

# What's News?

## THE ICOMOS-EPWG AFRICA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Edito

Dear Readers,

It is with great honour that I - together with **Olufemi Adetunji, Affoh Guenneguez, Jean-Paul Lawson, Avenir Meikengang and Florentine Okoni** who are accompanying me as members of the Bureau - have been coordinating the ICOMOS Emerging Professionals Working Group for the Africa Region since the beginning of the year 2022.

We have set ourselves the challenge of continuing the work begun by my predecessor Olufemi Adetunji, who successfully implemented a number of initiatives for ICOMOS-EPWG Africa. These include: the design of a logo for the group and a brochure with detailed information on all the members ; the establishment of the Bureau ; and the setting up of a collaboration with ICOMOS US Emerging Professionals, which resulted in the organisation in April 2021 of an "Intergenerational Conversation on Society and Heritage: Perspectives from Africa and the United States", followed by the establishment of a "Working Group on Heritage and Climate: Lessons from Africa to America" for which a first meeting was held online on 25 April this year.

For the Bureau, ICOMOS-EPWG Africa members and myself, the work remains substantial, but the passion and the motivation that guide the emerging heritage professionals that we are are even more so. And we also have many dreams: that of gathering, around a network, all the emerging heritage professionals that our continent abounds in; that of sharing, whether it is information, knowledge or know-how about this heritage that animates us all; and finally, that of showing (and proving) that we exist, but above all that we are aware and determined to play our part in the destiny of the heritage that is ours.

This Newsletter is a first step towards the realisation of these dreams.

Enjoy your reading!

**Alyssa K. Barry**  
ICOMOS EPWG-AFRICA Coordinator

### History of the ICOMOS EPWG

The **Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG)** brings together many young professionals grouped into 5 regions: **Africa & Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean and North America.**

Do you know its history?

It was outlined in 2016 in Istanbul during the "ICOMOS Advisory Committee meeting". The members approved the recommendations of the Scientific Council, in particular to send invitations to the representatives of the National Committees (NCs) and the International Scientific Committees (ISCs) who wish to be involved in the group of emerging professionals.

Materialised itself in 2017 in New Delhi at the 19th General Assembly (GA) of ICOMOS on the sidelines of which the first ever meeting of young emerging professionals was held. The GA adopted "Resolution 19GA 2017/33 - Emerging Professionals Initiative" to foster the participation and integration of emerging professionals within ICOMOS in order to maintain the scientific relevance of ICOMOS for future generations; to foster intergenerational engagement to ensure the continuity of the organisation; and to share ICOMOS ethical principles from the earliest stages of education.

Therefore, the EPWG shall, on an annual basis, report to the ICOMOS Advisory Committee on the actions implemented by NCs and ISCs for the advancement of the "**Resolution 19GA 2017/33 - Emerging Professionals Initiative**".

For more information on the EPWG, some links:

- [https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Working\\_Groups/EPWG/EPWG\\_Information\\_Pack\\_2020\\_French.pdf](https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Working_Groups/EPWG/EPWG_Information_Pack_2020_French.pdf)
- <https://www.aicomos.com/wp-content/uploads/Emerging-Professionals-WG-Info-Session.pdf>
- [https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Secretariat/2022/TSP/ADCOMSC\\_202110\\_2-1\\_TriennialScientificPlan\\_FR.pdf](https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Secretariat/2022/TSP/ADCOMSC_202110_2-1_TriennialScientificPlan_FR.pdf)

## 5 QUESTIONS TO O. ADETUNJI



### **From Nigeria to Australia, you're recently graduate of PhD in Architecture. Who is Olufemi Adetunji?**

Olufemi is an advocate for sustainable transformation and development of communities with passion in how places that portray our history and culture can be leveraged to meet the needs of the community. This passion has grown over years since completing my bachelor degree in Architecture from Federal University of Technology Akure (Nigeria). I practiced as a project architect for a few years before I joined academics in 2012 to contribute to the improvement of how architectural students are trained in Nigeria. In 2017, I moved to Australia where I completed a doctoral degree in Architecture in 2021.

### **You were the 2nd coordinator of ICOMOS EPWG-AFRICA. Can you tell us what motivated the setting up of such a working group and what ambitions you had for the network?**

I joined ICOMOS in 2017 and was nominated to coordinate the Emerging Professional Working Group in 2018. Mikiyas Gebresilassie (from Ethiopia) handed over the coordination of ICOMOS EPWG-AFRICA around February 2018 and since then we have been able to create an inclusive platform for the emerging professionals to contribute to development of cultural heritage management within and outside Africa. The main motivation for setting up EPWG was to engender intergenerational collaboration and networking between the emerging professionals, expert members and individuals and organisations outside and within ICOMOS. Since then, we have been able to encourage many of the emerging professionals to be involved in interesting and significant projects within and outside Africa. We have also established and nurtured collaboration and partnerships with organisations such as Africa World Heritage Fund (AWHF), ICCROM, Climate Heritage Network etc.

### **After three years of coordination, you have handed over to Alyssa K. Barry. This is a great lesson in democracy. What is Olufemi doing today?**

As I revealed earlier, I began coordinating ICOMOS EPWG-AFRICA in 2018. At the outset, I prioritised leadership development across all the countries within the Africa region of ICOMOS. Through the development of new leaders, we were able to support the National Committees of ICOMOS in Africa to have national coordinators for EPWG and we also setup the Bureau for ICOMOS EPWG-AFRICA. I am currently involved in other scientific activities in ICOMOS as well as contributing to continuous support and nurturing of international and intergenerational collaboration across ICOMOS EPWG. I am also teaching in universities in Australia and Nigeria.

### **"Africa Heritage: a source of identity, innovation & resilience", is the theme chosen for the celebration of the 2022 International Day for African Heritage. Tell us in a few words how you think heritage can play this role in African communities on the continent and beyond.**

Africa is endowed with heritage with potentials to influence meeting the needs of our communities socially, economically and environmentally. Over many years as well, we have celebrated Africa Heritage with many events and activities. But, it's time to transition from words into actions where Africa communities are included, empowered and supported in conserving their heritage and determining their development in the present and future. The Africa We Want Agenda 2063 needs to centralise Africa heritage in efforts to develop and engender peace across Africa communities.

### **Your final words to the African Professional Youth...**

As a proud African, let us build bridges not walls amidst ourselves. We are from different countries and cultures yet key contributors to the development of Africa as a continent. As emerging professionals, let us improve on our skills, be more involved and collaborate with partners inside and outside Africa. Above all, let's not be satisfied with the status quo because our skills, innovations and creativity are needed to develop our continent.



The **ICOMOS Emerging Professionals Working Group** for the Africa Region invites you to its [webinar on 7 May 2022 at 17:00 GMT](#) on the theme: **"Heritage in the hands of African youth - Sharing initiatives"**. This event aims to highlight initiatives for the valorisation of African cultural heritage, led by young people from Africa and the Diaspora.

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"PatriMundus" Association is organising the first edition of the **"Meetings of Young African Heritage Professionals"** which will start with a conference-debate followed by a round-table of experts on the theme: **"African professional youth working for world heritage"** on **04 May 2022 at 15h00 (GMT+2)**.

To take part in this event, click [here](#).

**May 5, 11:00-13:00 (GMT+2), UNESCO Webinar "Youth and digital technologies for the promotion and safeguarding of African Heritage"**. This webinar will aim to highlight the successes already achieved in the use of new technologies on world heritage, while giving the floor to young heritage professionals, in order to collect their aspirations and, together with experts in new technologies and heritage, to bring out solutions to the challenges we are currently facing.

As young heritage professionals, we are invited to participate in this webinar during which we will be able to express ourselves and share our vision and ambitions for African heritage.

To register and participate, please click [here](#).

**May 20-25: "African World Heritage Youth Leaders Workshop"** is organized by the African World Heritage Fund, UNESCO, ICCROM and Robben Island Museum and will be held in Cape Town and Robben Island. Participants will produce a **"Youth Declaration on World Heritage in Africa: The Next 50 Years"** and develop a roadmap for its implementation.

**May 25-28: Expert Meeting on the World Heritage Convention in Africa: A look at the past... and the future!**

The meeting will be structured to allow for reflection by heritage experts, input from African youth and involvement of governments and key World Heritage partners in Africa. The expected outcome is **"The Robben Island Declaration on World Heritage in Africa: The Next 50 Years"**.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Robben Island, which etymologically means "**seal island**" due to the omnipresence of this mammal in the area, is located 1256km from Johannesburg, the South African capital. A place steeped in history and memory, it was the prison where Nelson Xhohlahla Mandela, a figure in the fight against apartheid and the father of democracy in the rainbow nation, was held.

But do you know the real story of Robben Island?

Discovered and recorded in 1498 when the Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama reached the Cape of Good Hope, it was not until 1658 that the island was first used as a prison. Over the following centuries, it was successively a prison, a leprosarium (hospital where lepers were treated), a psychiatric hospital and a military defence post.

In 1961, however, it was once again used as a maximum security prison for those serving long sentences (ten years to life), including members of the ANC and the anti-apartheid movement. Three South African presidents were held there: Nelson Mandela (1964-1981), Kgalema Motlanthe (1977-1987) and Jacob Zuma (1963-1973).

Robben Island has important commemorative sites that include built heritage, roads and paths, gardens, views and vistas.



Entrance gate to Robben Island Prison © Flowcomm. 2017

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999 under criteria III and IV, Robben Island has become a symbolic witness to the struggle for the emancipation of people around the world. The World Heritage nomination dossier will state: "***The buildings on Robben Island bear eloquent testimony to its dark history... Robben Island and its prison buildings symbolise the triumph of the human spirit of freedom and democracy over oppression.***"

Robben Island is a complex and sensitive ecosystem and as such is protected under South African law as a nature conservation area. The island's complex and sensitive ecosystem includes sites of birdlife, natural vegetation, marine and wildlife, geology and cultural conservation.

To take a virtual tour of Robben Island, click [here](#).

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## LATEST OPPORTUNITIES

- **World Heritage Management Course: Peoples Nature Culture (PNC22)**

ICCROM and its partners are seeking 20 participants for the next international course on World Heritage Management, People's Nature Culture (PNC22), which will take place in the Republic of Korea from 1 to 12 August 2022. For more information, click [here](#). Deadline: 15 May 2022.

- **Research Grant "Heritage, Culture & Knowledge"**

The Institut d'Etudes Avancées de Paris, in collaboration with the Université Paris Saclay, is offering a research grant on the theme "Heritage, Culture & Knowledge". The call for applications is available [here](#). Deadline: 07 June 2022.

