

## STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT - FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA

### **2020 SOC REPORT**

#### **VII.35 Forts and Castles of Ghana (Ghana)**

##### **1. 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). The State Party (Ghana through the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board GMMB) as a matter of urgency, in order to implement all fourteen (14) recommendations made by the Mission has developed the following strategy:

In Phase I of the strategies adopted to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations and the Baku Decisions, the State Party through GMMB embarked on emergency inspection of all listed component to establish;

- baseline data on the general condition of the sites,
- develop stakeholder database, and
- Confirm how many of the sites have development projects around which have a potential of affecting the attributes that contributes to the Integrity, Authenticity and Outstanding Universal Value of the sites.

This data will serve as feedback into the stakeholders' meetings that has to be carried out to generate additional data for the preparation of the Management Plan for the sites.

In addition to the Advisory Mission's report, the decisions adopted during the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku on Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions, Ghana (**Decision 43 COM 7B. 106**) requested the State Party to progress as a matter of urgency, with the delineation of a buffer zone for each component and implement the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission's recommendations without delay. The State Party was also advised to request for a Reactive Monitoring Mission which the request has been sent already.

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Phase II included the engagement of all stakeholders MMDAs, Traditional Authorities and the immediate communities around the components to present to the Advisory Mission's report and the **(Decision 43 COM 7B. 106)**.

Phase III which will form part of the preparation towards the development of the Management Plans for the Forts and Castles will include the development of cadastral survey to aid in the delineation of boundaries and buffer zones for each component.

## **2. RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

### **Reactive Monitoring Mission**

Given the range, longevity and significance of issues facing the property, the State Party upon recommendation made by the Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019, invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out in from February 1-10, 2020 to consider the state of conservation of all the components of the property and the potential threats they are facing.

## **3.1. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVISORY MISSION**

### **3.1.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones**

Cadastral surveys for the various components, including the identification of property boundaries and buffer zones, as well as the preparation of title deeds is yet to be undertaken.

### **3.1.2. Emergency Inspection of All Components**

Generally, development and sanitation around the sites is of major concern. The inspection revealed the following state of conservation of the site:

- **Forts in Fairly good repair .**

The forts listed under forts in fairly good repair are in need of maintenance. Some building components of these forts are in a state of disrepair. Repair works that have been undertaken at some forts were inconsistent with conservation requirements for the components.

Treats to the buildings from erosion, vegetation and anthropogenic activities within immediate environs of the fort were evidence and posed imminent damage to the sites in future. Encroachment is also a threat to the physical structures and archaeological site.

Unguided developments around these components obstruct comprehensive viewing of the forts from different approaches/angles.

- **Forts in Ruins**

Some of the fort structures in ruins as a whole are beyond repair but in need of stabilization. Presently some of the sites are taken over by squatters. There are heavy anthropogenic activities





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in and around some of the fort structures and vegetation is a threat to the physical structures as well. New construction integrated into existing fort structure also poses a threat to the ruins. There are other physical and infrastructural developments on-going around the fort which may or may not impact the site.

Ruins with minor traces - No traces of the fort could be identified except for a few canons in some cases. The area around the fort is now completely built up.

### **3.1.3. Fort Amsterdam Project**

Ghana Fort Amsterdam Onlus has conducted engineering survey on the structure and is yet to submit a report of findings to GMMB for further submission to the World Heritage Centre.

### **3.1.3. Elmina Heritage Bay Project**

Revised documentation on the Elmina Heritage Bay is yet to be submitted to GMMB.

### **3.1.4. Redevelopment of Ussher Fort**

Funding for redevelopment of the Ussher Fort Museum has been released and works on the structure in on-going.

### **3.1.5. Stakeholder Engagements**

In order to encourage community participation in the sustainable conservation of the site, GMMB has carried out stakeholder engagements in almost all the communities where the sites are situated. The stakeholder engagement presented an opportunity to sensitize local communities and create awareness about the need to preserve heritage sites.

GMMB also interacted with District Coordinating Directors, Physical Development Planners and Culture Officers at various Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies with jurisdiction over the communities where the sites are located.

### **3.1.6. International Assistance**

Following the approval of International Assistance for the Preparation of a Management Plan for the Forts and Castles of Ghana, a revised schedule of activities has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

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

The main threats to the sites include:

- Environmental pressures

The maritime tropical climate characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfalls and corrosive salt-laden atmosphere continues to be a primary cause of the deterioration of the physical fabric of the buildings. Some sites are also affected by erosion of the ground on which the structures are located.

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- Lack of buffer zones and development pressure

The absence of well demarcated site boundaries and buffer zone encourages unaided use and development around the sites. The encroachment of human settlements and activities on the areas in the direct vicinity of the World Heritage sites, and the subsequent erosion and pollution of the surroundings, create a serious threat to the safeguarding of the properties.

Illegal quarrying of sand and soil around the forts, has potential to eventually undermine stability of the structures. The dumping of waste around the immediate environs of the sites and along the beaches is a disturbing bad trend that is increasing.

- Inadequate of funding

Inadequate funding to support basic routine maintenance and repair of deteriorating components of the buildings. Some of the structures are in need of urgent interventions to prevent further deterioration and possible loss of key attributes of the site.

- Lack of skilled personnel

The required expertise in management and conservation of the site is lacking as a result, monitoring and conservation repair works cannot be effectively undertaken.

- Absence of management systems and plans

The absence of management plans has a continuing adverse effect on how the sites.

- Lack of research and documentation

The absence of research, documentation and archiving of conservation works and procedures carried out on the building is a barrier to knowledge-sharing and improving upon or learning from past systems.

### **5. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT:**

The State Party requests the full Report should be uploaded.

### **6. SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY**



**KINGSLEY OFOSU NTIAMOAH**  
**THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**





6/2/20

# GHANA MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS BOARD

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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Your Ref: .....

29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

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DM/CLT/WHC  
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Dear Sir/Madam,

### UPDATES ON GHANA'S EFFORT IN ADDRESSING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY MISSION

First of all, we wish to thank the World Heritage Centre for its support and cooperation on the issues surrounding the Forts and Castles.

As you are very much aware, it became necessary last year (29<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019) for Ghana to invite an Advisory Mission Team from UNESCO to Ghana to examine the impact of the conceived Elmina Bay Project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Elmina Castle. The Joint WHC/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory Mission to Ghana after completing its work, submitted its report to the World Heritage Committee.

At the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee meeting at Baku, the Committee by its decision (Decision 43 COM 7B. 106) enjoined Ghana to urgently address the 14 recommendations in the Advisory Mission's report by February 2020.

As a matter of urgency, the report of the Committee was presented to Cabinet. With Government Commitment to addressing the recommendations, the following decisions were made at Cabinet:

- 1) Government approved a sum of Two Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 2,250,000.00) to help GMMB to urgently address the issues on the Forts and Castles.
- 2) Government has initiated the process to establish a Heritage Fund to ensure that there is a sustainable and constant flow of financial resources for the management of the Forts and Castles and other heritage properties in the country.
- 3) Government has begun the process of passing a Culture and Heritage Development Bill. The Bill is currently before Parliament for consideration.
- 4) Government has further given GMMB the clearance to employ sixty workers to help boost the capacity of the institution.

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In addition to these efforts by the Government of Ghana to address the recommendations of the Advisory Mission, GMMB has embarked on the following activities:

- 1) GMMB has embarked on an emergency inspection of all the forts and castles. This was to examine the condition of the properties and further identify threats on the buildings that need to urgently be worked on;
- 2) At the moment some staff from GMMB are visiting all communities where the properties are located to engage with the chiefs and protocol leaders to come out with better strategies in the management and protection of the buildings;
- 3) GMMB and the Ghana Survey Department will on Monday, February 3, 2020 visit all the sites to help in delineating boundaries (buffer zones) they will help in the protection of the properties.

It is worth mentioning that as one of the first countries to ratify the World Heritage Convention, Ghana is committed to ensuring that the World Heritage Sites in the Country are properly managed and protected.

Once again, we thank the World Heritage Center for their immense support and cooperation. We want to assure the Center that Ghana is ready to receive and cooperate with Reactive Monitoring Team that is coming to Ghana in the first week of February, 2020.

We further assure the Team that all documents that will make their work easy will be shared with them upon their arrival such as particular documents on Government's and GMMB effort in addressing the recommendations of the Advisory Mission.

Counting on your usual cooperation.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



**KINGSLEY OFOSU NTIAMOAH**  
**ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Cc: The Hon. Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
The Secretary General, NATCOM  
UNESCO Office, Accra ✓  
The Board Chairman, GMMB