



World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme

WHEAP TECHNICAL PARTNERS:

CRAterre-ENSAG

ICCROM

ICOMOS through its International Scientific Committee for Earthen Architecture

Udine University (Italy)

Regional Institutions: **EPA** (Benin), **CHDA** (Kenya) and **CERKAS** (Marocco)



ICOMOS



In addition to the current technical partners of the Programme other institutions will collaborate during specific activities. National institutions in charge of Cultural Heritage and local Government authorities will be involved wherever possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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COVER: From top to bottom: New Gurna (Egypt), Old Towns of Djenné (Mali), Historic Centre of the Town of Olinda (Brazil), Alhambra (Spain), Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Japan)

INTERIOR LEFT: Top: Old Towns of Djenné (Mali), Historic Centre of Évora (Portugal), Asante Traditional Buildings (Ghana). Bottom: The Mesa Verde National Park (United States of America), The Chan Chan Archaeological (Peru), Fujian Tulou (China)

INTERIOR RIGHT: From top to bottom: Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan), Timbuktu (Mali), Ouazazate Ait-Ben-Haddou (Marocco), Ghadames (Libya), Coro and its Port (Venezuela), Timbuktu (Mali)

ABOVE: The Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)

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Values of Earthen Architecture

Since ancient times, people all over the world have used earth as their main building material. Earthen architecture expresses the human capacity to create a built environment with locally available resources. The results are as diverse as monuments, historic towns, family homes and archaeological sites. These places contribute economic, ecological and cultural assets to their communities.

The **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage** (World Heritage Convention, 1972) was founded on the premise that certain places on our planet form part of the common heritage of humankind. Today, no less than 10% of the sites inscribed in the World Heritage List comprise earthen structures.

Places as unique as the **Old Towns of Djenné** in Mali, the **Old Walled City of Shibam** in Yemen, the **Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou** in Morocco, the **Fujian Tulou** in China, the **Chan Chan Archaeological Zone** in Peru or the **Mesa Verde National Park** in the United States of America, make up our world's earthen architectural heritage. The splendor of these sites illustrates the ingenuity of human construction. Their disappearance would be an irreplaceable loss to humanity.

Joining forces we can ensure the protection of this important heritage, and seize its advantages for the local communities and the whole planet.



Achievements

2010

- Consultation meeting on the implementation of the WHEAP in the Arab States at the World Heritage Centre with support of the private joint initiative **Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al-Kalifa Centre for Culture and Research/ARCAPITA Bank B.S.C** from Bahrain (US \$28,000)
- Launching of a 2-years project for the safeguarding of New Gournia Village (Egypt) funded by UNESCO through the **Special account for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Egypt** (US \$1,000,000)

2009

- The French Government through the **France-UNESCO Convention** approves the inventory project of World Heritage and Tentative lists' earthen architecture sites (€20,000)
- The WHEAP develops urban conservation regulations for Timbuktu to control development pressure
- Workshop on Earthen Artisans in Latin America and the Caribbean in Tlaxcala, Mexico, with support of the Spanish Government

2008

- Official launching of the WHEAP at the **10th International Conference on the Study and Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage (Terra 2008)**, Bamako, Mali
- The WHEAP supports the participation of over 40 international experts at **Terra 2008** thanks to the financial contributions from the World Heritage Fund as well as from the French Government/ France-UNESCO Convention (US \$24,772)
- The Italian Government approves the conservation project for earthen World Heritage sites in Africa (US \$500,000). The project foresees activities in Ethiopia (Lalibela) and Mali (Timbuktu and Djenné, in particular the rehabilitation of the Djenneke Youth House), an international conference, regional courses, and the production of promotional material
- A comprehensive programme document addresses potential partners and donors informing on WHEAP's aims, structure and overall cost estimation for the 10 years duration of the programme

2007

- The World Heritage Committee approves the WHEAP and grants US \$80,000 seed money from the World Heritage Fund
- 1st International WHEAP consultation meeting at the World Heritage Centre.
- Meeting on Earthen Built Heritage and the social role of the artisans, in Coro and its Port, Venezuela

