

WHV – Youth Heritage Preservation Advocacy (a Joint Forts Campaign)

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

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1979) 30 August - 19 September 2025

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 to engage communities, heritage organizations, and stakeholders in a collective effort to preserve the historical significance of Fort Amsterdam, British Komenda Fort, and Fort Patience. It will support fundraising campaigns to secure resources for conservation, advocate for heritage preservation through education and media outreach, and promote the forts as important cultural landmarks in African and global history to attract broader public interest and involvement.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will carry out a range of awareness-raising activities to promote the historical significance of the forts. They will organize public heritage tours and storytelling events, as well as educational workshops to engage the community and deepen understanding of the sites' cultural value. Volunteers will also host community forums and storytelling sessions to foster local connection to the forts. In addition, they will conduct public talks and media campaigns—using radio, television, cinema, and social media platforms—to educate the broader public and encourage active participation in the preservation of these heritage sites. Participants will also engage in hands-on activities to support the preservation of the forts. These efforts will include clearing debris and overgrown vegetation, painting and patching walls, performing minor carpentry repairs such as fixing doors and windows, and carrying out basic restoration work on deteriorated areas. In addition to physical restoration, participants will contribute to creative heritage promotion by producing photo galleries, video documentaries, posters, and brochures. They will also help compile the historical narratives of the forts. Volunteers will create documentaries highlighting the benefits of volunteering, which will be shared in local cinemas and across social media platforms to inspire broader community involvement.

PARTNERS - Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, Local community and youth groups.

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