



2nd Conference and General Assembly

“Intangible Heritage: African Museums & Living Cultures”

4-7 October 2006 • Cape Town, South Africa



International Council of African Museums
in partnership with SAMA, the South African Museums Association



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AFRICOM 2nd Conference and General Assembly

“Intangible Heritage: African Museums & Living Cultures”

**4-7 October 2006
Cape Town, South Africa**

I. General Announcement

The AFRICOM Conference and General Assembly constitute a unique occasion for African museum and heritage professionals to exchange ideas and experiences and to build personal and institutional networks. This will be the second gathering following the successful conference and general assembly in Nairobi, Kenya in 2003. Apart from the discussion and networking opportunities, it will also result in an articulated programme of activities for AFRICOM for 2007 to 2009, and the election of a new board of directors.

The host organization for the conference and general assembly is SAMA – the South African Museums Association. The shared nature and values of SAMA and AFRICOM – membership-based, focused on finding solutions to the many challenges faced by African museums, and building professional networks – constitutes an important partnership which should lead to a dynamic exchange among professionals and the development of constructive networks. The engagement between SAMA and AFRICOM will contribute to building a strengthened and sustainable museum sector across the continent.

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 and recommendations. The Committee is composed as follows:

- Chairperson: Ciraj Rassool, South Africa
- Slim Khosrof, Tunisia
- Derik Alfred Uya, Sudan
- Mahamane Saley Tim, Niger
- Anne Ambouroué Avaro, Gabon
- Saloni Deepalsingh, Mauritius
- Representing AFRICOM: Lorna Abungu
- Observer: Chédliya Annabi/AFRICOM Interim President

2. Conference theme

The theme chosen for the conference is “Intangible Heritage: African Museums & Living Cultures” with three specialised workshops, each examining salient issues that impact on Africa’s heritage:

- Museums and the protection and promotion of Living Cultures: identity, creativity, cultural diversity and memory;
- Management of Cultural Heritage at institutional, national and continental levels
- Potential threats and benefits to our Intangible Heritage: environment, tourism, globalization, ICT

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**.

The AFRICOM 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 with significant experience in museums and cultural heritage management.

The Conference and General Assembly constitute a unique occasion for African museum professionals to exchange ideas and experiences and to build personal and institutional networks.

3. Venue and Organisation

The AFRICOM 2nd Conference and General Assembly are being hosted by SAMA – South African Museums Association. The Local Organising Committee is composed of a coordinator, selected members of the Council of SAMA and the professional staff of the SAMA National Office as well as numerous volunteers from Cape Town and the Western Cape Province.

Cape Town is a world-class conference destination. The venue is the Cape Town International Conference Centre, CTICC, which is located on Cape Town’s northern shore, beneath Table Mountain and a 20-minute drive from Cape Town’s International Airport.

The centre is built to meet and fulfil the unique and varied needs of its delegates and visitors. Its sub-divisible multi-use convention facilities and dedicated exhibition space create an environment conducive to having a variety of simultaneous functions. The CTICC has a highly sophisticated IT network throughout the meeting venues and public spaces and a wireless LAN in all the public galleries. There are over 3,500 rooms of three-star quality and above within walking distance of the CTICC and more than 16,000 rooms in hotels, inns and guesthouses in a 45-minute radius of the city centre.

Cape Town boasts the premier world heritage sites Robben Island Museum and the Cape Floral Kingdom. It is also the location of the Iziko Museums of Cape Town, the southern flagship which houses the historically significant South African Museum and Slave Lodge, as well as the world class South African National Gallery. Community museums, which have received accolades such as the District Six Museum, and the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, are also near the city centre. Visits to these sites and museums will be enhanced by tailor-made tours and specialised guides.

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. SAMA will be seeking resources to cover additional bursaries for about 45 South African museum and heritage professionals. 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 Conference, and potential participants are encouraged to seek their own funding from their host institution or elsewhere.

5. Preliminary Programme

	4 October	5 October	6 October	7 October
9-10.40	Official Opening (plenary) Keynotes	Themes (1, 2 & 3) Workshops (plenary)	Workshop summaries & recommendations	GA: programme activities, strategic plan, budget
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 Workshops continued Elections to continue from 4 th to 6 th October		tea break Election results	

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 Conference and General Assembly (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 30 April 2006

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 2nd Conference and General Assembly 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 at Fountains Hotel, Cape Town;
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 15 May 2006 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 30th June.

Workshop Descriptions

Participations and contributions 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

The main theme is:

“Intangible Heritage: African Museums & Living Cultures”

with reflections on:

- Museums and the protection and promotion of Living Cultures: identity, creativity, cultural diversity and memory;
- Management of Cultural Heritage at institutional, national and continental levels
- Potential threats and benefits to our Intangible Heritage: environment, tourism, globalisation, ICT

The three workshops are being organised in conjunction with the General Assembly to examine salient issues that impact on Africa’s heritage.

b. The workshops

Workshop 1: Museums Alive!

Heritage is alive and involves constant processes of preservation and reproduction. How can museums that have always been considered as ‘keepers’ of heritage stimulate production of heritage to continue being relevant? This interactive workshop will be a forum of expression about intangible heritage in relation to issues of authenticity, integrity and creativity with discussions and debates by participants about the following issues:

What is intangible heritage in Africa?

Is there a dividing line between tangible and intangible? Is tangible the opposite of intangible?

Creativity

The museum as a space for preservation and documentation and as an engine and platform for creative expression with respect to authenticity. In many places in Africa, the museum has become the arena for the re-enactment of past traditions and as such contributes to the evolution and reproduction of heritage. How do museums retain their

integrity while performing such functions? Is there a conflict and a possibility of museums losing their authenticity?

Cultural diversity

How can museums promote and harness our diversity without sacrificing unity?

Identity

How do museums address the issues of who we are? How do museums represent and communicate with all communities, including those marginalized/disadvantaged or oppressed?

Accessibility/dissemination

How can museums and other heritage bodies ensure access to, knowledge, and understanding of intangible heritage?

Workshop 2: Who's in charge? How do we do it?

This workshop aims to encourage lively discussion by the participants about the following issues affecting the Management of Intangible Heritage in African museums:

Management

What are the issues affecting the management of our intangible heritage at institutional, local, regional, national, and transnational levels? Are our museums and cultural institutions prepared to deal with intangible heritage and what are the policy and legislative and regulatory frameworks, and management tools with which they should work?

Skills/Capacity

What are the existing human and physical resources, and how do museums and cultural institutions develop new skills, knowledge and methodologies?

Collection and Preservation

How do we preserve our intangible heritage and reduce threats? Who is responsible for collection of intangible heritage? What are the policies guiding collection? What is the role of the owner of the knowledge or heritage? Who are the owners of the knowledge and what are the copyright and intellectual property challenges? What is the role of museums and cultural institutions in collecting/appropriating this knowledge, and should museums compensate the owners of the knowledge? How effectively are collection and preservation of intangible heritage tied to public education and awareness programs?

Research

What are the new methodologies of research? What are the research relationships and where does the research take place? What is the politics of knowledge in research on intangible heritage? What strategic relation should exist between research and preservation? What is the state of research in different trans-national regions in Africa on intangible heritage and what is the history of this research? What research programs and partnerships exist and should be developed for the collection and preservation of intangible heritage.

Implementation

What are the challenges to the implementation of cultural policies, or to drawing up cultural policies and legislative frameworks where there are none? How can the international conventions be implemented in national frameworks and in museums and cultural institutions in dynamic and creative ways.

Workshop 3: Globalisation and Technology: Friends or Foes?

There are many factors affecting our intangible heritage. This workshop will consider some of the pros and cons of several of these factors, namely:

Environment

Museums and cultural institutions should use a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach when addressing intangible heritage since many cultural practices and indigenous knowledge systems cannot be de-linked from the environment (cultural, social, political, ecological, economical, technological).

Globalization

Cultural, social, economic and institutional globalization has brought opportunities and challenges. What are these? How can museums and cultural institutions help us manage the cultural homogenization that creeps in with globalization? How is globalization expressed in museum partnerships, networks and international forums?

Tourism

The rise of cultural tourism, domestic and international, presents important opportunities and challenges for museums and cultural institutions in relation to cultural heritage. At the same time, there is a risk of negative exploitation and loss of authenticity. How can museums and cultural institutions manage and mediate these issues?

ICT

New methods of documentation, recording, storage and dissemination are being developed (e.g. satellite radio, NICTs). What are the impacts of these on the protection and promotion of our intangible heritage? Digitization and web-based access to collections present important new opportunities and challenges. What opportunities and challenges do radio, television and cinema present to museums and cultural institutions as they turn their attention to intangible heritage?

Cultural appropriateness

Museums have been seen as places of cultural preservation and promotion. How can they make policies about and evaluate the demands of access and display in relation to intangible heritage, especially where there are cultural proscriptions and taboos surrounding certain intangible heritage. What might constitute appropriate ethics?

All applications **must** reach the AFRICOM Secretariat
NOT LATER THAN 15 May 2006 by:

Email: conference@africom.museum

Fax: +254-20-3748928

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

III. 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 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 August and represented 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 August 2006

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 2nd AFRICOM General Assembly
from 4th to 7th October 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa.

(*) PROXY

I hereby appoint:

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Country:

AFRICOM Membership number:

*To act as my Proxy during the 2nd AFRICOM General Assembly
from 4th to 7th October 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa*

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 Chief Executive Officer;
- b) To support the Chief Executive Officer 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 15 May 2006)
- 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 31 May 2006 by:

Email: conference@fricom.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 AFRICOM 2nd General Assembly

To be returned to the AFRICOM Secretariat together with the Biographic Note
not later than 31st May 2006

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
- West Africa
- Central Africa

- Southern Africa
- East Africa
- Indian Ocean Islands

at the 2nd AFRICOM General Assembly from 4th to 7th October 2006
in Cape Town, South Africa

Date:

Signature:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

To be used only by candidates for
Regional Representative at the 2nd AFRICOM General Assembly

To be returned to the AFRICOM Secretariat together with the Candidacy Form
no later than 31st May 2006

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: