

Boosting heritage conservation in Ikorodu Kingdom, Lagos

Overview

Main partner

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC) of the Lagos State cultivates a sustainable tourism industry that serves both domestic and international visitors while fostering a welcoming and enjoyable environment. It oversees the management and preservation of heritage assets and supervises tourism activities on a state level.



Associate partner

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) is an agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria that preserves, promotes, and develops Nigeria's cultural heritage. It manages national museums, artifacts, and historical sites, by offering exhibitions, research, site tours, and educational programs.



Duration

9 months

Sustainable Development Goals



Project design

Objective

To strengthen capacities of heritage institutions in Lagos for sustainable heritage festival development through diaspora collaboration.

Needs

Despite national policies and initiatives, Nigeria continues to face challenges in fully harnessing its heritage tourism potential. Issues such as infrastructure deficits, security concerns, and unsuccessful marketing strategies have hindered heritage preservation and tourism growth. Addressing these challenges requires increased investment in infrastructure, improved safety measures, and strategic marketing to showcase Nigeria's rich cultural assets on a global stage.

Context

Nigeria, known as the 'Giant of Africa,' is a culturally rich nation of 225 million people, with over 250 ethnic groups and more than 500 languages. To preserve this heritage, the NCMM was established in 1979 to manage and promote Nigeria's cultural treasures. Beyond physical artifacts, Nigeria's heritage includes customs, festivals — over 365 celebrated annually — architectural styles, and indigenous practices. Heritage tourism plays a vital role in preserving this identity while boosting the economy and educating future generations. With a large and active diaspora, Nigeria seeks to harness their knowledge, resources, and engagement to further cultural preservation and tourism development.

Target groups

- Central and local heritage tourism institutions
- Local custodians
- Nigerian diaspora

Impact

By introducing a Heritage Conservation Management Framework (HCMF), the project sets a replicable model for other Nigerian communities, while equipping heritage custodians with modern digital skills to enhance accessibility and global visibility. Strengthening diaspora engagement and local ownership positions Ikorodu as an emerging cultural tourism destination, fostering international partnerships and funding opportunities.

Programme of activities

May 2025 - Jan 2026

May - Jul 2025

June - Sep 2025

Jul - Oct 2025

Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

Development of HCMF and MEL tools

ToT on Heritage Festivals in Europe

Training on Sustainable Heritage Management

Training on Digital Heritage Preservation

Project validation and presentation of the HCMF