

WHV – Erosion on the Island of Mozambique, World Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Island of Mozambique, Mozambique

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1991)

16 August - 30 August 2024

THE SITE - The fortified city of Mozambique is located on this island, a former Portuguese trading post on the route to India. Its remarkable architectural unity is due to the consistent use, since the sixteenth century, of the same building techniques, building materials (stone or macuti) and decorative principles. The town and the fortifications on the Island of Mozambique are an outstanding example of an architecture in which local traditions, Portuguese influences and, to a somewhat lesser extent, Indian and Arab influences are all interwoven. The Island of Mozambique bears important witness to the establishment and development of the Portuguese maritime routes between Western Europe and the Indian sub-continent and thence all of Asia.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to contribute to reducing the effects of erosion on the Island of Mozambique, and specifically to: raise awareness of the risks of erosion on the Island of Mozambique; interact, exchange and build networks between communities and participants; plant mangroves around the island; train local young people in the use of sustainable tools to be active members in the preservation of World Heritage.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will focus on the conservation benefits of mangroves in preventing erosion on the Island of Mozambique, assessing current erosion levels, and organizing cultural exchange games. Activities will include preparing and planting mangroves seedlings around endangered sites, raising community awareness about erosion prevention, and training participants in tree planting and in the organisation of community engagement actions.

PARTNERS - UNESCO Maputo Office, Ministério da Cultura e Turismo, Conselho Municipal da Ilha de Moçambique, Gabinete de Conservação da Ilha de Moçambique (GACIM), Radio Comunitária, Governo local, Getty Conservation Institute.

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