



International Council of African Museums

3rd General Assembly and Conference

“New Museums for Africa: Change and Continuity”

2-5 December 2009 - Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

In partnership with the
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Communication,
Burkina Faso



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I. General Announcement

The 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly and Conference constitute yet another unique platform for African museum and heritage professionals to exchange ideas, experiences and to build personal and institutional networks. This will be the third AFRICOM General Assembly and Conference following the successful 1st General Assembly and Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya (2003), and the 2nd one held in Cape Town, South Africa (2006). Apart from the discussion and networking opportunities, the 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly and Conference will also discuss the new AFRICOM Strategic Plan (2009-2013) and witness the election of a new Board of Directors. The General Assembly will also provide the membership with an opportunity to meet with the new Senior Management Team at the Secretariat which is implementing the new AFRICOM Strategic Plan.

The host organization for the 3rd Conference and General Assembly is the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Communication, through the Directorate General of Cultural Heritage. A local Organising Committee, being chaired by the Director of Music Museum, Mr Jean-Paul Koudougou, is spearheading all the preparations in Burkina Faso, with the guidance of the AFRICOM Secretariat. The Local organising Committee comprises of key stakeholders from the cultural heritage and tourism sectors of Burkina Faso. The proposed venue is the Ouaga 2000 Conference Centre in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso means "Country of Integrity", and is renowned for her hospitality, friendliness, integrity, and tranquil lifestyle.

The AFRICOM General Assembly and Conference will bring together AFRICOM members and other African museum professionals, potential stakeholders and funding partners from all over the African continent as well as a number of non-African participants and institutions with significant experience in museums and cultural heritage management.

II. The Conference

1. Conference Scientific Committee

A Scientific Committee composed of African experts was selected for the preparation of the Conference, the evaluation of the submissions as well as the follow-up to the conference and the production of reports, proceedings and recommendations.

The Committee is composed as follows:

- Dr. Kwame Labi, Ghana: Chairperson
- Prof. A. O. Ige, Nigeria
- Dr. Godfrey Mahachi, Zimbabwe
- Mr. Ech Cherki Dahmali, Morocco
- Dr. Ramhota Pavitranand, Mauritius
- Dr. Oumarou Nao, Burkina Faso

- Ms. Freda Nkirote, Kenya
- Dr. Abdelwahed Ben-Ncer, Morocco
- Dr. Rudo Sithole, AFRICOM Executive Director
- Ms. Deirdre Prins-Solani, AFRICOM President

2. Conference theme

The theme chosen for the conference is **“New Museums for Africa: Change and Continuity”** with three specialised workshops, each examining salient issues that impact on Africa’s heritage:

1. Restitution and repatriation of African cultural and natural properties: why and how?
2. Museums as public spaces: Interpretation and re-interpretation
3. Local solutions of African Museums to global socio-economic trends

The three workshops shall examine and discuss various themes as outlined in the section “Workshop Description” in the **Call for Expression of Interest to Present a Paper**.

3. Venue and Organisation

The host country, Burkina Faso, is a land-locked French speaking country in West-Africa with an area roughly equal to 106,000 square miles. The nearest sea port is in La Côte d’Ivoire, at approximately 1,145 km. The monument at the Naba Koom square of a Fulani woman holding a calabash of water ready to welcome visitors with water is evident of the hospitality of the people. Visitors will love hospitality which is rooted in the Burkinabe culture and is virtually in any part of the country. Although French is the official language, there are about 66 different languages spoken in the country which represent diverse ethnic groups.

Ouagadougou Int'l Airport

The airport is 4 km or 10 minutes drive away from the venue of the AFRICOM 3rd General Assembly and Conference.

World Heritage Sites in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso currently has no World heritage site, but has the following sites in the tentative list; Les gravures rupestres de Pobe-Mengao (1996), Les necropoles

de Bourzanga (1996), Les sites d'extraction de fer de Kindiba (1996), Parc National du W du Niger (2004) and the Ruins of Loropeni (*Les ruines de Loropeni*-1996). Loropeni being considered for listing this year is a market town in southern Burkina Faso, lying west of [Gaoua](#). Local features include pre-European stone ruins, about which little is known. One theory is that they were once a slave-palace for a Lobi king from antiquity. The Ruins which are the remains of a fortified village are the best-preserved of the larger Lobi Ruins, which occupy an 18,600-square-kilometer cultural corridor shared by the modern nations of Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, and Ghana. The ruins were added to the [UNESCO World Heritage](#) Tentative List on April 9th, 1996, due to its purported universal cultural value.

Museums in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has many and interesting museums. Among them are;

Manéga Bendrologie Museum

The Manéga Bendrologie Museum specialises mainly in the sacred ethnography. The Museum has 500 sacred masks which have all participated in funeral rituals; several tens of YAKOUGA or tombstones with men's effigy dating back to several millennia and whose rocks are aged between 2,600,000,000 and 1,600,000,000 years. The museum also presents the cultural Dogon, Fulani, Bobo, Mossé, Sénoufo and Nuni empires.

The Music Museum

The music museum is located in the centre of Ouaga and is currently undergoing refurbishment. The Museum gives an anthropological perspective to the music instruments in Burkina Faso. Some of the music instruments featured in the music museum include the *Balafon*, the *kora* and various drums.

National Museum of Burkina Faso

The National Museum of Burkina can easily be identified with its unique and beautiful Sahelian architecture. The Museum is located along the Boulevard Charles de Gaulle and has a rich ethnographic collection of masks.

Conference Facilities and hotels:

Ouaga 2000 is a growing development in the capital of Ouagadougou that has become a political and economic focal point of Burkina Faso especially with the new presidential palace in its vicinity, a 5-star hotel known as the Laico, beautiful homes and new embassies are all part of this community that is an entirely different world from the rest of Ouagadougou or for that matter Burkina Faso.

Joly Hotel

This four star hotel is located in the heart of Ouaga 2000 residential and prestigious area and close to the presidency and the International Conference Center and the biggest commercial building in Ouaga.

Other hotels include; Azalaï Hotel ndependanse, Mercure Silmandé Route de Kaya, Résidence La Palmeraie, Résidence Princess'Yenenga, Pacific Hotel (three star), Yibi, Splendid hotel (three star), Palm Beach hotel (three star), Koulouba hotel (two star), Sofitel hotel (three star), Ran Somketa hotel (three star), and Résidence Les Palmiers

4. Bursaries

In order to ensure greater representation and greater input and exchange, AFRICOM wishes to offer bursaries to cover travel and subsistence for approximately two museum professionals from each African country. Such an assembly of persons from every corner of the continent would provide an exceptionally rich and highly motivating gathering.

Applications for bursaries to attend the General Assembly and Conference must adhere strictly to the requirements set out in the **Criteria for the Award of Bursaries**.

Members and non-members alike are welcome to attend the General Assembly and Conference, and potential participants are encouraged to seek their own funding from their host institution or elsewhere.

5. Preliminary Programme

	<u>2 December</u>	<u>3 December</u>	<u>4 December</u>	<u>5 December</u>
9-10.40	Official Opening (plenary)	Themes (1, 2 & 3) Workshops (plenary)	Workshop summaries & recommendations	GA: programme activities, strategic budget
	Keynotes			
10.40	tea break	tea break	tea break	tea break
11-13.00	GA: President/Director & Treasurer reports		Conference closing/ keynote	
	-----	---		
13-14.00	lunch	Excursion/site visits (with packed lunch)	lunch	lunch
14.00	Themes (1, 2 & 3) Workshops	Workshop chairs to make summaries and recommendations	GA issues: constitution review	New board meeting/briefing Excursions for participants
15.45-18.00	tea break		tea break Election results	
	Workshops continued			

Elections to continue from 3th to 5th December 2009

6. CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF BURSARIES

AFRICOM shall endeavour to raise funds to finance approximately two members per country in Africa

Applicants shall submit:

1. Statement of motivation for attending 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly and Conference (1/2 page max.)
2. Maximum 500 word concept paper/abstract reflecting upon a subject within the themes of the Conference (see Call for Expression of Interest).
3. A brief CV (max. 2 pages)
4. Proof of AFRICOM membership as at 31 July 2009

Selection will be based on:

1. Relevance, quality and significance of proposed submission
2. Motivation expressed in the application
3. AFRICOM Membership: priority shall be given (but not limited) to:
 - a. long-standing members
 - b. members who have not yet participated in any AFRICOM activity - previous beneficiaries are not eligible

While trying to ensure balance in:

4. Regional representation
5. Type of museum
6. Gender
7. Age

Conditions of Bursary:

AFRICOM bursaries will meet the cost of participation at the 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly and Conference which includes:

1. Air Fare: Return economy class ticket from nearest international airport in your country;
2. Accommodation: double room sharing, on bed & breakfast basis
3. Per Diem: US\$40.00 per day
4. Transport: Airport transfers to/from hotel
5. Conference Registration fee: includes morning/afternoon breaks on conference days, social/cultural events, conference materials.

6. Travel insurance

Bursary recipients will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring you have all the necessary travel documents, visas, vaccination certificates, etc.;
2. Any local transport, transit and visa costs from your country.

All applications **must** reach the AFRICOM Secretariat
NOT LATER THAN 27 July 2009 by:

Email: conference@africom.museum

Fax: +254-20-3748928

or Ordinary mail:
AFRICOM Secretariat
P.O. Box 38706, Ngara
00600 Nairobi, Kenya

7. CALL FOR PAPERS

(Call for expression of interest to make a presentation)

Application

Participants expressing an interest to present a paper at any of the three Workshops of the Conference must submit:

1. 1/2 page statement of motivation
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Maximum 500 word concept paper/abstract reflecting upon a subject within the themes of the Conference

The Scientific Committee will review applications and make selections by 31st August 2009.

Workshop Descriptions

Participation and contribution to the conference shall be made through commentaries, case studies and analyses.

The three workshops shall also seek to identify priority areas for action to be taken, either by AFRICOM, and/or by museum and heritage institutions in Africa.

a. Main issues to be explored

Theme for the Conference:

Main theme: "New Museums for Africa: Change and Continuity"

The theme is a reflection on what has transpired during the last 18 years since the meeting on “What Museums for Africa” in 1991. Therefore, the 3rd General Assembly and Conference aims to;

1. Analyze the relevance of African Museums to their audiences and communities as public spaces.
2. Evaluate the recommendations made in 1991 and the progress made so far on their implementation.
3. Investigate and discuss the impact of AFRICOM on old museums since establishment and how these have adapted to global trends?
4. Inquire how many new museums and institutions have emerged in response to birth of AFRICOM in 2000 and their current contribution to the profession and their communities.
5. Discuss new strategic directions for African museums **to take given the irreversible global trends?**
6. Assess the contribution of AFRICOM to heritage development in Africa, and in partnership with other institutions.

b. The workshops

Workshop 1: “Restitution and repatriation of African cultural and natural properties: why and how”

- Emerging new patterns in the illicit trafficking of cultural and natural properties in Africa.
- Restitution and repatriation experiences: successes, bottlenecks, and failures.
- Recognizing cultural rights of communities as owners of cultural collections
- African governments as platform of facilitating restitution: Africanizing restitution through AU and UN as an issue of international importance.
- Lobbying Africa for wide support on restitution in compliance to international laws/conventions on collections and heritage properties.
- Case studies: successful restitution in African countries.
- Protection of collections in African museums to enhance confidence and combat illicit trafficking.

- Are African museums ready to receive the restituted heritage? Public programming with focus to stolen/looted heritage, policy framework, institutional capacities to handle such issues etc.
- Significance of intangible material/artefacts taken away from Africa.
- Role of new technology and digitization of museums in capturing: multi-media and intangible cultural heritage (Inch).

Workshop 2: Museum as public spaces: Interpretation and re-interpretation

All Museums continuously strive to remain relevant to public. What message should museums transmit to its public? Who are these publics and what can they add to the content of museums? How can museums stimulate the public to generate ideas that redefine interpretation of objects and their significance? Should museums be by the people and for the people? What is the role of museum as a public space? How can the African museum regain its voice as custodians of the heritage without resulting into intellectual treatise? Presentations may revolve around the following issues;

- Museums as sites of conflicts, repression, stereotyping and the role they play in capturing and reflecting the dynamics in society.
- Ethnicity and representations: whose story is it?
- Towards creating a programme with an African perspective.
- Community museums and diversity.
- Museums as political spaces.
- Museums towards reconciliation and peace among and within communities

Workshop 3: Local solutions of African Museums to global socio-economic trends

- Museums and the world economic crises.
- New innovations of funding the museum or strategies for sourcing funds.
- What is the economic value of heritage?
- African museums as agents of wealth creation in and around cultural sites.

- Cultural marketing in museums.
- Local solutions for African museums
- Responses of African museums to global trends: governance, sustainability, finance and capacity building.
- What should be the role of regional bodies such as AU in providing support to museums to ensure they continue being viable despite cuts by funding organizations?
- Capacity building initiatives; –human resources, finance, security related issues, and project management skills for sustainable financial base?
- Private and public partnership in developing museums; how can museums raise more funds alongside the statutory allocations?

Expected Outcomes

1. At the end of the 3rd General Assembly and Conference AFRICOM will produce a position paper that will be presented to AU, sub-regional groups such as SADC, EAEC, ECOWAS , check this distribution with the President) all partners and other stakeholders on matters of cultural heritage on the continent. This document will represent the African voice developed with the help of African Heritage Leadership during the GA.
2. Publication of all papers presented at the 3rd General Assembly and Conference (in both hard and electronic format) with the help of the Scientific Committee.
3. Initiate dialogue on the development of a Museum Charter for Africa to provide a framework for museum programming on the African continent.

All applications **must** reach the AFRICOM Secretariat
NOT LATER THAN 27 July 2009 by:

Email: conference@africom.museum

Fax: +254-20-3748928

or Ordinary mail:
AFRICOM Secretariat
P.O. Box 38706, Ngara
00600 Nairobi, Kenya

3rd AFRICOM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VOTING PROCEDURES

1. At the General Assembly, all individual and institutional members of AFRICOM in good standing from each region shall elect their Regional Representative and his/her deputy.

2. The election shall consider the ballots of all the voting members in good standing, including those who are present and those who have appointed a proxy;

3. In accordance with Chapter III, Article 15.1 of the AFRICOM Statutes, each individual member in good standing may exercise a single vote in the elections and has the right:

- to give a proxy to another delegate voting

4. In accordance with Chapter III, Article 15.2 of the AFRICOM Statutes, each institutional member in good standing shall have two votes, and the right:

- to vote by correspondence according to terms of the convocation to the General Assembly,
- designate one representative to exercise its votes at the General Assembly;
- give a proxy to another member of AFRICOM in good standing.

All votes by proxy must be on the designated **Proxy Form** and must be submitted to the Secretariat by 31st July 2009 and presented to the election officials during the voting exercise.

Contact:
AFRICOM Secretariat
Museum Hill Road
P.O. Box 38706, 00600 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel. +254-20-3748668
Fax. +254-20-3748928
www.africom.museum

Email: candidate@africom.museum

PROXY FORM

To be returned to the AFRICOM Secretariat
no later than 31st July 2009

Museum Hill Road • P.O. Box 38706, Ngara • 00600, Nairobi • Kenya
Fax: +254-20-3748668 • Email: candidate@africom.museum

I,

AFRICOM Membership number:

Country:

shall be represented (*) at the 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly
from 2nd to 5th December 2009 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

(*) **PROXY**

I hereby appoint:

Name: Position:

Institution:

Country:

AFRICOM Membership number:

*To act as my Proxy during the 2nd AFRICOM General Assembly
from 2nd to 5th December 2009 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.*

Date: Signature:

**This original Proxy Form must be presented
to the election officials during the voting exercise**

PROCEDURES FOR CANDIDATES

Procedures for Candidacy to Regional Representative:

1. Eligible Regions

In accordance with Chapter IV, Article 19.1 of the AFRICOM Statutes, the regions of Africa are defined as follows:

North Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt

East Africa: Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi

West Africa: Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Nigeria

Central Africa: Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Gabon, Sao Tomé

Southern Africa: Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa

Indian Ocean Islands: Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion, Mayotte

The Regional Representatives shall be elected for a term of three years and may carry out a maximum of two terms.

All individual members of AFRICOM in good standing may seek election to the position of Regional Representative or Deputy of the Regional Representative of his/her region.

Elected Regional Representatives may then seek election to the positions of President and Treasurer at the General Assembly.

2. Major responsibilities of a member of the Board, as set out by the Constitution of AFRICOM:

- a) To select the Executive Director;
- b) To support the Executive Director and review his or her performance;
- c) To ensure effective organisational planning;
- d) To ensure adequate resources;
- e) To manage resources effectively and maintain effective controls over their use;
- f) To determine and monitor the organisation's programmes and services;
- g) To ensure that all significant matters relating to the policies, programmes and procedures of AFRICOM are referred to the General Assembly for consideration and advice;
- h) To make such decisions and take such action as it deems necessary in the interests of AFRICOM;

- i) To determine the annual rate of dues for each of the categories of membership;
- j) To enhance the Organisation's public image;
- k) To serve as a Court of Appeal;
- l) To assess its own Performance.

Every member and deputy member of the Board has a duty to act as the channels and the advocates of AFRICOM policies, information and activities in their region, as well as to bring the information on activities and issues standing in their countries to the Board.

3. Candidacy

You may present your candidacy to vie for the Position of Regional Representative if you fulfil the following criteria:

- a) individual member of AFRICOM in good standing (as at 31 July 2009)
- b) willing and able to fulfil the responsibilities above as a Regional Representative on the Board of Directors (with the understanding that the position is honorary/voluntary)

In accordance with Chapter IV, Article 19.5 the Secretariat shall send to all members of AFRICOM a full list of candidacies and the adopted schedule of the election of Regional Representatives to be held at the General Assembly.

All candidacies must be entered on the designated Candidacy Form. The completed and signed **Candidacy Form**, together with a **Biographical Note** must reach the Secretariat not later than 31st July 2009 by:

Email: conference@africom.museum

Fax: +254-20-3748928

or

Ordinary mail:

AFRICOM Secretariat
P.O. Box 38706, Ngara
00600 Nairobi, Kenya

CANDIDACY FORM

To be used by candidates for
Regional Representative at the 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly

To be returned to the AFRICOM Secretariat together with the Biographic Note
not later than 31st July2009

Museum Hill Road • P.O. Box 38706, Ngara • 00600, Nairobi • Kenya
Fax: +254-20-3748668 • Email: candidate@africom.museum

I,

AFRICOM Membership number:

Institution:

Position:

Country:

Hereby present myself as a candidate to vie for the position of Regional
Representative for:

North Africa	Southern Africa
West Africa	East Africa
Central Africa	Indian Ocean Islands

at the 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly from 2nd to 5th December 2009
in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Date: Signature:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

To be used only by candidates for
Regional Representative at the 3rd AFRICOM General Assembly

To be returned to the AFRICOM Secretariat together with the Candidacy Form
no later than 31st July 2009

Museum Hill Road • P.O. Box 38706, Ngara • 00600, Nairobi • Kenya
Fax: +254-20-3748668 • Email: candidate@africom.museum

Surname:

First Name:

Country:

Nature of the Organisation
in which you are currently working:

Education:

Past positions:

Brief statement of motivation of how
you feel you can best represent AFRICOM:

Date: Signature: