

WHV – Keeping Rwandan Heritage Alive: Empowering Youth to Fight Against Genocide Through World Heritage Stewardship

Memorial sites of the Genocide: Nyamata, Murambi, Gisozi and Bisesero, Rwanda

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2023)

01 May - 30 November 2024

THE SITE - Between April and July 1994, an estimated one million people were killed across Rwanda by armed militias called Interahamwe that targeted Tutsi, but also executed moderate Hutu and Twa people. The victims of the genocide are commemorated in this serial property composed of four memorial sites. Two of the component parts were scenes of massacres: a Catholic church built in the hill of Nyamata in 1980, and a technical school built in the hill of Murambi in 1990. The hill of Gisozi in Kigali City hosts the Kigali Genocide Memorial built in 1999, where more than 250,000 victims have been buried, while the hill of Bisesero in the Western Province hosts a memorial built in 1998, to remember the fight of those who resisted their perpetrators for over two months before being exterminated

OBJECTIVES - The focus of the project introduced by the ENHA-GIRUBUNTU Initiative will be on conducting interactive visits and workshops and facilitating discussions about the Memorial sites of the Genocide, working on the connection between heritage preservation and awareness raising among targeted local communities, especially youth groups, to fight against the genocide ideology.

ACTIVITIES - The project will engage youth through social media and build partnerships with influencers with the #RememberNeverAgain hashtag. Local community engagement will include school presentations, outreach events, and a mobile museum. Creative content production will involve making short documentaries, hosting radio talk shows, and organizing an art competition.

PARTNERS - Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO, University of Rwanda, Rwanda Polytechnic, AEGIS TRUST, Never Again(NAR), Rwanda Cultural Heritage Academy (RCHA), Chancellery for National Heroes medals of Decoration of Honour (CHENO), Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB), GS St Joseph Kabgayi, GS St Aloys Rwamagana, Muhabura Polytechnic, Rwanda Governance Board (RGB).

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