Monuments

**The Buganda Kingdom**

Kabaka Ronald Mwenda Kimeera Mutebi II
Owek Peter Mayiga, Katikkiro (Prime Minister) of Buganda
Owek. Deniswaluimbir-segendo, Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage
Owek. Sekimpi Mahmoud Ssemambo, 2nd Deputy Katikkiro and Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage
Architect Jonathan Nsubuga, architect of the reconstruction project
Christopher Sebuliba, Executive Director, Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board
Christopher Kwoya, Senior thatcher, Ngeye clan, Kasubi Royal Tombs
Stephen Mpanga, Kasubi Tombs
The custodians of the Kasubi Tombs site
The technical and administrative staff of the Kasubi Tombs site

**The guides**

Jackson Monday, Stephen Mpanga, Lydia Nabaganda, Barbara Nansumba, Fred Ndaula and Adam Bamweyana

**The Japanese experts on Thatch and risk management**

Kazuhiki Nitto, Conservation architect and Professor at the University of Tsukuba
Junichi Hasegawa, Architect specialised in Disaster mitigation
Sugasawa Shigeru, Architect, Department of architecture at the Kogakuin University
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1. Background information

This mission to Uganda was organised from 25th November to 5th December 2015, with the support of the Government of Japan. It is the third of a series of 4 missions. It aimed to assess and document the progress made in the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga and deliver the Tour guiding manual designed during the July 2015 workshop held at Kasubi. The mission also aimed to start working on the Technical guide on Ganda architecture. The implementation of this mission was coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Nairobi.

1.1. CRAterre mission objectives and work assignments

This mission is the third of a set of four missions that CRAterre should implement as part of the contract N°4500235487 to evaluate the reconstruction process of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga.

Objectives of this third mission

The objectives of this mission were the following:

- To evaluate the site and report to UNESCO
- To deliver the "Tour guiding Manual" to the Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board
- To start work on the technical guide on thatch

Assignments for CRAterre

The work assignments for CRAterre are described as follows in UNESCO contract:

Evaluation missions

- To organise four evaluation missions to Kasubi, approximately one every 5 months depending on the advancement of the reconstruction works.
- To document the reconstruction process in such a way that in the future, maintenance and construction of other roofs will be easier.
- To report to UNESCO on the observations made during these missions, including any recommendations for improvement in the reconstruction work

Capacity building: tourism

- To organize a one-day workshop with the guides of this World Heritage Site during one of the four missions in order to assess their knowledge of the site and evaluate their needs in terms of communication tools.
  The training will focus on conservation ethics, reconstruction approaches, Ganda craftsmanship and traditions, risk prevention and customer care.
- To prepare a simple guide on the history and values of the site based on the booklet published by CRAterre.

Capacity building: technical guide on thatch

- To prepare a technical guide on how to build a traditional Ganda thatched roof. In doing so, CRAterre shall liaise closely with the Japanese experts who prepared the reports on the subject.
1.2. Selection of photos taken during the mission

*Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga: No progress on the roof since July.*

The contractor fixed the tarpaulin during the mission prior to the Katikkiro’s visit

*Preparation of a new set of top rings for Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga*

*Bujayabukula, ticket office and Ndoga-Obukaba*  
*Ndoga-Obukaba*  
*Bujayabukula*

*The Katikkiro and Buganda Ministers visiting the site on Tuesday 1st December 2015*

*Meeting with the new Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage*  
*The Katikkiro and Buganda Ministers visiting the site on Tuesday 1st December 2015*
1.3. Mission activities

**Tuesday 24 November 2015**
- Departure from France

**Wednesday 25 November 2015**
- Flight to Entebbe
- Arrival in Kampala late in the evening

**Thursday 26 November 2015**
- Meeting with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
- Phone discussion with Vitalice Ochieng, UNESCO Nairobi office.

**Friday 27 November 2015**
- Meeting with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
- Meeting with Christopher Sebuliba, Executive Director, Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board
- Visit of the site

**Saturday 28 November 2015**
- Meeting with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
- Meeting with Remigius Kigongo, Conservator, Department of Museums and monuments
- Visit of the site to discuss with Bagirinya Elias Sserumpanise, Siraji Kavuma, Isaya Kyagwe, Ibrahim Mayanja, Patrick Mwanje, Abasi Mwanje. Documentation of the preparation of ring N°1
- Preparation of a Bibliography on Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga

**Sunday 29 November 2015**
- Meeting with Architect Jonathan Nsubuga, architect of the reconstruction project
- Visit of the site with Remigius Kigongo to discuss with Elias Sserumpanise, Bagirinya and document the preparation of ring N°2.
- Discussions with the site staff (guides and cleaning staff) and with the widows
- Work on a draft timeline
- Completion of the Bibliography on Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga

**Monday 30 November 2015**
- Brief meeting with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
- Meeting with Honourable Denis Walusimbi-Ssegendo, Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage.
- Visit of the site to discuss with Elias Sserumpanise, Bagirinya and document the preparation of ring N°3
- Printing photographs for the craftsmen doing the rings
- Meeting with Architect Jonathan Nsubuga, architect of the reconstruction project and Jacqueline Namayanja, architect

**Tuesday 1 December 2015**
- Brief meeting with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
- Visit of the site to discuss with Elias Sserumpanise, Bagirinya, document the preparation of ring N°3 and give them the first set of photographs.
- Discussion with Abbey Sekabira, Volunteer on security, Buganda Kingdom
- Documentation of precious artefacts and properties thrown away
- Discussions with the widows
- Visit of the site by the Katikkiro of Buganda and a delegation of Ministers. Brief discussion with the Katikkiro and with Honourable Denis Walusimbi-Ssegendo, Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage.
- Meeting with Architect Jonathan Nsubuga, architect of the reconstruction project and Jacqueline Namayanja, architect to work out a new timeline.
- Printing photographs for the craftsmen doing the rings
Wednesday 2 December 2015
– Brief meeting with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments
– Meeting with Architect Jonathan Nsubuga, architect of the reconstruction project and Jacqueline Namayanja, architect to work out a new timeline.

Thursday 3 December 2015
– Work on the reconstruction timeline
– Visit of the site
– Printing of the reconstruction timeline
– Work on the report

Friday 4 December 2015
– Meeting with Honourable Denis Walusimbi-Ssegendo, Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage and Kaddu Kiberu, Chairman of the Buganda Reconstruction Committee
– Discussion with Jonathan Nsubuga, architect of the reconstruction project
– Meeting with Remigius Kigongo, Conservator, Department of Museums and monuments
– Phone discussion with Rose Nkaale Mwanja, Commissioner, Department of Museums and monuments

Saturday 5 December 2015
– Visit of the site to document the finished rings and look at the firefighting equipment in place
– Work on the report
– Departure from Entebbe airport

Sunday 6 December 2015
– Arrival in France.
2. Tour guiding manual

2.1. Distribution

15 copies were printed in France and brought to Uganda during the mission. They were distributed as follows:

11 Copies were given to Ssebuliba Christopher, Executive Director of the Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board. 6 of these copies will be given to the Kasubi guides:
- Stephen Mpanga, Chief Guide, Kasubi
- Barbara Nansumba, Guide and team leader, Kasubi
- Jackson Monday Magezi, Guide and Acting Cashier, Kasubi
- Fred Ndaula, Guide, Kasubi
- Lydia Nabaganda, Guide, Kasubi
- Adam Bamweyana, Guide, Kasubi

The remaining 5 copies will be distributed by Christopher Ssebuliba. One should be kept in his office for archives. One should go to the Minister’s office and one to the Kabaka.

3 Copies were given to the museum
- 1 copy for the Museum archives
- 1 copy for the Museum entrance, to encourage visitors to visit Kasubi
- 1 copy for Remigius Kigongo, conservator, Department of Museums and Monuments

1 Copy was given to architect Nsubuga, who provided many illustrations for the production of this manual

TOTAL: 15 copies

The soft copy of the document was given to Christopher Ssebuliba and to the Museum. More copies can be printed in Kampala if needed (Nasser road), where good quality A3 colour prints can easily be made. Some pages were corrected and reprinted during the mission at 800 Shillings/page (Printer’s name: Yaya 0705072847).

2.2. Launching ceremony

The initial idea was to distribute the manual during the mission and organise a small launching ceremony. This was unfortunately not possible because time was lacking to prepare the ceremony. Christopher Ssebuliba, the Executive Director of the Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board also wanted to circulate the document to various officials for approval before distributing it to the guides. Another reason was that Remigius Kigongo, conservator at the Department of Museums and Monuments was out of the country. As one of the co-authors, we felt he had to be present for the ceremony. The launching ceremony will therefore be organised at the beginning of January 2016.
3. Technical guide on Ganda thatching

3.1. Work done during the mission

As the site was at standstill during the mission, nothing could be done to produce new drawings or take photographs. The only activity documented was the production of the top 3 rings by Sserumpanise Elias and his team. Daily visits were organised at the site to take photos of the different production stages.

However, a large amount of documentation was collected to feed the technical guide. Most of this documentation was obtained from architect Nsubuga, who has become the main source of knowledge on Ganda thatching generally, and on Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga in particular. This documentation will be analysed in 2016 to serve as a base to draft the Technical guides.

For more information on the list of documents collected, please refer to the bibliography in Appendix 5.3. page 31.

3.2. Work plan to complete the technical guide

The reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga will take at least 2 years (until end of 2017), according to the working sessions we had on the reconstruction timeline. Completing the technical guide will take as much time, because each step needs to be documented as implementation takes place. Writing the technical guide before the roof reconstruction is unfortunately not possible.

It is important to note that the UNESCO-CRAterre contract ends in January 2016. If we want to conduct the documentation process to its conclusion, contract No. 4500235487 should again be amended by UNESCO.
4. Site evaluation

4.1. General site evaluation

The following chart was designed in 2014 and updated during this mission. It intends to present the state of conservation of the main components of the Kasubi Tombs site. Conserving these elements is essential to maintain the outstanding universal value of the site, and to reaffirm its World Heritage Status. For each element, an assessment of the state of conservation is suggested on the outer circle of the chart. The green portion indicates strong authenticity and integrity. In opposition, the red portion signifies important losses or changes.
4.2. Strengths *(revised in December 2015)*

Management and site development
- A new Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage (Owek. Denis Walusimbi-Ssegendo) is in place and considers rebuilding Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga as his main priority. The traditional management system is still in place.
- The Buganda Heritage and Tourism board is now operational; it deals with tourism management, staff management and regular maintenance. It does not interfere with major conservation works.
- Architect Nsubuga and his team produce monthly reports.
- The site has been revitalised after the 2010 tragedy.
- Human and financial resources are mobilised.
- Wabulakayole’s essential role is recognised by the Kabaka and by the new Minister.
- A solar power plant provides electricity for the custodians.
- Fire extinguishers are in place.
- An archaeologist supervised the excavation of a hole for the underground water cistern.
- The national technical committee is holding meetings again.

Architecture
- The site has 6 thatched roofs that reflect the expertise of the thatchers.
- 2 of them have kept a high degree of authenticity (Bujjabukula and Ndoga-Obukaba).
- Jonathan Nsubuga, the architect managing the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga has a good understanding of the traditional architecture.
- The mud house that almost collapsed has been restored.
- The conservation technique is still alive and the materials still available.
- The architectural values are understood by many custodians, both at the top level of the Kingdom and at the site.
- The museum project has been cancelled.

Fence
- The fence is now completed; it protects the entire site.
- Encroachment is not possible from outside.

Natural elements
- The fence will protect the farm land. Custodians and guides mention the return of animals that had become rare such as monkeys.
- Medicinal plants are still available in large numbers.
- Different tree species can be found.

Visitor’s management and experience
- Experienced guides are available.
- An open air exhibition is displayed at the site entrance. It has suffered and would require replacement, but it remains a very efficient education and interpretation tool.
- The road signs leading to the site are still in place.
- The traditional life on site is real (custodians are not acting before the visitors), they keep living, cooking, farming, using medicinal plants in the traditional way.
- The garbage heaps have been removed from the site.
- Toilets are now available all around the site.
4.3. Weaknesses *(revised in December 2015)*

**Management and site development**
- The general atmosphere is deteriorated by high tensions between custodians. Most custodians keep performing their duties but they feel neglected by the current site management team.
- The decisions making process at the site still needs clarifications.
- The right procedures concerning rituals are controversial.
- The architect (Nsubuga) who is the most knowledgeable person as far as the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga is concerned is considered by many custodians as an obstacle.
- The conservator of the Department of Museums and Monuments responsible for Kasubi (Remigius Kigongo) is rarely on site.
- UNESCO is not systematically consulted or informed when changes are planned. Plans are still discussed concerning the construction of a cultural village on the farmland.
- The reactive monitoring mission reports are not well distributed, information in general does not circulate fast enough within Uganda and internationally.
- Japanese and CRAterre experts don’t receive reports prepared in Uganda (by Museum, Nsubuga)
- There is no shared vision on the site development. A master plan is urgently required.
- Many custodians express their dissatisfaction with current changes. They want Omega the contractor to leave the site, now that concrete/steel work is complete.
- The craftsmen are not happy to see that part of their work is given to external teams.
- Wabulakayole has become very weak.
- Neither the custodians nor the guides know how to operate the fire extinguishers.
- The firefighting system is not yet operational.

**Architecture**
- The strong aesthetic values represented by Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga are temporarily lost.
- The percentage of contemporary building materials such as concrete has increased since 2010.
- The Ganda architecture is endangered. It almost disappeared from rural areas and the Kasubi Hill is no longer a “protected area” for these architectures.
- Bujabukula roof is deteriorating fast.
- New buildings have been erected in 2013-2014 without consulting the project architect supervising the reconstruction (Jonathan Nsubuga). They do not reflect traditional architecture in terms of materials, know-how, shapes, textures, colours ...
- The reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga has not started yet.
- Huge amounts of funding are wasted due to lack of collaboration and mistakes done.
- Poles brought for Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga are not straight.

**Fence**
- The block wall is very high and does not reflect Ganda architecture.
- The gate with lions and lights give a cheap image of the site right from the entrance.
- Reeds fall of the fence. Some are simply removed by women for cooking.

**Natural elements**
- Many trees are missing along the fence and around the courtyard.

**Visitor’s management and experience**
- There is very little to show to visitors. The ticket office/souvenir shop is not attractive and does not reflect the site values. The number of visitors keeps decreasing according to the guides.
- The site is poorly maintained (materials and objects abandoned on the ground).
- The booklet revised after the 2010 tragedy cannot be purchased although it is available at the Museum. Medicinal plants are not appreciated; they could be better protected and presented to the public.
4.4. Intangible Heritage

The lack of clarity in the management of intangible heritage seems to contribute significantly to the difficulties currently experienced on site. Unclear practices cause delays in the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga and waste valuable resources. In addition, the multiplication of improper rituals has resulted in the loss of confidence in the persons believed to guarantee the integrity of these intangible values. A damaging atmosphere of witchcraft war prevails on site. According to the Bataka (hereditary elders of Buganda), “All the rituals were wrongly done and have to be re-done”\(^1\). In his October 2015 report, the Project Manager also emphasizes on the lack of understanding and respect for the intangible values, and particularly on the genuine rituals which must be followed. According to discussions held with various custodians during our mission, we understood that real rituals do not require important funds. They need simple materials and very limited financial inputs. Reorganization of human resources is essential to ensure that these cultural practices are better managed and controlled. We should not forget that intangible values at Kasubi are one of the outstanding universal values (OUV) which brought the site on the World Heritage List.

4.5. Site Management

**Kingdom Governance**

A new Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage (Denis Walusimbi-Ssegendo) is now in charge of the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga at the Kingdom level. Rebuilding Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga is his main priority. He showed us during the mission that he is entirely devoted to this task by visiting the site several times per week. He has started working with the craftsmen directly, and explained during the mission that he will work with all the skilled people available, including architect Nsubuga to achieve his goal.

**Governance at the site level**

The current management at the site level encourages division and conflicts of interest. The strong values that brought the site on the World Heritage List will continue deteriorating irremediably. Personal interests continue to pass the common cultural interests of the Kingdom and the entire Ugandan nation. This is totally unacceptable and must be corrected before the roof reconstruction continues. Such poisonous climate is not sound and does not contribute to the spirit of cooperation that such a project needs. Many signs show a lack of concern of custodians for the site: materials left to deteriorate in the courtyard, reeds removed from the fence for cooking, personal belongings thrown out behind the fence (pictures below).

\(^1\) Nsubuga J., *Kasubi Royal Tombs reconstruction*, Progress report, Kampala, October 2015.
Organisation chart
The chart presented on next page takes into account the changes observed since July 2015. Nalinya Namika is not in charge of the reconstruction anymore, and does not supervise the craftsmen as she did during the first semester. However, the contractor is still in the system, although he is not specialized in vernacular building techniques. We recommend that only professionals specialized in traditional construction techniques be involved in the next phases.
4.6. Visitor Management

**Ticket office**
The ticket office is the second element visitors encounter on their site tour. Even if it is not part of the traditional site setting, efforts should be made to make it more appealing culturally. This is where people pay before their visit; they should be given the impression right from there that the visit is worth the money they pay for. The place could reflect the incredible know-how of Ganda craftsmen instead of displaying industrial tiles and painted walls. The new ticket counter made of low quality imported materials is adding to this poor image; it reflects the misunderstanding of the site values by its managers. On the same counter, a paper promoting an Airtime loading system is displayed. This could be acceptable in a business centre, but not in the ticket office of a World Heritage Site. The highly skilled Ganda craftsmen should be mobilized to improve on the ticket office.
4.7. Fence

The fences remain a good protection for the site. However, they increase maintenance burden. As shown on the pictures below, the inner fence is not respected by the custodians. Women admitted removing reeds from the inner fence for cooking. Concerning the outer fence, termites eat the vegetal ropes that hold the reeds in place. All the sound parts should be treated to slow down further destruction by termites.
4.8. Bujjabukula

As we mentioned in the July report, Bujjabukula is the oldest and most authentic architectural elements of the site and as such, it deserves to be well preserved. The roof has continued to sag since July, deep gullies can be seen in the thatch and leakage was witnessed during the mission on both sides of the corridor, in the hidden areas where the public has no access.

In the future, the roof will need to be dismantled and reconstructed with the proper slope, according to the archive photograph presented in the July report².

Need for urgent preventive measures
We understand that Bujjabukula is not a priority now, because the pressure on Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga is too high. However, doing nothing now could lead to the deterioration of some elements, such as the reed decoration at the entrance or the internal rings under the roof. This would be a terrible loss. As a preventive measure, the gullies need to be fixed while work continues on Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga. Small quantities of work are needed at this stage to block water penetration. The more we wait, the more materials will be required. Grass is actually available on site, in the sheds at the back of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga. This grass will certainly not be good enough in 2017 to be laid on Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga. We therefore suggest using it now to fix Bujjabukula and allow the structure to resist until 2018.

Unsightly elements
We also noticed a lack of respect of this architectural element. Apart from the awful lighting system, the custodians have placed posters on both sides of the corridor. This is not new, but there were fewer posters in the past, and they were placed in more discrete areas. These posters do not add to the architectural or cultural value of this element and should be removed.
4.9. Ndoga-Obukaba

The roof and the entrance are generally well preserved. We only observed a decaying process of the thatch on the eastern side, under the coffee tree. The branches are driving humidity inside the thatch and they prevent drying after the rain.
4.10. Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga

The 24 new rings installed between March and July 2015 have been removed, except the 3 top rings which keep hanging. They have suffered from the rain and will soon be removed. This step backward in the reconstruction was due to the fact that the shape was completely different from what had been agreed upon by the architect, the national technical committee and the various experts. The curvature and height did not stick to the 1938 ceiling that was 8.7 meters high in the centre. The 24 rings in place in July were also not perfectly circular.

During this mission, a new team of craftsmen was mobilised by the new Minister for Culture, Royal Tombs and Heritage to produce 3 new rings for the top (the 3 smaller rings). These 3 rings are called enkata (smallest) katumyo (middle rings) and buggwe (largest of the three)\(^3\). The new rings produced are very good in quality, but were unfortunately produced by an external team of Bagirinya, coming from Lubanja. They claim to be only contracted to produce the top 3 rings and that they are not supposed to produce the other rings. But they want to join the other Bagirinya team to work on the remaining rings. The rings measure approximately 9cm in diameter. They are made of palm fronds (mawume) tied together with a sisal rope. Once the ring is shaped, it is covered with a layer of braided sisal rope.

A part from the rings, no other works have commenced yet. Only intangible activities took place. Procurement of materials did not start either. Materials found at the site are the same than those we saw in July, stored in the shed behind Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga. The 21 rings dismantled in July by the Wabulakayole team were inappropriately left on the ground, exposed to humidity and termites. None of the reeds can unfortunately be recycled.

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\(^3\) Nsubuga J., Kasubi Royal Tombs reconstruction, Progress report, Kampala, March 2015
Despite the tarpaulin, timber poles and rafters remain exposed to the rains.

Grass bundles stored under the shed.

Dismantled rings decaying on the ground.

Sisal rope used.

Braiding the sisal rope.

Braided sisal rope.
Braiding the sisal rope

Shaping the first ring
Fiber used to tie the rings
First ring completed with its braided sisal rope layer

First 2 rings completed
Wrapping the third ring with the braided sisal rope

Third ring completed
Proposed timeline to rebuild Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga
The following timeline was produced based on discussions with the craftsmen and with architect Nsubuga. This is an ideal timeline.

### MUZIBU-AZAALA-MPANGA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANAGEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify expert team to ensure scientific/technical supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select working team for the roof reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree on the work plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet on a weekly basis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEILING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare 3 new top rings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and invite right people for rituals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various rituals to be performed prior to installing ceiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismantle previous rings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determination of S2 rings placement methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark position of the S2 rings on the ground according to plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix 3 new rings at the top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest vegetal materials for the ceiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed preparation (cleaning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare reed bundles with palm fronds tied with binding wire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install 49 other ceiling rings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build reed web ceiling above the rings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select the poles and bring them to site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install timber poles to support ceiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Activities after installation of poles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning reeds for main entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bending of reeds at correct angles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate entrance with reeds/fibers according to archive photos</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THATCHWORKS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various rituals to be performed prior to thatching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest vegetal materials for the thatched roof and supply site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundling the grass as per Wabulakayole’s approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nsambya putfins placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface reeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural thatch beams (15mm dia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper surface reeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structural reed works on external roof overhang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement of grass bundles</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECORATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Various rituals to be performed after completing the thatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Activities after completing thatching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal finishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wall dressing -bark cloth curtains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floor dressing -bark cloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floor dressing -lemon grass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decorative floor stabjdmekwa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleansing (Kunyokeza) of the building interior - Smoking</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTEFACTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photographs to be obtained from Uganda Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objects/Regalia - Spears damaged to have remedial works carried out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper spears lost to be recast as per records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medals to be obtained from specialist medal suppliers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New shields to be supplied and initiation ceremonies to accompany works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drums destroyed to be made:-Musiba lusonso drums (long drum with snake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two groups of drums for new moon festivals &amp; special occasions</td>
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<tr>
<th>FINISHES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rituals after completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External works - Compacted laterite works for storm water drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restortion of walkway in courtyard with stabilised compacted soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand over home to Custodian</td>
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<tr>
<th>FINAL INSPECTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>OPENING CEREMONY</td>
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<tr>
<th>BUJJABUKULA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency repairs on the roof</td>
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<tr>
<th>NDoga Obukaba</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trimming tree branches to prevent further deterioration of the thatch</td>
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**Note:** The timeline is based on a timeline produced by the Uganda National Museums Board and the Uganda Museum, and refined by the Uganda National Museums Board, the Rebuild Muzibu Trust, and the Uganda National Museums Board. The timeline is intended to guide the reconstruction process and ensure that the roof is completed in a timely and efficient manner. The timeline is subject to change as the project progresses and as needed to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances.
4.11. Firefighting system

The firefighting system is not yet in place. Many items have been set up (extinguishers, borehole, solar power plant, overhead water thanks), but important components are still missing, including the underground tank, the water pumps and the water cannons.

It is obvious that no work on the ceiling and roof should commence unless the firefighting system is operational and the site staff is trained on how to use it. This will take several additional months. This time should serve to plan the ceiling reconstruction in details, solve all the management and rituals issues, install the lightning arrestor and start procuring materials. Given the current tensions and rivalries at Kasubi, there is no need to work on the ceiling if security is not ensured within the site.

450 m³ hole dug for the underground water tank

Extinguishers in place

Pump House, empty for the moment

Borehole, dug but not yet connected

Tanks in place near Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga
5. Appendixes

5.1. Newspaper articles

Bukkede newspaper, Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Abagirinja bataliriza okuundu ebizizi by’Asairo

Bukkede newspaper, Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Kabaka Mwanga is hero - Mayiga

UCC blocks Mirundi from TV, radio
5.2. Report by Vitalice Ochieng, UNESCO Nairobi office

REF: NAI/CLT/MR/2015

MISSION REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Staff:</th>
<th>Vitalice OCHIENG</th>
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<tr>
<td>To: Director, Nairobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cc: AO, Nairobi</td>
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City, Country of Mission: Kampala, Uganda

Date of Mission: 19th – 20th November

A. MANDATORY INFORMATION

1. Purpose of mission:

The main objective of this mission was to assess progress of reconstruction project at Kasubi royal Tombs which has been listed under the World Heritage Sites danger list. The project has been lagging behind schedule and it is only three months to the end of the project period while significant amount of work is yet to be accomplished.

Specifically, the mission was to:

a. Meet the architect, Site Manager and establish the reasons why works at the Tombs have stalled for about two months.

b. Meet some representatives of the Committee to discuss ways of fast-tracking the progress.

c. Meet the engineer and review the technical specifications/ Bill of Quantities for the installation of the fire-fighting system in line with the available resources.

d. Discuss with the stakeholders to come up with recommendations and the way forward.

2. Background information of the mission (if any):

The Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi were destroyed by fire and inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2010. With Japanese Funds in Trust and support from UNESCO, this project was to set up an efficient risk prevention scheme at the site with all the equipment needed and support the cost of qualified supervision for the reconstruction of the destroyed roof. In addition, the project was to provide scientific support to the team in charge of reconstruction to ensure that the outstanding universal values of the site, both tangible and intangible are maintained.

The reconstruction process has however been slow and as 2015 comes to an end, the thatching is yet to begin. Part of the ceiling had been wrongly done according to the architect and had to be brought down. This necessitated special cultural rituals to cleanse the site before correct ceiling rings could be put up. The rituals are yet to be concluded and as such ceiling has not been done as planned. It was therefore necessary to take a fact-finding mission to establish the obstacles to the timely completion of the rituals and consequent roofing process.

Fire-fighting system was planned to be installed once the roofing was completely done. However, due to the delays in the roofing processes, UNESCO made a decision to proceed with the installation of the system as the roofing continues. The technical specifications for this installation were estimated higher than the available funds. This required that consideration is made to assess the part of the system that could be completed with the available funds without distorting the originally recommended plan.
This mission was therefore to discuss with the engineer to review the technical specifications and Bill of Quantities appropriately.

3. **Outcomes & results obtained:**
   **The following items of discussion were examined and documented.**
   - The delay in reconstruction of the roof (ceiling and thatching) is caused by two main issues:
     - Lack of central command. A number of times the instructions from the site architect and those from the Buganda Kingdom leaders do not match. This creates confusion among the workers at the site since they do not know whose instructions to follow. Unless the stakeholders, (leaders, Committee, Architect, Manager…) speak with one voice, the project will continue to experience delays.
     - Varying description of the cultural rituals to be performed as part of the reconstruction. Since this (reconstruction) is not one of the regular cultural activities of the community, it relies on the custodians of cultural heritage among the members of the Kingdom to interpret and guide on each and every step. Such custodians are not unanimously endorsed and therefore not all their instructions are acknowledged.
   - Even though the Kingdom experiences inadequacy of funding, there have been fundraising events where resources have been mobilized from the public toward the project. This therefore piles the pressure on the Kingdom leadership to account for the resources received so far since the reconstruction process is not moving at the desired speed.
   - Work at the site has stalled since September.
   - The firefighting system will be installed around the main (central) structure excluding the structures around the compound which may have to wait until there are adequate resources to extend. The system to be installed will include two 10,000 litres water tanks, Fire pump system (with electric and diesel engine components), 4 water cannons installed around the main structure and connected to a bore hole already dug in the compound. This should be functional by the end of this project period.
   - Certain components in the original plan will have to wait for additional funds to install. These are, alarm system, Lightening protection, CCTV system and two additional cannons for the remaining parts of the compound.
   - The tendering process for this fire-fighting installation will be presided over by the UNESCO office in Nairobi with the technical guidance from the engineers on the ground.
   - Uganda NATCOM and Uganda Museum will be more involved (as part of the committee) in creating harmony among the stakeholders to enable speedy resumption of the works and timely completion of the project.
   - The monthly reports compiled by the Architect, Jonathan for UNESCO will be shared with Uganda Museum and UNACTOM as well.

4. **Outcomes & Results which could not be achieved(if any):**
   - None

5. **Follow up required:**
   a) The National Committee will meet to resolve the pending issues to allow resumption of reconstruction works as soon as possible. UNESCO office in Nairobi will follow up with UNACTOM and Uganda Museum to coordinate this.
   b) Jonathan will liaise with the engineer to have the tender documents submitted to Nairobi before 27th November.

   c) **Recommendations (if any):**
      i) UNATCOM and Uganda Museum should play an active role in the national committee to resolve any misunderstanding at the site and ensure smooth implementation.
      ii) Jonathan should work closely with the Committee and share with them the progress reports before submitting to Nairobi.
      iii) The national committee should hold a meeting with the leadership of the Kingdom as soon as possible to ensure everyone is on the same page.
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