

WHV – ZU Dia Ba NKA, the school of the wise

Ancien port d'embarquement des esclaves de Loango, Congo

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2008)

28 September - 07 October 2024

THE SITE - The former slave embarkation port of Loango is one of the most important sites in the Gulf of Guinea through which millions of slaves were loaded onto ships and transported directly to the Americas without intermediate stops. This site, which swallowed up millions of souls lost in the devouring horizons of the Atlantic Ocean, still bears witness to this inhuman trade, which led to one of the greatest genocides in human history: the large market, the three mango trees, the tree for the ritual of forgetting, the tree for the return and the landing stage all bear witness to this. The site's historical significance also makes it a place where several rites of enthronement and funerals of the kings of the Loango kingdom are still performed. The cultural importance of this site can also be seen in the laments still sung by the inhabitants left behind at the site of the disaster, recalling the nostalgia of the relatives who remain to wait for the loved ones torn from their affection and whom they will never see again. In this way, the former port of embarkation, now a veritable shrine because of its historical significance, is a key link in our understanding of the history of slavery.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to set up multimedia awareness-raising campaigns to inform the general public about the history, cultural value and importance of preserving the site of the former slave embarkation port of Loango. The programme also focuses in particular on intergenerational relations, with the organisation of meetings with traditional elders and mbongui aimed at establishing a dialogue that strengthens the cultural fabric within the local community.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will take part in visits to the Loango Museum, including discussions with local experts to deepen understanding of the history of the slave trade, that will foster a deep appreciation of cultural heritage. They will participate in sessions learning traditional slave songs, followed by performances along the Slave Route, strengthening the youth emotional understanding and fostering a deep commitment to the preservation of the site.

PARTNERS - Ville de Pointe-Noire; Musée de Mâ Loango; Visiter le Congo; Ici c'est Pointe-Noire; Projet Matatchebo; Wild Safari Tour.

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