

BOOSTING SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE TOURISM PRESERVATION IN IKORODU, NIGERIA

Nigeria, often called the ‘Giant of Africa,’ is home to 225 million people and over 250 ethnic groups speaking over 500 languages. This diversity is reflected in the country’s rich and vibrant cultural heritage that extends beyond physical artifacts and includes customs, values, traditional attire, architectural styles, indigenous technologies, and above all – festivals and carnivals. This project, led by the **Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC)** and the **National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM)**, leveraged the synergies between federal, state, local and international stakeholders to strengthen the capacities of heritage institutions in Lagos for sustainable heritage festival development through diaspora collaboration.

Results snapshot



1
Heritage Conservation
and Management
Framework



55

custodians trained in
heritage preservation



50+

traditional artifacts
digitally documented



125

visitors to the Pilot
Exhibition in Ikorodu



Institutional impact

As a result of the project, the MTAC and NCMM enhanced their institutional capacities for heritage preservation through the co-creation, adaptation and validation of the Heritage Conservation and Management Framework. Through exposure to international practices, peer learning and long-term partnerships, the institutions deepened their knowledge of global heritage management models and international cooperation. 55 local custodians from eight Lagos Kingdoms strengthened their skills to sustainably preserve and promote their community's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, integrating modern technology into indigenous knowledge and local sensitivities. A multi-stakeholder working group was formalised to steer sustained cooperation and information exchange across federal, state, community levels and with the diaspora, thereby creating a scalable national mechanism for heritage governance.

Outputs

- ✓ Heritage Conservation and Management Framework
- ✓ Pilot exhibition
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder Working Group
- ✓ UNESCO ICH Draft Nomination Dossier



“A museum is not a profit-making venture but a legacy for future generations. Our goal is to ensure heritage sustainability while encouraging both local and international tourists to return for our festivals.”

Toke Benson-Awoyinka,
Honourable Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture

“This work was deeply personal — a dream realised after 25 years of commitment to raising the profile of Nigeria’s cultural assets and contributions. As someone living in the diaspora, it carried particular meaning to be able to ground my contribution in professional expertise.”

Yemisi Mokuolu, Creative and Cultural Industries
Development Expert, Hatch Ideas



This is a Capacity Development Lab (CDL) project of the EU Global Diaspora Facility. The CDL is open to public institutions from the EU's partner countries seeking support for projects which leverage diaspora engagement for development, through institutional capacity development and/or transferring sector-specific expertise from the diaspora.

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