

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT - FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA

2019 SOC REPORT

VII.35 Forts and Castles of Ghana (Ghana)

I. Executive Summary

The property consists of three Castles (Cape Coast, St. George's d'Elmina and Christiansborg at Osu, Accra), 15 Forts (Good Hope at Senya Beraku; Patience at Apam; Amsterdam at Abandzi; St. Jago at Elmina; San Sebastian at Shama; Metal Cross at Dixcove; St. Anthony at Axim; Orange at Sekondi; Groot Fredericksborg at Princesstown; William (Lighthouse) at Cape Coast; William at Anomabu; Victoria at Cape Coast; Ussher at Usshertown, Accra; James at Jamestown, Accra and Apollonia at Beyin), four Forts partially in ruins (Amsterdam at Abandzi; English Fort at British Komenda; Batenstein at Butre; Prinzensten at Keta), four ruins with visible structures (Nassau at Mouri; Fredensborg at Old Ningo; Vredenburg at Dutch Komenda; Vernon at Prampram and Dorothea at Akwida) and two sites with traces of former fortifications (Frederiksborg at Amanful, Cape Coast and Augustaborg at Teshie, Accra).

All sites are protected monuments in the custody of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), James Fort, Accra and Fort William, Anomabu, previously used as State Prisons have been handed over to GMMB after prisoners were evacuated.

An International Assistance Request was submitted to UNESCO in March 2018 for the Preparation of a Management Plan for the Forts and Castles of Ghana. The requested funding have been approved and granted, and the preparation of the Management Plans will commence soon.

Management of GMMB have engaged the Survey Department of Ghana to undertake cadastral survey of the Forts and Castles and delineating boundaries including buffer zones for some sites and the preparation of title deeds.

Ghana Museums and Monuments Board has included in its priority programs in the Annual Work Plan for 2019, activities for sensitization of local communities around Forts and Castles and awareness creation on the need to preserve Heritage Sites and discussions to include local communities in the sustainable use of the sites

The main threats to the sites can be confined to three principal areas: environmental pressures; lack of buffer zones and development pressure and lack of adequate funding for the regular maintenance and conservation of the sites.

This report further indicates steps taken to address recommendations made by the Committee to the national authorities in Ghana

2. RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Forts previously used as Prisons at the time of the Committee's sitting in 1998 have been handed over to GMMB after prisoners were evacuated from James Fort , Accra, and Fort William, Anomabu, are no longer in use as prisons .The last batch of prisoners in James Fort were evacuated in November and December 2007.

An International Assistance Request was submitted to UNESCO in March 2018 for the Preparation of Management Plan for the Forts and Castles of Ghana. The requested funding is approved and granted , the preparation of the Management Plans will commence soon . The Implementation of the Management Plans will be a major step to achieve sustainable conservation of the Forts and castles of Ghana

Delineation of buffer zones and preparation of title deeds for all Forts and Castles in yet to be carried out however, GMMB has been able to retrieve title deeds for nine sites namely, Cape Coast Castle, St. George's Castle, Fort Patience, Fort William and Little Fort, Fort Victoria, Fort Amsterdam, Fort Sebastian, Fort Prinzenstein, Fort Groot Fredericksborg. Title deeds for the remaining sites are yet to be prepared. Recently, Management of GMMB engaged the Survey Department of Ghana to undertake cadastral survey of some of the Forts and Castles and delineate boundaries including buffer zones and to prepare title deeds.

The buffer zone intended for areas where surrounding land is available would cover an area more than half an acre, to protect the immediate the surroundings of the sites. However, at the sites where surrounding land is scarce, buffer zones would cover relatively small areas. The outcome of the survey would provide enough information for the delineation of the intended buffer zones.

Ghana Museums and Monuments Board has jurisdiction over lands within the immediate surroundings of all the Forts and Castles. Legal documentation by way of prepared title deeds is yet to be done.

In 2011, awareness creation was organized in some communities in the Central and Western regions notably, communities around Fort Apollonia at Beyin and Fort St, Anthonio at Axim. The Annual Work Plan for 2019 includes activities for, sensitization of local communities around Forts and Castles, awareness creation on the need to preserve Heritage Sites, and discussions on sustainable use of sites. Identified stakeholders for 2019 awareness creation activities include, the Municipal and District Assemblies, Chiefs and Community leaders, Youth groups, Welfare associations and Local Media outlets.

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT - FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA

AWARENESS CREATION PROGRAMME FOR 2019

Item	Site	Location	Proposed date
WESTERN REGION			
1.	Apollonia	Beyin	3-06-19
2.	Fort St. Anthony	Axim	4-06-19
3.	Fort Gross Friedrichsburg	Princetown	5-06-19
4.	Fort Dorothea	Akwida	5-06-19
5.	Fort Metal Cross	Dixcove	6-06-19
6.	Fort Batenstein	Butre	6-06-19
7.	Fort Orange	Sekondi	7-06-19
8.	Fort Sebastian	Shama	7-06-19
CENTRAL REGION			
1.	The Fort at British Komenda	Komenda	18-07-19
2.	Fort Vendenburg	Dutch Komenda	18-07-19
3.	Castle of St. George's	Elmina	19-07-19
4.	Fort St. Jago	Elmina	19-07-19
5.	Cape Coast Castle	Cape Coast	19-07-19
6.	Fort Victoria	Cape Coast	20-07-19
7.	Fort Royal	Cape Coast	20-07-19
8.	Fort William	Cape Coast	20-07-19
9.	Fort McCarthy	Cape Coast	21-07-19
10.	Fort Fredericksburg	Amanful	21-07-19
11.	Fort Nassau	Mouri	22-08-19
12.	Fort William	Anomabu	22-08-19
13.	The Little Fort	Anomabu	22-08-19
14.	Fort Amsterdam	Abandzi	25-08-19
15.	The Fort at Tantumquery		25-08-19
16.	Fort Patience	Apam	26-08-19
17.	Fort Good Hope	Senya Beraku	26-08-19
GREATER ACCRA			
1.	James Fort	Jamestown, Accra	12-09-19
2.	Ussher Fort	Ussher Town, Accra	12-09-19
3.	Christiansborg	Osu, Accra	16-09-19
4.	Fort Augustaborg	Teshie	20-09-19
EASTERN REGION			
1.	Fort Vernon	Pampram	15-10-19
2.	Fort Fredensborg	Old Ningo	16-10-19
VOLTA REGION			
1.	Prinzensten	Keta	14-11-19
ASHANTI REGION			
1.	The Fort at Kumasi	Kumasi	28-11-19

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT - FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA

3. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY WHICH MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Summary of the condition of Forts and Castles in 1998 and in 2018

Item	Site	Location	1998	2018
WESTERN REGION				
1.	Apollonia	Beyin	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
2.	Fort St. Anthony	Axim	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
3.	Fort Gross Friedrichsburg	Princetown	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
4.	Fort Dorothea	Akwida	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>
5.	Fort Metal Cross	Dixcove	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
6.	Fort Batenstein	Butre	<i>Partial ruins</i>	<i>Partial ruins</i>
7.	Fort Orange	Sekondi	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
8.	Fort Sebastian	Shama	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
CENTRAL REGION				
1.	The Fort at British Komenda	Komenda	<i>Partial ruins</i>	<i>Partial ruins</i>
2.	Fort Vendenburg	Dutch Komenda	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>
3.	Castle of St. George's	Elmina	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
4.	Fort St. Jago	Elmina	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
5.	Cape Coast Castle	Cape Coast	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
6.	Fort Victoria	Cape Coast	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
7.	Fort Royal	Cape Coast		
8.	Fort William	Cape Coast	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
9.	Fort McCarthy	Cape Coast		
10.	Fort Fredericksburg	Amanful	<i>Traces of fortification</i>	<i>Traces of fortification</i>
11.	Fort Nassau	Mouri	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>
12.	Fort William	Anomabu	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
13.	The Little Fort	Anomabu		
14.	Fort Amsterdam	Abandzi	<i>Partial ruins</i>	<i>Partial ruins</i>
15.	The Fort at Tantumquery		<i>Relative Good condition</i>	<i>Relative Good condition</i>
16.	Fort Patience	Apam	<i>Relative Good condition</i>	<i>Relative Good condition</i>
17.	Fort Good Hope	Senya Beraku	<i>Relative Good condition</i>	<i>Relative Good condition</i>
GREATER ACCRA				
1.	James Fort	Jamestown, Accra	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
2.	Ussher Fort	Ussher Town, Accra	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
3.	Christiansborg	Osu, Accra	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>
4.	Fort Augustaborg	Teshie	<i>Traces of fortification</i>	<i>Traces of fortification</i>
EASTERN REGION				
1.	Fort Vernon	Pampram	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>	<i>Ruins with visible structures</i>
2.	Fort Fredensborg	Old Ningo	<i>Ruins with visible</i>	<i>Ruins with visible</i>

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT - FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA

			<i>structures</i>	<i>structures</i>
VOLTA REGION				
1.	Prinzensten	Keta	<i>Partial ruins</i>	<i>Partial ruins</i>
ASHANTI REGION				
1.	The Fort at Kumasi	Kumasi	<i>Good condition</i>	<i>Good condition</i>

Detailed condition of forts and castles as observed in October 2018

The Ghana Museums and Monuments Board is preparing towards next year to formulate Disaster Risk Management Plans for the Forts and Castles in Ghana, provide a multi hazard approach to address vulnerabilities and threats at the sites. The concern of the Committee in 1998 about environmental degradation and recommendation to submit Emergency Assistance request is pending. The conservation issues which have an impact on the properties Outstanding Universal Value as identified in 1998 namely environmental degradation, Lack of buffer zones, Development pressure and Lack of adequate funding still persist. These concerns are even more relevant presently than ever before. The GMMB is yet to prepare and submit an Emergency Assist request with regard to urgent conservation works on the Forts to the committee. In recent times, other concerns which may affect conservation of the sites include inadequate trained human resource and the absence of disaster risk management plans for the Forts and Castles.

4. PROPOSED RESTORATION OF FORT AMSTERDAM

Preliminary Assessment, Architectural Documentation is completed and Funding given by the European Union through an Italian NGO for Restoration of Fort Amsterdam commencing in March 2019. The overall objective is to contribute to local sustainable developments and job creation focusing in particular on the development of sustainable tourism, with active involvement of community groups

Fort Amsterdam has been considered for restoration. An Italian NGO has secured funding for the project through the European Union. GMMB is associated with the project. Being guided by UNESCO operational guidelines under section 172, the project seeks to restore and reconstruct damaged sections of the Fort in order to create functional spaces to accommodate present day use.

The use of materials, technical details and construction technology that adhere to the original architectural character and form would be employed to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the Fort protected.

Fort Amsterdam was built by the English Company of Adventurers Trading to Gynney and Binney in 1631 at Abandze after the Chief of Kormantin, Ambro Braffo granted to Arent Groote a spot on the hill in the Central Region of Ghana. The English Fort, Fort Amsterdam at Abandze assumed a clear-cut shape which in large part is still legible to this day in the existing architectural complex with four angular bastions (among which two squared and two edifices of up to three floors surrounding the inner courtyard. The fort was the first to have a section expressly and firmly destined to house slaves.

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT - FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA

The Fort is a component of the serial World Heritage property "Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions" inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979. It is also part of the four forts (Beyin, Dixcove, Sekondi and Komenda) ceded to the Dutch by the British after the 1868 treaty signed by the British and Dutch governments. This serial World Heritage Property represents artistic or aesthetic achievements and constitutes characteristic examples of the architectural styles.

Since May 2003, the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board has been working with Architect Francesco E. Ventura and Fort Amsterdam Onlus a non-profit organisation based in Italy for funding from European Commission for the full restoration and adaptive re-use of Fort Amsterdam in accordance with the guidelines of the UNESCO conventions.

The project will be implemented in three phases in compliance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage as follows:

- a) Restoration of edifices of the Fort Amsterdam through on-site sharing and transfer of technical know-how to the indigenous artisans including staff of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board
- b) Equipping and training of personnel of community members to undertake activities linked to tourism,
- c) Establishment of a Training Centre for capacity building programmes for industry related training programmes as an income generating activity for the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board.

Preliminary Assessment, Architectural Documentation has been completed and restoration work will begin by early April.

ELMINA TOURISM BAY AT ELMINA CASTLE

The Ghana Tourism Authority as part of its programs for promoting tourism in Ghana proposed a Tourism Bay at the Elmina Castle and the preliminary documentations has already been sent to the UNESCO. The Ghana Museums and Monuments Board has requested for an Advisory Mission to visit Ghana and the site and advice the State Party accordingly.

INCEPTION REPORT ON JAMES FORT

In May 2015, a reconnaissance survey was conducted in James Fort. The Ghana Museums and Monuments Board intends to undertake restoration works on James Fort. A thorough structural integrity investigation will be conducted. The investigation is intended to cover the whole fort.

The objectives of the structural integrity assessment are, among other things, to:


- Assess structural soundness of the various buildings within the fort;
- Determine causes of all incidences of distress affecting the fort;
- Provide the needed material strength, composition, and deformation data on various structural components of the building;
- Propose remedial measures for the defects observed

Funding is being sought to undertake the detailed Assessment and remedial interventions captured in the Inception Report composed for James Fort.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT:

The State Party requests the full Report should be uploaded

6. SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kingsley Ofosu Ntiamoah', written over a horizontal line.

**KINGSLEY OFOSU NTIAMOAH
THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**