

WHV – Protection and maintenance of the Bafut heritage site

La Chefferie de Bafut, Cameroon

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2018)

06 August - 28 August 2024

THE SITE - Of undoubted aesthetic value, the Bafut Chiefdom is one of the most successful and best-preserved architectural experiments in the Grassfields region. The Chiefdom represents a tradition, that of the Bafut people and a living culture of the Grassfields cultural area. The layout of the space is characteristic of the culture of the region: a main hut and multiple elements such as the wives' huts, shrines, a sacred forest, places of worship, etc. The Bafut chiefdom is at the heart of a traditional social organisation marked by a way of life and age-old religious practices. Although the current chiefdom is a reconstruction, it was built on the same site and was designed according to the same spatial organisation model. Moreover, the current use and function are still in line with local traditional practices, which are organised around the chief's hut on the one hand, and the wives' huts and the sanctuary on the other. As far as the current Palace is concerned, although certain elements have undergone transformation and colonial influence, it retains its original general appearance. As a result of urban development around the Palace, it is now under some reversible threat from the appearance of nearby roads. The sacred forest, on the other hand, retains all its integrity.

OBJECTIVES - The project, implemented for the first time by the Regional service of cultural heritage and museums, has the main objective of engaging volunteers in renovation and maintenance activities at the Bafut palace.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will take part in renovation and maintenance works and will conduct targeted awareness raising activities within the Bafut community to increase community engagement within the site, including through radio talks and social media campaigns.

PARTNERS - Ministry of Tourism and Leisure; Ministry of external relations; National Youth Council; University of Bamenda; Bafut Community Radio; United Youth Network; ISOKA Security; DIKO Group.

Regional service of cultural heritage and museums

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