

WHV – Applying the power of Story-telling for youth engagement in Quirimbas Arquipelagos Heritage Site

The Quirimbas Archipelago, Mozambique

PROJECT DATES

Mixed property inscribed on the Tentative List (2008)

15 - 26 September 2025

THE SITE - The Quirimbas Archipelago, a cultural and natural heritage in northern Mozambique, consists of 31 islands stretching south from Cape Delgado for approximately 200 miles. These islands, running along the coast, are partly linked to the coast by sand bars, coral reefs, mangroves and water rich in marine life. Of special interest are the Islands of Ibo, and to a less extent, Quisiva and Matemo, that are old Portuguese settlements with pre-colonial Swahili settlements. The site is an outstanding illustration of the phases of a particular culture that brought together and homogenized disparate elements of the cultures of Africa, the Arab region, India, and Europe over more than a millennium.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to raise awareness of youth, community and professionals on the valorization and preservation of heritages through the application of the power of story-telling to inspire change of attitudes and have the stakeholders engaged. Inspiring the valorization and preservation of heritages through the reflection of the family heritages, and the former practices of remarkable historical and cultural value. Documenting most relevant tradition knowledge and practices concerning the social life, cultures & beliefs, fishery, education, governance, environmental, and apply in the management of heritage, encouraging community-based management approach.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will participate in community dialogues aimed at fostering inclusive discussions around the preservation of the Island of Mozambique, a World Cultural Heritage site. These sessions will involve local, religious, and traditional leaders, creating a strong network of community actors who serve as agents of change. By introducing the objectives of the WHV 2025 project and aligning them with community interests, the dialogues will encourage collaboration, strengthen relationships between leaders and residents, and lay the groundwork for collective environmental and cultural preservation efforts. The volunteers will also take part in practical activities that emerge from these dialogues, such as planting native vegetation in coastal areas to combat erosion and restoring historical monuments with active community involvement. These initiatives will be complemented by capacity-building workshops on environmental preservation practices and traditional crafts, reinforcing cultural identity. Awareness campaigns and continuous monitoring by AJOV will ensure broad participation and help sustain long-term impact.

PARTNERS - Ibo District Administration, Ibo Municipality, Quirimbas National Park/Biosphere Reserve, Serviço Distrital de Educação, Juventude e Tecnologia, ARCH. MIDIA TRUST, Direção Provincial da Cultura e Turismo de Cabo Delgado; Community leaders, CCP, CGRNM, and ANAQ.

Associação do Sistema de Monitoria Orientada para a Gestão (ASMOG)

Mr. Vasco Long Puan

vpuan@asmog.org



<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>