

## **PROJECT BRIEF**

### **STONE CIRCLES OF THE SENEGAMBIA MANAGEMENT PLAN PROJECT**

The UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Dossier for the Stone Circles of the Senegambia, which was listed as World Heritage in 2006, was submitted to the World Heritage Committee in 2005 with an accompanying Management Plan for the period 2005-2009. More than a decade after the development of the plan the officials responsible for its implementation in the Gambia and Senegal have never met to review its progress or lack of progress, especially for joint actions stipulated in the plan, most of which have remained undone. The project therefore provides an opportunity for the two teams (Gambia and Senegal heritage personnel) to meet, evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the expired plan, analyse the lapses and develop rectification measures for those aspects that did not work. The expectation is the development of a new management plan that reinforces the role of the local communities in the management of the sites, identifying activities to support them to maximize on the potential benefits available to them through the presence of the sites in their localities. This forms the essence of the project.

The project was implemented in two phases. The first phase was a workshop held in Banjul, at the National Centre for Arts and Culture Premises from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017. It was attended by three participants from the Department of Historic and Cultural Patrimony, Senegal and Staff of the NCAC. The workshop involved a visit to all the inscribed sites to assess their state and conduct stakeholder meetings with the local communities to elicit their views and find ways of involving them in the future management of the sites.

The second phase also involved another workshop hosted by the Department of Historic and Cultural Patrimony of Senegal. It was held from the 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and was devoted in finalizing the new management plan. This workshop was attended by the three same Senegalese participants and three Gambian Counterparts, all of whom have finished work on the assignments delegated from the first workshop. The workshop was supported by a consultant of the World Heritage Advisory Body, ICCROM, who ensured that all issues pertinent to the proper management of such sites were taken onboard in the new plan.

The specific objectives of the project could be summarized thus:

- To review the outdated Management Plan of the Stone Circles of the Senegambia (2005-2009) and develop a New Management Plan for the period 2016-2020.
- To improve and strengthen cooperation in the management of the different sites of this trans-boundary World Heritage Property.

The expected outcomes are:

- A new management plan, including and action plan for the period 2016-2020 and a risk-preparedness plan