

Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

The Observatory is a Pan African international NGO created in 2002 with the support of African Union, the Ford Foundation, and UNESCO. Its aim is to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and to 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.



OCPA NEWS

No 429

26 June 2023

OCPA News aims to promote interactive information exchange within Africa and between Africa and the other regions. Please send us information for dissemination about new initiatives, meetings, research projects and publications of interest for cultural policies for development in Africa. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Contact: OCPA Secretariat, Avenida Patrice Lumumba No. 850, Primeiro Andar,
Caixa Postal 1207, Maputo, Mozambique**

Tel.: + 258 21306138 / Fax: +258 21320304 / E-mail: secretariat@ocpanet.org

Executive Director: Lupwishi Mbuyamba, director@ocpanet.org

Editor of OCPA News: Máté Kovács, mate.kovacs@ocpanet.org

OCPA WEB SITE - www.ocpanet.org

OCPA FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/pages/OCPA-Observatory-of-Cultural-Policies-in-Africa/100962769953248?v=info

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/observatory-of-cultural-policies-in-africa>

**You can subscribe or unsubscribe to OCPA News via the online form at
<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/newsletter/maillinglist/subscribe-en.html> or
<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/newsletter/maillinglist/unsubscribe-en.html>**

Previous issues of OCPA News at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/newsletter/index-en.html>

OCPA is an official partner of UNESCO (associate status)

We express our thanks to our main partners who contributed to the creation of OCPA and the development of its activities, namely our initial sponsors



and other partners



ENCATC



CBAAC



Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa



In this issue

H. Highlights

H.1 Rabat Declaration – Ministers for Culture on ways and means to promote culture in Africa (22 May)

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

A.1 A new intern at OCPA

A.2 Technical assistance

A.3 Cultural cooperation

Relations with RICADIA (Network of African and Diaspora Cultural Institutions)

A.4 Meetings in Addis Ababa

A.5 New institutional contacts

Relations with partners

A.6 Relations with the African Union

A.7 Relations with UNESCO

A.8 Relations with Sponsors

A.9 OCPA Publications

B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 East Africa: Children in the Horn of Africa Learning Somali Language with Daariz App

B.2 Senegal: The Dak'art launches a call for applications for the 2024 edition exhibition

B.3 Senegal: Archives - documentary heritage - African experts examine disaster management

B.4 Seychelles: The country launches a national census of artists

B.5 Gambia: NCAC Trains Banjul Historic Built Heritage Data Collectors

B.6 African Capital for Culture Meeting – Cultural Manifesto of the Forum of Mayors

- Manifesto for the Renewal of African and Afro-descendant Culture

C. News about cultural policies, institutions and resources in Africa

C.1 Angola: The Minister of Culture stresses the importance of cultural tourism

C.2 CPLP: The ministers want the mobility of cultural goods in the CPLP

C.3 Angola: Minister of Culture calls for greater organization of creators

C.4 Algeria: The contribution of crafts to GDP exceeded 350 billion DA in 2022

C.5 Morocco committed to protect cultural heritage in areas of armed conflict (M. Bensaid)

C.6 Gambia: Minister Bah to Engage Cabinet, NA to Get Funds for NEF

C.7 Morocco-EU partnership - Agreement on support to the Moroccan cultural industries

D. News, Institutions, Resources and Events in Other Regions

D.1 Africa: UNESCO - Africa Week 2023 closed in Paris

D.2 UNESCO: Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Supports Projects

- Mauritania: Safeguarding and inventories of children's tales and narratives
- Rwanda: Elaboration of an inventory of national intangible cultural heritage -
- Togo: Identification, capacity-building, safeguarding and promotion of traditional dance

D.3 UNESCO - The United States of America announces its intention to rejoin UNESCO

D.4 Report on cultural rights and migration - Office UN OHCHR

E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica

- Ghana: The Dilemma of the Modern African Writer
- South Africa: World's Oldest Prehistoric Burial Site Discovered in South Africa

- Sudan: Concerns Over Museum Artefacts

F. Info from newsletters and information services

F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (ACORNS)

- All set for Botswana's first National Music Industry Summit
- Gambia: Tourism minister on the National Endowment Fund for Arts and Culture

F.2 Agenda21culture

- In Situ – Place based innovation of cultural and creative industries in non urban areas

F.3 Mawred – Culture resource Newsletter

- Culture Resource & Action for Hope launch the initiative: Stand for Sudanese Artists

F.4 ACP-UE Culture Newsletter

- CP-EU Culture Programme: Ignite Culture Networking Event at Zanzibar Film Festival

XXX

H. Highlights

H.1 Rabat Declaration – Ministers for Culture on ways and means to promote culture in Africa (Rabat, 22 May 2023)

May 25 - Ministers of culture and heads of delegations from African countries, unanimously agreed to establish frameworks for enhancing cultural cooperation among African states and to deliberate on the mechanisms for the development of common cultural efforts which will benefit, both present and future.

The meeting agreed also to enhance South-South cooperation and inclusive development in Africa.

Other issue discussed concerned were the efforts undertaken by governments and cultural bodies in African countries in alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural heritage as well as guaranteeing access to cultural services as a human right enshrined in international laws and treaties.

The forum reiterated a strong support to the cooperation with UNESCO in the fields of protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the respect of cultural diversity, linguistic plurality, intercultural dialogue, the right of free movement for artists and professionals across the African continent.

The leaders reaffirmed their support for strengthening and enhancing cultural cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, among African countries, to achieve sustainable development goals, develop cultural tourism, fight illicit trafficking of cultural properties and goods, develop cultural and creative industries, exchange best practices and experiences in cultural professions, arts, and heritage, and create opportunities for youth to enhance their creative and artistic skills.

The meeting also stressed the need to consolidate the role of African youth in Africa and in the diaspora countries regarding issues related to African cultural heritage preservation and safeguarding.

The leaders agreed that cultural diplomacy is crucial for serving the issues of continental integration in various fields and stressed on the need of reinforcement of mechanisms of cultural diplomacy.

At the same time the forum reached an agreement on calling for the adoption of an African charter of cultural and creative industries and calling for the necessity of engaging other ministers of culture within Rabat declaration for reinforcement of cultural cooperation in the continent and applying its resolutions

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

A.1 A new intern at OCPA

A new trainee, the 19th, has been registered at the Observatory since the beginning of May for a period of 3 months of information and training at the OCPA Documentary Center. Ms. Nilza Domingos Siteo is a finalist student (bachelor, Faculty of Political Science, Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo).

This internship is supervised by Professor Estevao Filimão, Dean of the Faculty of Culture of the Higher Institute of Arts and Culture (ISArC, Matola), member of the RICADIA network and Deputy Research Coordinator at OCPA .

The Camões Institute of the Portuguese Embassy in Maputo participates in the animation of this course which essentially concerns the management of the cultural files of the States and those of the Cultural Institutions, the treatment and the cataloging as well as the contribution to the collection data from new communication media.

A.2 Technical assistance

The occasion of the Conference of Ministers of Youth, Culture and Sports of the African Union the last week of May allowed exchanges and targeted contacts between the Executive Director of OCPA and the management staff of the ministries of the culture of some countries participating in the conference such as those of Morocco, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and the Diplomatic Mission of Libya to the African Union

A.3 Cultural cooperation

During this time, the implementation of the constituent elements of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) project for the development of cultural and creative industries has been able to count on the contribution of OCPA for putting the project in contact with the competent authority of Mozambique as well as the acceleration of the appointment of the National Focal Point of the project.

Relations with RICADIA (Network of African and Diaspora Cultural Institutions)

A.4 Meetings in Addis Ababa

The occasion of the Addis Ababa conference made it possible to bring together the various heads of institutions and thus mitigate the prolonged absence of the biannual “summits” that the situation of the global pandemic caused to be canceled for three years. So with

- ACALAN (African Academy of Languages), AWHF (African World Heritage Fund),
- CELHTO (Centre for the study of languages and history through oral traditions), CAC (African Capitals of Culture).
- the African Music Council (CAM), which had to resolve, like two years ago, to hold the 11th session of its Executive Committee online from Maputo.
- CERAV (Regional Center for the Living Arts in Africa), with which several questions were discussed concerning its presence on the continent and its participation in major significant events in its area of expertise.

A.5 New institutional contacts

The pooling dynamic continued with the activities of new initiatives that made a point of involving the OCPA in their first steps, including

- the OJOBA Foundation, created in memory of the distinguished scholar Prof. Olabiyi YAI of Benin;
- the RE AFRICA Association, created in Matola, a city close to Maputo, by the very dynamic historian Ana Elisa Santana, proposing an approach which consists in questioning the thought and progress of Africa in modernity by revisiting its still unknown past that will have to be appropriated. The first board of directors of this structure was held in May in Matola and the OCPA took part;
- the XILUVA project, still in Maputo, which offers a framework for the initiation and education of children in art. A first contact with the OCPA in 2022 had led the Observatory to lead a panel which accompanied a children's festival and shows the need to provide the initiative with more appropriate means of action. This led to meetings for reflection on strategies for mobilizing potential partners;
- a recent meeting in mid-June with Professor Slimane Hachi, Director of the Regional Center for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Africa (CRESPIAF) in Algiers, which enabled the outline of a dialogue which should lead to an invitation to the Center to participate in a future session of RICADIA and to examine the possibility of joining a regional cooperation network which already includes more than thirty institutions and associations.

Relations with partners

During the month that is ending, the OCPA will have noted the interest shown by its historical partners

A.6 Relations with the African Union

In addition to the participation and interventions of the representative of OCPA at the 4th Conference of Ministers in Addis Ababa, OCPA benefited from one of the limited invitations to a plitit number of experts to attend Algiers on June 14 and 15 at the inauguration of the temporary headquarters of the Grand Museum of Africa, one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063.

A.7 Relations with UNESCO

At the level of the Organization's Headquarters, UNESCO not only approved OCPA's request to receive a contribution from to finance the cost of revising OCPA's Methodological Guide, developed 18 years ago to serve the States in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of cultural policies in Africa, it invites the Observatory to participate, of course as an observer, in its 5th Extraordinary General Conference convened for the last two days of the month. At field office level, OCPA benefited during the month of June 2023 from the special attention of the regional office in Dakar and the national office in Accra for future technical and scientific meetings planned in West Africa. on the one hand and in Ghana on the other.

A.8 Relations with Sponsors

Contacts took place during the month with known partners who have proven themselves in a positive cooperation with OCPA in the past. Among them AFRICALIA

A.9 OCPA Publications

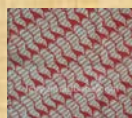
In relation with its research activities OCPA has produced some **25 books and publications** such as a strategy document (2004) and a research programme (2007 and 2010) on the cultural indicators of human development in Africa, a book on “African Musics – New Stakes and New Challenges” (with UNESCO, 2005), the Observatory’s 1st and 2nd Medium Term Strategy and Plan of Action (2006 and 2011), the Compendium of basic reference texts for cultural policies in Africa (E/F/S, 2006 and 2009), the Guidelines for the Design and Evaluation of National Cultural Policies in Africa (2008 and 2009). The Proceedings of the International Symposium on Policies, Strategies and Experiences in Financing Culture in Africa was published in 2010, the Manual for Training Specialist of Cultural Policy and Management in Africa and the book on the Contribution of Culture to Poverty reduction in Africa were produced in 2013. More recently, in 2019, OCPA published with the support of UNESCO a book entitled Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: An African Experience as well as the book prepared and published with the support of Africalia on ”Anticipating Cultural Policies in Africa by 2030”.

Most of the Reports of some 25 meetings and training sessions organized by OCPA are published at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/meetings/index-en.html>.

Some 25 articles published in books and reviews of the OCPA Partners (Culturelink, AFRICOM, Interarts - Barcelona, África e Mediterraneo, Wale keru, Arts Management, Itau Cultural – Sao Paolo, Brazil, University of Pécs – Hungary, University of Gerona – Spain, Catalonia, Institute for African Culture and International Understanding - IACIU, Abeokuta, Nigeria, African Institute of the United Nations for Economic Development and Planning - IDEP, Dakar, etc.

For previous news and OCPA activities click on

<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/news/index-en.html>



B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 East Africa: Children in the Horn of Africa Learn Somali Language with Daariz App

Nairobi — Over 350,000 children and adults across the Horn of Africa (Somaliland, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya) are learning to read and write in Somali with a free language app, Daariz, launched in 2021, whuic aims to address the region's low literacy rates by making language skills more accessible and inclusive for learners of all ages.

Daariz was developed by the Sahamiye Foundation, a charity working to improve education in the Horn of Africa and empower all people with lifelong literacy skills.

The Horn of Africa currently faces a multitude of challenges, from an absence of rural schools to recurring droughts and ongoing conflict, coupled with a highly mobile population which all contribute to low school enrolment and limited access to quality education. As a result, over 70% of late primary school students in the region cannot read and understand a simple story in Somali. The region's average school enrolment, at around 30%, also continues to be one of the lowest in the world.

Daariz is designed to help in-school and out-of-school children and adults achieve functional literacy in Somali language within a short period of time. It combines fun, interactive games, and personalised feedback with a reward system, making learning enjoyable and engaging.

Read the article at <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2023/06/over-350000-children-in-horn-of-africa-learning-somali-language-with-daariz-app/>

B.2 Senegal: The Dak'art launches a call for applications for the 2024 exhibition

The Biennale of Contemporary African Art in Dakar "Dak'art" has launched since June 1 the call for applications for the international exhibition, its fifteenth edition scheduled for 2024. Ten visual arts disciplines are targeted: painting, photography, installation, graffiti and street art, textiles, art video, among others. The text also announces that the call concerns African artists and those of the diaspora. Applications are received at "opencall@biennalededakar.org". The official international exhibition of the 15th edition of the Biennial of Contemporary African Art in Dakar is open only to African and diaspora artists until August 31.

Read the article at <https://aps.sn/le-dakart-lance-un-appel-a-candidatures-pour-lexposition-internationale-2024/>

B.3 Senegal: Archives and documentary heritage - African experts examine disaster management

Dakar hosted, from May 5 to 9, a sub-regional capacity building workshop on the theme: "Concepts and methods of implementing an action plan in the event of a disaster in archiving repositories in West Africa. the West". The activity is organized by the National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Senegalese Memory of the World Committee and the Directorate of Archives of Senegal. This sub-regional workshop was opened in Dakar as part of the celebration of the 5th edition of the International Archives Week, scheduled until June 9 for documentalists, archivists from 5 countries: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde , Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. Produced with the support of UNESCO. The purpose of the Dakar meeting is to allow the rescue and recovery of documents in an emergency and efficiency in the event of a disaster in archive repositories.

Read the article at <https://lesoleil.sn/archives-et-patrimoine-documentaire-des-experts-africains-passent-a-la-loupe-la-gestion-en-cas-de-sinistre/>

B.4 Seychelles: The country launches a national census of artists

In a bid to create a comprehensive database on the work and status of artists in Seychelles, the Creative Seychelles Agency (CSA) is soon launching a national census. Through the Status of Artists Census, the agency will collect details such as the art form the person is involved in, the number of years the person has practiced the art form, and whether the person practices art full-time or part-time among other details.

The artists will be able to access the online form on the Creative Seychelles Agency Facebook page, the website of the National Arts and Crafts Council of Seychelles as well as that of the Seychelles National Institute for culture, heritage and the arts. Once the information has been collected, the information will be compiled in the database to be posted on the future CSA website. CSA can then establish the number of artists at each level of professionalism.

After the census, the agency will meet with artists to provide training and conferences, to provide information on various areas in the field of creation, such as breaking into the international scene, the need to have managers and have a retirement plan. The census will also

provide statistics to discuss with banks and insurance companies, among others, to find ways to better serve the country's artists. Read the full article at <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/18759/Seychelles+launches+a+national+census+of+artists>

B.5 Gambia: NCAC Trains Banjul Historic Built Heritage Data Collectors

Data Collectors for Inventorying Banjul's Historic Buildings, Sites and Values for Informed Policy Drive towards Urban Heritage conservation had a training on Banjul Historic Inventory data collection.

The training was organised by the National Centre for Arts Culture (NCAC) and funded by UNESCO Paris through the Participation Program meant for informed policy towards urban heritage conservation and valorization into UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Data Collectors were trained on topics including introduction to urban heritage, significance/importance of preserving urban heritage, identification/classification of urban heritage, legal and regulatory frameworks.

Hassoum Ceesay, the Director General of NCAC said urban heritage can be referred to as the list of heritage elements located in urban areas. He added that these include archaeological vestiges, historical buildings, vernacular architecture, historical gardens, social practices, rituals, festive events, among others.

Read more at <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/national-news/ncac-trains-banjul-historic-built-heritage-data-collectors>

B.6 African Capital for Culture meeting – Cultural Manifesto of the Forum of Mayors

On 23-24 May 2023, the City of Rabat, 2023 African Capital for Culture, hosted the Forum of Mayors and Leaders of Territorial Authorities of Africa on Culture.

The Forum gathered African local elected officials members, experts and partners from across the world to discuss on culture and sustainable development, including the cities of: Bilbao, Bologna, Brazzaville, Bulawayo, Cape Town, Dakar, Izmir, Kampala, Lilongwe, Matera, Nouakchott, Saint-Louis, Sibiu, Yoff (Dakar) and Yopougon.

On the second day of the event, a Manifesto for the Renewal of African and Afro-descendant Culture was adopted by the Forum.

Manifesto for the Renewal of African and Afro-descendant Culture

We, African Mayors, gathered in Rabat at the invitation of the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Mayor of the City of Rabat, within the framework of the celebration of Rabat, African Capital of Culture,

Based on the decision taken by the Mayors and Leaders of African local authorities during the eighth edition of the Africities Summit in Marrakech, to initiate the program of African Capitals of Culture within UCLG Africa, to celebrate Africa 's cultural and creative excellence, and promote culture as the fourth pillar of Sustainable Development alongside the economic, social, and environmental pillars;

Taking into account the resolution of the 40th session of UNESCO in November 2019, to commemorate each year on January 24, the World Day of African and Afro-descendant Culture;

Inspired by the continuous action of the Culture Commission of the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments for the promotion of the right to culture and the inclusion

of culture among the sustainable development goals; and inspired by the experience of the European Capitals of Culture;

Drawing lessons from the reflections carried out within the framework of the celebration of Rabat, African Capital of Culture, in particular the need to approach culture no longer exclusively as an entertainment sector but as an economic sector in its own right, with significant potential in terms of creating wealth and jobs for young people and as an essential contributor to the development of self - esteem, citizenship, togetherness, peace and harmony within communities.

Agree to adopt the Manifesto for the Renewal of African and Afro-descendant Culture on the basis of the following commitments to:

1. Consider culture and its various forms of expression as an inseparable component of African identity, for promoting the recognition of the contribution of the African continent to universal values of Humanity.
2. Place culture at the heart of policies of sustainable development alongside the economic, social and environmental pillars, and advocate to include culture among the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Participate in the work of the Culture Commission of UCLG Africa, which places creativity strategies in Africa among the priorities of its development interventions, based on cultural cooperation and diplomacy.
4. Consider the African diaspora and Afro-descendant populations as part of African culture and the expression of its international dynamics, by taking advantage of their knowledge, expertise, and know-how.
5. Give special attention to the role to traditional authorities as guardians and guarantors of tradition and memorial issues, and stakeholders in the process of promoting culture in Africa and intercultural dialogue.
6. Use educational policies for the formation of African identity, through the introduction into education of African languages, knowledge of African history and traditions.
7. Promote, encourage, and support cultural professionals at the level of each country, each territory, and the continent as a whole, through the organization of events for promoting exchange; access to the culture.
8. Develop common and harmonised regulations standards at the pan - African level, with a view to creating the conditions guaranteeing the protection of African artists and artworks.
9. Preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Africa for its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Register and the restitution of cultural works of Africa.
10. Promote «African Capitals of Culture» program of UCLG Africa as an instrument for promoting the excellence of African culture, a factor in regenerating the feeling of belonging to the African continent.

Read the Manifesto at <https://www.uclga.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/manifeste-EN.pdf>



C. News about cultural policies, institutions and resources in Africa

C.1 Angola: The Minister of Culture stresses the importance of cultural tourism

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Filipe Zau, considered important the massification of cultural tourism aimed at generating income and promoting the image of Angola, speaking at the launching ceremony of the project "Tourist Route and culture of slaves in Angola".

For the minister, the diversification of the economy and culture, associated with tourism, becomes an important factor of economic and social progress. The Minister also delved into the history of the slavery era, highlighting individuals who fought for the abolition of this practice. According to Filipe Zau, Brazil has a total of 100 million people of African descent and the United States of America around 41 million.

The project, which starts in 2024, stems from a doctoral work supported at the University of Coimbra (Portugal), by the Director General of the Institute for the Promotion of Tourism (Infotur), Afonso Vita, based on the history of over 500 years of slavery.

Read the article at <https://www.angop.ao/en/noticias/turismo/ministro-considera-importante-massificacao-do-turismo-cultural>

C.2 CPLP: The ministers want the mobility of cultural goods in the CPLP

CPLP Culture Ministers decided in Luanda to intensify political dialogue, in partnership with finance officials, for the adoption of common measures for the import and export of cultural goods in the space of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

The idea appears in the final declaration of the second extraordinary meeting of culture ministers of the organization held in Luanda. According to this document, the ministers welcome the preparatory work for the third edition of the CPLP Audiovisual Programme. Likewise, they encouraged collaboration between Member States, in order to ensure the proper implementation of the Action Plan 2022-2024 and the 2022 – 2026 Plan for Multilateral Cultural Cooperation.

The ministers decided on the participation of the CPLP in the Book Fair (Gothenburg, 2025, Sweden) for international exchanges between authors, composers, writers, researchers, managers and cultural agents.

The participants welcomed the various initiatives on the political agenda of the CPLP for the promotion of the Portuguese language and the organization of the Forum on Cultural Public Policies for Development.

They approved the holding of the International Conference on Historical Archives of the CPLP, as well as the annual meeting of specialized entities responsible for the protection of copyright and related rights.

Read the article at <https://www.angop.ao/fr/noticias/lazer-cultura/ministros-querem-mobilidade-de-bens-culturais-na-cplp/>

C.3 Angola: Minister of Culture calls for greater organization of creators

Luanda — The Minister of Culture, Filipe Zau, appealed this Monday in Luanda to creators for a bigger and better organization so that they can reap the economic benefits.

Filipe Zau also appealed to economic agents who use artistic works for exhibition and public enjoyment for economic purposes, who must pay the respective compensation costs, that is, copyright to authors.

The minister, who was speaking at the 4th anniversary ceremony of the National Service for Copyright and Related Rights (SENADIAC), urged all the institutions involved in the chain of protection to bet on greater and better cooperation and articulation in the actions to be undertaken.

Read the article at <https://www.angop.ao/en/noticias/lazer-cultura/ministro-da-cultura-apela-maior-organizacao-aos-criadores/>

C.4 Algeria: The contribution of crafts to GDP exceeded 350 billion DA in 2022

The contribution of the national sector of crafts and trades to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated at more than 350 billion DA in 2022, revealed the Director General of Crafts and Trades. trades at the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, Kamel Eddine Bouam.

On another level, the same manager mentioned an ongoing process within his ministerial department, for the "census of all handicraft products, in coordination with the Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), by setting up regulatory procedures for the protection of these products".

It should be noted that the national crafts sector has more than 442,000 registered craftsmen, including more than 137,000 working in traditional crafts, who will soon be integrated into the national file of craftsmen. A fact that will allow each Algerian craftsman to be issued a digital professional card with a national identification number (NIN), as part of the modernization of the craft sector, informed Mr. Bouam.

Read the article at <https://www.aps.dz/economie/156569-la-contribution-de-l-Artisanat-au-pib-a-depasse-350-milliards-da-en-2022>

C.5 Morocco committed to supporting initiatives to protect cultural heritage in areas of armed conflict (M. Bensaid)

The Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication, Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid, reiterated, Morocco's commitment to support any initiative aimed at protecting and enhancing the cultural heritage in areas of armed conflict.

Speaking at an international symposium organized by the National Commission for International Humanitarian Law, under the theme of the protection of cultural property under international humanitarian law, Mr. Bensaid affirmed Morocco's commitment to the fight against terrorism and its consequences, particularly at the cultural level, noting that the Kingdom makes its expertise in terms of restoration, conservation and promotion available to countries that are victims of terrorism and natural disasters.

He also underlined that Morocco, which has chosen the path of multilateralism, will continue to invest in the preservation of world heritage, recalling, in this regard, the Kingdom's efforts in terms of the protection of cultural property, including adherence to the Hague Convention and its first protocol in 1968, then the ratification of the second additional protocol in 2013.

Regarding the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, Mr. Bensaid indicated that Morocco is collaborating on this subject with its international partners, within the framework of the activation of the 1970 UNESCO Convention concerning the measures to be taken. to prohibit and prevent the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property.

This international symposium, the Minister stressed, will contribute to promoting the exchange of expertise and experiences and will make it possible to draw up recommendations, capable of

consolidating Morocco's presence on the international scene in terms of the preservation of cultural heritage and of the Kingdom a pioneer in this field on the continental level.

Source: <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/culture/le-maroc-engag%C3%A9-%C3%A0-soutenir-les-initiatives-de-protection-du-patrimoine-culturel>

C.6 Gambia: Minister Bah to Engage Cabinet, NA to Get Funds for NEF

The minister for Tourism and Culture has vowed to ensure Gambian artistes are supported for economic upliftment and production of works that would reflect Gambian values and norms. Minister Hamat NK Bah made this pledge at the recent closing ceremony of the UNESCO Aschberg project on: 'Improving The Status and Condition of Female Artistes, held in Banjul'.

In his assurance words after signing the Regulation to operationalise the National Endowment Fund (NEF) for Arts and Culture to enhance the funding of artistic and cultural programmes for the betterment of the economic and social status of artists, he said "the Regulation will be gazetted and I will go to Cabinet and engage the National Assembly to get the funds needed."

Minister Bah therefore said he is of the fervent belief that "Gambian artistes can do it better than artistes in other countries when they get the needed funding support.

The Minister stressed his commitment towards the realisation of the artistes' dreams as he launched the 35-page report on the Status of Women Artists and Cultural Professionals.

This project - was fully funded by UNESCO at the sum of \$30,000.

More at <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/minister-bah-to-engage-cabinet-na-to-get-funds-for-nef>

C.7 Morocco-EU partnership - Signing in Essaouira of an agreement on the first EU support program for Moroccan cultural and creative industries

The Government of Morocco and the European Union signed, on June 23 in Essaouira, an agreement relating to the European Union (EU) support program for Moroccan cultural and creative industries.

This agreement was initialed by the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication, Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid, and the EU Ambassador to Morocco, Mrs. Patricia Lombart Cussac.

This program is the first of its kind under the Morocco-European Union Partnership. It aims to promote culture through the strengthening of cultural and creative industries as a vector of economic development and employment for young people. It will be implemented at several levels and in particular with the Federation of Cultural and Creative Industries of Morocco.

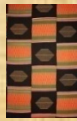
On this occasion, Ms. Cussac declared that "culture is a tremendous lever for rapprochement and mutual enrichment between peoples. Our partnership for shared prosperity will now deepen with a dimension for Moroccan cultural and creative industries".

Mr. Bensaid stressed that "culture is the reflection of the soul of a nation, and today we are launching a new chapter for Moroccan cultural and creative industries", explaining that through this program, "we are opening the doors to innovation, economic development and employment for young people".

Endowed with an envelope of 110 million dirhams, this support program for cultural and creative industries strengthens the "Euro-Moroccan partnership for shared prosperity" between Morocco and the European Union which, since June 2019. It focuses on strengthening

exchanges on cultural policies and industries, cultural entrepreneurship, heritage preservation, and training in the artistic sectors.

Read the article at <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/politique/parteneriat-maroc-ue-signature-%C3%A0-essaouira-dune-convention-sur-le-premier>



D. News, Institutions, Resources and Events in other Regions

D.1 Africa: UNESCO - Africa Week 2023 closed in Paris

After the international launch of the Pan-African Music Festival at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, Africa was again in the spotlight for the African Week of this UN institution.

Throughout the week, the UNESCO headquarters experienced a program around various African cultural and scientific events, including an art exhibition, craft shops, a conference and a cocktail reception of various African culinary specialties. , a fashion show, a conference-debate, tales and legends for children and an innovative entrepreneurs hub composed of young African entrepreneurs and innovators in cutting-edge green technologies and in the digital creative economy.

Among this year's novelties was a fashion show that was offered for the first time aimed at showcasing the rich and diverse culture of Africa through its unique fashion offerings. This feature has been set up by the organizers at the center of the celebration of African art, creativity and innovation, to promote African fashion and artists and provide a platform for emerging designers and artisans to showcase their talent.

This edition ended on June 9 with a unique artistic gala of expressions of cultural diversity, with performances of folk dances and music from a dozen African countries.

Source: <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/unesco-la-semaine-africaine-2023-close-paris-149039>

D.2 UNESCO: Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Approve Grants to support projects in nine States Parties

5 June 2023 - The International Assistance mechanism provides support to States Parties in their national efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage examined and approved, on 5 June 2023, nine International Assistance projects, including an emergency request and a preparatory assistance. A total of US\$973,539 was granted to nine States Parties: (Haiti, the Bahamas, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Rwanda, Togo and Uzbekistan).

As to the three African beneficiary countries the support concerns the following activities:

Mauritania: Safeguarding and inventories of children's tales and narratives Financial assistance: **US\$ 87,460 granted in 2023**

This eighteen-month project aims to safeguard children's tales and narratives in Mauritania by creating an inventory and ensuring the transmission of the practice to future generations. The project involves the implementation of community workshops on how to develop participatory inventories, followed by the identification and inventorying of children's tales and narratives

across Mauritania. The tales identified during the inventorying process will be transmitted through a series of workshops targeting youth. More at

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-and-inventories-of-children-s-tales-and-narratives-in-mauritania-02046>

Rwanda: Elaboration of an inventory of national intangible cultural heritage - Financial assistance: US\$ 99,230 granted in 2023

This project aims to develop the first inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Rwanda and to support the government's national safeguarding efforts. The project involves: (a) implementing a capacity-building training workshop about the Convention and the importance of intangible cultural heritage, including training on relevant techniques and tools; (b) conducting community-based inventories; (c) collecting and analysing information on intangible cultural heritage in the communities; and (d) organizing awareness-raising meetings in the communities. More at

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/elaboration-of-an-inventory-of-national-intangible-cultural-heritage-02050>

Togo: Identification, capacity-building, safeguarding and promotion of traditional dances of Togo as a vector of sustainable cultural development: Financial assistance: US\$ 99,876 granted in 2023

The development of the inventory will engage youth, women and men, who will be specially trained for this purpose and will be mentored by professionals. To ensure the sustainability and transmission of the dances, the groups and associations holding the traditional knowledge and skills will contribute to the initiation of young practitioners representing communities from all Togo prefectures. The initiation sessions will be filmed and will cover techniques, songs and rituals related to the traditional dances. More at

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-and-inventories-of-children-s-tales-and-narratives-in-mauritania-02046>

D.3 UNESCO - The United States of America announces its intention to rejoin UNESCO in July

Today, the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, gathered representatives of the Organization's 193 Member States to inform them that the United States of America had officially notified her of its decision to rejoin UNESCO in July 2023, on the basis of a concrete financing plan.

More at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/united-states-america-announces-its-intention-rejoin-unesco-july>

D.4 Report on cultural rights and migration - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

17 May, International - In this report, the Special Rapporteur underlines the rights of migrants to have access to and effectively participate in all aspects of cultural lives, both of the host State and their own cultures. The Special Rapporteur recalls that international human rights law provisions protect those rights, regardless of the legal status of migrants and notes the need to ensure substantial equality in protecting cultural rights. The Special Rapporteur reflects on overcoming the obstacles that migrant artists face and highlights the need for intercultural exchange and interaction to ensure dynamic, diverse and democratic societies.

More at

[https://documents-dds-](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/008/22/PDF/G2300822.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/008/22/PDF/G2300822.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/008/22/PDF/G2300822.pdf?OpenElement)



E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

<https://allafrica.com/arts/>

<http://www.africaonline.com/site/africa/arts.jsp>

<http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/rubrique.php?id=65>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/646/culture.htm>

<http://english.alarabonline.org/display.asp?code=zculturez>

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica

Ghana: The Dilemma of the Modern African Writer

That the present modern day African writer is battling between two worlds as far as his or her writings are concerned cannot be disputed or denied by any knowledgeable cultural expert or literary critic. This is so because modern African literature is comparatively young to Euro-American literature and also Asian literature. The dawn of modern African literature occurred between the immediate period before and the end of the Second War in 1945, but African writers have been behaving like a child of two worlds or a bat. He's neither in the European world nor the African world in the context of his or her writings. The modern African writer finds himself in a dilemma in his creative output because he has received literary education that is rooted in Europe or Alien orientation which is incompatible and inharmonious to African roots and cosmology. There is a need for African literature to go under drastic transformation to reflect the typical African world view by all African writers in their writings; the content, the structure and the style. Read more at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202306140352.html>

South Africa: World's Oldest Prehistoric Burial Site Discovered in South Africa

Paleoanthropologist Lee Berger claims that the oldest burial site in the world, dating back to some 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, is in South Africa. He believes the primitive *Homo naledi* species buried their dead and carved symbols on tomb walls. The findings challenge the current understanding of human evolution.

"We are going to tell the world that we have discovered a non-human species, that had fire and controlled it, and went into incredibly difficult- to-reach spaces, and buried its dead in a ritual fashion, over and over and over again. In 2015, Lee Berger announced a new species of primitive human relative, the *Homo naledi*, whose bones were found in South Africa's Cradle of Humankind World Heritage site, 50 kilometers north-west of Johannesburg. *Homo*, because it belonged in the genus shared by other humans, and *naledi*, meaning star in the Sesotho language. Berger describes *Homo naledi* as being similar in size and weight to a small modern human. It stood 1.50 metre tall, with human-like hands that could work objects and legs for walking upright. Read more at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202306120538.html>

Sudan: Concerns Over Museum Artefacts

The National Museum in Khartoum contains tens of thousands of historical artefacts, including mummies from 2,500 BC, some of the oldest in the world. The museum staff was forced to leave due to the ongoing fighting. Its location in central Khartoum means that the museum is located close to the frontlines of the clashes. Pictures of museum vandalism circulated on social media, but it was confirmed that several photos were from incidents at museums outside Sudan. The Rapid Support Forces reported in a video clip on their official account that the museum was intact and had not been subjected to any vandalism. Museum Director Dr Ghalia Gharelnabi, however, told the *Guardian* that staff were "in a state of shock" after seeing a video clip that showed RSF troops in the museum's bioarchaeology lab, opening storage containers containing mummies and other remains. The RSF have reportedly also occupied the tomb of Mohamed Ahmed bin Abdallah, known as El Mahdi, who led the Mahdist War in the late 19th century to free Sudan from Anglo-Egyptian rule.

Read more <https://allafrica.com/stories/202306060437.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA – ACORNS)

All set for Botswana's first National Music Industry Summit

Music in Africa, 30 May 2023, Botswana

Organised by the Botswana-EU Policy Dialogue Facility in partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture and the National Arts Council of Botswana, the summit aims to "guide Botswana's cultural and creative industry (CCI) sector towards commercialisation, piloting with the music industry."

Source: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-1-aluirid-tkxllluyk-g/>

Gambia: Tourism minister on National Endowment Fund for Arts and Culture

The Minister of Tourism and Culture, Hamat N.K. Bah, signed the Regulation on the National Endowment Fund for Art and Culture for the first time in The Gambia. The signing came on the heels of a report on a survey conducted on the condition of female artistes in The Gambia with a series of training which led to one hundred artistes being certified at the National Centre for Arts and Culture.

Source: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-1-aluirid-tkxllluyk-ji/>

Web site: <http://www.ifacca.org>

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.2 Agenda21culture

In Situ – Place based innovation of cultural and creative industries in non urban areas

The Committee on Culture of UCLG has a partnership with IN SITU "Place-based innovation of cultural and creative industries in non-urban areas", a 4-year project that combines research and experimental actions to advance the innovation-related practices, capacities, and potential of cultural and creative industries (CCIs) based in non-urban areas of the EU countries. IN SITU

is currently exploring how cultural and creative practices can help tackle place-based issues in six non-urban areas representing the six IN SITU Labs: Azores, Portugal; Western coastal region, Ireland; Western region, Iceland; Rauma and Eurajoki municipalities, Finland; Valmiera County, Latvia; Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia. As an outreach partner of this project, the Committee on Culture supports a survey on 'Mapping of cultural and creative projects & selection of case studies', which aims at mapping projects proposing cultural and creative responses to key place-based issues in the six IN SITU lab locations and at identifying the two most relevant, impactful and innovative projects in each Lab location. Source: <https://agenda21culture.net/fr/nouvelles/situ>

Web site: <http://www.agenda21culture.net>

Contact: info@agenda21culture.net

F.3 Mawred – Culture resource Newsletter

Culture Resource & Action for Hope launch the initiative: Stand for Sudanese Artists

Culture Resource and Action for Hope are launching an emergency initiative to support Sudanese artists and protect cultural resources in Sudan. This initiative started two months after the war in Sudan broke out, causing the death, and displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, including a large number of artists and writers who lost their homes, properties, and livelihoods, besides those who got injured or killed. This war also led to the destruction of several cultural resources, including collections of artworks, libraries and archives featuring important materials; noting that a considerable number of these resources are still at risk. This initiative includes different components, such as providing support to artists and writers who have been directly affected by the war, identifying and documenting the cultural and artistic resources at risk in Sudan and exploring ways to protect them, providing workplaces and meeting spaces for Sudanese artists who had to leave Sudan recently, and training a group of cultural actors from Sudan and South Sudan on protecting cultural rights in times of war

Web site: <https://mawred.org/mawred-news/culture-resource-action-for-hope-launch-the-stand-for-sudanese-artists-initiative/?lang=en>

F.4 ACP-UE Culture Newsletter

CP-EU Culture Programme: Ignite Culture Networking Event at Zanzibar Film Festival

From 25-27 June 2023, the event will bring together Eastern-African beneficiaries of the ACP-EU Culture Programme, representatives from the joint Heva Fund-British Council implementing team, as well as from other ACP-EU Culture hubs, and delegates from the Organization of the ACP States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU). https://www.acp-ue-culture.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Programme-Overview_Ignite-Culture-at-ZIFF.pdf

Source: info@ettijahat.org



Please send addresses, information, and documents for the OCPA list serve, database, documentation centre and web site!

Thank you for your interest and co-operation
