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AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-third session
Marrakesh, Morocco
29 November – 4 December 1999

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda : AFRICA 2009

SUMMARY

At the end of the two-month course entitled “*First Regional course on Conservation and Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage*” (5 July-3 September 1999), a Directors’ Seminar was organised in Mombasa (30 August-1 September 1999). Recommendations of the Seminar are set out in this document, which includes also a Fact Sheet.

FACT SHEET

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

Background

AFRICA 2009 was developed as the operational step of the *Training Strategy for Immovable Cultural Heritage in Africa South of the Sahara* approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 20th session in Merida, Mexico in 1996. The programme is an instrument for carrying out the overall strategy of the World Heritage Committee for training immovable cultural heritage professionals in sub-Saharan Africa.

Partners

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, CRATerre-EAG, SIDA, NORAD, The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, and national authorities and regional institutions in the countries where are activities are held. Other partners are still being sought.

Direct target beneficiaries

Target beneficiaries for the various activities include politicians and policy makers who control decisions on conservation of immovable cultural heritage; professionals and craftspeople involved in the planning, management, conservation, and maintenance of immovable cultural heritage; and communities, including women and youth, who are located in or near immovable cultural heritage sites.

Activities carried out in 1998—1999

- a meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in 1998 to launch the initiative, attended by professionals of 9 countries in the region; which was approved by the Committee in 1996
- 3 coordination meetings in 1998-99 in sub-Saharan Africa;
- a 9 week course in English held in Mombasa, Kenya, (in cooperation with National Museums of Kenya) aimed at site managers / decision-makers in African institutions dealing with immovable cultural heritage;
- a Directors Seminar, held in Mombasa, Kenya, attended by directors from 12 English speaking institutions in the region;
- training of one laboratory technician from Zanzibar at the ICCROM laboratory in Rome;
- technical assistance in the form of computers for institutions in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire and books related to conservation for the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board;
- the creation of a World Wide Web page with information about the programme and its activities;
- the publication of informational brochures about the programme in both French and English;
- the publication of a first AFRICA 2009 newsletter for dissemination of information about the programme and conservation of immovable cultural heritage in Africa;
- 3 site projects (Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana) aimed at training local personnel and improving the conditions for conservation at three sites, either on the World Heritage List or currently within the nomination process.

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Activities for 2000

Within the framework of the regional activities of the project (*projet cadre*) the following activities are planned for the year 2000.

- *Three Month Course in French* – Scheduled to take place in Porto Novo, Benin at Ecole du Patrimoine Africain from May through July 2000, the course will be aimed at senior managers responsible for immovable cultural heritage in their ministries of culture or other national organizations charged with conservation of cultural heritage. The course, based on the successful one completed in Mombasa, Kenya in 1999, will be designed around a hands-on management planning exercise at a site or sites in Porto Novo .which is on Benin's tentative list. Topics may include:

- introduction/familiarization of participants with heritage found throughout the region;
- introduction to conservation theories and terminology;
- participatory management of immovable heritage sites;
- legal and administrative issues related to conservation;

- mechanisms for sustainable cultural tourism;
- urban conservation;
- documentation and inventory;
- partnership, fundraising, and better communication.

The course will emphasize hands on experience and an interactive format rather than a typical lecture hall format and will include field trips where possible. The total cost of the three month course has been estimated at approximately **US\$ 165,000**.

- *Directors Seminar for French Speaking Countries* – A separate but related element of the course will be a seminar to be attended by the directors of the course participant's home institutions. The aims of this seminar will be to:

- to present the Africa 2009 Programme to the Directors;
- to allow participants to present various aspects of the course to the Directors;
- to allow the Directors to explore the important issues related to improving communication and networks in Africa for the conservation and better international recognition of immovable cultural property;
- to work with the Directors on the future orientations of AFRICA 2009, including exploring their future role in the programme. The total cost of this seminar has been estimated at approximately US\$ 30,000.

- *Seminar on Documentation and Inventory* – One of the recommendations of the Directors Seminar in Mombasa, Kenya was to hold a bilingual seminar in 2000 on the topic of *Development of Documentation Policies and Standardization of Documentation Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa*. This seminar is tentatively scheduled to take place in Livingstone, Zambia during August. Discussions are currently underway to link this seminar to a course planned by SARAP on documentation of rock art sites. The total cost of this seminar has been estimated at approximately **US\$ 50,000**.

- *Programme of Research* – One of the recommendations of the Directors Seminar in Mombasa, Kenya was a programme of research aimed at:

- looking at prevailing policies for immovable cultural heritage in Africa with the view of understanding current problems and practices and finding solutions to them;
- conducting a series of research projects on specific types of heritage in the region to develop a better understanding of these types and to develop methods for better conservation and management of them.

In 2000, it is expected to begin the first study looking at overall policies, and also to begin work on the first specific typology (as yet to be determined). The total cost of the research programme has been estimated at approximately **US\$ 25,000**.

- *Technical Assistance, Networking, and Promotional Activities* – Providing technical assistance and creating a strong network of communication are important goals of the programme. The programme will therefore set aside funds for small technical assistance grants to institutions in the region for computers and other equipment necessary for better management of immovable heritage sites. The programme will also promote networking by regularly updating its World Wide Web page with substantive information and through the publication of a newsletter, seminar proceedings, and other research of interest. The total cost of technical assistance, networking, and promotion has been estimated at approximately **US\$ 40,000**.

Coordination Meetings – The Coordination Committee is made up of 4 professionals from sub-Saharan Africa and one member each from ICCROM, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and CRATerre-EAG. The chairman of the committee is Dr. George Abungu, Director General of the National Museums of Kenya. The biannual meetings cost **US\$ 30,000**.

The purpose of the Coordination Committee is:

- to give a general policy direction to the programme;
- to assist the secretariat in making decisions of importance to the programme;
- to review the progress of activities of the programme.