



United Nations  
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Organisation  
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Organización  
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Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
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联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织



**INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS MEETING  
FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF MALI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE**

*Monday, 18 February 2013  
UNESCO Headquarters (Paris)*

**FINAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN  
FOR THE REHABILITATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE  
AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF ANCIENT  
MANUSCRIPTS IN MALI**

## Summary

*An international experts meeting on the safeguarding of Mali's cultural heritage was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 18 February 2013. Attended by over 200 participants including ministers, experts, and representatives of delegations from UNESCO Member States and international technical organizations, the meeting gave an overview of Mali's rich and unique cultural heritage as well as insights on the damage to cultural heritage since the start of the conflict in 2012 and the impact of the crisis on the preservation of manuscripts and cultural objects. The strategic response to the crisis from UNESCO and its partners was also discussed.*

*The meeting which was organized with the support of the Government of France (Ministry of culture and communication) resulted in the adoption of the Action Plan for the rehabilitation of Mali's cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts with three main objectives:*

- i. rehabilitating cultural heritage damaged during the conflict with the active participation of local communities;*
- ii. putting in place measures to protect the ancient manuscripts kept in the region;*
- iii. providing training so as to re-establish appropriate conditions for the safeguarding and management of cultural heritage, including manuscripts and intangible cultural heritage.*



## I. Introduction

1. An international experts meeting for the safeguarding of Mali's cultural heritage ('the meeting') was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 18 February 2013. *It* was attended by a large delegation from Mali comprising: Mr Bruno Maïga, Minister of Culture of Mali; Ms. Aminata Sy Haidara, Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture; Mr Klessigue Sanogo, National Director for Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Culture of Mali; Mr Ali Ould Sidi, Chief of the Timbuktu Cultural Mission; Mr Samuel Sidibe, Director of the National Museum of Mali; Mr Abdoukadi Idrissa Maïga, General Director of the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu; Mr Abdel Kader Haidara, Director of Mama Haidara Manuscripts Library in Timbuktu; Mr Alpha Sane Cisse, Assistant Imam of the Mosque Djingareyberre in Timbuktu, as well as members of the Permanent Delegation of Mali to UNESCO: Ms Fatoumata Aissi-Camara and Ms Dédéou Sidibé in addition to representatives of the Embassy of Mali in France: Ms Aissata Konandji, Minister-Counselor; Mr Abdoul Karim Sidibé, Protocol; Mr Tidiani Traoré, Senior Counselor; Ms Fatoumata Tania and Ms Massa Tounkara from the Economic Unit.
2. In addition, some 160 other participants attended the meeting, including representatives of delegations from UNESCO Member States and international technical organizations such as: the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM); the International Council of Museums (ICOM); the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS); the International Police Organization (INTERPOL); the International Federation of Libraries and Archives (IFLA); the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS); the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF); the School of African Heritage (EPA); the Aga Khan Trust for Culture; the European Commission; and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Heritage institutes and associations included representatives of: the National Heritage Institute (France); the World Monuments Fund; the International Center for Earthen Architecture's National Superior School of Architecture (CRAterre-ENSAG); and the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development. Public technical institutions included the Central Office for Prevention of Trafficking of Cultural Goods (France); the National Library in France; and the French Ministry of Culture. The complete attendance list is available from the Secretariat upon request.
3. The purpose of the meeting was, firstly, to ascertain from the Malian authorities the status of Mali's cultural heritage following the conflict since April 2012 and subsequent military intervention in January 2013. Secondly, to give an overview of UNESCO and its partners strategic response to the crisis, and lastly, to prepare and set in motion a comprehensive Action Plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali drawing on the substantial capacities of the country's local communities and appealing to potential donors for support. For this purpose, the first part of the meeting was devoted to taking stock of the damage and needs in terms of heritage rehabilitation and reconstruction, while in the second half an integrated strategy for cultural cooperation in the urgent, short, medium and long-term was considered. Furthermore, in order to advise on the international rehabilitation effort in Mali in the field of culture and ensure its coordination and coherence, UNESCO established an expert group on Mali, composed of representatives from UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS, ICCROM, IFLA, EPA, AWHF, and CRAterre-ENSAG.

## II. Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, who thanked the participants for their support to Mali, its population and culture, and reminded them of UNESCO's mandate for safeguarding cultural heritage, which includes rehabilitating tangible heritage as well as restoring its cultural values. "The renaissance of Mali will be through culture," she declared. Ms Bokova thanked France and the support of President Francois Hollande for the reconstruction of Mali's heritage and emphasized the necessity of forming "new alliances." She then summarized the action taken by the Organization from the outset, including, raising awareness and mobilizing partners, setting up a special account for Mali, sending three field missions, and producing and distributing a map of major cultural heritage sites and the "Heritage Passport". Following her mission to Mali on 2 February 2013, the Director-General announced her plans to send a UNESCO expert mission to Mali, as soon as the security conditions allow and in partnership with the Government of Mali, with three strategic priorities: 1) reconstruction; 2) protection of manuscripts; and 3) reinforcement of capacities.
5. Ms Aurélie Filippetti, Minister of Culture and Communication of France, informed the participants that France will support Mali in the task of rebuilding its heritage. She highlighted the deep links that unite France and Mali, and assured that France has a wide range of partners ready to participate in the preparation of a Plan of Action and Cooperation, which will include: 1) institutional support for the evaluation of the destruction; 2) the participation of France in the enhancement and reconstruction of heritage and the training of heritage professionals in Mali as well as support for the digitization of manuscripts, technical assistance to Mali's World Heritage sites through the France-UNESCO Convention; and 3) the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property. She stressed her conviction that culture is a factor of peace, and that restoring the heritage of Mali restores dignity to the people of Mali.
6. Mr Bruno Maïga, Minister of Culture of Mali was honoured by the interest of the international community and thanked UNESCO for this day of solidarity and this meeting to elaborate an Action Plan for the Safeguarding and the Rehabilitation of Mali's heritage. He cited a *griot* saying: "A man is not rich when he has pockets full of gold, but when he has true power, which is the power to count on others." Mr Maïga went on to state that, "the Islamists' objective was to destroy our past, our culture, our identity, to impose a social model. Mali's rich culture is the cement of social cohesion, and we must oppose its destruction!" He thanked the French Government for its effective intervention, and pointed out how this crisis revealed the fragility of cultural heritage and its management as well as the Islamists' threats to heritage. He thanked UNESCO for its intervention and for mobilizing the international community, especially through distributing 8,000 passports for safeguarding Mali's cultural heritage.
7. H.E. Mr Solomon Jason Mbuji, President of the Africa Group, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Zambia to UNESCO, began his intervention by underlining how the support of the UNESCO Director-General clearly demonstrates to the rest of the world the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage. He paid tribute to all those who suffered from the conflict in Mali and risked their lives to protect many of the manuscripts in Timbuktu. He called on the meeting to not only adopt an action plan that would end the destruction of heritage but also repair the damage to Mali's heritage sites.

### III. First session: The Status of Mali's Cultural Heritage

8. The first session was opened and facilitated by H.E. Ms Denise Houphouët-Boigny, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Cote d'Ivoire to UNESCO, who praised the French intervention, which put an end to destruction in Timbuktu and Gao. She reminded the participants that today's meeting would allow us to validate a concrete action plan prepared by UNESCO in consultation with the working group on Mali, but first we must assess the damages and understand the significance of this heritage.
9. Mr Ali Ould Sidi, Chief of Timbuktu Cultural Mission, Ministry of Culture of Mali gave an overview of cultural heritage in Mali and described the impact of the Islamist occupation in the north on the World Heritage sites and intangible cultural heritage. He gave examples of the damage and destruction to mausoleums, mosques and manuscripts in Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu (11 of the 16 mausoleums of the property of Timbuktu were destroyed and repeated attacks targeted the two mausoleums of the Djingareyberre Mosque, the largest mosque in the city, and the El Farouk monument. Some 2,000 to 3,000 manuscripts have been burnt and there are high risks of illicit trafficking of an estimated 300,000 manuscripts). Mr Ould Sidi also described the interdictions that were imposed on the communities of the North by the armed rebel groups, which weakened the social fabric, including forbidding traditional and religious festivals, oral literature, and ceremonies linked to the restoration of mosques and mausoleums. Lastly, he presented the strategy adopted to gain international attention and support, which include the "Timbuktu Declaration"; and the accession to the 1999 Second Protocol of the 1954 "Hague" Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which allows Mali to benefit from international mechanisms for the protection of its cultural heritage. Mr Ould Sidi closed his presentation with two videos showing the destruction of one of the mausoleums and a local expert's testimony to the impact of these attacks on the soul of Timbuktu.
10. Mr Abdoukadi Idrissa Maïga, General Director of the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu, thanked UNESCO for helping create the Ahmed Baba Institute in 1970 to collect documents written in the Arabic language in Africa. Since then, the Institute has collected and conserved over 45,000 manuscripts, many of which (estimated at over 90 per cent) were transferred to safe havens in Bamako and elsewhere in the early months of the conflict. However, these manuscripts are being stored in trunks and their conservation is at risk. Of the over 300,000 manuscripts existing in the region of Timbuktu, the number that have been destroyed by the armed groups could not be confirmed, especially since many are held in private collections, but he estimates the number to be in the thousands. Mr Maïga called on the solidarity of all of the libraries of ancient manuscripts to join in their efforts to rebuild the collections.
11. Mr Samuel Sidibe, Director of National Museum of Mali, recalled the multiple forms that this crisis has taken on the political and security situation in Mali since the beginning of 2012, and observed that it has led to two types of threats for the preservation of cultural objects in Mali's museums' collections: 1) a security risk for the collections, and 2) the risk of illicit trafficking of cultural objects. The Museum of the Sahel in Gao has been closed since the beginning of the occupation. Its collections are not being conserved because the museum staff had to evacuate the building. One guardian who has remained on site reported that insects have begun infesting the collections. The new building on the museum grounds was occupied by the armed groups. Of the three museums in Timbuktu, two have suffered damages. The National Museum of Mali, which is located in Bamako and contains 30,000 objects in its collections, has also felt

the consequences of the occupation in the North. Visitor attendance has plummeted and paying security and maintenance staff is hampered by the deteriorating financial situation.. Thanks to funding from UNESCO and the Prince Klaus Foundation, a programme is being implemented to reinforce the security and convince the local populations of the value of its heritage. The programme has also developed an evacuation plan for essential collections and an awareness-raising campaign is being broadcast on the radio and television in Mali. In an effort to fight illicit trafficking, the museum has already purchased 30 objects from families who felt that should part with their cultural objects in their possession before they are destroyed by the radicals who have instilled terror in local communities. However, other channels exist and the risk of illicit trafficking of Mali's cultural objects is a considerable threat. Mr Sidibe closed his presentation by raising concern over the challenge to safeguard Mali's heritage in the long term.

12. Following the three presentations, the panel discussed Mali's heritage with interventions from Mr Abdel Kader Haidara, Director of Mama Haidara Manuscripts Library; Ms Kirsti Kovanen, Secretary-General of ICOMOS; Mr Stefano De Caro, Director-General of ICCROM; Ms Christiane Baryla, Representative of IFLA; and Mr Luis Monreal, General Manager of Aga Khan Trust for Culture on how their respective organizations' could contribute to the safeguarding of Mali's heritage.
13. When the floor was opened up to discussion, the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Qatar to UNESCO affirmed her country's interest in contributing to the safeguarding of manuscripts. Mr Richard Sogan, Benin's Director of Cultural Heritage stressed the importance of long-term training and using existing resources and competencies in the sub-region. He highlighted the necessity of offering study grants as well as the need to reconcile the population with its heritage. The President of the Mali-Dijon Association pointed out the need to develop a strategy that takes into consideration the needs of heritage and emphasizes training. She suggested that a report be prepared on the state of heritage before and after the conflict. The representative of the Permanent Delegation of Mali to UNESCO insisted on the importance of sustainable actions and involving local populations so that their heritage is not only a matter for experts. Lastly, a journalist from Mali's national television station called on UNESCO to involve youth and help them to understand the value of the manuscripts. In Mali, he observed that there was a strength among the youth but that they lacked coordination and know-how.
14. H.E. Ms Houphouët-Boigny summed up the principal conclusions as follows: the need for a detailed evaluation of the damage; the need to secure the remaining heritage; the need to find what has been lost and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects; the need to reinforce capacities for safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage—in close collaboration with local communities who have a strong know-how and knowledge of what is sacred; the need to ensure the sustainability of all actions; and lastly, the need to involve all African countries in these measures as no country is safe from these problems. Mr Sidibe reiterated the need to pay special attention not just to the material damages but also to the damage to the spirit of the Malian people. He called for the valorization of heritage to be at the heart of this cultural rehabilitation project, saying we can “create a true defense in the minds of people by establishing a policy for the education and valorization of heritage in the long term.”

#### IV. Second session: UNESCO and its partners' strategic response to the crisis

15. Mr Lazare Eloundou, Chief of the Africa Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, moderated this session, and gave an overview of the actions carried-out by UNESCO since the conflict began in Mali. He noted: the repeated appeals by the Director-General to safeguard Mali's endangered heritage (10 appeals and declarations were issued between April 2012 and January 2013); the ongoing letters and contact with partners (including governments from countries bordering Mali, INTERPOL, customs agents, the Italian Carabinieri, the Procurer of the International Criminal Court and countries engaged in the military action in Mali as well as the Economic Community of West African States-ECOWAS, the International Organization of La Francophonie and the African Heritage School-EPA); and the regular briefings provided to the Secretary General of the United Nations through the UN representatives in New York and Bamako. He also explained the ongoing research work undertaken to collect facts, photos, reports and maps from technical partners, including ICOMOS, CRAterre and the Ministers of Culture in France and Mali. He recalled the adoption of resolutions 2056, 2071 and 2085 by the UN Security Council, which strongly condemned the destruction of cultural and religious sites and urged all parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the World Heritage properties in Mali; as well as the inscription of Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at their 36<sup>th</sup> session in June 2012, which aims to mobilize the international community to help Mali in its efforts to safeguard these sites and to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural property. Mr Eloundou reminded participants of the Special Fund UNESCO established to support Mali in safeguarding its cultural heritage affected by the armed conflict and noted that donations have already been received from the Governments of Croatia and Mauritius as well as the MBI Al Jaber Foundation in the United Kingdom. He also pointed out the seed-funds allocated by UNESCO's Director-General for immediate actions to support to Mali's efforts, notably to provide geographical coordinates on the World Heritage properties and museums in the northern region as well as relevant information on intangible cultural heritage to facilitate their protection during military operations, and to initiate activities of inventorying, documentation and safeguarding of cultural objects. Lastly, he referred again to the three missions undertaken by UNESCO in May 2012 to survey the damages after the destruction of the mausoleum, in October 2012 to prepare the documentation and information materials, and in December 2012 to distribute the maps and "Heritage Passports".
16. Mr Klessigue Sanogo, National Director for Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture of Mali, presented the actions undertaken by the Government of Mali, largely in conjunction with the actions carried out by UNESCO mentioned above, such as the UNESCO missions, adhesions to the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention and the request for "Danger Listings" for the Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia. The Government of Mali has formally submitted an international assistance request to UNESCO (1954 Hague Convention) to undertake an inventory of the situation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage following the conflict. They also collaborated with UNESCO for the awareness-raising training that was carried-out for military and NGOs using the heritage maps and "Heritage Passport" that were produced by UNESCO in order to enable the heritage sites to be identified, located and protected. The Ministry of Culture conducted several activities aiming at evaluating the impact of the conflict on the museums and heritage sites as well on the local communities. Several bilateral agreements have also been signed to assist in the safeguarding and rehabilitation efforts. The Government has established the theme of *"Living together after the conflict"* for the national heritage week in 2013.
17. H.E. Mr Daniel Rondeau, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO reviewed the actions undertaken by the Government of France. He began by

acknowledging the long and special relationship that France has established with Mali, including the priority given to France's cooperation with Mali in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. H.E. Mr Rondeau pointed out that out of the 150 twinning programmes with French cities; Mali is the number one beneficiary of decentralized cooperation, which includes the France-UNESCO Convention. He reiterated France's intention to accompany the work of Mali's national committee on dialogue and reconciliation, and to continue cooperation actions for the conservation of heritage, the restoration and safeguarding of manuscripts and the rehabilitation of four main heritage sites.

18. Lastly, Mr Amadi Ba, Head of International Cooperation, International Criminal Court (ICC), announced that the ICC was solicited by the Government of Mali and an investigation is currently underway for war crimes related to the destruction of Malian heritage. The ICC is working closely with the Governments of Mali and France with support from UNESCO to carry out research, study documents and verify facts. It is important that an ICC mission is dispatched along with UNESCO's mission as soon as possible in order to preserve and collect the evidence that will be needed for the judges to make their decisions.
19. Following these four presentations, panel discussants were given the floor to react, including: Mr Hamady Bocoum, Director of Cultural Heritage of Senegal; Mr Souayibou Varissou, Head of Programmes for the African World Heritage Fund; Mr Yves Dauge, France-UNESCO Convention; Mr Julien Anfruns, Director General of ICOM, and President of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS); and Mr Thierry Joffroy, CRAterre-ENSAG. Each of these panelists stressed the availability of their organizations to participate in the rehabilitation and safeguarding of Mali's heritage. Mr Bocoum stressed the importance of working on preventing future conflicts through education, awareness-raising and training. Mr Varissou underlined the high level of expertise available in Mali as well as across Africa to accompany Mali in its recovery. He noted the four priority areas of the African World Heritage Fund: sustainable development, local communities, documentation and using local knowledge and know-how, benefitting primarily countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. Mr Dauge gave the example of the Niger River project, which united several partners to protect heritage and build economic development. He also called for using Malian experts in the rehabilitation efforts. Mr Anfruns highlighted six actions, which include: publishing a Red List of West African Heritage, surveying heritage through satellite imagery, updating and sharing information on the status of heritage through the ICOM and Blue Shield networks, assisting armed forces with identifying heritage to avoid bombarding it; participating in evaluation missions; training in the fight against illicit trafficking, and protecting heritage in danger including intangible cultural heritage. Mr Joffroy, who worked directly with UNESCO on the creation of the Heritage maps and passports that were distributed to armed forces and NGOs, reiterated the call to prioritize working with Malian experts as well as the need to involve local communities. He also stressed the importance of reviving the tourism sector in Mali.

#### **V. Third session: Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts**

20. Mr Kishore Rao, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, moderated the discussion and together with Mr Janis Karklins, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, presented the Draft Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts.
21. Mr Rao explained how the Draft Action Plan was prepared by the UNESCO Working Group on Mali, which is composed of representatives from UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS,

ICCROM, IFLA, AWHF, EPA, CRAterre-ENSAG, with the contribution of the Government of France, and in close cooperation with the Malian authorities. He presented the three main objectives of the Action Plan: 1) Rehabilitation cultural heritage damaged during the conflict with the active involvement of local communities; 2) undertake measures for the sustainable protection of manuscripts; and 3) provide capacity-building activities with a view to re-establishing appropriate conditions for the conservation, maintenance, management and safeguarding of cultural heritage and manuscripts; for a total estimated cost of 11 million USD.

22. Mr Rao further noted that measures foreseen under the plan concern both World Heritage sites and cultural heritage properties protected under national legislation. Specific actions are foreseen for Timbuktu, the Tomb of Askia in Gao, the Old Town of Djenne and the Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) as well as museums. Comprehensive measures for the safeguarding and digitization of manuscript collections are also planned. The training activities foreseen by the plan concern all areas of cultural heritage preservation--monuments, intangible heritage and manuscripts. To initiate the Action Plan, a damage assessment mission must first be dispatched. Such a mission will be organized as soon as the security situation within Mali is stabilized.
23. Mr Karklins provided an overview of the specific measures that will need to be put in place to sustainably safeguard Mali's invaluable manuscripts collections, which constitute an enormous component of Mali's heritage. These measures will be based on six objectives: 1) undertaking an inventory of the situation (since the manuscripts are conserved in public and private libraries as well as in Bamako); 2) conservation of the manuscripts; 3) establish a partnership with private libraries and collections to ensure long-term conservation of manuscripts; 4) digitalize manuscripts to ensure the largest access possible; 5) train librarians and archivists; 6) mobilize the network of specialized partners including the National Library in France and IFLA with support from the governments of Norway and South Africa.
24. Following the presentation of the Draft Action Plan, interventions were made by the panelists, which included: Mr Komlan Agbo, Director of Culture of West African Monetary and Economic Union; Mr Bruno Favel, Ministry of Culture and Communication, France; Mr Alexio Motsi, Head of the National Archives, South Africa; Ms Adele Cesi, Ministry for Cultural Properties and Activities of Italy; Mr Baba Keita, Director of the School of African Heritage (EPA) in Benin; and Mr Philippe Peyredieu du Charlat, Head of the Culture Sector at the European Commission's Directorate General of Development and Cooperation in Brussels. Mr Agbo pledged ECOWAS' support of the publication of the ICOM Red List and his organization's readiness to participate in future safeguarding actions. Mr Favel highlighted the mobilization of French institutions to support the Malian authorities and the World Heritage Centre, and cited seven objectives of cooperation: 1) institutional support for the evaluation and rehabilitation of heritage; 2) training of Malian specialist through grant programmes and continuing education programmes with the National Heritage Institute in France and the African Heritage School in Benin; 3) technical assistance to Mali's heritage sites through the France-UNESCO Convention and the continuation of the Niger River programme; 4) valorization and protection of urban centers in Mali's northern cities with support from the French Association of Art and History Heritage Cities; 5) assistance in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties in collaboration with the Quai Branly Museum and other French museums; 6) development of a digitization policy in collaboration with the National Library of France (BNF); and 7) an annual evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan. Mr Motsi, who also has a long collaboration with Mali, offered to provide training and resources, raise awareness and provide the facility to protect the manuscripts. He raised concerns on the sustainability of the protection offered through the Action Plan. Ms Cesi shared the approaches and lessons learned from previous "similar" experiences of Italian

cooperation in Iran, for example, which successfully worked with local authorities and took into consideration local cultural customs. Mr Keita stressed that long-term actions are necessary and that the impact of the conflict on all types of heritage must be examined. He recommended “upstream working” in close collaboration with local authorities. Mr Peyredieu du Charlat pointed out that the European Union can work in a complementary way to what other actors are doing (for example, cooperation with the Arab League). He wants to build on a former EU project for intercultural dialogue and mediation. He expressed his confidence that this action plan will result in concrete actions, which is what the EU is interested in for the efficient protection of cultural heritage.

25. Several participants requested to take the floor. The Croatian Delegation offered to support the Action Plan by sharing their experience in digitalization, and the Ambassador of Gabon to UNESCO stressed the importance of taking preventive action and above all consulting local experts, people and authorities. Mr Rao closed the session by assuring participants that the comments received today would be integrated into the Action Plan in the following week and he offered to enlarge the list of participants in the UNESCO Working Group on Mali.

## **VI. Conclusions and closing of the meeting**

26. H.E. Mr Rondeau, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO, referred to the June 2012 appeal of the Minister of Culture of Mali before the media at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Saint Petersburg. In seeing this international mobilization of partners, he was optimistic about the better overall protection of cultural heritage in Mali through the partnership of Mali with the international community and through this Action Plan.
27. Mr Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, recognized the strong commitment of the international community to support Mali. He noted that UNESCO must continue the work that it has been undertaking for years in cooperation with other partners. He strongly encouraged the Government of Mali to incorporate the Action Plan into their national development plan in order to mobilize potential donors. He stressed the importance of strengthening capacities and institutional resources through the Action Plan, and highlighted UNESCO’s role in coordinating all of the resources and capacities that are available in and outside of Mali.
28. Mr Bruno Maïga, Minister of Culture of Mali, closed the meeting by calling for tolerance and the respect of diversity. He was pleased that this meeting succeeded in setting the groundwork for the long-term preservation of Mali’s cultural heritage. Mr Maïga noted that thanks to the expertise of our partners, we now have an Action Plan with a global approach to the safeguarding of cultural heritage. He concluded by acknowledging that although the priority is being given to the protection and rehabilitation of the mausoleums and manuscripts, we must not forget the importance of developing a spirit of tolerance.

## **ANNEXES**

1. ACTION PLAN
2. PHOTOS

## ANNEX 1



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
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# INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF MALI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

*UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII*

*Paris, France*

*18 February 2013*

## ACTION PLAN

### FOR THE REHABILITATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS IN MALI

Prepared by

the UNESCO Working Group on Mali

(UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS, ICCROM, IFLA, EPA, AWHF, CRAterre-ENSAG)

Based on information provided by the Government of Mali

With the contribution of the Government of France

## Objective 1: Rehabilitate cultural heritage damaged during the conflict with the active involvement of local communities

Estimated cost: 5,150,000 USD

Expected Results	Activities	Keys performance Indicators	Estimated cost (USD)	Partners	Calendar			
					Urgent	Short term	Mid-term	Long term
<b>E.R. 1.1</b>  <b>Extent of damage to cultural heritage thoroughly assessed and list of priority emergency measures established</b>	Assessment mission on the damage to cultural heritage in Timbuktu	Mission undertaken	50,000	UNESCO, Government of France, Government of Mali, ICOM, ICOMOS, IFLA, INTERPOL, AKTC, Experts	●			
	Assessment mission on the state of conservation of the Tomb of Askia in Gao	Mission undertaken	30,000	UNESCO, Government of France, Government of Mali, ICOMOS, INTERPOL, AKTC, Experts	●			
	Assessment mission on the state of conservation of the Old Towns of Djenne and the Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)	Mission undertaken	30,000	UNESCO, Government of France, Government of Mali, ICOMOS, INTERPOL, Experts		●		
	Assessment mission on the state of conservation of museums and cultural objects	Mission undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, Government of France, Government of Mali, ICOM, INTERPOL, Experts		●		
	Assessment mission on the state of conservation of other cultural sites protected by national legislation	Mission undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, ICOMOS, IFLA, INTERPOL, Experts		●		
	Assessment mission of impacts of the conflict on the intangible cultural heritage throughout the country	Mission undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, communities		●		
	Assessment mission of the safeguarding needs of intangible cultural heritage to formulate urgent measures and a revitalization plan	Mission undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, communities		●		
	Meeting in Bamako to present the missions' findings to national experts and local communities for validation	Number of participants	50,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, communities		●		

<b>E.R.1.2</b> <b>Status of cultural heritage before and after the conflict fully documented and analysed</b>	Documentation study on mausoleums and cemeteries in Timbuktu	Study undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, Government of France, Government of Italy	●			
	Situational analysis using satellite images, photos, maps in Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal	Analysis undertaken	50,000	Press, media, ICOM, Armed forces, UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of France	●			
	Development of a digital map for Timbuktu and Tomb of Askia properties	Map produced	50,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali			●	
	Study on traditional know-how and conservation practices for mosques and mausoleums	Study undertaken	50,000	CRATERre, Government of Mali, UNESCO, Communities		●		
	Documentation and inventory study of cultural objects of museums in the Northern regions	Study undertaken	20,000	ICOM, Government of Mali, UNESCO		●		
	Community-based inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Northern regions	Inventory elaborated	100,000	UNESCO, EPA, Government of Mali		●		
	Preparation and transmission to the International Criminal Court (ICC) of detailed documentation regarding damaged cultural heritage	Amount of information sent to ICC	50,000	UNESCO, ICC, Government of Mali		●	●	
<b>E.R.1.3</b> <b>Rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy clearly elaborated (including costs)</b>	Feasibility study on a coherent rehabilitation, reconstruction, and conservation of World Heritage properties damaged in Timbuktu	Study undertaken	40,000	UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, CRATERre, EPA		●		
	Feasibility study on the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and conservation of the Tomb of Askia in Gao	Study undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, CRATERre, Government of Mali		●		
	Feasibility study on conservation and safeguarding of Northern regions museums affected by armed conflict	Study undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, ICOM, ICCROM, EPA, Government of Mali		●		
	Feasibility study on conservation and safeguarding of major cultural sites and monuments destroyed in Northern Mali and surrounding areas affected by the crisis	Study undertaken	20,000	UNESCO, Government of France		●		
	Consultation meetings on the rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy of cultural sites with communities in Timbuktu and Gao	Number of participants	50,000	Communities, Government of Mali, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, CRATERre			●	
	Consultation meetings with stakeholders (management committees and local authorities of Timbuktu and Gao, etc.)	Number of participants	40,000	Communities, Local authorities, Government of Mali, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, CRATERre			●	

<b>E.R.1.4</b> <b>Cultural heritage affected by conflict rehabilitated, reconstructed and safeguarded</b>	Rehabilitation and conservation of mosques and old town of Timbuktu	Plans prepared and work initiated	1,000,000	UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, CRATERre, Government of Mali, International community			●	●
	Reconstruction and conservation of mausoleums and cemeteries of Timbuktu	Plans prepared and work initiated	1,000,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, AKTC, International community			●	●
	Rehabilitation and conservation of the Tomb of Askia in Gao	Plans prepared and work initiated	500,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, AKTC, International community			●	●
	Rehabilitation and conservation of other major cultural sites and monuments destroyed in Northern Mali and nearby areas affected by the crisis	Plans prepared and work initiated	500,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, International community			●	●
	Rehabilitation of museums in the northern regions	Plans prepared and works initiated	500,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, ICOM, International community			●	●
	Safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Northern Mali affected by the crisis through the support of initiatives by communities to celebrate elements inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	Plans prepared and work initiated	500,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, International community			●	●
<b>E.R.1.5</b> <b>Management authorities in charge of cultural heritage in Timbuktu and Gao fully functional</b>	Rehabilitation of infrastructure and provision of equipment for the offices of the management authorities in charge of cultural heritage in Timbuktu and Gao	Plans prepared, work initiated, equipment needs identified	200,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, International community			●	
<b>E.R.1.6</b> <b>Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger</b>	Update of the management plans of Timbuktu and Gao	Plans updated	100,000	Government of Mali, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, EPA, AWHF			●	●
	A monitoring mission undertaken in the framework of World Heritage Committee decisions	Mission undertaken	30,000	UNESCO, ICOMOS, Government of Mali	●	●	●	●
	Progress reports presented to the World Heritage Committee	Reports examined	No cost	UNESCO, ICOMOS, World Heritage Committee	●	●	●	●

## Objective 2: Put in place measures for sustainable safeguarding of manuscripts

Estimated cost: 3,900,000 USD

Expected Results	Activities	Keys performance Indicators	Estimated cost (USD)	Partners	Calendar			
					Urgent	Short term	Mid-term	Long term
<b>E.R. 2.1</b> <b>Extent of damage to the manuscripts thoroughly assessed and emergency measures identified</b>	Assessment mission to (i) Timbuktu to review the extent of damage to the Ahmed Baba Centre and the state of conservation of manuscripts in private libraries; (ii) Bamako to examine the state of conservation of the transferred manuscripts and their digital copies	Report undertaken and project document drafted	30,000	IFLA, Government of Norway, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, NGO, Communities	●			
	Consultation meetings with private and public libraries owners, with the Ahmed Baba Centre and the communities on the missions findings	Number of participants	50,000	IFLA, ICA, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, NGO, Communities		●		
<b>E.R.2.2</b> <b>Adequate temporary safeguarding measures put in place for manuscripts</b>	Consultation meeting to define the method of storage conditions of manuscripts	Number of participants	20,000	Government of Mali, Government of Norway, Government of South Africa, UNESCO		●		
	Provision of equipment and appropriate storage spaces and conditions for safety, physical conservation and restoration of manuscripts	Equipment and storage needs identified	500,000	Government of Norway, UNESCO, Government of South Africa, Government of Croatia, Government of Mali	●	●	●	
<b>E.R.2.3</b> <b>Ahmed Baba Centre rehabilitated and fully operational</b>	Building rehabilitation work	Building rehabilitated	1,000,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, International community		●	●	●
	Provision of equipment and personnel	Equipment installed; personnel recruited	1,000,000	Government of Norway, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, Government of Croatia, International community			●	●
<b>E.R.2.4</b> <b>Private libraries affected by conflict rehabilitated and fully operational</b>	Rehabilitation works conducted on affected buildings	Plans prepared, work initiated	300,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, International community			●	●
	Provision of equipment and human resources for cataloguing, digitization, restoration and conservation of manuscripts	Equipment installed; personnel recruited	300,000	Government of Mali, Government of Norway, UNESCO, Government of South Africa, Government of Croatia			●	●

	Return of manuscripts to Timbuktu	Number of manuscripts returned	100,000	Communities, NGOs, Government of Mali, UNESCO			●	●
<b>E.R.2.5</b> <b>Manuscripts digitized and accessible</b>	Consultation meetings with private owners of manuscripts; Digitization policy established	Number of participants; policy established	50,000	Communities, NGOs, Government of Mali, Government of Norway, UNESCO		●	●	
	Training in the conservation, digitization, enhancement and study of manuscripts	Number of participants	500,000	IFLA, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, Government of Norway, Government of Germany, Government of Croatia ,UNESCO			●	●
	Digitization of manuscripts	Number of manuscripts digitized	500,000	IFLA, Government of Mali, Government of South Africa, Government of Norway, Government of Germany, Government of Croatia ,UNESCO			●	●

**Objective 3: Provide capacity-building activities with the view to re-establishing appropriate conditions for the conservation, maintenance, management and safeguarding of cultural heritage and manuscripts**

**Estimated cost: 2,620,000 USD**

Expected Results	Activities	Keys performance Indicators	Estimated cost	Partners	Calendar			
					Urgent	Short term	Mid-term	Long term
<b>E.R.3.1 Cultural heritage professionals trained</b>	Preparation of a national capacity-building strategy for Mali	Strategy prepared	50,000	ICCROM, UNESCO, Government of Mali		●		
	Training workshop on the management of the World Heritage sites	Number of participants	50,000	ICCROM, UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of France, AWHF, EPA			●	
	Training workshop on the management of museums and priority assistanceto collections	Number of participants	50,000	ICOM, EPA, UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of France			●	
	Capacity-building on the safeguarding of intangible heritage	Number of participants	50,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of France, EPA			●	
	Training workshop on the conservation of manuscripts	Number of participants	50,000	UNESCO, IFLA, Government of France, Government of Mali			●	●
	Training on risk management and preparation of emergency plans	Number of participants	50,000	ICCROM, UNESCO, EPA, AWHF, INTERPOL, Government of Mali			●	●
	Establishment of a resource centre for Malian cultural heritage sites in Mopti	Resource centre operational	100,000	Aga Khan Trust for Culture, UNESCO			●	
	Establishment of a database of African heritage professionals	Database established	30,000	EPA, CHDA, African Universities, AWHF, UNESCO			●	
<b>E.R.3.2 Awareness raised among local communities and training</b>	Training on maintenance of cultural heritage sites	Number of participants	50,000	Communities, Government of Mali, Local authorities, CRAterre, UNESCO			●	

<b>carried out on conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and manuscripts</b>	Training on management of intangible cultural heritage	Number of participants	50,000	Communities, Local authorities, Government of Mali, CRAterre, UNESCO			●	
	Training on interpretation and enhancement of cultural heritage	Number of participants	200,000	EPA, AWHF, Government of Mali, Government of France, AIMF, UNESCO			●	●
	Training on conservation of manuscripts	Number of participants	50,000	Government of Mali, Government of Norway, UNESCO, Government of Luxembourg, Government of France, Government of South Africa			●	
	Training on conservation of cultural objects	Number of participants	50,000	ICOM, ICCROM, EPA, Government of Mali, UNESCO			●	●
	Support for activities to revitalize culture: festivals, educational activities, information and awareness-raising meetings on the importance and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a tool for economic development, social cohesion, peace and moral boosting within communities	Number of participants	500,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, Government of France		●	●	
<b>E.R.3.3</b> <b>Imams and the association of masons, owners of manuscripts, managers of mausoleums and other cultural sites provided with means to efficiently coordinate the rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Timbuktu and Gao and the safeguarding of manuscripts</b>	Training on rehabilitation, conservation and reconstruction works	Number of participants	50,000	Communities, Government of Mali, UNESCO			●	
	Provision of equipment and support for socio-economic activities	Equipment provided and the number of activities carried out	100,000	Communities, Government of Mali, UNESCO		●	●	●

<b>E.R.3.4 Fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects reinforced</b>	Training workshops to evaluate the situation of the threat of illicit trafficking and to provide technical and practical tools to counter the phenomenon	Number of participants	50,000	UNESCO, UNIDROIT INTERPOL WCO			●	
	Strengthening of the cooperation between police, customs and cultural heritage protection services, together with the relevant regional and international organizations in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property	Number of activities involving different partners/stakeholders	30,000	UNESCO UNIDROIT INTERPOL WCO Carabinieri, Bordering countries		●	●	●
	Establishment of bilateral agreements with Mali's partner countries on the reciprocal protection and restitution of stolen or illegally exported cultural property	Number of bilateral agreements	No cost	UNESCO, bordering countries, importing countries, Blue Shield			●	●
	Transmission to INTERPOL of information regarding stolen Malian cultural objects	Amount of information sent to INTERPOL	No cost	INTERPOL, Government of Mali, UNESCO	●	●		
	Launching of initiatives aiming at strengthening the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property in particular through education and awareness raising, and with the involvement of art market representatives at the international level	Number of initiatives	No cost	Art Market NGO's, Government of Mali, UNESCO			●	
	Facilitating discussions between Mali and other countries in the case of Mali asking for the restitution of cultural property after the conflict, or presentation of restitution cases to the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation ("ICPRCP")	Number of cases facilitated	20,000	UNESCO, ICPRCP				●
	Establishment of an ICOM Red List of cultural objects at Risk in West Africa	List published	100,000	ICOM, Government of Switzerland, WAEMU		●		
	Regular update of ICOM Watch List and No Strike List with particular focus on Mali	List published	50,000	ICOM, Blue Shield		●	●	●

<b>E.R.3.5</b> <b>Institutional capacity-building strengthened at national and sub-regional levels</b>	Institutional strengthening of the management authorities of Timbuktu and Gao	Management authorities are operational	50,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, EPA			●	
	Development of training modules on the protection of cultural property in the military training schools of Mali	Modules prepared	50,000	Government of Mali, UNESCO, EPA			●	●
	Development of peacetime preparatory measures for cultural property, and creation of services for the protection and the establishment of refuges for movable cultural properties	Measures identified	40,000	ICOM, Government of Mali, UNESCO, ICCROM, EPA				●
	Provision of technical support for the submission of emergency requests under the 1954 Convention	At least one cultural property inscribed on the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection	30,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, International community			●	●
	Provision of additional financial and technical assistance to help preserve and conserve damaged cultural property in the framework of the 1954 Convention	At least one assistance request submitted	40,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, International community			●	
	Support for regular training and enhancing capacities of police and customs agents in the field of heritage	Number of individuals trained	50,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, ECOWAS, INTERPOL, WCO			●	●
	Provision of support and assistance to safeguard intangible cultural heritage with a view to consolidating social cohesion, reconciliation, conflict resolution and sustainable development	Number of activities	30,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, Communities			●	
	Seminar on using safeguarding of cultural heritage as a tool for peace and conflict prevention	Number of participants	50,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali, Sub-regional organisations, AFISMA, EPA, WAEMU			●	
	Awareness-raising seminar on heritage conservation for armed forces, media, and local authorities	Number of participants	50,000	Government of Mali, ECOWAS, UNESCO, Blue Shield				●
	Establishment and coordination of a working group on culture among Mali's technical and financial partners	Working group established	100,000	UN Agencies, UNESCO, Government of Mali		●		
Sub-regional meeting on the prevention of risks of destruction of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict in Africa	Number of participants	100,000	UNESCO, AU, WAEMU, ECOWAS, AWHF, EPA			●		
<b>ER.3.6</b> <b>Public regularly informed on the rehabilitation and reconstruction process</b>	Awareness-raising activities, information meetings and regular publications of achievements for dissemination to the public	Number of awareness-raising activities and publications	500,000	UNESCO, Government of Mali		●	●	●

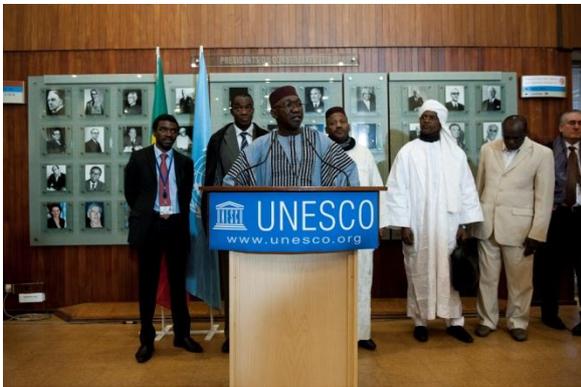
## Annex 2: Photos of the meeting



Ms Aurélie Filippetti, French Minister of Culture, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, Mr Bruno Maïga, Malian Minister of Culture



Mr Bruno Maïga, Malian Minister of Culture and Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General



A large Malian Delegation attended the meeting



As well as technical experts and representatives from UNESCO Members States