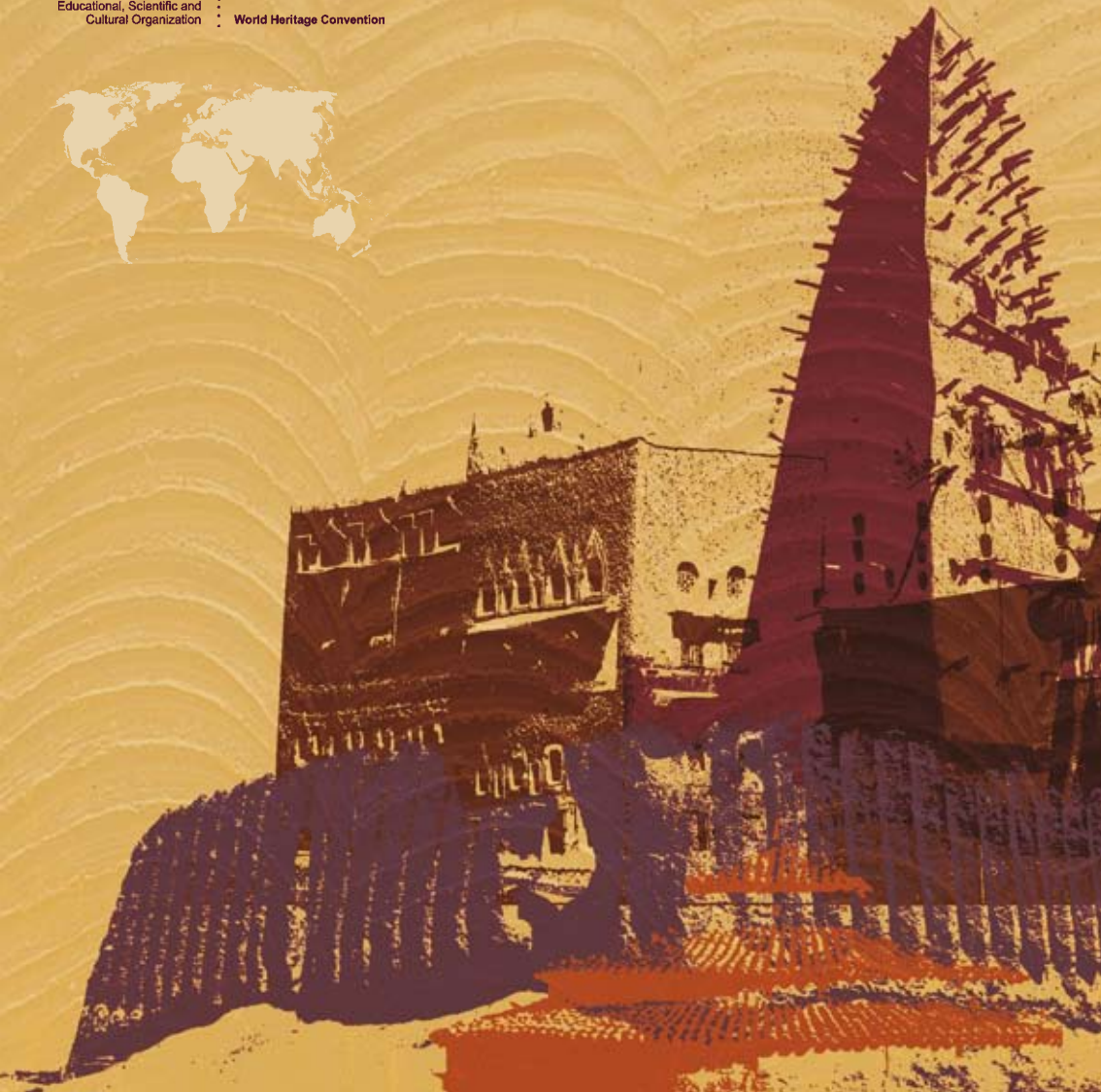


# 2007/2017

## EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

### WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME



Conception : Anis Misse - Editions : CRATerre - 2008

Since ancient times, people all over the world have used earth as their main building material. Earthen architecture has in a way become a symbolic expression of the human capacity to build, and to make the best use of the resources available in the nearby environment. Earthen architectural heritage includes a great diversity, ranging from archaeological sites to living monuments and from groups of buildings to historic towns and cultural landscapes. Today, about one third of the world population lives in houses made totally or partially with earth.

In 2007, 106 out of the 660 cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List incorporated earthen structures. However, some of these sites are threatened both by natural disasters and by changes to the environment (e.g. degradation of the environment, inappropriate use of modern technology, disappearance of traditional conservation practices). Furthermore, about a quarter of the cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are earthen architectural sites.

Considering that earth will probably remain in the coming years the most important resource available to build quality houses, it becomes urgent for the international community to focus on the safeguarding of the most outstanding earthen heritage around the world and to inform on its significant role for social improvement as well as its great potential for contributing to poverty alleviation.

This is to be achieved through development and dissemination of best practices of both conservation methods and techniques and technical adaptations using new available means, and through capacity building at State Party level. Implementation of these activities should be supported by agencies specialised on earthen architecture and involve research projects, pilot activities in the field, publications on the results, awareness raising and promotional activities.

Since its approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2001, the earthen architecture conservation Programme has carried out a range of projects including preparation of the conservation plans for Timbuktu and the Cliff of Bandiagara in Mali, the safeguarding of the Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin), conservation activities at the archaeological site of Chan Chan, and training and restoration projects in Central Asia.

The proposed 2007-2017 programme whose structure is inspired by the successful AFRICA 2009 programme model is an integrated approach in all regions of the world for the formulation of appropriate conservation methods, techniques and policies for the sustainable conservation of earthen architectural heritage protected under the World Heritage Convention, and for a comprehensive collection and evaluation of the results and knowledge obtained.

#### BACKGROUND

#### PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To develop appropriate methods and techniques for improving the sustainability of the conservation and the management of the different types of earthen architectural heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or included in States Parties' Tentative Lists;
- To ensure that best practices are broadly disseminated for practical application at properties protected under the World Heritage Convention, with also possible broader application at the community level for the upgrading of the living conditions, as a contribution to poverty alleviation.

#### PROGRAMME ORIENTATIONS

- Development of in-depth pilot projects at selected World Heritage and Tentative List sites, including long term follow-up and evaluation in all regions of the world;
- Development of cooperation agreements with States Parties to develop conservation and research activities in the field of earthen architectural preservation;
- Development of series of activities to address specific thematic issues or typologies;
- Contribution to sustainable development (social, economic, cultural) and poverty alleviation;
- Involvement of local communities and women in particular in programme activities;
- Reinforcement of the capacities of regional institutions around the world to address the conservation problems facing earthen architecture heritage;
- Progressive transfer of the programme management responsibility at the regional level;
- Consideration of the fundamental role of scientific research and of the capacity of the UNESCO Chair.

#### PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The programme will be managed by a steering committee composed of representatives of the main programme technical and financial partners. UNESCO World Heritage Centre which will ensure the overall coordination of the Programme as well as its adherence to the strategic vision. It will regularly report to the World Heritage Committee on progress. CRATerre-ENSAG will obtain a primary advisory and coordinating role in the implementation of in situ and research projects activities, and it will report back to the steering committee. ICCROM will advise on training activities and will develop training materials in collaboration with CRATerre-ENSAG. ICOMOS will coordinate all necessary studies on the World Heritage List and the tentative lists. For Africa and the Arab states, EPA in Benin, CHDA in Kenya and CERKAS in Morocco are identified as potential regional secretariats. Institutions in the other regions will be identified during the first phase of the programme. A scientific counsellor with expertise in the field of earthen architecture conservation, recruited by the World Heritage Centre, will assure daily coordination of the work between the World Heritage Centre, Programme partners, World Heritage site managers and representatives of States Parties to the Convention.

#### TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES

The programme involves the main international and regional institutions with the professional competency to contribute to the Programme's implementation:  
**CRATerre-ENSAG** as the focal point of the UNESCO Chair of "Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures and Sustainable Development;  
**ICCROM** as the priority partner of the World Heritage Committee for training (Global Training Strategy) and in the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List;  
**ICOMOS**, as the priority partner of the World Heritage Committee in the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, and monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage cultural properties, through its International Scientific Committee for earthen Architecture; and  
**EPA** in Benin, **CHDA** in Kenya, and **CERKAS** in Morocco, as regional institutions.

In addition to the technical partners of the Programme, several other institutions will collaborate during specific activities. National institutions in charge of Cultural Heritage and local Government authorities will also be involved wherever possible.



#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

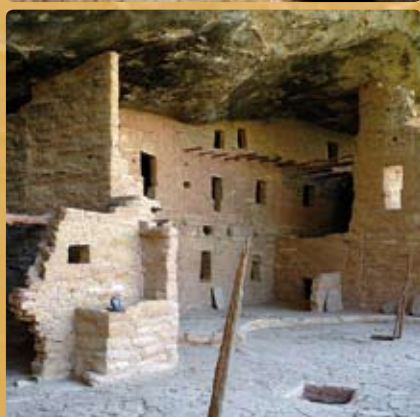
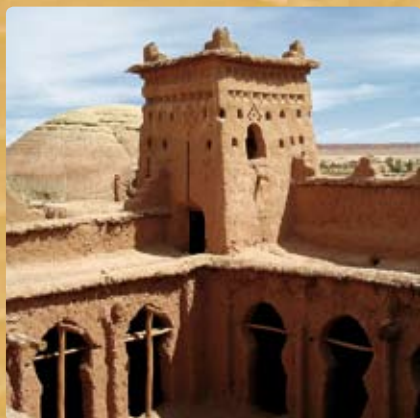
In addition to seed money provided by the World Heritage Committee, international donors and sponsors will be called to help ensuring that proper funding for the programme is secured. Of course, national heritage institutions as well as local authorities and stakeholders are to contribute to the provision of the means necessary to implement activities at the local level. Links with other programmes will also be studied (Africa 2009 and its possible follow-up programme, ATHAR, World Heritage risk preparedness and climate change programmes).



# EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

## WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME

# 2007/2017



### PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

#### IN SITU PILOT PROJECTS Towards developing “best practices” examples:

- Elaboration of conservation and management plans;
- Conservation projects for monuments, historic towns and archaeological sites;
- Conservation projects for sustainable tourism development;
- On-site training for site managers, technicians, artisans, tourist guides;
- Elaboration of technical guide lines for restoration and rehabilitation;
- In-situ experiments and other research activities;
- Close follow-up of implementation with regular technical inputs.

#### RESEARCH

##### Scientific research and applied research at site level will comprise:

- Laboratory research on raw materials, stabilization, damp migration;
- Applied research and documentation;
- Experimentation using prototype samples and other methods;
- Thematic seminars with site managers and earthen architecture specialists;

#### TRAINING

##### Increase opportunities for specialized training:

- Organization of thematic courses;
- Assistance to Regional institutions in developing training on earthen architecture at different levels (vocational, basic, university, Post graduate);
- Preparation of teaching material for dispatch to and use by the UNESCO earthen architecture Chair network.

#### PROMOTION / ADVOCACY

##### Ensure better recognition at international and national levels through:

- Publication of a series of technical books on earthen architecture in general and on World Heritage earthen architecture in particular (management plans, preventive conservation, etc.);
- Organization of exhibitions and participation in festivals;
- Organization of regional workshops on conservation of earthen architecture;
- Organization of international conferences on earthen architecture and partnership for Terra conferences organized by the Getty Conservation Institute.

### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The Programme will last 10 years and will be structured in 4 phases:

#### PHASE 1 (2007-2008)

##### PREPARATION

- A partners consultation meeting for the determination of the Programme strategy for each region;
- Analysis of the World Heritage List: inventory of properties with earthen materials assets, identification of typologies, state of conservation and threats, indicators for measuring speed of decay;
- Support for the participation to the Terra Conference (organized by Getty Conservation Institute) to promote the earthen architecture conservation.
- Preparation of a costed multi-year programme document with a realistic work plan aiming at prioritizing the various components of the Earthen architecture programme;
- Preparation of a fundraising and marketing document on the Programme;

#### PHASE 2 (2009-2010)

##### PILOT PHASE

- 2 regional meetings and 2 training workshops for site managers and decision-makers from Africa and Arab States on earthen architecture preservation;
- In situ projects in Africa and Arab States addressing specific typologies and focusing on rehabilitation and management;
- Preparation of nomination dossiers for inscription on the World Heritage List;
- Laboratory research for restoration techniques;
- Development of a strategy to ensure an effective transfer of the Programme management to Regional training Institutions;
- Promotion and advocacy (books and technical guides).

#### PHASE 3 (2011-2014)

##### CONSOLIDATION PHASE

- 2 regional meetings and 2 training workshops for site managers and decision-makers on earthen architecture preservation (Latin America, Central Asia);
- In situ projects addressing a specific typology and focusing on applied research and experimentation on restoration;
- Studies for setting-up of monitoring mechanisms;
- Preparation of curricula for training and educational activities in earthen architecture;
- Elaboration of best practices guides for earthen architecture conservation and sustainable management;
- Publications of series of technical books;
- Launching of progressive decentralization of the management, transfer of training and in-situ Project activities to regional training institutions.

#### PHASE 4 (2015-2017)

##### FINAL PHASE

- 2 regional meetings and 2 training workshops for site managers and decision-makers on earthen architecture preservation (Europe, Asia);
- Regional meetings for site managers and decision-makers on the results achieved;
- In situ projects addressing a specific typology and focusing on applied research and experimentation on restoration;
- Transfer of earthen architecture conservation curricula to Universities and Regional training institutions;
- Synthesis of the results achieved, evaluation, conclusions, recommendations;
- Finalization of the publications.

### EXPECTED OUTPUTS

By its conclusion in 2017, the Programme will have achieved the following ten outputs:

- Identification and understanding of problems earthen architecture heritage is exposed to, in the larger context of sustainable development;
- Development of policies for conservation, use or revitalization and valorization of earthen architecture heritage protected under the Convention;
- Definition of appropriate methods and techniques of interventions concerning earthen architecture;
- Organization of training and awareness activities by regional training institutions;
- Elaboration or updating of management and conservation plans for at least 25 World Heritage properties;
- Preparation of technical specifications for the restoration of historic towns as well as for the inclusion of modern infrastructures;
- Efficient protection and enhancement of at least 15 earthen architecture sites protected under the Convention;
- Organization of at least 4 capacity building activities in earthen architecture conservation and management with regional training institutions;
- Involvement of trained national professionals and other skilled persons in all countries with earthen architecture sites;
- Setting-up of an active global network for exchange of information and experience.

