

WHV – Youth participation in the restoration of Khami Ruins

Khami Ruins National Monument, Zimbabwe

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1986)

08 August - 18 August 2024

THE SITE - Khami Ruins National Monument is located to the west of the Khami River, 22 km from the City of Bulawayo. The property was the capital of the Torwa dynasty, which arose from the collapse of the Great Zimbabwe Kingdom between 1450 -1650 and was abandoned during the Ndebele incursions of the 19th century. It is composed of a complex series of platforms of dry-stone walled structures, emulating a later development of Stone Age culture. It is a unique and exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared. The architecture and archaeological artefacts of the site provide important scientific and historical evidence critical for the understanding of the full chronological development of the Zimbabwe tradition from the Stone Age to the Iron Age era. The property is an outstanding example of a type of building and architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in history. It has yielded an exceptional long evidence related to human evolution and human environment dynamics, collectively extending from 100 000 years ago to date and demonstrates testimonial to the long distance trade with the outer world.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at contributing to the restoration of the stone walls and at increasing awareness on cultural heritage among young people and the local community in order to preserve the site.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will be restoring stone walls and building fire break paths under the guidance of the site management authorities.

PARTNERS - National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, USAID, Bolivia Hire and Catering Services, Listen and Initiate Transformation Trust.

**Young African Leaders Initiative Regional Leadership Center
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