

## WHV – Mombasa Old Town

### Mombasa Old Town, Kenya

### PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (1997)

03 July - 24 July 2023

**THE SITE** - The old town of Mombasa where most of the heritage of this second largest city in Kenya is largely confined in, is an area of approximately 72 hectares, inhabited by a richly diverse group of communities : locals, Arabs, Asians, Portuguese and the British which have co-existed for hundreds of years. The various social, political, religious and economic activities of these groups have created a distinct character and culture which together has come to define this old town. The visible aspect of this unique character is a collection of historical buildings dating from the 18th century which combines, African, Arabic and European influences. Many of these buildings still exist, in beautifully carved doors as well as elegantly styled balconies attached to their turn of the century facades.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project aims at empowering young volunteers, increasing their capacity and knowledge in heritage preservation and conservation, and strengthening multicultural elements among the Kenya community, as well as at promoting the preservation of the heritage site.

**ACTIVITIES** - Mombasa Old Town has a history of continuous occupation since the 9th Century: a wealth of history and culture that if adequately integrated into the mainstream economy could easily uplift the people's standard of living. A session will be organised with the council of elders who are custodians of culture in order to talk with the community and young people as well as the international volunteers about the true history of the town, using recording to capture this unique intangible cultural heritage. The volunteers will also assist in the renovation and cleaning of old buildings and walls, and participate in the installation of safe garbage bins and recycling systems in the neighbourhood. They will join a forum involving local stakeholders and communities living in Mombasa Old Town, through which they will learn about and experience the historical and cultural values of the site, and exchange ideas and good practices on how to preserve and promote World Heritage.

**PARTNERS** - County Government of Mombasa, Mombasa Old Town Conservation Office (Motco) and Museum

**AGAPE Centre of Hope**

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