



# Africa 2009 NewsLetter

african  
cultural  
heritage  
organisations



## editorial

The AFRICA 2009 programme, a partnership of African cultural heritage organizations, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, and CRATerre-EAG reached the end of its pilot phase in December of 2001. The programme, whose long term objective is to increase national capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa for management and conservation of immovable cultural heritage, has been gradually introducing activities at the regional and site levels, in full collaboration between programme staff and African professionals.

During the pilot phase (1998-2001), the programme trained 61 professionals as part of its regional courses, held 3 directors seminars and 2 thematic seminars involving approximately 80 persons, carried out research projects on traditional conservation methods, documentation of rock art, and dry stone masonry, and implemented projects at 7 different sites in the region. The programme has also been active in strengthening networks through its web site, its database, and other communication means.

In 2001, an independent assessment of the programme activities was carried out. This assessment was requested by the Steering Committee of AFRICA 2009 in order to gauge the progress made during the pilot phase and to point out future directions. The overall results of the programme have been judged more than satisfactory, and it was recommended that the programme continue and expand its activities in line with a series of recommendations.



# editorial (continued)

The Directors Evaluation Seminar organized last September in Mombasa, Kenya, was the opportunity for us to examine the report of this assessment team. My colleagues and I expressed our support for both the assessment report and the programme as a whole, and worked together to explore in more depth, some of the issues that had been raised. All these activities led to the formulation of a draft programme for the next phase (2002 - 2005).

I am pleased to announce that, based on the assessment report and the positive reaction from our Directors Seminar, the financial partners of AFRICA 2009 have indicated that they will continue to support the programme through its next phase of implementation. During this consolidation phase, several new activities will be launched. They include the organization of working groups on specific subjects, the reinforcement of the participation of African professionals as resource persons in all activities, cross border exchanges, the organization of national seminars, and the preparation of short technical courses to be held each year starting in 2003. Following the recommendations of the assessment report, an impact / new needs assessment will also be carried out, leading to a «programme design seminar» aimed at finalizing the overall programme for this new phase.

In conclusion, I can state that significant progress has already been made by AFRICA 2009, especially in the area of developing ideas, approaches and methodologies, and

in the creation of means for sharing experiences. These developments have enhanced the ability of those who have participated in AFRICA 2009 activities to create management plans and to sensitize communities, institutions and organizations to the necessity of stakeholder participation in the planning and management process. The ideas, knowledge, and skills gained have proven to be useful for in-the-field applications, both within *Projets Situés* organized within the programme and also within the context of other projects carried out by members of the AFRICA 2009 network. As the work of our colleagues in the network is so important to us, we have decided to dedicate more space within this Newsletter to building awareness about some of their projects.

On behalf of the members of the Steering Committee and all of my colleagues in Africa, I would like to thank all the financial and operational partners, institutions, and individuals, who have given their time and expertise during the past 4 years. It is strongly hoped that the programme will continue to evolve and have a greater impact in supporting the conservation of the immovable cultural heritage of Africa, a resource of global importance.

**Justine Mintsa mi-Eya**

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CULTURE, GABON  
VICE-CHAIRMAN, AFRICA 2009 STEERING COMMITTEE

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Course

### Projet Cadre

The third Regional Course on Conservation and Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa, was held in Mombasa, Kenya from 9 July to 28 September 2001. The course was organized in partnership with the Programme for Museums Development in Africa (PMDA) and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK). The main focus of the course was a two month, hands-on exercise to create management plans for two sites in the Mombasa Old Town, Fort Jesus and the Leven House and Steps. In addition to the management planning exercise, the course also covered topics of interest at the national level to promote the better conservation of immovable cultural heritage.

The course took place at the premises of PMDA in Mombasa and was attended by 22 participants from 18 countries. The working language was English. It was officially opened on 20 July by the Hon. Francis Nyenze, Minister of Sports and Heritage. In keeping with the aims of

AFRICA 2009, an effort was made to involve more African professionals as part of the teaching team. As a result, 14 of 19 resource persons came from the region. 6 participants of the 1999 regional course were also invited to act as course assistants in 2001.

Evaluations by participants indicated that the course was very much appreciated, in particular the units on African Immovable Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism. A separate evaluation by resource persons showed that they were very pleased by the level of comprehension and the degree of commitment of the participants.

The positive impact of the course can be seen in several areas.

- Participants returned to their respective countries with new competencies which will surely help them to better conserve their immovable cultural heritage.
- Draft management plans (as a pedagogic exercise) were developed for Leven House and Steps and Fort Jesus. These

draft plans will help the NMK in the development of actual plans that the organization will be working on in the next few years. The Leven House and Steps will also become a future AFRICA 2009 *Projet Situé*.

- AFRICA 2009 was able to develop and strengthen its partnership with PMDA, an important regional institution for training in conservation of cultural heritage in English speaking Africa.
- Didactic materials and equipment were left behind at the end of the course for the benefit of both PMDA and the NMK. These materials include a photocopier, moderation panels, a computer printer, and books and articles related to conservation of immovable cultural heritage.

The AFRICA 2009 programme would like to thank the Government of Kenya for providing, through the NMK, the conditions necessary for the successful implementation of the course. The programme would also like to thank PMDA for acting as host and partner for the course.

The AFRICA 2009 Directors Seminar, organized in partnership with PMDA, was held from 24 - 28 September 2001 at the Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya. As in past years, it was scheduled to coincide with the final week of the Regional Course.

In 2001, however, the seminar took on a special importance for AFRICA 2009 as shown by its theme, AFRICA 2009 in 2001 : Review of Progress and Future Directions. Scheduled near the end of the pilot phase, the seminar was used as means to allow directors of immovable cultural heritage in the region to evaluate the achievements made between 1998 and 2001 and to give guidance on the next phase of programme implementation.

Unlike past years, the seminar was carried out in both French and English to allow for directors from all over the region to participate. In total 27 directors attended along with 18 representatives of partner and other organizations.

The basis used for the evaluation discussion was a report prepared by an independent assessment team with members from Norway, Sweden, and Uganda. The work of the assessment team had begun in July of 2001 with an examination of all of the relevant documents produced by the programme over the four-year pilot phase. A mission was then carried out by the team to ICCROM headquarters in Rome for discussion with the secretariat. In addition, phone interviews were held with a number of stakeholders in the programme.

The resulting draft report was presented by the head of the assessment team to the directors during one of the working sessions of the seminar. A lively discussion then followed on the specific points raised by the report. After the discussion, the directors adopted the main findings of the report and then broke into working groups to give more precision to some of the findings. One group helped to develop a first draft of a «logical framework» which places the objectives and outputs of the programme into an easy to evaluate format. Other groups covered issues

of participant selection and programme sustainability and management.

Following the evaluation discussion, a draft programme for 2002-2005 was presented to the directors. This draft programme, developed by the AFRICA 2009 Coordination Committee, was approved by the directors with modifications based on the issues brought out during the evaluation.

As in past years, the seminar also allowed participants of the Regional Course to present the work they had carried out over the previous three months. Participants presented draft management plans for two sites in Mombasa, Fort Jesus and Leven House, and also gave summary presentations of other course units.

On the closing day of the seminar, course participants received their certificates and a party was held at the Jumba la Mtwana archaeological site located near the venue of the seminar. The programme would like to thank both PMDA and the National Museums of Kenya for their help in successfully completing the seminar.

## Africa 2009 Steering Committee

The AFRICA 2009 Coordination Committee was set up at the launch of the programme in 1998 to guide the policies and activities of the programme. The committee is made up of 4 African heritage professionals (two Anglophone and two Francophone), and one member each of the 3 institutional partners. Following the recommendations of the assessment team, the committee has been renamed «Steering Committee» in order to better reflect its role within the programme.

At the Directors Seminar in September 2001 in Mombasa, Kenya, elections were held for the two Anglophone members. Dr. George Abungu was reelected to the committee for another two year term, and Dr. Elizabeth Gomani was also selected. Dr. Abungu was then tapped to continue to serve as Chairman of the committee

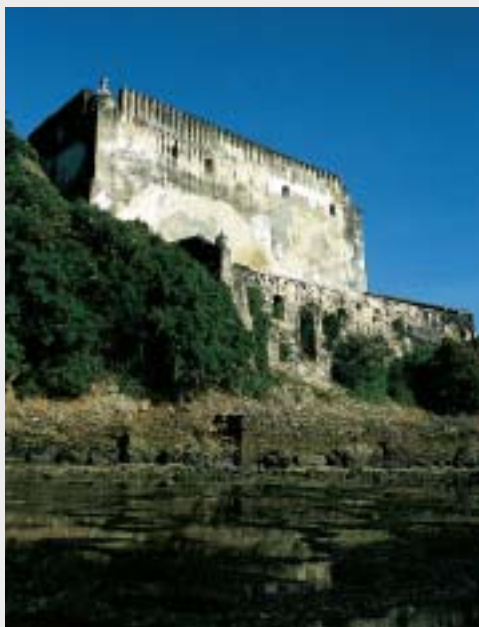
until the end of 2002 and Mrs. Justine Mintsami-Eya was selected to be Vice-Chairman.

There have also been other important changes to the committee. Galia Saouma-Forero, who represented the World Heritage Centre on the committee for 3 years, was given other responsibilities within UNESCO. Mrs. Saouma-Forero was one of the primary persons responsible for the development, launch, and implementation of AFRICA 2009 and for this the programme would like to say thank you.

Recognition also goes to Dr. I.N. Debrah of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board who served as a member of the committee for 3 years and to Giovanni Fontana Antonelli who acted as the WHC representative for 6 months.

### Members of the AFRICA 2009 Steering Committee in 2002 are :

- George Abungu - National Museums of Kenya (Chairman)
- Justine Mintsami-Eya - Direction Générale de la Culture, Gabon (Vice-Chairman)
- Elisabeth Gomani - Department of Antiquities, Malawi
- Neino Chaibou - Direction du Patrimoine et des Musées, Niger
- Joseph King - ICCROM
- Thierry Joffroy - CRATerre-EAG
- (To be named by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre)



## Thematic Seminar

## Ségou 2002



The second AFRICA 2009 thematic seminar titled «*Quel(s) argumentaire(s) pour sensibiliser à la conservation du patrimoine culturel immobilier africain ?*» was held in Ségou, Mali from 5-10 November 2001. This thematic seminar, the first in French, was organized in partnership with the National Department for Arts and Culture of the Malian Ministry of Culture. 20 participants from 18 countries were invited by AFRICA 2009 to take part.

The opening ceremony was presided over by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Al Hady Koïta. The two first days were devoted to individual presentations by the participants of the arguments that have been used in their res-

pective countries to build awareness of African immovable cultural heritage. Following these presentations, plenary sessions and group work were organized to begin building up a list of arguments which could be used to further the cause of conservation in the region. These arguments were divided into 5 broad categories.

### 1. Cultural Heritage, Part of the Living Environment

Although African immovable cultural heritage often remains undervalued, there is a real significance in the fact that much of this heritage remains an integral part of the continuing, living environment for many communities. The use of local know-how and techniques and the adaptations that have been developed to live in harmony with the natural environment are all important elements that should be recognized as a true inspiration in the quest for social well being, improved quality of life, and sustainable development.

### 2. Education and Research

Education and research are the cornerstones of any positive development process. Research on heritage sites would allow for a better knowledge of the history and development of Africa. Research would also help to improve traditional building techniques and serve as an inspiration for new artistic creativity. It was also considered important that the resulting knowledge be passed on through educational programmes for the public (at all levels) to contribute to a better understanding of the heritage and

its recognition at the local, national, and international levels.

### 3. Social Equilibrium

Conservation of the immovable cultural heritage promotes a stable society and implies a recognition and respect for the differences and cultural identities of distinct communities. As such, it can play an important role

benefits to local populations as well as local and national authorities. Sources of economic development include tourism, development of local building and craft industries, and the reuse of existing buildings and sites. Emphasis was given to the use of local resources and know-how, and to job creation. It was finally pointed



in strengthening the culture of peace, preserving the specific values associated with sites and communities, and helping to integrate peoples and nations.

### 4. Maintenance of the Ecosystem

Conservation of the immovable cultural heritage can help to maintain a balanced ecosystem. Attention to the cultural values of such sites as sacred forests, ponds, hills, caves, rock shelters, and other types of cultural landscapes can help to protect biodiversity and fight against negative environmental impacts of development. It also leads to a better respect of nature by man.

### 5. Economic Development

Immovable cultural heritage sites offer economic

out that well maintained heritage sites can also create a positive image of a country that helps to attract investors, development agencies, and others to contribute to the general development.

The last formal day of the seminar was devoted to the elaboration of seminar recommendations, and the closing ceremony which was attended by the Minister of Culture of Mali, Mr. Pascal Baba Coulibaly. Visits were also organized during the week to sites in Ségou and Djenné, the later of which is on the World Heritage List. AFRICA 2009 would like to thank our colleagues in Mali for the excellent job that they did to help organize and carry out this important seminar.



Photo : Peeyush Sekhsaria

# The Gambia

## The genesis of a network: another World Heritage nomination completed with the assistance of Africa 2009

The Gambia, working in collaboration with the Africa 2009 programme, submitted a nomination dossier for James Island and Related Sites to the World Heritage Centre in January 2002. The nomination will be considered in 2003, and if accepted, will be the Gambia's first site on the World Heritage List.

The submission is the culmination of a long process which began in 1994. At that time the Gambia submitted nominations for two properties, James Island and the Stones Circles of the Senegambia both of which were deferred pending completion of comparative studies and management plans. It was also noted that there was a need to increase capacity to manage and conserve the two sites.

Following this initial attempt, the World Heritage Centre identified CRATerre-EAG to work with The Gambia on James Island and Related Sites. The outcome of the first mission in May 1996 was a comprehensive and multi-faceted proposal for a training programme aimed at increasing the technical capacity of the Museum and Monuments Department (MMD).

The in-situ training programme took place in December 1997. Fifty-four participants, including MMD staff, local artisans, and technicians, received theoretical and practical training in conservation. The result of the exercise was physically visible at the James Island site, but had a more far-reaching impact in that capacity was developed to replicate similar work at other sites in the country.

The following year, a grant from the World Monuments Watch was obtained. In addition to the continuation of conservation work, the grant funded the production of postcards and a brochure to generate profits for the regular maintenance of the sites.

With the establishment of AFRICA 2009, the conservation of James Island was adopted as a *Projet Situé*, and the task was extended to include the preparation of a World Heritage nomination dossier and management plan. Preparatory Assistance was obtained from the World Heritage Fund to facilitate this task, making available expertise from CRATerre-EAG and ICCROM. The preparation of the dossier and management plan was another valuable experience for staff of the MMD, particularly the Principal Cultural Officer, who also benefited from the first AFRICA 2009 Regional Course held in Mombasa in 1999.

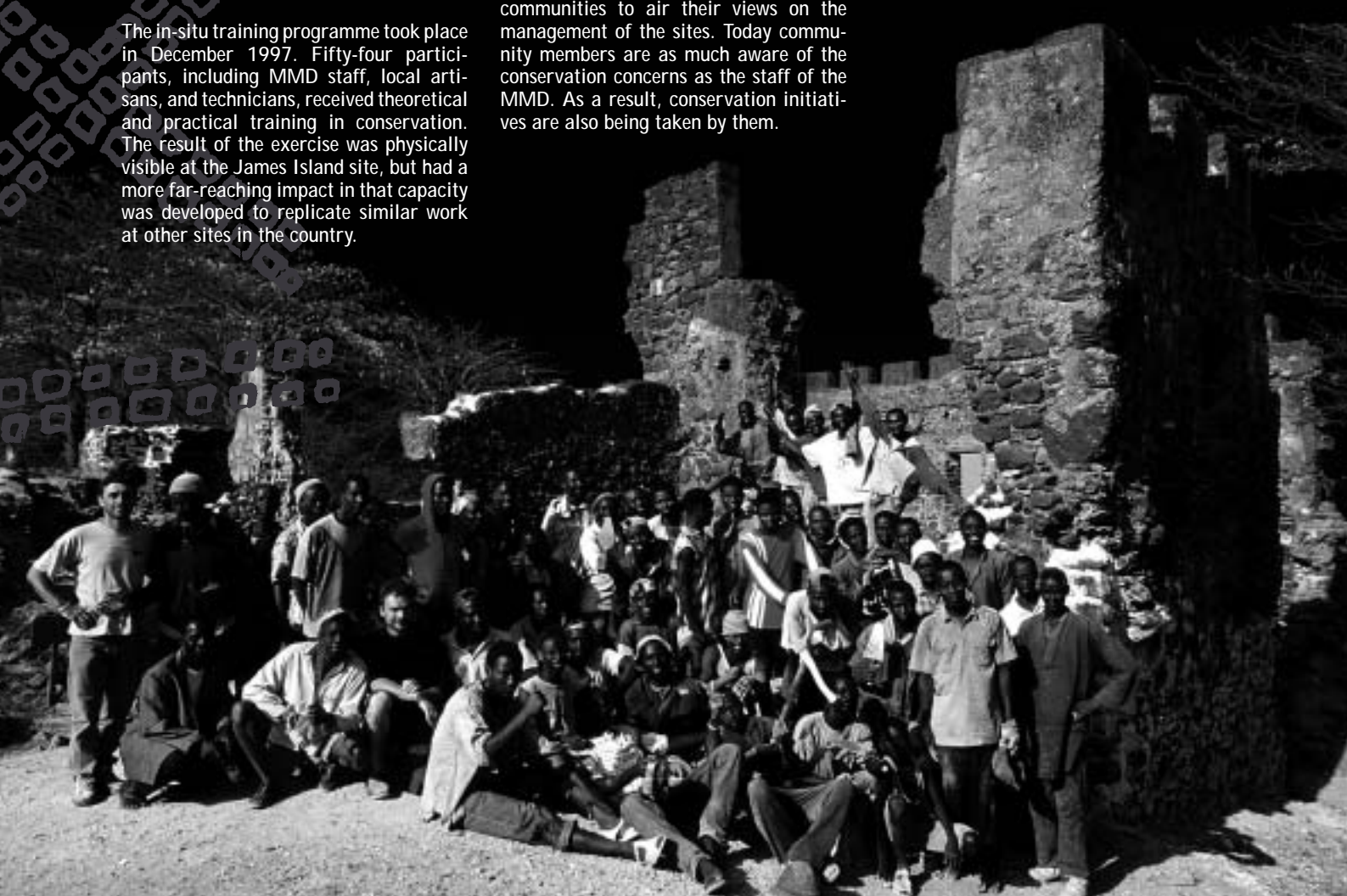
Most useful to the MMD was the participatory approach used to develop the management plan. Several stakeholder meetings were convened, allowing the communities to air their views on the management of the sites. Today community members are as much aware of the conservation concerns as the staff of the MMD. As a result, conservation initiatives are also being taken by them.

The relationship between the MMD and AFRICA 2009 has continued to grow, resulting in attention to hitherto neglected aspects of immovable heritage such as sacred sites in traditional custodianship. One such site, Katchichally, has been the subject of an article in an AFRICA 2009 publication on Traditional Conservation Practices in Africa.

The work undertaken on James Island and Related Sites as part of the AFRICA 2009 programme illustrates the benefits of adopting a cooperative and participatory approach both at the local and international levels. As a result of the project, the local community has taken a renewed interest in their heritage sites, the MMD has been able to expand its capacity to manage and protect the diverse types of immovable cultural heritage in the Gambia, and the AFRICA 2009 has gained valuable experience which can be used to the benefit of other sites in the region.

**Baba Ceessay**

PRINCIPAL CULTURAL OFFICER  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE



## Projets Situés



# THE CONSERVATION OF THE MOSQUES OF TIMBUKTU

The mosques of Djingarey-Ber, Sankore, and Sidi Yahia formed the heart of Timbuktu's university districts. These living witnesses of history were built of fragile materials (earth, limestone, doum palm), and they have been able to survive the passage of time only thanks to their well-adapted architectural design, and the joint effort of prosperous citizens and builders who have contributed to their regular upkeep.

These three mosques have been included on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1989. In this context, in January 1994, the Malian Ministry of Culture established the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the historic city, in collaboration with religious leaders and the builders guilds.

In 1994, the head of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu attended the «PAT 94» course held at CRATerre-EAG in Grenoble, France (as part of the Gaia Project, realized by ICCROM and CRA-Terre-EAG). Following the course, the

World Heritage Centre commissioned the Cultural Mission to carry out a study entitled «Maintenance and Repair Work on the Mosques of Timbuktu». In the light of the results, an expert mission was organized to :

- analyse the state of the mosques;
- study the conditions required for their conservation;
- prepare a training programme;
- establish a detailed plan of intervention.

With the support of the World Heritage Fund, the Cultural Mission continued its collaboration with the Gaia project by organizing the «Pilot Restoration Works on the Mosques of Timbuktu», with the aims of :

- restoring the mosques of Timbuktu;
- rehabilitating the traditional craft skills of the builders;
- supporting the tradition of maintaining the fabric of the mosques;
- involving those traditionally responsible.

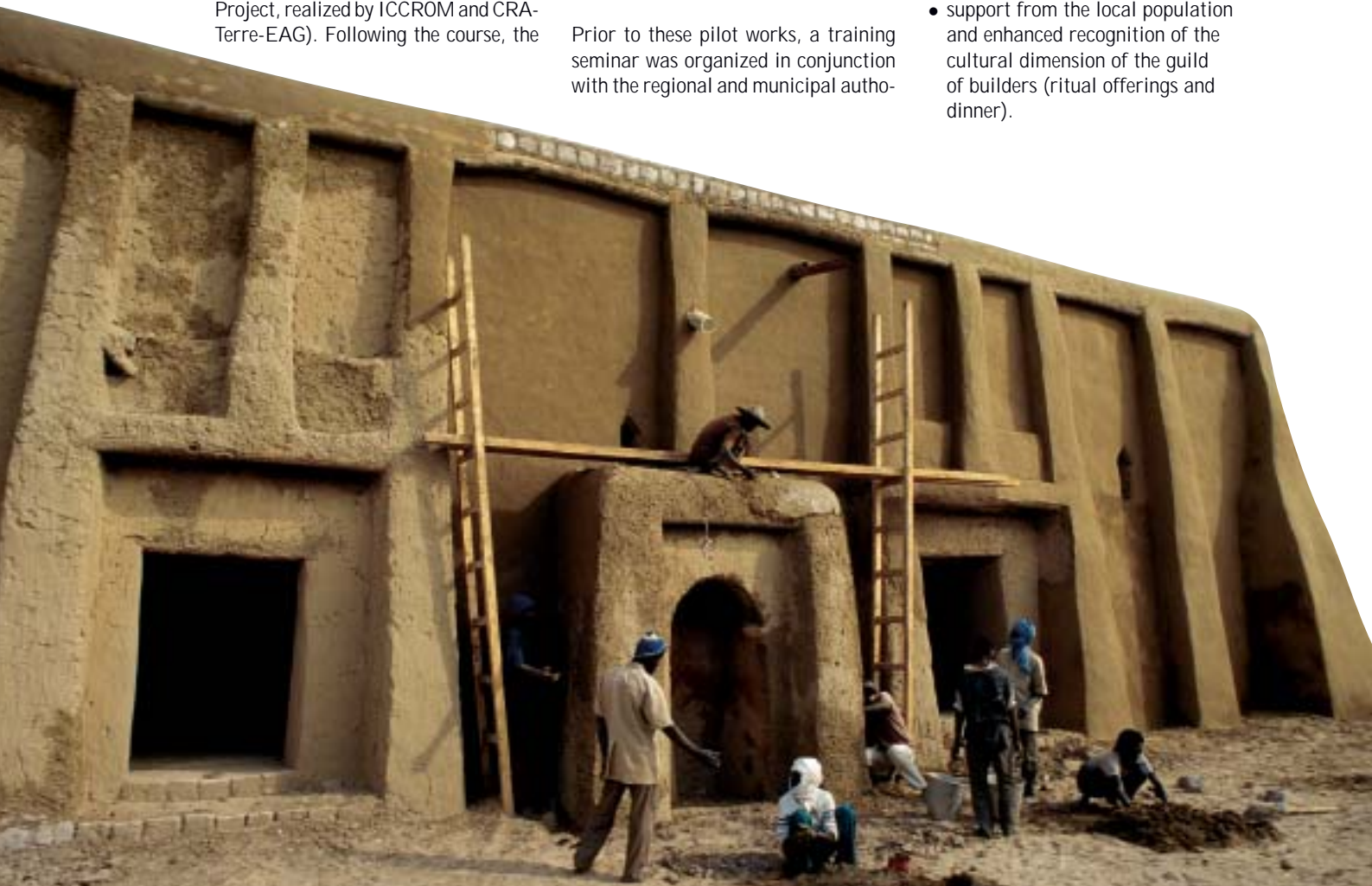
Prior to these pilot works, a training seminar was organized in conjunction with the regional and municipal autho-

rities, the technical departments, the Imams, and the builders. Three main themes were covered :

- the importance of prevention;
- the light of the risks;
- respect for traditional practice.

The pilot works, carried out over twelve days and totaling more than a thousand man-days of work, enabled some convincing results to be achieved :

- enhanced mastery of conservation methods;
- elimination of the main threats;
- restoration of the western façade of Djingarey-Ber, and exposure of the western wall of Sankore, which had been covered in sand to a depth of more than 1.5 metres;
- the improvement of new details of technique: skylights improving lighting and ventilation; reinforcement of areas under waterspouts by plastic film to avoid water penetration, etc.;
- improvement of surface drainage around the mosques;
- support from the local population and enhanced recognition of the cultural dimension of the guild of builders (ritual offerings and dinner).





But, although all the risks identified were thus removed, the intervention plan did not provide for any action on the minarets or the façades of the mosques. The reason for this strategy was that these parts are the ones that are always treated during the traditional maintenance event carried out annually by the community.

In order to consolidate the process of preventive conservation begun during these pilot works, the Cultural Mission has decided to support this maintenance work on a regular basis. This has enabled other complementary work to be carried out :

- restoration of the northern walls of the mosque of Sankore, preserving the original form of the archways;
- roughcasting of the walls of Djingarey-Ber, and renovation of the system of drainage for the courtyard and replacement of beams and waterspouts.

The Cultural Mission has also undertaken the following actions to raise awareness and promote the sites :

- definition of a tourist itinerary;
- installation of signs delimiting the itinerary;
- distribution of a leaflet about the Cultural Mission;
- production of a leaflet (in French and English) on the Timbuktu sites;
- presentation of broadcasts on national radio and TV about the Cultural Mission and the 1972 Convention;
- publication of articles on the architecture and the sites of Timbuktu.

Following the establishment of the Africa 2009 programme, the conservation of the Mosques of Timbuktu has become one of



its *Projets Situés*. This has enabled partnerships to be established :

- between the Cultural Mission and Africa 2009, with numerous exchanges



during meetings and seminars, training of a staff member at the course organized in Benin in 2000, and publication of articles on traditional practices for the upkeep of the Mosques;

- between the Cultural Mission and those traditionally responsible for the management of the sites.

In this way, dialogue and dynamic partnerships have been established on several levels. The organization and maintenance of the sites are carried out jointly by all those who play a part in the life of the city. Efforts have been initiated to promote and to enhance the sites, and in particular to increase recognition of the values of local traditions. This dialogue has also enabled roles and responsibilities among the many individuals participating in the life of the sites to be redefined.

The individual management committees are now structured within a local association, Yerkoy Hou Yer Koy Bania, made up of Imams and builders. In addition to the works which it organizes on a seasonal basis, it has carried out work as part of the «Plan to Revitalize and Preserve Timbuktu» in collaboration with the Cultural Mission and the municipality.



In addition to these interventions, the cultural element of the «Urban Development and Decentralization Project» envisages a series of actions focusing on :

- the preservation of the fabric of old Timbuktu;
- enhanced recognition of the value of the Mosques, historic squares, and the houses of scholars and explorers;
- the establishment of tourist centres and itineraries.

The progress made to date with this cultural element enables one to anticipate the realization of three studies of fundamental importance for the future of the city, namely :

- the topographical survey of the city;
- the overall plan for urban improvements;
- the Plan to Revitalize and Preserve Timbuktu.

**Ali Ould Sidi**

HEAD OF THE CULTURAL MISSION,  
MEMBER OF THE AFRICA 2009 COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
(1998-2000)



# From the network



Great results have been achieved recently in the conservation of Uganda's cultural heritage. Africa 2009 participant, Remigious Kigongo, has actively participated in much of the work. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi on the World Heritage List at its 25<sup>th</sup> session in Helsinki, Finland on 14 December 2001. The nomination dossier was prepared as part of an AFRICA 2009 *Projet Situé*. This is the first national cultural heritage site to be inscribed, and it is a great honor for the Buganda Kingdom and Uganda as a whole. The international recognition of the site is based on the unique Ganda traditional architecture, the living cultural and spiritual heritage, and on the

## Progress in the Pearl : Heritage Conservation and Community Based Tourism in Uganda

fact that it is an important cultural tourist attraction within an urban setting. Restoration of the Tombs is in progress under the auspices of the Buganda Tombs Site Committee.

Another exciting development in Uganda was the launch of the Kabaka's (King's) Trail offering an unforgettable experience for visitors, a revival and conservation of cultural heritage, and improved quality of life for communities. The Trail was opened by Ssabasajja Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II and the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Professor Edward Rugumayo, on 23 November 2001. It links six heritage sites near Kampala. The Kabaka expressed his belief that, «through this cultural trail Ugandans will understand and respect each other better and the world will understand and respect us more».

A major feature of the development process has been training in traditional Kiganda building and conservation methods for the community tourism associations. Two cultural houses have also been constructed at Naggalabi Coronation Hill and Wamala Tombs. The Trail has been developed through Heritage Trails Uganda, a partnership between the guardian communities, the Kabaka Foundation, the Uganda Community Tourism Association (UCOTA) and the British based charity organization, Action for Conservation through Tourism (ACT).

For more information, visit : [www.culturalheritagetrails.com](http://www.culturalheritagetrails.com) or email : <[heritage@africaonline.co.ug](mailto:heritage@africaonline.co.ug)> or <[m\\_remigious@yahoo.com](mailto:m_remigious@yahoo.com)>

**Remigious Kigongo**  
SITE SUPERVISOR, BUGANDA TOMBS SITE COMMITTEE  
**Louise Dixey**  
HERITAGE TRAILS UGANDA

## Participatory Management at Great Zimbabwe

Great Zimbabwe Monument is an ancient city occupied between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today the monument consists of remains of dhaka (mud) houses and monumental dry stone walls covering 720 hectares of land. The importance of the site cannot be overemphasized. Having been declared a national monument in 1937, the site gave a name to the country in 1980, and was included on the World Heritage List in 1986.

The site is under the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe. But the surrounding land belongs to four main owners : the surrounding communities, the National Parks, commercial lodges, and the Reformed Church.

This land holding system has affected the management of the environment within the monument. There has been vandalism, cutting of trees, digging for medicines, cutting and stealing boundary fence, and grazing of cattle. In 2001 the number of cattle on the monument amounted to more

than fifty at a time. A security guard was engaged to keep the cattle away but this did not improve the situation.

Inspired by practices that were promoted at the third Africa 2009 Regional Course held in Mombasa, I organised a meeting on 10 October 2001. It was attended by two chiefs and thirty headmen and members of the site management team. The community representatives were told of the importance of the site to them and to the nation as a whole. Among the benefits that could go to the community were employment, the selling of curios, thatching grass, firewood and participation in the traditional village activities. They were then asked to advise the management team on ways in which the problems affecting the site could be controlled.

After a lengthy discussion the community brought forward the following as a resolution :  
**Stray cattle**  
The community suggested that a cattle-kraal be cons-

tructed within the monument and all cattle that stray into the monument area be kept in the kraal for 24 hours.

- NMMZ shall be responsible for the cattle in the kraal, and the owners shall collect their cattle within 24 hours otherwise they shall be taken to police custody.

- A fine of \$50 per beast shall be payable to NMMZ when the beasts are collected. This shall continue each time that the same person allows his cattle to stay into the monument for three times. If the offence is committed for the fourth time within a year then the owner shall be taken to court.

### **Veldt fires**

- It was agreed that anybody who causes fire within the monument should be taken to court.

### **Security**

- It was agreed that whoever wants something within the Great Zimbabwe estate must seek permission from the Regional Director NMMZ.

- All people found collecting firewood, grass, or manure from the monument without permission shall be taken

first to the village headman and to the chief, and finally to the police/court if the chief cannot resolve the issue.

- The community agreed to assist by reporting to NMMZ officials whoever is seen disturbing the boundary fence.

After having agreed on the above, the number of stray cattle decreased to the extent of going for four weeks before any stray cattle were seen. No veldt fire or vandalism to the monument property has been reported as I write this article. Members of the local community were given the power to decide on what should be done in the management of the site and they gave solutions. They were made part of the management team, looking after the site and hence feel that they have an equal responsibility as the Great Zimbabwe staff in the conservation and management of the site. They now look at the Great Zimbabwe problems as their problems, and moreover participate in solving them.

**Onesimo Nehowa**  
SENIOR SURVEYOR  
GREAT ZIMBABWE NATIONAL MONUMENT



## The Na-yiri of Kokologho: mirror of the culture of a human community.

*«If the branch is to flower,  
Let it honour its roots!»*

In Burkina Faso, traditional power remains an essential element in every community. It is demonstrated in various ways. A striking example is found among the Mossi : the symbolic representation consisting in the organisation in map form of the courtyard of the fetishes, always associated with the palace. Apparently insignificant, it is in fact a representation in miniature of the territory under the authority of the chief. Each village has its little area within it, including a hut in which the protective fetish of the village resides. This architecture constitutes a totality of knowledge. They «tell» everything: the local conditions, the economic determinants and social relationships, and the fundamental conceptions, in harmony with the forces and the order of the universe. Each year, a great celebration brings together all the people of the territory involved. On this occasion, symbolically, each village restores the part of the courtyard of the fetishes which is allocated to it and participates in the maintenance of the palace, in a great movement of activity unifying the community.

The architecture of the royal palaces of the Mossi have remained identical since the XIV<sup>th</sup> century, a period when the politics and administration of the kingdom were institutionalized. The architecture underwent major modifications from the XIX<sup>th</sup> century onwards, as a result of the contact between civilisations. Today, the palace of Kokologho is one of the few in Burkina Faso to have retained this original architecture, its associated sacred places, and their uses and functions, even though it is only 45 km from the capital.

The chief of Kokologho, Naaba Kaongo, a personality greatly respected by his community of 35,000 people, attaches great importance to the preservation of the site. But, under current socio-economic conditions, the community effort is becoming increasingly difficult to



achieve, and the Naaba wishes to better protect and enhance his palace. It is in order to mitigate the effects of this new situation that an association, ROOTS, has just been established. In addition, approaches for securing funding are being studied. One of the funding applications proposes a synergy with Africa 2009 through collaboration with CRA-Terre-EAG, with the support of the «Coopération Française»

It is the partners' wish that the conservation of the Kokologho site constitutes a repository for building techniques and for traditional technologies and skills. Their ingenuity deserves recognition and protection in order to ensure the permanent survival of other sites inherited from the past, the fruits of centuries-old traditions. But one of the essential points is the fact that the associated ritual practices enhance the cohesion between communities and social equilibrium, which in turn guarantees the successful conservation of heritage.

**Abdoulaye Napon**

SERVICE DES SITES ET MONUMENTS  
DIRECTION DU PATRIMOINE DU BURKINA FASO



# From the network

## → Niger

In March 2002, **Ali Bida** was named «Directeur du Patrimoine Culturel et des Musées» of Niger. In spite of these new responsibilities, Ali remains very active within the ongoing *Projet Situé* for the preservation of the old city center of Agadez, including preparing a nomination dossier to the World Heritage List.

## → Côte d'Ivoire

**Maimouna Camara** has been named «Chef du Service de la Protection et de Valorisation» within the «Direction du Patrimoine Culturel». As a member of the «Comité National Ecotourisme», she participated in the organization of the seminar «Ecotourisme, instrument de développement durable et de lutte contre la pauvreté» organized in Abidjan, 5-7 February 2002. The contribution to this seminar of **Jean Derou**, «Directeur du Patrimoine Culturel», was also very important.

## → Guinée

**Sékou Kobani Kourouma** is a member of the «Comité Interministériel Guinéen pour la Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté». He played a paramount role in placing concern for cultural heritage within this new development plan. In addition, within ICOMOS Guinea, he continues research on the «Case d'Olivier de Sanderval», today the National Museum, and on traditional architecture in the Foutah Djallon and Mandingo areas.

## → Uganda

A Sub-Regional Workshop on Capacity Building and Institutional Development in East Africa was held in Kampala from 11 - 22 February 2002 to raise awareness of the 1972 World Heritage Convention. This workshop was sponsored by the Italian Government and the World Heritage Centre.

## → Nigéria

**Joseph Eboime** is one of the key resource persons that participated in a one-week workshop in Lagos to formulate policies for the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria. His major focus was on immovable heritage; with a view towards understanding current problems and practices and finding solutions to them.

## → Namibie

Namibia held a ten-day workshop on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (10- 20 September 2001) sponsored by the Italian Government and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to increase the capacity of heritage managers from seven Sub-Saharan African countries (Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). As a first result, Namibia has set up two committees (one national and the other technical) who are currently drawing up a tentative list for the country.

## → Botswana

A conservation and management workshop was organized from 25 February to 11 March 2002 by the Botswana National Museum at Tsodilo World Heritage site with the support of the American Embassy. The seminar addressed problems encountered in the area and ensured stakeholder participation, and helped to develop new management proposals.

## → Mali

**Kléssigué Sanogo**, participant to the second regional course organised by Africa 2009 has recently been appointed Directeur National Adjoint du Patrimoine Culturel.

# From the network



## Documentation of traditional African architecture

Many people find it difficult to accept that traditional buildings of Africa merit more than passing consideration. Sometimes, even those who know and respect other aspects of African Culture find it hard to avoid being drawn into a web of selective and distorted perception. Sensational modern accounts of 'under developed' can also paradoxically serve to reinforce such negative perceptions.

Some early foreign visitors to the continent saw things in quite a different light and their accounts are of very considerable historic interest. For instance, to Joseph Thompson travelling in the savannah lands of East Africa during the last century, it seemed «a perfect Arcadia, not just the fertile

ting the roof in the form of pilasters projecting from the walls and fluted showing much taste.»

In Africa, as elsewhere, there were wars, enslavement and food shortages, which brought about sufferings and hardships. These did not, however, stifle feelings of dignity order and destiny usually expressed through architecture, or breed feelings of permanent insecurity. On the contrary, there was probably more feelings of permanence in many African societies than in say Medieval Europe and such feelings were strengthened in social order.

It would be wrong, therefore, to see the temporary nature of many of the «buildings» as epitomising an unstable, unsure society. The way of



without architects or even «specialised builders». But as Quino wrote in the eighteenth century «every man is a sufficient architect for the purpose. The whole neighbourhood afford their unanimous assistance in building and in return receive and except no other recompense than a feast». This is still true of hundred of societies in Africa.

The Architecture created was and still is a personal adaptation of a group solution. Houses erected by a particular society are in a style, which has been worked out over several generations, and consequently were closely tailored to the needs of its people and the type of local building materials available. Buildings might need to be renewed every few years, but the fact

which so remarkably resemble one another all over tropical Africa'. Such notions of an homogenous material culture throughout the continent cannot be sustained.

Undoubtedly, there are many plan shapes and it is no wonder that today, more and more architects are turning to vernacular architecture for inspiration, not because they wish to repeat the structures they find - the social orders, materials and technology they have to deal with are quite different - but it is recognised that these structures obviously satisfied the needs far better than most modern suburban settlement do.

It is therefore proposed that a regional documentation project be articulated whose aim shall be to carefully



and pleasant countryside, but the whole landscape of well planned farms interspersed with immense shady trees, and the charmingly neat circular huts with conical roofs and walls hanging out all round with the clay worked prettily into rounded bricks and daubed systematically with spots». Of the Transvaal in 1829, Moffat wrote: «the walls were .... so well polished that they had the appearance of being varnished. The walls and doorways were neatly ornamented with architrave and cornices. The pillars support

life of many such African societies rule out the necessity for permanent houses. For example, migrant pastoralists such as the Fulani and Masai, as well as societies like the Bemba in Northern Zambia that practice land rotation agriculture and so move on every four to five years, would hardly have time to live in permanent buildings. They would rather be an embarrassment to them and would probably deteriorate.

So what are we discussing? We are considering architecture, which has been created

that the originator cannot be named does not make them any less valid as architecture. They are a society's solution to its habitation problems.

One of the most frequent sources of error on African vernacular architecture is the tendency to generalise from a narrow base of experience. For example, recently, an eminent scholar in another field has said 'as a rule, traditional African houses are round in shape... one can only speculate on the symbolic meaning of African villages,

document African vernacular architecture in terms of :

- i) settlement patterns
- ii) taxonomy of house types
- iii) traditional materials
- iv) traditional building techniques
- v) decorative motifs.

From the above, it should be noted that a good study of vernacular architecture can only be done if an inter-disciplinary approach is adopted.

**Simon Musonda**

CHIEF CULTURAL HERITAGE OFFICER  
NATIONAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA

# Programme of activities 2002

## Projet Cadre



### FOURTH REGIONAL COURSE

September 2 to November 22 2002, EPA, Porto Novo, Benin.

The course will draw on experience gained during the three previous courses. The emphasis will be on participative methods and the course will be structured around a practical exercise in strategic planning for two heritage sites in Porto Novo.

### DIRECTORS SEMINAR

November 18 to 24 2002, Porto Novo, Benin.

The aim of the seminar, organised in conjunction with the regional course, is to review the progress of the programme, and more specifically the results of the regional course which the seminar will conclude.

### REGIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR

October 21 to 25 2002, Mutare, Zimbabwe

This seminar will focus on legal issues related to conservation of immovable cultural heritage, as recommended at the Directors Seminar in 2001.

### IMPACT AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This work will be carried out to update the information collected during the study undertaken in 1996 to prepare the Africa 2009 programme. A survey will also be conducted to identify impacts of the programme on its participants.

### PROGRAMME SEMINAR

This seminar will bring together a group of directors and programme staff with a view to setting Africa 2009 activities in a logical framework, so that it can be monitored and evaluated effectively. Reflection will draw on the directors experience, but also on the results of the «Impact and Needs Assessment» (see above).

### RESEARCH

A new research project is to be undertaken. It will focus on the categorisation of African architectural heritage. The intention is to produce an illustrated catalogue of case studies presented by the members of the Africa 2009 network.

## Projets Situés



### LEVEN HOUSE, KENYA

This project is a continuation of the work carried out last year during the regional course. The work will focus on the structural stabilisation of the building and participative programming for the reuse of the site.

### BETAMMARIBE TRADITIONAL SETTLEMENT, TOGO

The project focuses on the preparation of the nomination file for this major site in Togo to be included on the World Heritage List. The programme provides for a management plan to be produced in partnership with local communities and decentralised State services.

### ASANTE TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS, GHANA

Activities aimed at improving the management and promotion of the site will be continued. Advantage will be taken of the development of another project in the north of the country to share experience.

### AGADEZ, NIGER

Work will include the implementation of preventive work on the Great Mosque and the Sultan's place. Several studies (town planning, typology of settlement, legal framework) will also be carried out with a view to the future preparation of a nomination file for the old town to be included on the World Heritage List.

### TOMB OF THE ASKIAS, MALI

Begun in 2001, the preparation of the management plan and nomination file for the site to be included on the World Heritage List is to be finalised.

### KONDOA IRANGI ROCK PAINTINGS SITES, TANZANIA

Here too, the aim is to finalise the work begun in 2001, to prepare the management plan and the nomination file for the site to be included on the World Heritage List.

### OTHERS

Other projects are in the process of being planned or await agreement on funding. These projects will be underway by the end of 2002 or the beginning of 2003.



## World Heritage

The World Heritage Centre of UNESCO continues the implementation of the «global strategy» to obtain a more balanced representation of the different cultures of humanity.

Africa is still poorly represented with only 28 cultural or mixed sites out of a total of 586. National efforts to nominate new sites are encouraged through the «Preparatory Assistance» programme.

### Sites listed in 2001

#### BOTSWANA, TSOLOGO (ROCK ART)

Tsolologo possesses one of the world's greatest concentrations of rock paintings. More than 4,500 paintings are preserved in an area of only 10 km<sup>2</sup>, situated in the Kalahari Desert. The paintings are up to 100,000 years old and, as testimony of the ancestral spirits, are venerated by the local population.



#### KENYA, OLD TOWN OF LAMU (HISTORIC CITY)

The old town of Lamu is the best preserved of all the Swahili cities on the east coast of Africa. It is built of local materials, mainly coral stone and mangrove wood. Lamu, which has been the site of major religious celebrations since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, has become an important centre for the study of Swahili culture.



#### MADAGASCAR, ROYAL HILL OF AMBOHIMANGA (CULTURAL LANDSCAPE)

The royal hill of Ambohimanga comprises a royal city, a funerary site and a group of sacred places. This site is associated with a strong sense of national identity. It has preserved its sacred character and remains a place of worship and pilgrimage.



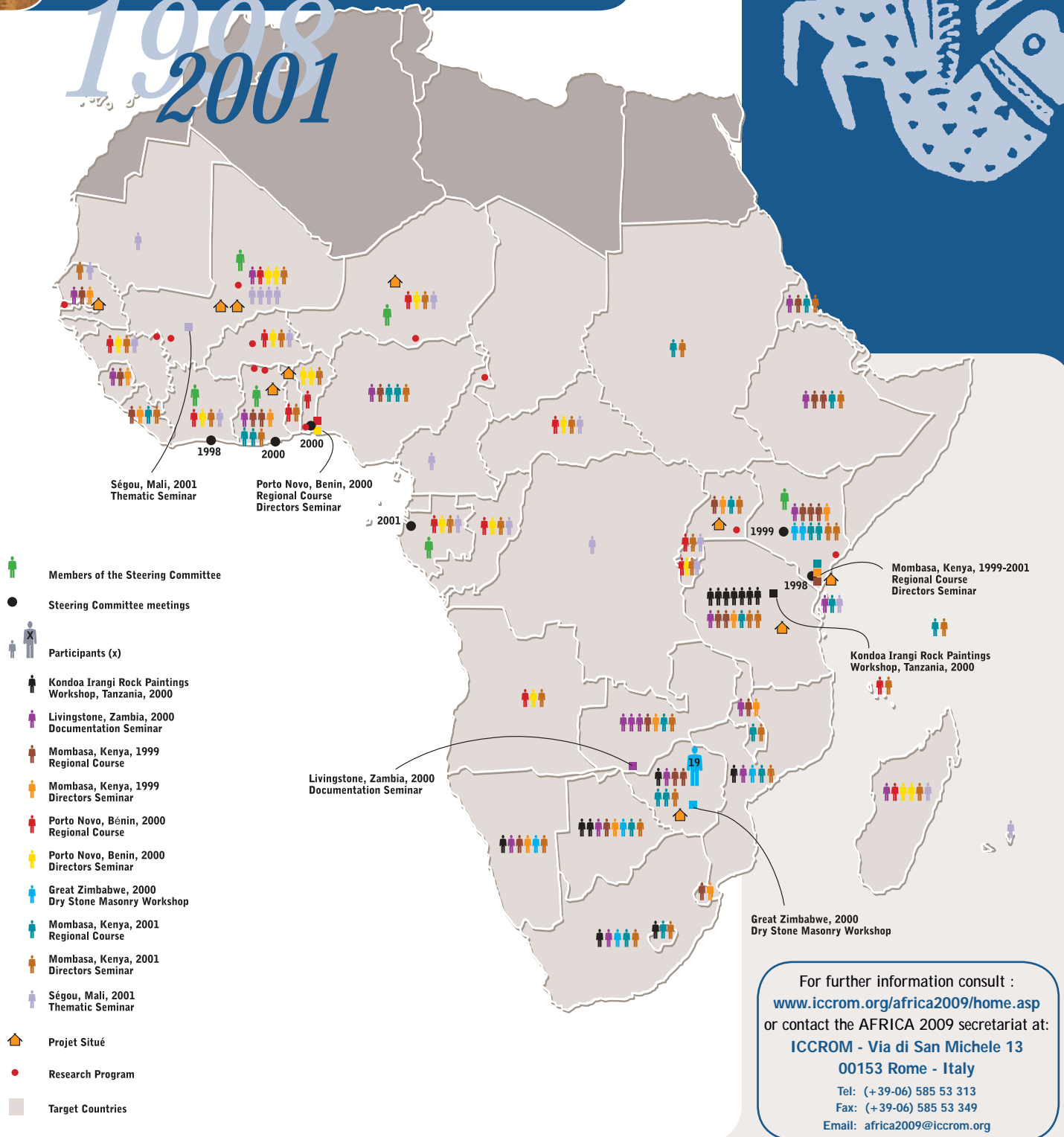
#### UGANDA, TOMBS OF THE BUGANDA KINGS AT KASUBI (VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE)

The site of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi is the former palace of the Kabakas of Buganda, built in 1882 and converted into the royal burial ground in 1884. It is a major example of an architectural achievement in organic materials. The site's main significance, however, lies in its intangible values of belief, spirituality, continuity and identity. The AFRICA 2009 programme is pleased to have worked with the authorities in Uganda on the preparation of the nomination dossier for this site.



To know more about the process of nomination, consult : [www.unesco.org/whc](http://www.unesco.org/whc)

# Results 1998 2001



For further information consult :  
[www.iccrom.org/africa2009/home.asp](http://www.iccrom.org/africa2009/home.asp)  
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## Partners Africa 2009

Current partners in the programme include : African cultural heritage organisations, ICCROM, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and CRATerre-EAG.

Financial partners for the *Projet Cadre* include : Sida, NORAD, the World Heritage Fund, the Italian and Finnish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and ICCROM.

*Projets situés* are funded on an individual basis. They have been sponsored by the World Heritage Fund, with inputs from the French Embassies (Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Niger),

the World Monuments Fund (The Gambia), and national heritage organisations. Some international and local private companies have also contributed to *projets situés*.

