

WHV – Engaging the Youth in Preserving Cultural Heritage Property for Posterity

Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions, Ghana

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1979)

08 August - 23 August 2024

THE SITE - These fortified trading posts, founded between 1482 and 1786, and spanning a distance of approximately 500 km along the coast of Ghana between Keta in the east and Beyin in the west, were links in the trading routes established by the Portuguese in many areas of the world during their era of great maritime exploration. The castles and forts were built and occupied at different times by traders from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany and Britain. They served the gold trade of European chartered companies. Latterly they played a significant part in the developing slave trade, and therefore in the history of the Americas, and, subsequently, in the 19th century, in the suppression of that trade.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at building the capacities of youth in terms of practical skills, knowledge, cultural understanding, interpersonal and leadership skills, and at documenting Ussher Fort's history, contributing to increase awareness, practical knowledge, and interest in conserving World Heritage sites and volunteering among the local community.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will engage with community members leveraging sports and media for heritage advocacy, and will organise events to display cultural artefacts with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. In cooperation with the site management authorities, volunteers will also be mobilized for construction work and maintenance at Ussher Fort, visit other heritage sites in Ghana for learning and knowledge sharing, design educational materials on World Heritage themes, and engage the local community with documentaries about the importance of volunteering.

PARTNERS - Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Jamestown community theatre center, Jamestown Ngleshie Noyaa Kpee, Act for change, Jamestown archive, The Royal Netherlands Embassy of Ghana.

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