



# FINAL REPORT

CollAsia Field Project 2021-2022

Educating the School Pupils and Teachers  
through Interactive Exhibitions



UGANDA MUSEUM

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

The CollAsia Uganda Museum Outreach Project 2021-2022 was developed after a proposal was submitted to ICCROM for the first ICCROM-CollAsia grant. Uganda being one of the participants of ICCROM's CollAsia programme "*Planning New Exhibition*" in Vientiane, Laos in October 2019, was selected and awarded a grant to support the implementation of this field project. The project was in the form of a co-curated, interactive exhibition; public programme, events mediated around collections and documentation or other engaging activities promoting the wellbeing and development of communities.

The main objective of the CollAsia Uganda Museum outreach project was to strengthen and showcase the benefits of the rich heritage of Uganda through local, innovative field projects addressing Collections, Conservation, and Communities. The project was also to create a positive and lasting change for present and future generations of the youths in Uganda and other areas, by making concrete contributions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

The project targets school pupils, teachers and members of the community from the neighborhood of Barlonyo site. A total of two hundred thirty-three people were approached directly through this project and it is expected to indirectly reach out to many more through the photo exhibition, and the literature which was distributed. Of the direct beneficiaries, 94 were men, and 44 were women and 95 were school going pupils. Others include resource persons who facilitated the sessions, the Barlonyo site management team and community members. The local leadership was represented by the local council chairperson and area counsellor who appreciated the initiative to connect with our rich heritage and re-build the societal morals using collections (**Appendix 1**).

The Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities to which the Uganda Museum belongs to, supported the project with vehicles for the staff movement from Kampala to Barlonyo and back.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The main activities that led to successful outcomes of the Collasia - Uganda Museum project included stakeholder analysis, a pre-test with students around the Uganda Museum, development of student activity worksheets, site excursions, engagement of the young people into sessions of interactive discussions using visual learning handmade objects and photographic laminated materials. Other activities included engaging the young people into sessions involving hands-on experiences through touching, drawing, modelling, as part of the creativities, innovation and approach to conservation and preservation of heritage collections. The project team also undertook an artefact conversation of some of the existing cultural heritage management practices with the local leaders and shared the brochure leaflets with pictorials of the project activities.

### The Stakeholder Analysis

Conducted a workshop to identify the local leaders/partners/teachers with whom we worked with during the project. The participants included the Head Teacher of Corom Primary School, selected teachers, local leaders and the Barlonyo site attendants. The target was to identify the partners and their respective roles within the project. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown and restricted movements, the workshop was held online. It was attended by fourteen people.

### Pre-test Activities

The basis of the CollAsia - Uganda Museum outreach project was to educate and encourage the young generation to appreciate their intangible skills and knowledge of traditional crafts and objects. The project implementation area was Barlonyo memorial site in Lira District in Northern Uganda. Before moving to Barlonyo, a pre-test of some of the craft materials was done on a similar population structure of fifteen young school-



Meal Preparation: Pupils try out millet grinding

going pupils from communities within the Uganda Museum neighbourhood. One crucial area of focus was on the raw materials from which the artefacts are made, the natural sources of the raw materials, sustainability, reproduction and their effect on biodiversity.

### Development of Student Activity Worksheets

The one-day workshop held at the Uganda Museum was geared towards developing the pupil/student activity worksheets (**Appendix 2**) on heritage teaching using the museums and sites where the children can interface with some of the natural objects and connect such information to what is taught in class. The activity sheets themselves are a stimulant to enabling the young people develop critical thinking skills. This is through simple and logical word puzzles and heritage games. The participants of this workshop included the Uganda Museum staff, teachers and site attendants.

### Site Excursion

The role of heritage sites can not be underestimated when it comes to enabling pupils concretize the classroom learnt material. Learners from Corom Primary School, Nahla Primary School and Barlonyo Technical School in Barlonyo were mobilized and a site excursion to Barlonyo site was done. It was an exciting exercise as the young people got the opportunity to internalize the class work with some of the findings from the site. The learners appreciated the essential role of conservation and protection of such sites and other collections for accessibility and usage by the subsequent generations.

While the focus was on transferring the skills from the traditional custodians to the young people, it was also a manifestation of an intangible product. The project also offered a platform for the young people to understand the raw materials from which the artefacts are made, the natural sources of the raw material, sustainability and interact with the bearers of the craftsmanship and contribute to knowledge hence co creation. Hand craft objects, made during the outreach were a manifestation of the craft skills learnt by the pupils during the outreach.



Pupils in a hands-on weaving process in the making of local mats and hats

Museums as important cultural resources, are committed to developing exhibitions with the aim of making the collections and knowledge accessible to broad public audiences. The verbal texts that accompany a displayed artefact are there to add 'something more' to the experience gained by looking alone which is deeply entrenched in contemporary museum practice. Despite this, there is more than meets the eye. The symbolism, the materials, the architecture among others speak of the vast heritage embedded in one object. *“Cultural Heritage is therefore legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. These have for long shaped the moral and social conduct of the people. There are invisible bonds which set the cultural social order for harmonious living. They constitute the cultural backbone which holds the members of a particular culture”*. This was in part the artefact conversation.



## PROJECT OUTCOMES

The CollAsia - Uganda Museum field outreach project activities implemented both at the Uganda Museum in Kampala and in Barlonyo War Memorial site in Northern Uganda were suitable and appropriate to the young people who had been out of school for over a year due to the Covid-19 effects where schools in Uganda had been closed. From the project intervention there were a number of changes and improvements particularly among the young people as regards heritage.

Outcomes of this project:

- It enabled the pupils, both in Kampala and Barlonyo including some members of the community to expand their knowledge on heritage and collections. The learners particularly were taken through the material identification process in a step-by-step process where many appreciated the differences in some of the plant species and their suitability in the making of some of the cultural objects.
- The participants appreciated the importance of such skills and the need to conserve them particularly for the urban dwellers and future generations.
- The project further offered a platform for the young people to interact with the bearers of the craftsmanship and contribute to knowledge hence co creation.
- The young people were taken on a journey of heritage discovery. Many of the participants were not aware of their own heritage and in some cases there were misinformation. The project enabled them to correct this and better understand their culture and tradition.
- From the pre-testing phase which was conducted at the Uganda Museum, in Kampala, a highly urbanized environment, the participants embraced the heritage conservation and requested for such programs to be popularized in schools to enable many of the school going children with limited chances of interacting with such important but rare traditional heritage to appreciate their culture.
- The Collasia - Uganda Museum field outreach project was an inspiration to the pupils and the community in awakening their interest to visit museums and sites, and for the teachers to use the nearby sites as teaching resources. Both the teachers and learners acquired more knowledge on heritage, the threats facing heritage sites, improving community awareness on the do's, don'ts and coping the best practices involved in local heritage protection.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Collasia - Uganda Museum field outreach project with funding from International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) was developed using a harmonized participatory approach that included consultations with Uganda Museum Administration, staff in the Education section of the department and primary school teachers who provided guidance and technical support. At a later stage we closely worked with the Barlonyo site management committee who provided us with the site grounds to hold some of the outdoor project activities. They also offered seats at no cost to the participants during the activity implementation.

The Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities supported the implementation through the provision of vehicles to transport the project staff to Barlonyo and back and at times when movement was required. The project provided funds for fuel.



Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities vehicle used for transport by the project staff on arrival at Barlonyo



# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

## I. CHALLENGES

- a. The implementation of the CollAsia Uganda Museum project coincided with the emergence of COVID-19 with lockdown restrictions. There was limited movement initially and some activities had to be done online. The challenge of connectivity and some of the stakeholders not being at par with the new mode of communication.
- b. High expectations from some stakeholders in terms of monetary gains.
- c. The project area was Barlonyo, a rural and there was a language barrier. Communication to the members of the local community necessitated an interpreter.
- d. Further to that Barlonyo is located about 350km from Kampala. This constrained the movements during the implementation.
- e. The dwindling supply of the natural local materials is a problem. Some of the materials used had to be brought in from the next district.
- f. Some activities needed more preparation and resources. The documentation and compilation of the existing cultural heritage management practices, and compilation of a booklet on exemplary and innovative heritage management practices wasn't accomplished.
- g. The department did not have the equipment for videography and we outsourced the services.

## II. LESSONS LEARNED

- a. The museum staff working on the project have improved their capacity in project concept development particularly in regard to heritage, Networking and working with the local communities, budgeting and financial management, community mobilization skills, heritage advocacy strategies for heritage and report writing.
- b. Skills in community mobilization, heritage advocacy strategies were important in the delivery of the project. The staff using the education/teaching background were able to interact with the learners and community members and bring both parties to share on key information concerning heritage and influence their mind set towards conservation.
- c. The choice of the project implementation area, Barlonyo memorial site in Lira District in Northern Uganda, was one important aspect which leveraged the success of the project. This District experienced insecurity arising from the war for over ten years which created great

disconnect in heritage practice, and it's far away from the main National Museum. Very few schools from Lira have visited the museum in the recent years.

- d. The stakeholders have appreciated the project and some of them have come out openly on the need to conserve our heritage and where possible have ways through which such engagements between the generations could be done.
- e. The completion of the project has grown our capacity in terms of delivery on projects. The CollAsia Uganda Museum Outreach Project, through the co-curated, interactive exhibitions; public programme, events mediated around collections and documentation have exposed the Museum technical staff to practical experiences in heritage field projects addressing Collections, Conservation, and Communities. Using that experience, we hope to create positive changes for present and future generations in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.
- f. On what we would have done differently, we continue lobbying for partnership.

## QUOTES ON THE PROJECT

"I thank the Museum for helping us learn about our culture.  
Many people do not consider it as important"

**Adyek Brenda, Pupil**

*"Apyonyo cweyo Odero gi bot papana, anpwoyo program man me weko an me pwonyo otino  
kwan mann gi yupu odero"*

"I thank you people for bringing this program to let me teach the young people how to make the  
winnowing basket"

**Imat Joana, an elderly resource person**

*"Barlonyo obbedo kabbedo me lonnyo, Barlonyo obbeddo kabbedo me yat yaa, maa otedero, tye  
kagwoko"*

"Barlonyo is a place of wealth blessed with plenty of sheer butter which we natives ought to  
preserve"

**Adyang Yubentino, Local leader**

*"Apwoyo Museum me kelo program man i Balonyo. Wa lego museum me mede ki kelo program  
man i school ma tye i Balonyo"*

"We are happy the Museum has been brought closer to Barlonyo, we pray similar activities  
continue as one way to inspire the youths into heritage conservation"

**Pius Okello, Teacher at Corom Primary School**

"We do appreciate the support from ICCROM, for it goes a long way in building our capacity to  
handle this delicate subject of heritage"

**Ms. Mwanja Rose, Commissioner Museums & Monuments**

## FUTURE PLANS

1. The Uganda Museum has been engaged in heritage management and advocacy over the years working around heritage conservation, among Community groups, holding festivals through Art and performances at the Museum, at sites of cultural and historical significance in Kampala among others, therefore we shall employ such capacity to deliver on future heritage related program.
2. We plan to integrate the heritage programs into Museum work and conduct outreach programs to schools and communities in the hard to reach areas and take the museum closer to the public.
3. We as well plan to link the custodians of heritage with the next generation through similar interactive hands on sessions to ensure we don't lose out on the human skill.
4. Given that the world is going digital we plan to document electronically digitize and do publication of our collections and artefacts for other people to easily access.
5. Further enable interactive heritage skills engagements covering other traditional skills such as backcloth making, food preservation and security linked with the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Direct Project Beneficiaries

DATE	ACTIVITIES	COMMUNITY MEMBERS		PUPILS	
		Men	Women	Boys	Girls
06/12/2021	The Stakeholder Analysis	12	2	-	-
08/12/2021	Pretesting Activity	6	4	11	7
16/12/2021	Workshop on Field learning Aids and joint development of student Activity worksheets	19	11	-	-
27/01/2022	Connecting with Heritage in Barlonyo	17	11	19	13
28/01/2022	Heritage and knowledge expansion through museum-school programs	12	7	13	15
29/01/2022	A visit by the team to one of the Women potters	5	2	-	-
05/01/2022	Midterm Review	10	2	-	-
11/02/2022	Dissemination and Art Exhibition	10	4	8	9
	Final Report Writing	3	1	-	-
Sub Total		94	44	51	44
<b>Total Participants</b>		<b>233</b>			

## Appendix 2 Activity Worksheet

**To be completed by each student after hands on interaction with the object.**

Name of student.....

Name of object.....

Write down your expectations for the visit (what do you want to discover, learn about, etc)

.....

.....

Make a drawing of the object, (using a separate sheet record some facts you learned about the object:

Report on visual discoveries:

When you touched the artefact at the Museum/site.

.....

Describe the aspect of the process that made the biggest impact on you:

.....

.....

Other features/ Related objects

.....

### Activity Sample Heritage Crossword Puzzle.



Using heritage words and others fill the puzzle.

Across.

1. Grains/Cereals-In Latin it's called cibum.
3. Swallowing a liquid substance
6. Absence of light
7. A short way for inside
8. A three legged sometimes four legged seat
10. A quantity that can be held in the hand

Down.

1. Material locally used as a fuel
2. Make one wealthy
5. A color
9. Slipping down the mountain of a mass of land
12. Annoy someone
13. Not easy

### Appendix 3 Activity Photographs



An inspiration to the pupils awakening their interest to visit museums and site



Participants prepare some banana fibres for the pre-testing exercise



Participants pause for group photo with products after pre-testing



Fun time. After the material pretesting exercise, participants play with some of the products



Imat Joana: One of the symbols of Intergenerational Connection



An elder, Mr. Adyang Yubentino explaining the history of Barloyo





Pupils given a guided tour of the photo exhibition at Barlonyo



The sheer butter tree from where the name Barlonyo originated. The tree itself connects memories of the place of peace and wealth



Group photograph at the closing ceremony of the Collasia Uganda Museum Outreach Project at Barlonyo



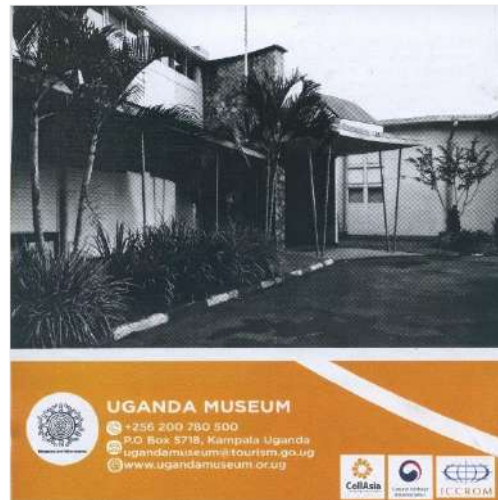
Pupils reading the CollAsia Field Project 2021 – 2022 brochure



CollAsia Field Project 2021 – 2022 Banner



CollAsia Uganda Field Project 2021 – 2022 brochure (front cover)



CollAsia Uganda Field Project 2021 – 2022 brochure (back cover)