



What's News?

THE ICOMOS-EPWG AFRICA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Edito

Dear Readers,

Here we are! This November, more precisely on 16 November 2022, officially marks the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. This celebration is a major event that has been manifested in the organization of several events around the world throughout the year, and Africa has not been left out. Whether through the successful events organized from 20 to 28 May in Cape Town by the African World Heritage Fund and ICCROM, and in Mvomeka'a and Yaoundé from 10 to 19 October by the UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa ; or those to be organized from 9 to 10 November in Saint-Louis by the UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa-Sahel, and in December in Arusha by the UNESCO Regional Office for East Africa, one common denominator stands out: youth. They are the future of this Convention, and their involvement today at all levels remains the guarantee of its validity and sustainability.

From Senegal to Cameroon, from education to culture, this new edition of the Newsletter is one more contribution of African emerging professionals to the celebration of the Cultural Heritage Convention and to the valorisation of our African heritage.

Enjoy your reading!

Alyssa K. Barry
Coordinator



Nelson Mandela Pong Lévé - Cape Town © Falco. 2021

5 QUESTIONS TO SOKHNA NDIAYE

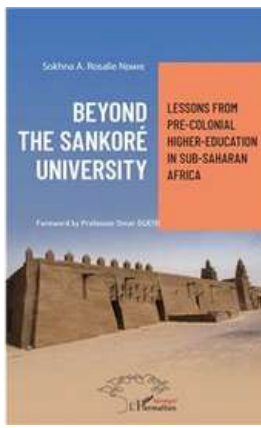


From Dakar to Prague, via Boston: who is Sokhna A. Rosalie Ndiaye ?

Sokhna Rosalie Ndiaye is a teacher-researcher in Public and Social Policy, author, specialized in strategic governance and higher education in sub-Saharan Africa. I have a rather particular background, having started my higher education studies in finance (Bachelor's degree), then in international relations (Master's degree) before making a career pivot towards public policy and higher education. This started from a personal feeling. Indeed, having done my higher education in the United States and then in Europe, I gradually realized my status as an international student and what this meant in reality, the choice I made to study outside my home country. With this, I realized that many young Africans found that the quality of education offered in America and Europe was better than that in sub-Saharan Africa. As much as it is desirable to discover the world and acquire as much knowledge as possible, it is also important for sub-Saharan Africa to have a globally competitive higher education. It is with this realization that I have dedicated my research career to the issue of higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa in all its forms, tracing its past, analyzing its present and reflecting on its future.

Your research topic was on the barriers and opportunities of strategic governance in the higher education system in West Africa through the case of Senegal. What were the main findings?

It should already be noted that strategic governance is a new concept in governance and public administration studies. Before this study, it had never been applied to the field of higher education. I started from a general observation that the root of the problem of higher education in Africa is its systemic governance. The ideal, in my view, is really to rethink this governance in a fundamental way and this is where I got the idea to try to apply this new concept. After a quantitative and qualitative analysis, based on defined indicators, it was concluded that few elements of strategic governance are present in the system; some of the most important characteristics are missing and, as such, the implementation of a strategic approach to governance would first and foremost require high-level political support. According to the interviews I conducted, a better understanding of strategic governance by the actors is needed (especially as they still see it as a new and not yet 'proven' approach).



Your latest book, 'Beyond the Sankoré University', reveals the existence of quality pre-colonial higher education in sub-Saharan Africa, notably through the Sankoré University. What is the educational system promoted by this prestigious university?

Discovering the University of Sankoré and its scholars was truly a journey back in time for me and a palpable proof of the not only scientific but also cultural heritage of sub-Saharan Africa. The University of Sankoré has everything to be compared with contemporary universities. Although it was of Arab-Muslim heritage (most medieval universities were based on the study of theology), the 'world' was taught there. Students at Sankore were indeed trained in the various philosophies of the world, different medical practices, geography, languages (as students were called upon to translate Greek philosophical works into Arabic, for example), etc. They were also trained in specific professions, unless they themselves became teachers by obtaining the titles of faqīh (Master), muftī (Professor) or mudarris (Doctor). As a result, we can already see a modern, diversified education, open to the world, while remaining rooted and responding to the needs of its people.

What do you see as the relationship between heritage and education, particularly in an African context?

Education in general, and higher education in particular, is a heritage in itself. If today I can discover and retransmit the history of Sankoré it is because the vestiges of its prestigious past are present not only through the architectural heritage but also the heritage of knowledge (the Sankoré manuscripts for example) to which we are so lucky to still have access. It is a living proof of the political, social, cultural and scientific culture of pre-colonial Black Africa. In the African context, we have been told so much about our history that it is now more necessary than ever to follow its traces ourselves and to write this history from our own point of view for posterity, as many of our predecessors have done, whose works are sometimes obscured by the lack of interest shown in them.

Your message to young African heritage professionals?

I would say to all of us, all disciplines, to go out and research and retrace the remains of our heritage, to rewrite the history of Africa from our perspective. Knowing our past will give us the tools we need to understand our present and choose our future.

interviewed by Alyssa K. Barry

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YOUTH MUSEUM FORUM - “MUSEUMS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES”



Webinar Museums & New Technologies © EPA. 2022



Maeva D. Pimo

With the evolution of technology it is in my opinion very obvious that technology has its place in a museum.

It is often said that our museums have become boring, and the lack of technology in most of our museums is one of the reasons for this. The African population is the youngest population and generation Z dominates it. And today we want to have more interest from this generation in our museums. Generation Z means a generation anchored in technology, and so how can we think of attracting them to our museums while leaving the technological aspect aside?

It is true that leaving the technological aspect (which among its disadvantages has the capacity to disconnect us from reality, taking away from us the ability to appreciate the concrete, some would even say that it takes away from us a part of our human sociability) would lead us to have a real contact with history and heritage objects, and even to find this part of humanity, of sociability.

However, the world cannot be changing and we leave our museums behind. What I propose is to keep both aspects, that is to say a museum that combines the physical and the technological (the concrete and the abstract) and where all generations can find each other without getting lost. Because, even though we need the involvement of all young people, the museum is good for all (all generations).

Museum is an open space connected to a changing society that depends on new communication technologies. Digital technology has become an indispensable tool in the scenography of cultural objects for an inclusive mediation that places the public at the center of this museographic device. A museum is a liberal multicultural space for social dialogue. Thus, African museums must take into account this essential tool in their processes of decolonisation and cultural emancipation.



Mohamadou Moustapha Dieye

The question in its current form presents the museum in the European vision. In the African context, where the first need is to attract and retain a public, it is important to take into account the new information and communication technologies in the development of the collections. Indeed, 95% of the target audience has access to NICTs, so it is important that our mediation offers include a dematerialised (virtual) part to reach a large audience. The virtual can be a bridge to the physical.

For the management of the collections, it is also important to integrate technologies that have proven their worth (new marking techniques, digitisation of the collections, computerized management of the documentation, etc.)

For my part, the museum in the African context necessarily needs technology (in compliance with conservation standards) to develop.



Kanfido Brice Lévis Lankoande



Tsafack Anaëlle Laurine Azebaze

In my opinion, regular training of museum staff is needed. The use of ICT in the museum requires skills in both heritage management and IT.

The web developer or community manager by training does not have skills in the field of conservation or documentation of museum collections for example. On the other hand, the museum manager who is better equipped and informed about the museum issue would easily find adequate content to meet the needs of the museum and the public. Hence the need for retraining programmes for museum staff.

It is certainly true that new technologies do not only have positive effects. They are both critical sources and a great tool, a remedy for African museums, but with many undesirable effects. We can thus note:

- A high energy dependence when we know that several African countries are not energy self-sufficient (load shedding);
- A strong ecological footprint (numerous impacts on the environment).

In order to mitigate these negative points of new technologies, we can think of new responsible technologies in our museum institutions in Africa.



Bernard S. Bayegle

FEEDBACK FROM OCTOBER...EPWG AFRICA REPRESENTED AT THE PEOPLE NATURE CULTURE FORUM 2022 IN SUWON (SOUTH KOREA).



Family photo of the participants of the People Nature Culture Forum 2022 © ICCROM, 2022

From 10 to 12 October 2022, heritage professionals, academics and heritage institutions gathered in Suwon, Republic of Korea, to participate in the People-Nature-Culture 2022 Forum (PNC Forum) under the theme: "The Benefits of Heritage". Jointly organized by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea (CHA), and the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage (KNUCH), the PNC Forum celebrated the conclusion of the 2017-2022 Korea-ICCROM Funds-in-Trust, the imminent conclusion of Phase I of the World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHLP), and the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

The Forum provided an opportunity to:

- Present and discuss the results of the 9 editions of the international course on "Promoting People-Focused Conservation Approaches" (PNC course), a key component of the World Heritage Leadership Programme ;
- Explore and discuss an under-explored question among heritage professionals, which is: what are the benefits and advantages that heritage provides to societies?
- Initiate a mapping of the benefits of heritage conservation and who benefits (youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, heritage professionals, politicians, etc.).

These discussions were a further step towards a better understanding of the benefits of heritage to societies. Future capacity building activities on these issues will be developed in the framework of the World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHLP).

Affoh Guenneguez

CONGRATULATIONS TO BELY HERMAN FOR THE 2022 ICOMOS CULTURE-NATURE PRIZE



We are happy to announce that Herman BELY have won the 2nd place of the 2022 ICOMOS Culture-Nature Prize for their project entitled: **"Safeguarding sacred masks through the practice of early bush fires in Burkina Faso"**.

I TOOK PART... IN THE 6TH AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE YOUTH FORUM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1972 CONVENTION



Photo of the 6th Youth Forum in Mvomeka'a © AWHF, 2022

The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) is an intergovernmental organization that was established in 2006 with the mission to support the effective and efficient conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value in Africa. A UNESCO Category II Centre, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) has the main objective of assisting African States to address the challenges they face in the implementation of the Convention, notably the under-representation of African properties on the World Heritage List and the deficit of conservation and management of African World Heritage. The AWHF was founded by the African Union and the African Member States of UNESCO and its actions cover the 54 member states of both institutions.

At the same time, the 5th of May marks the celebration of African World Heritage Day, adopted on 16 November 2015 at the 38th Session of UNESCO's General Conference. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of its establishment, the African World Heritage Fund organized the first edition of the African Regional Youth Forum on World Heritage, which was held on Robben Island, South Africa, from 28 April - 4 May 2016.

The Youth Forum represents one of the main activities of the World Heritage Youth Education Program and promotes intercultural learning and intergenerational exchange. Since the first edition in 2016, every year, during the celebration of the African World Heritage Day, a forum is organized in a UNESCO member country, bringing together young people from different African countries. These forums serve as a catalyst for sustainable development and encourage the development of creative, innovative, educational and participatory activities around World Heritage in Africa. Each forum focuses on themes related to the conservation and preservation of World Heritage while contributing to the promotion of heritage education. Since 2016, five editions of the youth forum have been organized in the following countries :

- South Africa (Robben Island), 28 April - 5 May 2016 (Anglophone forum);
- Burkina Faso (Gaoua), April 26 - May 5, 2017 (Francophone forum);
- Mozambique (Mozambique Island), April 30 - May 5, 2018 (Lusophone forum);
- Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), April 26 - May 5, 2019 (mixed forum with participants from previous editions);
- In 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no forum was organized;
- In 2021, the fifth edition of the youth forum was organized online.

On the occasion of the worldwide celebration of the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention under the theme: "The next 50 years : World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity and innovation", the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund, the UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa, the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the Dja Faunal Reserve and the Meyomessala community, organized the 6th edition of the African World Heritage Youth Forum, which was held from the 10 to the 14 October 2022 in Mvomeka'a, Cameroon.

Under the theme: "African youth in the next 50 years: the heritage we want", the forum brought together 41 young participants and young experts as resource persons from 21 African countries to reflect on strategies for the implementation of the Convention for the next 50 years. The 6th edition of the youth forum was marked by the proposal of the "Youth Recommendation on the World Heritage Convention in Africa and the action plan for the next 50 years". Spread over a period of five days, the forum focused on three key areas :

- 1) The World Heritage Convention and its concepts ;
- 2) Leadership skills and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth ;
- 3) Reflections on the vision of young people for the next 50 years.

Accompanied by practical activities that enabled participants to acquire skills in conservation, management and promotion of African World Heritage and to increase their knowledge in the implementation of the Convention, the forum focused on presentations by experts and resource persons. Group discussions, exercises and role plays for capacity building of participants, individual and group presentations on World Heritage ideas/projects and a guided tour of the Dja Faunal Reserve, an African World Heritage site, to familiarize participants with the issues of conservation and promotion of World Heritage, were part of the event. Divided into several sub-groups, the participants worked on the following themes:

1. Sustainable tourism ;
2. African world heritage and digital dimensions ;
3. African World Heritage and Architecture ;
4. African World Heritage and Museums ;
5. African World Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation ;
6. African World Heritage and Communication.

These reflections, exchanges and sharing of experiences contributed to strengthen the involvement of young people in the implementation of the Convention. Participants developed projects and the winners received prizes. Three projects in pairs received funding of \$5,000 from ICCROM: First prize (Botswana and Kenya on the creation of a virtual platform on World Heritage sites) - Second prize (Rwanda and Ethiopia on the education of teenagers, young people, women and local communities on World Heritage sites in Africa) - Third prize (DRC and Central Africa on education on World Heritage sites via new technologies).

The youth forum was followed by the meeting of heritage experts from the Central African sub-region which was held from the 17th to the 18th of October 2022 at the Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Actions and Innovations for Sustainable Communities in the Service of World Heritage in Africa #Next 50, represents the topic of reflection of the meeting. The objective was to reflect on issues related to World Heritage in the Central African sub-region, including the processes of inscription of new properties, the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the role of digital, youth and indigenous and local communities in the management and preservation of World Heritage sites, faced with challenges such as armed conflicts, deforestation, climate change, poaching, etc.

The youth forum and the experts meeting were followed by the meeting of the ministers in charge of culture of Central Africa on October 19th 2022 at the Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé. This meeting was organized following a call for action to improve the representativeness of African sites on the World Heritage List. With the objective of strengthening institutional capacities in the implementation of the Convention, the States Parties thus requested the support of UNESCO and its partners in the development and the implementation of concrete actions to ensure a better conservation, management and promotion of World Heritage in Africa.

In conclusion, the youth forum was an opportunity for many participants to meet young people from other countries. It allowed young people to reflect on new strategies for the conservation, management and promotion of World Heritage, to open up to their heritage, to debate on common subjects and to build a solid network of young Africans who will be the relay of tomorrow. Focusing on the improvement of innovation and creativity capacities, income generation, involvement and effective participation of young people and local and indigenous communities in the management and promotion of World Heritage in Africa, the youth forum is a platform for meeting and discussion; a space to raise awareness among young people on issues related to the protection and preservation of World Heritage in Africa; a tool for an enhanced understanding of the World Heritage Convention, the mobilization of young people for the development of viable initiatives that take into account environmental issues in their respective countries. It promotes intergenerational dialogue and knowledge exchange between young people and World Heritage experts and specialists and encourages the participation of young people in activities (entrepreneurial or otherwise) for the sustainable management of World Heritage, including tourism development.

Avenir G. Meikengang



Series of South African wooden masks © s.n. 2017



The UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar invites us to the sub-regional celebration of the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in West Africa.

This high-level celebration will be held in a hybrid format from the city of Saint-Louis in Senegal on 9 November 2022 from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (GMT) with the theme: "**Youth engaged with heritage site managers**".

For more information on this celebration and how to participate, click [here](#).



Senghor University in Alexandria, Egypt, is organizing, from 28 to 30 November 2022, the second edition of the International Colloquium with a call for papers "From stone to paper, from paper to digital" with the sub-theme: "What means of safeguarding the written word? "

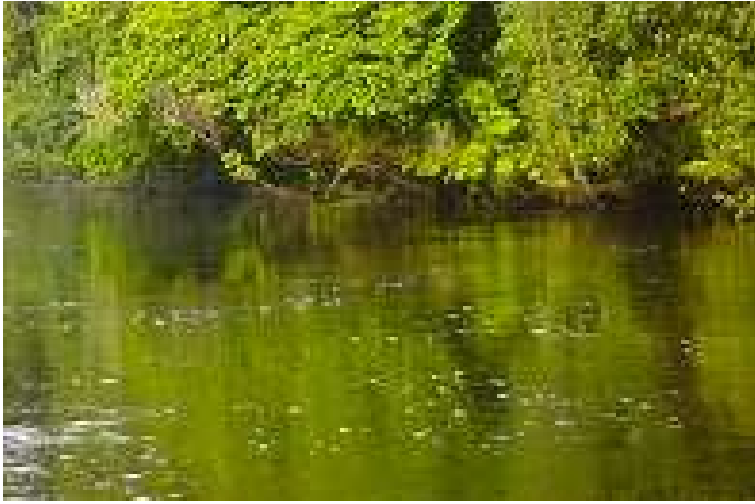
The themes selected for the work of the colloquium are articulated around the following axes

- Museums: manuscript collections and preservation
- Libraries: classification, preservation and digitisation
- Archives: inventory, digitisation and outsourcing
- Audiovisual: conservation, media technology and collections
- Digitisation: sites and collections at risk.

The programme includes plenary lectures by leading specialists in their field.

For more information on this conference, click [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW IT?



DJA Wildlife Reserve © RFD. 2018

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987, the Dja Wildlife Reserve is a natural site that was created by Decree No. 319 of June 26, 1950, to create a wildlife and hunting reserve in the Ntem and Haut Nyong regions and supported by Decree No. 2077/1029/PM of July 9, 2007, to create the Dja Reserve. Located in the southeastern part of Cameroon, precisely between the departments of Dja-et-Lobo and Haut-Nyong, the site is bounded at the 3/4 by the Dja River which forms its natural boundary. Responding to UNESCO Criteria (ix) and (x) due to its great biodiversity as well as to the animal and plant species it contains, which allowed it to be recognised as a "Biosphere Reserve" under the MAB label in 1981, the reserve is one of the largest rainforests on the Continent, with an area that is estimated at 526,000 000 ha. With the National Parks of Odzala-Kokoua in the Republic of Congo and Minkébé in Gabon, they constitute the TRIDOM (La Trinationale du Dja, Odzala et Minkébé).

Despite poaching pressure, the reserve has preserved most of its potential, and it is estimated that 90% of the site remains intact. There are several species that are still threatened with extinction at the global level. In 2015, the inventory carried out estimated the number of living gorillas at 6,500 and chimpanzees at 3,600 in the reserve.

Access to the site is on foot through the village Somalomo or by river across the Dja River, it is recommended to go covered as the forest is dense and wet. The management activities of the reserve are led with the help of several external partners including UNESCO.

Although this site is particularly natural, the cultural aspect is quite visible. Indeed, on the site we find indigenous peoples who are involved in its preservation: the Baka pygmies.

The different aspects presented of this site were part of the reason for the decision to organize the 6th African World Heritage Youth Forum in the southern region of Cameroon.

Maeva D. PIMO



Old town of Saint-Louis © Alyssa K Barry. 2019

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LASTEST OPPORTUNITIES

- **RECRUITMENT AT UNESCO**

UNESCO is recruiting a Knowledge Management Systems Specialist for its Headquarters in Paris. For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/ttdw5cvn>. Deadline: 14 November 2022.

- **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE MUSEUMLAB 2023 FUND**

TheMuseumsLab aims to build strong and sustainable networks not only to change museums, but also to foster social change by addressing pressing issues. To apply, <https://tinyurl.com/54vxt98j>. Deadline: 07 November 2022.



Giza Sphinx © Geoffrey Whiteaway. 2021