



# Re-discovering African Heritage through the Lenses of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

**24 July 2023\_ Online Workshop**  
**Concept Note and Preliminary Agenda**

Event organised by the Africa Unit at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre,  
with the support of the Government of Norway, in partnership with  
the African World Heritage Fund and ICCROM



# Concept

## Background

UNESCO World Heritage (WH) property “Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi”, Uganda, was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2010 following a devastating fire that resulted in the destruction of the *Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga* building, a major component of the property. The property, composed of a series of wooden thatched buildings around a courtyard and garden, is however located in the middle of the rapidly growing and bustling city of Kampala, the capital of the country. This exposes it to external threats and pressures that cannot be controlled by the site management authority alone. The disaster highlighted the need for local institutions to work together, to look at values beyond the World Heritage property management boundaries and to integrate them into planning tools and city-scale strategies. As a result, as one of the corrective measures for the removal of the sites from the World Heritage List in Danger (WHLD), WH Committee Decisions<sup>1</sup> requested the State party to develop guidelines for its (urban) buffer zone in line with the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). In this regard, the WH Centre supported Uganda in developing the guidelines to finalise the Desire State of Conservation for the Removal of a Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). This support was possible thanks to the generous support of the Government of Norway.

The HUL Recommendation was adopted on 10 November 2011 during the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference as a tool to manage transformation in historic urban areas. It defends the integration of heritage values and their protection into the broader city and territorial-scale strategies. This is especially relevant in Africa, as the HUL approach does not deny development, but rather makes sure that it is realized in a way that respects history, culture, heritage, and local assets thus contributing to sustainable development.

Since 2022, in an attempt to define a contextualized methodology and encourage impactful actions, the Africa Unit at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, with the support of the Government of Norway, has developed a pilot project in the “Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi” (Kasubi project). Using the HUL approach as a tool, the project has worked to gather under the same banner many different local stakeholders (heritage, tourism, planning public agencies, academia, local community, NGO, etc.) and facilitate dialogue. This allowed national and local authorities, local experts and stakeholders to jointly identify priority actions and develop guidelines to improve the protection and integration of the property within its buffer zone and the wider context.

The case of Kasubi is not unique in Africa. Many heritage sites face challenges of management in the context of rapid transformation or unplanned urban development. For that, the Kasubi project could be used as a pilot case for other African experts and professionals to reflect on their own challenges and

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<sup>1</sup> 42 COM 7A.16, 43 COM 7A.56, 44 COM 7A.4

participate in the discussion to improve the situation at Kasubi. In this context, this international workshop will enable participants to:

- learn more about the HUL Recommendation and its potentiality;
- discuss the methodology and results of the Kasubi pilot project;
- exchange with international experts and peers on integrated heritage management;
- collectively identify key assets and challenges with integrating heritage conservation in urban development strategies in Africa;
- explore how the methodology developed for the Kasubi tombs could be adapted to other sites in Africa.

### **Workshop format**

The workshop will be divided into two sessions:

- *Lessons learnt from Kasubi*  
Through theory and case study presentations, expert panels and open debates, the methodology and results of the Kasubi project will be examined and discussed.
- *Understanding the context around African World Heritage properties*  
This co-creation workshop will use different online work tools to encourage participants to reflect on their own city contexts, going beyond heritage property boundaries, and reflecting on the role of heritage sites at a broader city scale.

### **Logistics**

The workshop will be organised fully online.

24 July 2023 through the Zoom platform:

- morning session 11:00-13:30 (GMT+2 Paris time)
- afternoon session 15:30-17:30 (GMT+2 Paris time)

### **Working languages**

English and French with simultaneous interpretation

### **Registration**

- Interested people can register for the workshop by filling in a short online form accessible through this link:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfudrf8x5VbHEX2y3KL6InIC3\\_qSwXwvZ39J2Q2pF4JX-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfudrf8x5VbHEX2y3KL6InIC3_qSwXwvZ39J2Q2pF4JX-)

[uBdg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2twYKUtVUXmijxYqEGXcoKJKYGAKeKuFgOhe8yiO9YpKSKrwSKB7PZzWO](https://uBdg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2twYKUtVUXmijxYqEGXcoKJKYGAKeKuFgOhe8yiO9YpKSKrwSKB7PZzWO)

- A connection link to the Zoom session will be shared after registration.
- Registration closes on 19 July 2023 at 23:59 (GMT+2 Paris time)
- A limited number of spots are available inside the Zoom session. We kindly encourage you to register early.
- Those having trouble accessing online documents can also send the Word version of the form attached to the invitation email to [albazamarbide@gmail.com](mailto:albazamarbide@gmail.com) with copy [e.mwaka@unesco.org](mailto:e.mwaka@unesco.org) in copy.

### **Key Participants**

The workshop is open to everyone interested in the integrated management of World Heritage properties in urban contexts. It aims at creating a space for discussion for as many African experts, academics, young architects and urban planners, designers and heritage students and professionals, heritage practitioners, NGOs, local and community associations and any other actors engaged with the creation of the city as possible. Site managers of African UNESCO World Heritage properties in urban contexts are especially encouraged to participate.

### **Key Objectives**

The workshop aims to:

1. Disseminate up-to-date efforts on integrated and sustainable heritage management in urban contexts in general, and on the implementation of the HUL Recommendation in Africa in particular.
2. By discussing the results of the Kasubi pilot project, increase public awareness and inspire professionals to integrate heritage dimensions in urban and territorial planning, heritage protection, policy, and design projects.
3. Reflection on how each WH property connects to the surrounding city and dynamics.
4. Identify key urban issues and opportunities in historic African cities and discuss potential follow-up pilot projects.
5. Explore how the methodology developed for the Kasubi tombs could be adapted to other sites in Africa.

### **Speakers**

(in order of intervention)

- Mr Donatius KAMAMBA – Senior expert, University of Dar-es-Salaam
- H.E. Mr Halvor HVIDEBERG – Ambassador of Norway to UNESCO (tbc)
- H.E. Ms Doreen Ruth AMULE – Ambassador of Uganda to UNESCO (tbc)
- Ms Jyoti HOSAGRAHAR – Deputy Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Mr Albino JOPELA – Head of Programmes, African World Heritage Fund
- Mr Espéra DONOUVOSSI – Programme Manager, ICCROM

- Ms Alyssa K. BARRY – Consultant architect-urbanist specialised in African cultural heritage
- Ms Alba ZAMARBIDE – Consultant architect-urbanist specialized in territorial and urban heritage management and sustainable development
- Ms Jeronime ZANMASSOU – Chief of the *Programmes-Projets* Unit, *Ecole du Patrimoine Africain* (EPA)
- Mr Ruwan ALUVIHARE – Chief urbanist and landscape architect, Municipality of Amsterdam
- Ms Quahnita SAMIE – Consultant town planner and heritage practitioner focusing on religious and spiritual heritage sites
- Ms Bakonirina RAKOTOMAMONJY – Associate researcher and Project specialist, CRAterre, AE&CC, ENSAG, University of Grenoble-Alpes
- Ms Chilangwa CHAIWA – Conservation Officer - Architecture, National Heritage Conservation Commission of Zambia
- Mr Alaa EL-HABASHI – Professor of architecture and heritage conservation, Chair of the Department of Architecture in Menoufia University
- Ms Ola UDUKU – Head of School, Roscoe Chair of Architecture, University of Liverpool
- Architecture, University of Liverpool
- Ms Imane BENNANI – UNESCO Chair, Director *Ecole d'Architecture de Rabat*-UIR (tbc)
- Mr Eric HUYBRECHTS – Head of department *Actions Internationales*, *Institut Paris Region*
- Mr Muhammad Juma MUHAMMAD – Chief of the Africa Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

# Preliminary agenda

24 July 2023 - Morning session: 11:00-13:30 (GMT+2 Paris time)

## *Lessons learnt from Kasubi*

Session chaired by Mr Donatius KAMAMBA – University of Dar-es-Salaam

11:00-11:05 Welcome address and session agenda by Session Chair

11:05-11:20 Opening remarks:

- H.E. Mr Halvor HVIDEBERG - Ambassador of Norway to UNESCO (tbc)
- H.E. Ms Doreen Ruth AMULE - Ambassador of Uganda to UNESCO (tbc)
- Ms Jyoti HOSAGRAHAR – Deputy Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Mr Albino JOPELA - Head of Programmes, African World Heritage Fund
- Mr Espéra DONOUVOSSI - Programme Manager, ICCROM

11:20-11:40 Lecture:  
“The Historic Urban Landscape and its implementation in Africa”  
by Ms Alyssa K. BARRY - Consultant architect-urbanist specialised in African cultural heritage

11:40 -12:00 Case study presentation:  
“The Kasubi tombs – a contemporary HUL implementation pilot”  
by Ms Alba ZAMARBIDE – Consultant architect-urbanist specialized in territorial and urban heritage management and sustainable development

12:00 -12:15 Q&A and open discussion moderated by Session Chair

12:15 -12:20 **5' Coffee break**



12:20 -12:50	<p>Panel discussion:</p> <p>“Experiences on integrated urban heritage management: the Kasubi project and replicability in African cities”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr Ruwan ALUVIHARE – Chief urbanist and landscape architect, Municipality of Amsterdam</li> <li>● Ms Quahnita SAMIE - Consultant town planner and heritage practitioner focusing on religious and spiritual heritage sites</li> <li>● Ms Bakonirina RAKOTOMAMONJY - Associate researcher and Project specialist, CRAterre, AE&amp;CC, ENSAG, University of Grenoble-Alpes</li> <li>● Ms Chilangwa CHAIWA – Conservation Officer - Architecture, National Heritage Conservation Commission of Zambia</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Ms Jeronime ZANMASSOU, Chief of the <i>Programmes-Projets</i> Unit, <i>Ecole du Patrimoine Africain</i> (EPA)</p>
12:50 -13:25	<p>Open exchange with participant cities:</p> <p>“What about my city? – lessons learnt and departures from the Kasubi project method according to participants’ own experiences”</p> <p>With the special participation in the debate of city heritage representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Abomey (Benin)</li> <li>● Grand-Bassam (Côte d’Ivoire)</li> <li>● Asmara (Eritrea)</li> <li>● Lamu (Kenya)</li> <li>● Djenné (Mali)</li> <li>● Port Louis district (Mauritius)</li> <li>● Koutammakou (Togo)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Mr Alaa EL-HABASHI, Professor of architecture and heritage conservation, chair of the Department of Architecture in Menoufia University</p>
13:25-13:30	Wrap up by Session Chair
13:30-15:30	Lunch break

24 July 2023 - Afternoon session: 15:30-17:30 (GMT+2 Paris time)

## ***Understanding the context around African World Heritage properties***

Session chaired by Ms Ola UDUKU – Head of School, Roscoe Chair of Architecture  
Architecture, University of Liverpool

15:30 -15:35	Welcome address and session agenda by Session Chair
15:35 -15:55	International experiences from Ms Imane BENNANI, UNESCO Chair, Director <i>Ecole d'Architecture de Rabat-UIR</i> (tbc)
15:55 -16:15	International experiences from Mr Eric HUYBRECHTS, Head of department <i>Actions Internationales, Institut Paris Region</i>
16:15 -16:25	Q&A and open discussion moderated by Session Chair
16:25 -17:10	<p>Co-creation exercise with all participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Summary of the main challenges and potentials of African World Heritage properties<sup>2</sup> and presentation of the co-creation exercise</li><li>▪ Mapping of current challenges in and potential actions in Africa</li></ul> <p>Moderated by Ms Alyssa K. BARRY and Ms Alba ZAMARBIDE (see above)</p>
17:10-17:20	Conclusions by Session Chair
17:20 -17:30	Wrap up and way forward by Mr Muhammad Juma MUHAMMAD - Chief of the Africa Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

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<sup>2</sup> as identified during [World Heritage City Labs 2020-2022](#) and [HUL anniversary events 2021](#) compared to examples from Kasubi.