



# UNESCO

## Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Heavy rain led to severe flooding across the World Heritage Site of the 'Historic Town of Grand-Bassam', October 2019. ©UNESCO

### Damage assessment of the World Heritage property of the 'Historic Town of Grand-Bassam' (2019)

From 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019, heavy rains caused the banks of the Comoé River, to burst. Heavy rainfall also led to flooding across a large part of the 'Historic Town of Grand-Bassam', a World Heritage property. There was a need to assess the damage and identify which buildings needed the most urgent safeguarding measures. The mission, conducted in close cooperation with national and local authorities, with the support of the UNESCO Office in Abidjan, took place from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Seven experts were consulted, with expertise in the fields of hydrology, architecture, structures, heritage, town planning and landscapes. The mission identified which measures needed to be implemented in the short, medium and longer-term, to ensure the stability and security of the built heritage affected by the floods. Furthermore, it resulted in the formulation of recommendations for the integration of a DRR strategy in the overall management plan for the property and the identification of training needs for its implementation.