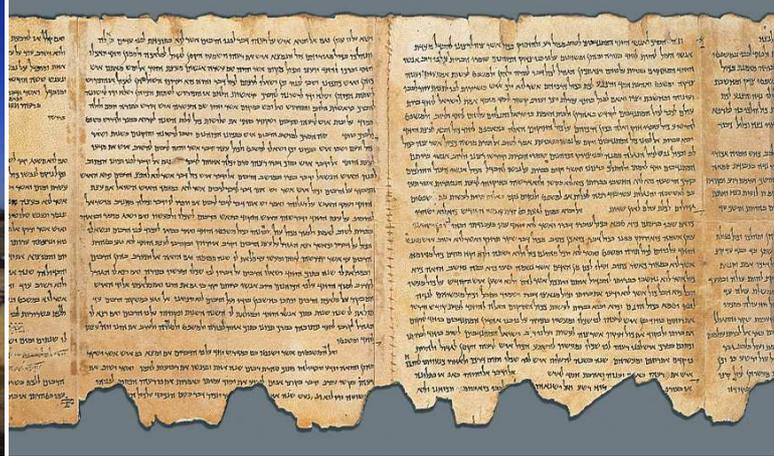




United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



MALI: FIRST AID TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



UNESCO and ICCROM organize a Training Course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

12 – 30 November 2018

Bamako - *Ecole de maintien de la paix*

PRESS KIT

#CultureCannotWait

MEDIA ADVISORY

UNESCO AND ICCROM ORGANIZE TRAINING ON 'FIRST AID' TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

WHAT: The First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAC Africa) training course is jointly organized by UNESCO and ICCROM in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, the National Museum of Mali (*Musée National du Mali*), the National Gendarmerie, MINUSMA, the Alioune Blondin Beye School for Peacekeeping (*l'Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye*), as well as the NGO SAVAMA-DCI, whose mission is the safeguarding and preservation of ancient manuscripts of Mali. On the basis of a methodology developed by ICCROM, the training will provide a framework and ethical guidelines for the protection of cultural heritage in complex emergencies with the aim to promote recovery, peace and risk reduction. A handbook and its accompanying toolkit on cultural heritage first aid are now available for free download (see link below). The training, multidisciplinary and mainly practical, will be enriched by the contribution of emergency responders such as the military and humanitarians. Emergency simulations, role-plays and group discussions will support the development of relevant skills.

WHO: Course participants are mid-career professionals who are actively involved in protecting cultural heritage and want to broaden their skills. They work in national heritage organizations (departments of antiquities, ministries of culture, commissions for monuments and museums, national museums), architectural firms, archives, libraries, conservation institutes, universities and humanitarian organizations. They represent 19 nationalities from four continents. The course team is composed of teachers with experience in humanitarian assistance, development planning, cultural heritage conservation, disaster risk management, mediation and negotiation. Former course participants are also part of the international training team and will share their experiences by demonstrating how to apply FAC skills in the field.

WHY: The aim of the training course is to create a network of proactive cultural rescuers, who will influence emergency preparedness and response policies and practices at local, national, regional and/ or international levels. UNESCO's experience in Mali, notably the reconstruction of the mausoleums and the safeguarding of the ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu, and thanks to the successes of cultural heritage rehabilitation and humanitarian recovery, will provide a central case study and be of undeniable added value to the training.

WHEN and WHERE: The press conference will take place on Saturday, 10 November from 4pm-5pm at the Ministry of Culture. The opening ceremony will follow on 12 November from 9am to 11am at the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye, ACI 2000, Bamako, Mali.

Interview opportunities:

Fane Yamoussa, Technical Advisor and focal point to the FAC; Ali Daou, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO-Bamako; Léonie Evers, Focal Point for Armed Conflict, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, UNESCO Headquarters; Baba Keita, Local course coordinator, UNESCO; Aparna Tandon, Leader, FAC Programme, and Project Manager, ICCROM; Rohit Jigyasu; Programme Officer, ICCROM-Sharjah.

For more information, please consult :

the website : <http://fr.unesco.org/countries/field-offices/bamako>

the link to photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/135945845@N05/albums>

the link to FAC handbook: <https://www.iccrom.org/publication/first-aid-cultural-heritage-times-crisis>

A- Why First Aid to Cultural Heritage?

Culture and heritage, as expressions of peoples' identity, repositories of memory and traditional knowledge, are essential components of a community's identity and social capital. Promoting respect for cultural diversity is fundamental to preventing violent extremism, generating positive dialogue and inclusion, and fostering lasting peace. The significance of culture in the lives of communities and individuals makes its continuity a powerful tool for building resilience, serving as a basis for sustainable recovery. Likewise, the rehabilitation of heritage can contribute towards healing the scars of war and natural disasters by allowing communities to recover a sense of hope, dignity and empowerment. As a visible expression of common ground between communities, culture can be a powerful tool for reconciliation and a building block for social cohesion. In complex emergency situations culture can be a vehicle to foster tolerance, mutual understanding and reconciliation, mitigating social tensions and preventing renewed escalation into violent conflict.

Immediate and interdependent actions taken to stabilize and reduce risks to endangered tangible and intangible cultural heritage, with the aim of promoting its recovery are collectively termed as cultural heritage first aid. Cultural Heritage first aid measures are meant to be temporary, and are only truly successful if followed by conservation efforts to restore function and access.

Within an institutional disaster risk management plan, cultural heritage first aid resides in the domain of emergency response. However, unlike the humanitarian response where reaction time, such as the first 48 hours or 72 hours, is considered to be crucial for saving human lives, first aid to cultural heritage can be introduced after the basic relief support (e.g., food, water, shelter etc.) is in place. Regardless, rapid response can help contain damage to cultural heritage.



B- Reinforcing national and local capacities

The FAC Africa 2018 training course, organized jointly by UNESCO and ICCROM, aligns perfectly with the strategic action of the two organizations in Mali, in particular, but also more generally with regard to the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations, be they a result of armed conflict or disaster.

Indeed, the *Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism*, adopted in 2015, as well as the Action Plan for its implementation, aim at not only strengthen the ability of Member States to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity, but also incorporate the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peace-building processes by engaging with relevant stakeholders outside the culture domain.

ICCROM's key strategic orientations include supporting world concerns for the protection of cultural heritage in crises and in particular, safeguarding cultural heritage in Africa. To this end, ICCROM has developed an international capacity-building programme on improving emergency preparedness and response and on-the ground coordination between actors to ensure safeguarding of both tangible and intangible heritage. FAC-AFRICA aims to enhance national and local capacities for making cultural heritage of the region resilient to natural and man-made hazard events.

Because of verified threats against the national cultural heritage, the Government of Mali and UNESCO put in place priority actions for the reinforced protection of the Malian cultural heritage. Following the intervention of the French, Malian and African armies in January 2013, the Northern regions were liberated and, on 2 February 2013, the French President, cognizant of the exceptional value of Timbuktu, invited the Director-General of UNESCO to accompany him on his visit. Then, on 18 February 2013, UNESCO, in cooperation with the governments of Mali and France, organized an international expert meeting resulting in the adoption of an action plan for the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of Mali. This Action Plan was integrated in the Sustainable Recovery Plan for Mali. It serves as the basis of implementation of a concrete programme that, despite a situation remaining difficult, is progressively being carried out thanks to the involvement of all stakeholders, and in particular the authorities and local populations. ICCROM supports efforts for recovery and risk reduction in Mali.



C-Who is a cultural first-aider?



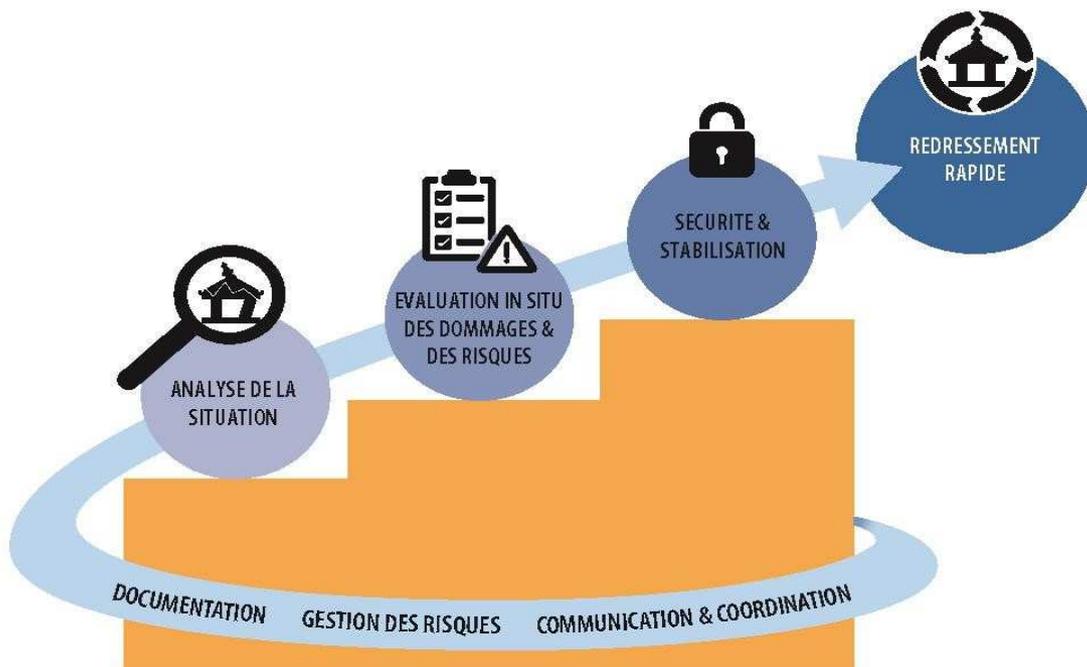
A cultural first aider is someone who has received prior training to safeguard endangered cultural heritage during, or immediately after an emergency. Providing first aid for cultural heritage during a major or complex emergencies involves balancing competing needs of food, water, shelter, security and identity. A cultural first aider therefore must be able to cope with physical, mental, environmental, and task specific work demands.

She/he is:

- proactive yet sensitive to human needs,
- respectful of the local context,
- capable of building trust and understanding amongst people who have different views,
- able to develop and implement first aid operations for protecting cultural heritage in coordination with other relief agencies,
- able to constitute and manage teams, and
- capable of assessing and mitigating future risks in order to ensure early recovery.

D- How can we provide first aid for different types of cultural heritage?

The framework for cultural heritage first aid (see diagram below), developed by ICCROM, is based on extensive field experience, and interdisciplinary collaboration with professionals worldwide. As no two emergencies are the same, the actions described within the framework are to be tailored to individual contexts. Each step of the framework has a separate workflow that can be broken down into smaller actions. However, the process of providing cultural first aid is not linear, especially in a complex emergency, where actions described within the framework may not follow the same sequence at a given time. For more information on how to provide first aid to different types of cultural heritage, refer to the newly-published [FAC Handbook and Toolkit](#) co-published by ICCROM and Prince Claus Fund.



About the First Aid in Times of Crisis Programme:

- Since 2010, FAC courses have been given internationally, regionally and nationally. The first FAC course was held in Rome, Italy, given by ICCROM in cooperation with the Italian culture ministry [MIBACT](#), [UNESCO](#), and [Blue Shield](#). Subsequent international courses have been given in Amsterdam and Washington DC, while special courses related to crisis events have been held in Egypt, Haiti, Iraq, Myanmar, Nepal, and Ukraine, amongst other countries. The FAC initiative includes capacity building, disaster risk management planning, emergency deployment, multilingual resource materials and a growing community of over 100 cultural First Aiders in more than 70 countries, ready to share knowledge and lend support. Other valued partners in this international initiative, in addition to UNESCO, include Cultural Heritage without Borders, Albania; Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation; Italian Civil Protection; Prince Claus Fund, Netherlands; Smithsonian Institution, USA; and numerous other national emergency and heritage agencies.

E- TRAINING

The 21 participants of 19 countries of the FAC 2018 training will have the opportunity to meet participants of previous editions of the course, that have successfully led follow-up activities in their own country and contributed to enlarge the network of cultural first-aiders !

Expected learning outcomes

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

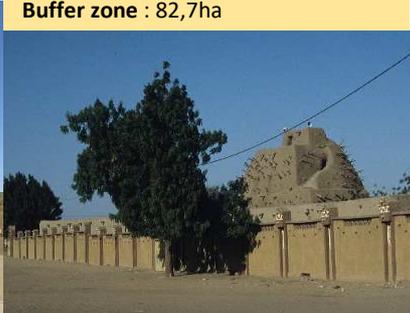
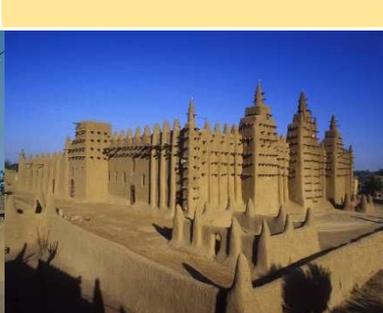
- carry out risk assessments for different types of cultural heritage;
- implement first aid for different types of cultural heritage;
- prepare context specific emergency preparedness and response plans for cultural heritage institutions;
- develop standard operating procedures and coordination mechanisms for cultural heritage first aid between their respective institutions and emergency management agencies such as civil protection, fire brigade, and the military;
- train volunteers and work with vulnerable communities to enhance their capacity for cultural heritage first aid.;
- constitute national and/or regional teams of cultural first aiders.

✦ FOUR WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN MALI

REMARKABLE HERITAGE IN DANGER

Mali boast one of the most remarkable cultural heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa, of which the most visible part includes already four properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage, and eight elements on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

This heritage, which represents a strong potential for sustainable development in the country, has unfortunately been shattered in the context of the crisis that the country faced. Beyond the intentional destruction of monuments and ancient manuscripts, the looting of archaeological sites, the prohibition of cultural practices, the tourism crisis and the putting on hold of economic activities have fragilized the traditional caring and tending by the keepers and owners of those properties.

<p>TIMBUKTU</p> <p>Date of inscription : 1988 Criteria : II, IV et V Geographical coordinates : N16 46 24 W2 59 58 Construction period(s) : XIIe siècle</p>	<p>TOMB OF ASKIA, GAO</p> <p>Date of inscription : 2004 Criteria : II, III et IV Geographical coordinates : N16 17 23.28 EO 2 40.416 Construction period(s) : XVe siècle Central zone : 4,24ha Buffer zone : 82,7ha</p>	<p>ANCIENT CITIES OF DJENNE</p> <p>Date of inscription : 1988 Criteria : III et IV Geographical coordinates : N13 54 23.004 W4 33 18 Construction period(s) : IIIe - XXe siècle</p>	<p>CLIFFS OF BANDIAGARA</p> <p>Date of inscription : 1989 Criteria : V et VII Geographical coordinates : N14 19 59.988 W3 25 0.012 Construction period(s) : XIe - XXIe siècle</p>
			

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