



Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA)

Summary information

August 2005

I. Origin and History

The establishment of the Observatory (OCPA) was proposed in May 2001 as a result of the series of regional consultations and experts meetings (Kinshasa, August 2000; Pretoria, January, 2001; Cape Town, May 2001) organized jointly by the Organization of African Unity, the Ford Foundation and UNESCO.

At the end of this process of consultations, a Task Force was set up in May 2001 and a concrete work plan of ten steps was adopted for launching the Observatory and developing its activities.

The Task Force presented its report on its activities to an experts meeting held in Maputo on 30-31 May 2002. The meeting adopted the project document and the work plan and budget for 2002-2003 and elected a Steering Committee.

It constitutes a concrete initiative in following up the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998), which proposed to “encourage the establishment of networks for research and information on cultural policies for development, including study of the establishment of an observatory of cultural policies.”

II. Mission

The Observatory was set up in 2002 with the support of the African Union (former Organization of African Unity), the Ford Foundation and UNESCO with a view to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and enhance their integration in human development strategies through advocacy, information, research,

capacity building, networking, co-ordination and co-operation at the regional and international levels.

The Observatory is a service-oriented resource centre and a regional co-ordinating and monitoring body for a network of experts and institutions involved in policy and decision making, cultural administration and management as well as research, training and information.

III. Implementation Process

Activities realized:

1. the creation of a web site as a World Wide Web resource centre; (realized in co-operation with Culturelink, Zagreb, address <http://www.ocpanet.org/>;) The web site is mapping the existing information sources on culture and development problems in Africa and giving an overview of the main reference documents concerning cultural development policies and initiatives in the region. It can help those seeking partnership and financial support for their cultural development projects. The 'resources' section presently links to 140 reference items (events, projects, publications, information sources), as many institutions of interest, including a selected listing of 70 relevant African and international cultural and artistic NGOs and some 60 African cultural policy documents such as working papers, reports, declarations and recommendations.
2. the preparation of basic documents (project document, strategy paper, draft statutes, draft host country agreement, work plan and budget); see project document in English and French at http://www.imo.hr/ocpa/about/En_Draft_OCPA_Project_Document.doc;
3. distribution of the information bulletin OCPA News by e-mail; by the end of July, 139 issues have been distributed; the bulletin is sent presently to some 5500 addressees; each issue has now 15 to 20 pages; altogether the issues distributed represent some 26500 pages;
4. development of data bases and a documentation centre (email contacts with specialists, Member States and organizations);
5. the identification of institutions concerned and potential partners (continuous) and regular, two-way exchange of e-mail information newsletters with some 120 international networks and specialized institutions interested in cultural policy and co-operation);
6. the design of a logo and a regularly up-dated brochure in English and French and Portuguese (widely distributed to possible partners and in international events such as the Maputo Task Force Meeting (Mozambique, May 2002); the 2nd African Union Summit (Mozambique, July 2003), the SADC Summits/Councils of Ministers (Tanzania, August 2003 and Mauritius, August 2004) and the 32nd session of the General-Conference of UNESCO (October 2003), the Colloquium on the Contribution of Cultural Industries to Sustainable Development in the Countries of the South (Ouagadougou, 3-5 November 2004), etc.;

7. publication of a special dossier in the April 2002 issue of the Culturelink Review presenting the OCPA project document and a progress report on the OCPA web site;
8. establishment of a list of documents on cultural policy and cultural development in Africa published since the 1960's (400 titles, 15,000 pages of documents);
9. compilation of an OCPA Reader of basic reference texts on cultural policies in Africa (320 pages, including decisions, recommendations and declarations adopted at the international and African regional levels by competent organizations as well as an historical overview of the priorities of African cultural policies throughout the last four decades and a bibliography of some 600 document concerning the subject);
10. compilation of a volume containing the reports of the four preparatory meetings of the launching of the OCPA project.
11. preparation of the proceedings of the Workshop on Culture and Development in the Programme of Action of the New Partnership for Africa's Development - NEPAD (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 2 – 5 September 2003),
12. preparation of the proceedings of the International Seminar on Cultural Indicators of Human Development in Africa (Maputo, 3 – 5 March 2004),
13. publication, in English and French, of a booklet on OCPA (Some 50 pages presenting OCPA and its WWW Resource centre) as the first volume of the OCPA publication series; Publication of "Cultural Indicators of Human Development: Towards an African Perspective, Strategy Document from the International Seminar and Task Force Meeting", Maputo, August 2004, 8 p.
14. publication, in co-operation with UNESCO Publishing, of the book "African Musics – New Stakes and New Challenges by Manda Tchebwa (in French, the English version will be available in August), Preface by Lupwishi Mbuyamba, Observatory of Cultural Policy in Africa and UNESCO, 128 pages, 14,8 € ISBN: 92-3-203988-5
15. participation in the organization of African regional meetings, such as
 - i. First Meeting of Experts for the Preparation of the Pan-African Cultural Congress, 16 – 18 December, 2002, Nairobi, Kenya, - preparation of a project document concerning the Pan-African Cultural Congress;
 - ii. Regional Consultation on the training needs in Africa in the field of cultural policies and management (Nairobi, 19 December 2002) - preparation of the report and of a project proposal for mobilizing extra-budgetary funds for a regional programme for training cultural management specialists;
 - iii. Workshop on Culture and Development in the Programme of Action of the New Partnership for Africa's Development - NEPAD (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 2 – 5 September 2003), - preparation of the final report;

- iv. The meeting of the Steering Committee of the Observatory (Maputo, 1 – 2 March 2004);
- v. The International Seminar on Cultural Indicators of Human Development in Africa (Maputo, 3 – 5 March 2004) in co-operation with Interarts (Barcelona);
- vi. Meeting of the Task Force on Cultural Indicators of Human Development in Africa (Maputo, 6 – 7 August 2004) in co-operation with Interarts (Barcelona);
- vii. Closing Meeting of the Task Force on Cultural Indicators of Human Development in Africa (Nairobi, 12 February 2005);
- viii. The meeting of the Steering Committee of the Observatory (Nairobi, 13 February 2005);
- ix. Culture and Development in Africa Seminar for East Africa & Entrepreneurship Development Workshop for Central Africa (Nairobi, 21-24 March 2005 (in cooperation with UNESCO and Cultural Engineering);
- x. Consultative Committee Meeting for the Preparation of the First Pan African Cultural Congress, Addis Ababa, 18-20 July 2005 (Preparation of the orientation document and narrative report).

16. Launching, in April 2003, of the development of a documentation centre and data bases of

- cultural institutions, organizations and networks (contains already more than 1064 records);
- cultural specialists (contains more than 1152 records);
- cultural policies.

IV. Governance

Composition of the Steering Committee:

President: Pierre Dandjinou (Benin)
 Members : Marcel Diouf (African Union)
 Augustine Hattar (Tanzania)
 Angeline S. Kamba (Zimbabwe)
 Renato Matusse (Mozambique)
 Lupwishi Mbuyamba (DRC)
 Fairuz Mullagee (South Africa)

Executive Director: Lupwishi Mbuyamba
 Research Co-ordinator: Máté Kovács
 Administrative Officer: Pedro Cossa

V. Status and organization

OCPA is an international Pan African non-governmental organization registered in Mozambique. The temporary OCPA Secretariat is established since March 2003 in Maputo.

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