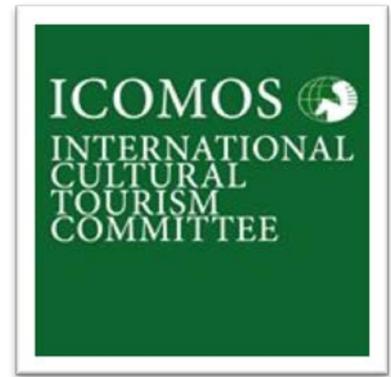


ICOMOS ISC Cultural Tourism (ICTC) International Expert Seminar & Workshop 2015 held in Partnership with ICOMOS Seychelles and supported by the Seychelles Ministry of Culture & Tourism



World Heritage & Cultural Tourism Planning & Management: 19-23 October 2015

International Expert Seminar 21st October 2015

**Culture & Development in the African Region
Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion & Madagascar**

Inclusive Approaches to Dissonant Heritage & Conflicting Interpretation

Kreol Festival Study Visit: 24 – 28 October 2015

Summary for ICTC Annual Report 2015 submitted to ICOMOS International Scientific Committee, October 2016.

“ICTC Expert Seminar & Study Visit, Mahe, Seychelles, 19-23 October 2015

ICTC Expert Seminar: Culture & Development in the East African Region of the Seychelles, Mauritius & Reunion: World Heritage & Cultural Tourism Inclusive Approaches to Dissonant Heritage & Conflicting Interpretation. This event was organised in partnership with ICOMOS Seychelles, President Mr Patrick Nanty, Seychelles Ministry of Culture & Tourism, Minister, Mr Alain St Ange, Seychelles Heritage Foundation CEO Mr Patrick Nanty & African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Director Dr Webber Ngoro. The focus of our discussions was Mission Ruins of Venn's Town, Mahé, Seychelles accepted on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List 01/02/2013. It was followed by a Study Visit linked to the Kreol Festival 24 – 28 October 2015. Fifteen ICTC participants received financial sponsorship from Seychelles Ministry of Culture & Tourism.”

ICOMOS international Expert Seminar & Workshop on World Heritage & Cultural Tourism Planning & Management, Seychelles: 19-23 October 2015

Introduction

ICOMOS ISC Cultural Tourism would like to record its thanks to the Seychelles Ministry of Tourism & Culture and the Seychelles Heritage Foundation for making possible the important ICTC Workshop & International Expert Seminar in the Seychelles in 2015. The financial support was important but so too was the warm welcome from colleagues from the Ministry & SHF. The success of this event is etched in the memories of ICTC members who attended and reflected in the on-going debates on cultural tourism and interpretation at places of memory in a fragmented world.

UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List: Mission Ruins of Venn's Town, Mahé, Seychelles

ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC) members joined with ICOMOS Seychelles and heritage and tourism professionals from the East African Region to explore, discuss, and debate issues relating to world heritage and cultural tourism development in the Seychelles and wider Region of East Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean. Community involvement, governance, management and interpretation were addressed within the broader aim of developing a synergistic approach to

natural and cultural landscapes, improving conservation and communication practices whilst expanding the benefits of tourism – social, economic, cultural and environmental – particularly for the Seychellois. The discussion had the pending nomination of the Mission Ruins of Venn’s Town to the World Heritage List as an overarching organizing theme and case study.

As a cultural heritage site the Mission Ruins of Venn’s Town is one of the most historically and culturally meaningful areas in Seychelles. The site bears testimony to an important phase in Seychelles history. In the 19th century the ignominious and shameful practice of slavery was gradually brought to an end by European colonial powers. On Mahé an industrious school was set up by the Church Missionary society – a British philanthropic organisation - to accommodate and educate the children of liberated slaves. The last group of liberated Africans landed in Seychelles in 1875, so children of labourers of African descent were educated by the institution. The children were educated in vocational skills such as carpentry and handicrafts. In fact this gave birth to the introduction of formal education in Seychelles.

Located at the top of Sans Souci - the highest peak on Mahé Island - this immensely significant and symbolic site offers panoramic views of the coast, lower peaks and the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean.



Declared a National Monument in 1984 the site is now managed by the Seychelles Heritage Foundation (SHF). Situated in the southwest corner of the Morne Seychellois National Park and immediately identifiable by a Viewing Lodge and Information Centre, currently the area itself is undeveloped beyond initial preventive conservation work carried out by SHF. The original Venn’s Town settlement comprised two dormitories, one for the boys and one for the girls, a number of houses, washrooms, kitchens, huts for labourers, a workshop and storeroom and a mission cottage for the schoolmaster and his family. The remaining ruins consist principally of foundation traces of five buildings, including those referred to as possible “laundry” and “dormitory” buildings.

The large numbers of freed Africans who came to the Seychelles had a great impact on the history and heritage of the Seychelles and in the formation of the Creole Seychellois culture and identity. An emblem of hope for humanity in a time of great injustices the site remains a place for contemplation and meditation. It is a place as unique in its biodiversity as its evocative history and heritage: dense vegetation supports numerous endemic plants and small animals.

Official opening of “ICOMOS international Seminar” and start of the Kreole Festival - Mission Lodge Heritage Site – Sans Souci

The official opening ceremony was held at Mission Ruins (Venn’s Town) Sans Souci and attended by international dignitaries including the French Ambassador and British High Commissioner. His Excellency, the Minister for Tourism & Culture Mr Alain St Ange, welcomed ICOMOS ISC Cultural Tourism (ICTC) and expressed the Seychelles Government’s commitment and support for the nomination of Mission Ruins as a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site. He expressed his view that the site would add significantly to the conservation and communication of Seychellois heritage and current understanding of the roots of a specific Seychellois Creole



language and cultural identity.

Today the Seychelles is a leading centre of Creole research and cultural exchange globally as evidenced by the Annual Kreol Festival now in its 30th year. He made reference to the immense success of the Seychelles' other natural UNESCO World Heritage site - Vallée de Mai, Praslin Island - famous for the coco de mer.

Addresses were also given by Mr Patrick Nanty CEO (Seychelles Heritage Foundation) & Chairman of ICOMOS Seychelles and Sue Millar, President, ICOMOS ISC Cultural Tourism. The speakers were invited to plant Sandragon trees. First planted at the site in 1875 these magnificent trees were subject to disease and a replacement conservation planting programme is in progress.



Delegates were invited to view the Exhibition on 'Slavery in Seychelles' in the Lobby – National Cultural Centre, Victoria and the Opening ceremony of the "Zenn Artis Lemonn Kreolofonn" exhibition, in the Upper Lobby – National Cultural Centre, Victoria (A Painting Exhibition by young artists from Creole speaking countries on 'Jobs evolution'.)

As Co-Chairs of ICOMOS ICTC & ICOMOS Seychelles Workshop 2015, Patrick Nanty, President, ICOMOS Seychelles and Sue Millar, President ICOMOS ISC on Cultural Tourism presented the formal seminar programme which began in the afternoon. Seminar Participants moved to the Seychelles Trading Company (STC) Conference room, Victoria, capital city of Mahé.

ICOMOS ICTC participants also included: Ivan Henares, Philippines, Vice-President; Jim Donovan, USA, Secretary-General; Expert Members: Luisa Ambrósio, Portugal, Maria Gravari-Barbas & Michèle Prats, France; Ian Kelly & Agnieszka Kiera, Australia; Laima Nomeikaite, Norway; Noel Salazar, Belgium; Aysegul Yilmaz, Turkey; Jonathan Karkut UK.

First we were introduced to cultural heritage conservation and tourism in the Seychelles with its combined focus on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. A presentation on Venn's Town UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Dossier was given by Gabriel Essack, Technical Adviser to the National Heritage Research Section, Ministry of Tourism & Culture followed by Maxwell Julie, Seychelles Heritage Foundation who introduced their conservation work with special reference to involving young people and developing fund raising initiatives through public and private partnerships – a relatively new approach in the Seychelles. Marcel Rosalie told us about the community participation and the District Award Scheme run by the Ministry of Tourism & Culture.

International invitees from the East African Region hosted by the Seychelles Government presented papers offering insights into cultural heritage conservation and tourism in the region. They included Dr Webber N'Doro, Secretary General, African World Heritage Foundation (AWHF), a Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In this presentation Dr N'Doro expressed the concern that the economic advantages of tourism revenues were not benefitting the communities themselves – especially in South African townships.

Dr Roland Dutel, responsible for ecotourism in the Reunion National Park & world Heritage site pointed out the economic strengths of being part of France and the European Union. He explained their philosophy: "Le concept de l'interprétation des patrimoines est largement utilisé pour concevoir les actions... Le principe étant que le « touriste vient pour le mon marchand qui déclenche le marchand".

Mr Shivajee Dowlutrao, National Trust Fund, Mauritius, discussed the Le Morne cultural landscape inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008. The site represents witness to 'maroonage' or

resistance to slavery. The mountainous landscape was used as a fortress to shelter escaped slaves. It remains a pertinent symbol of slaves 'fight for freedom', their suffering and their sacrifices. Mr Hugues Randrianjohany, a tourism expert from Madagascar highlighted Madagascar's Heritage Conservation Strategies to promote tourism in his country.

Field Study Visit to UNESCO World Heritage site, Vallée de Mai, Pralin Island

The group of ICTC members travelled by boat to visit the Vallée de Mai, UNESCO World Heritage site - famous for the coco de mer - on the neighbouring Praslin Island where we were welcomed warmly at the Visitor Centre by the Friends of Vallée de Mai. Here too we were entertained by Praslin Heritage Club. First with a poem narrated by a pupil from Baie Ste Anne School, then a song sung by Grand Anse Primary School and then a traditional dance performed by students from Praslin Secondary School.



Dr Frauke Fleischer-Dogley, Director, & Marc Jean-Baptiste introduced the Vallée de Mai World Heritage site and spoke about the management challenges for the public trust – the Seychelles Island Foundation - not only on Pralin Island but also the Aldabra Atoll with over 150,00 giant tortoises and where tourism is limited and carefully controlled. The World Heritage property of the Vallée de Mai is embedded within the Pralin National Park.

The vestiges of a natural palm forest are preserved almost in its original state. The Vallée de Mai is the world's stronghold for the endemic coco-de-mer and home to other palms. Yet, the challenges for natural heritage protection remain high. Whereas tourism makes a significant financial contribution the illegal removal of the coco-de-mer seeds is a serious problem that affects future regeneration. Therefore the management and protection of the coco-de-mer has become a key management priority. Apart from technical measures, the engagement of the local community and particularly the school children in researching, understanding, enjoying and ultimately caring about the protection of their palm forest in the broader context of their natural and cultural heritage is seen increasingly as a fundamentally important strategy to prevent future over-exploitation and deter poaching.



A tour of the World Heritage site was followed by an invited lunch at the newly constructed Raffles hotel embracing remnants of cultural heritage in a managed landscape with access remaining for local people, a visit to the Le Ravin du Fond Ferdinand and a bumpy return to Mahé over the open rough seas of the Indian Ocean.

ICTC Expert Seminar: World Heritage & Cultural Tourism Planning & Management

Inclusive Approaches to Dissonant Heritage & Conflicting Interpretation

Chair – Sue Millar, President ICOMOS ISC Cultural Tourism

Rapporteurs - Jim Donovan, USA, Luisa Ambrosio, Portugal, Laima Nomeikaite, Norway

ICTC's Expert Seminar offered participants the opportunity to engage in discussion and debates on a range of issues relating to culture and tourism development at World Heritage sites in the Seychelles, nearby islands of Mauritius & Reunion and wider East African Region. Our seminar seeks to share the expertise and experience of ICTC cultural heritage and tourism professionals with regional colleagues.

Whereas Mission Lodge Ruins, Mahé Island – currently on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List - is the main on-site case study, the expert seminar sought to broaden the debate by exploring issues and examining what has worked (or failed) in other parts of the world.

Evolving the vision for Mission Lodge Ruins and writing the Nomination dossier requires vision, expertise and determination in equal measure. ICTC is supporting the realisation of a vision that has begun with acceptance onto the Tentative List and we envisage the Seychelles concluding with the inscription of Mission Lodge, Sans Souci, onto the World Heritage List. A robust application is required to take into account tourism development that is sustainable. The protection and safe-guarding a sense of place, resonance of history, associated with the ruins are a priority.

The framework of the seminar covered five main sub-themes within the overarching theme of culture & development and in the context of the recently published UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015 - 2030.

- Supporting UNESCO World Heritage nominations upstream
- Examining the relationship between natural and cultural heritage sites
- Determining the role of communities in uninhabited areas
- Investigating the part played by interpretation in tackling issues of contested / conflicting identities - including slavery and colonisation
- Bringing together the tangible and intangible heritage in sustainable tourism development.

The seminar programme was in two parts:

1. World Heritage Nominations: Creole Context & Management Tools
Michèle Prats, France, *'French Creole Cultures: A mixed tropical heritage'*
Ian Kelly, Australia, an overview of the *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (2013)
2. Round Table: *Inclusive Approaches to Dissonant Heritage & Conflicting Interpretation* - presentations and discussion a long conversation.

Speakers:

Professor Maria Gravari-Barbas, France, *Contested heritage: some issues concerning tourism on sites linked to slavery'*

Noel B. Salazar, Belgium, *Sustainable world heritage tourism: The importance of pluriversal interpretation*

Jonathan Karkut, *Inclusive approaches to dissonant heritage and conflicting interpretations*

Agnieshka Kiera *An examination of the relationship between natural and cultural heritage sites' and interpretation of contested/conflicting identities – the case study of the Old Port Project, Arthur Head Reserve, Fremantle*

Ayşegül Yılmaz, Turkey, *Governance, Management, Community Engagement and Cultural Tourism Development in Heritage Contexts - Three Cases from Turkey*

Jonathan Karkut, *Making a positive contribution to: World Heritage and Cultural Tourism Development: Inclusive approaches to dissonant heritage and conflicting interpretations*

Laima Nomeikaite, Norway, *Cultural heritage and organizing capacity: a case study of the town of Allariz, North-Western Spain*

Ivan Henares, Philippines, *Indigenous Cultural Tourism Program in Agusan, Philippines*

Kreole Festival

'Resolutely popular in a country where Creole is one of the three national languages and the form of identity, the Festival Kreol abounds in events of great authenticity.'

ICTC members attended the two opening events : the 'Laserenad / Pipili' - a colourful procession in the streets of Victoria with school children, foreign participants, businesses and district groups and the Official Opening Ceremony of the 30th edition of the Festival Kreol at the Popiler Stadium in Victoria on

Mahé Island. This continued in the pouring tropical rain. The joyous dancing never stopped and the beat of the Kreol music continued into the night with Lakadans” a regional musical concert.

The next day ICTC were invited to attend ‘Tifin’, a traditional afternoon marriage ceremony. This leisure activity is very popular. The traditional marriage ceremony is a chance for older members of the Seychellois community to sing and dance and teach their younger relatives about Creole wedding traditions – some fast fading with the speed of change across the islands of the Seychelles.

The series of theatrical performances, concerts, exhibitions and picnic parties that comprised the Kreole Festival concluded with a Forum on ‘Let’s Define Kreol and Creolity’. As a group, ICTC members were welcomed everywhere they went. Learning about the history of rum making at the Takamaka distillery at the invitation of our hosts proved a most enjoyable tasting event.

Heritage Significance of the Kreol Festival

Festival Kreol is an annual event and also the oldest and largest artistic meeting of Creole communities in Indian Ocean Region. Festival Kreol began in 1985. Since then the Seychelles has been the ‘proud host of this magnificent event which brings to the fore the vitality of preserving this unique Creole heritage’. The small capital of Victoria has been dubbed as the capital of the Creole world - the place where all gather to celebrate and honour the Creole cultures from across the globe’.

‘... During the month of October, one can hear it in the beautiful Creole melodies, see it in the smiles and feel it in the warmth of the Creole people - the unique Creole identity, which sets Seychelles apart as unique by a thousand miles.’

The small capital of Victoria has been dubbed as the capital of the Creole world - the place where all gather to celebrate and honour the Creole cultures from across the globe. Festival Kreol is also the ideal platform where the Kreol communities around the world meet together, from Cape Verde to the West Indies, the Louisiana to the Caribbean, not to mention Kreol families, groups and associations who live in Europe, North America and Australia.

Festival Kreol addresses all aspects of culture, experienced either immediately or on a daily basis. Oral traditions, the creole language, poetry, theatre, but also dance, music, fashion, gastronomy, art, the handicrafts, built heritage, traditional games and cinema, all that, convey the richness and diversity of the Creole cultures.

ICOMOS ICTC Seychelles International Expert Seminar World Heritage & Cultural Tourism Planning & Management

Conclusion & Summary

ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC) members joined with ICOMOS Seychelles and regional heritage and tourism professionals to explore, discuss, and debate issues relating to world heritage and cultural tourism development in the Seychelles. Community involvement, governance, management and interpretation were addressed within the wider aim of developing a synergistic approach to natural and cultural landscapes, improving conservation and communication practices whilst expanding the benefits of tourism – social, economic, cultural and environmental - for the Seychellois. The discussion had the pending nomination of the Mission Lodge as an overall organizing theme and case study.

The Mission Ruins of Venn's Town has been identified as of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and accepted on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in 2013. Situated on Mahé Island in the southwest portion of the Morne Seychellois National Park, at an altitude of 450 meters above sea level this National Monument within the Morne Seychelles National Park commands an outstanding position above the capital city of Victoria.

The ruins themselves are minimal but the integrity remains intact. The site requires sensitive development to maximise the opportunities that are available both to embrace and interpret the site's OUV with a pluriversal focus and to develop the cultural heritage conservation and tourism potential of this nationally significant site for both local and international audiences. Many visitors are themselves often actors in the global heritage story of Creole cultural development and/ or inheritors of the complex history of slavery and its abolition.

The ruins consist mainly of foundation traces of five buildings covering a total area of 540 square meters that were used in the 19th century to educate freed slave children brought to the island. Several of the walls remain in place together with the window recess. The most surprising foundations are those that are referred to as the "laundry" or the "dormitory;" which displays 19 cavities of very small dimensions, some equipped with a metallic pipe apparently for emptying the water.

The site of the Mission Ruins has significance beyond the tangible remains and heritage of the islands of the Seychelles. Creole Seychellois culture - and creole culture globally - emerged from the traditions and transition from slavery to free labour. Venn's town has significance and meaning historically and culturally for the Seychellois and for the colonial powers who finally championed respect for humanity, driven in part by Christian values and the impact of the slow burn of the impact of the Enlightenment.

Mission Ruins bear testimony to an important phase in Seychelles history and the largely peaceful shift away from a slave society to a multi-cultural mix of languages and people epitomised by Creole culture and society. Coincidentally, it is a position reinforced by UNESCO after the Second World War. A focus on the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity in the 20th century fits exactly with the 21st century's focus on human rights - "dignity, equality and respect for the human person" - and UNESCO's continued quest for peaceful co-existence demonstrated through some World Heritage sites.

The location at the top of Sans Souci, on Morne Seychellois, the highest peak on Mahé, gives it one of the most panoramic views of the coastal areas. The view is of lush, dense forests, which are home to numerous endemic plants and small animals, lower peaks, and the Indian Ocean beyond.

Our ICTC Workshop included:

- Site visits to Mission Ruins and several other heritage sites on Mahé and the Vallée de Mai UNESCO World Heritage site on Praslin;
- Presentations by representatives from the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Madagascar, Reunion, and Mauritius;
- Round table meeting on 'Inclusive Approaches to Dissonant Heritage & Conflicting Interpretation' with presentations and case studies delivered by ICTC members; and
- Addresses by Seychelles' governmental officials and civil society agency representatives.

In between these elements of the workshop, the participants discussed the ideas and concepts being presented in light of the Mission Ruins World Heritage nomination. The following comments and suggestions have been extracted from the discussions by the ICTC delegates. They are presented here as support to the Seychelles Tourism and Culture Ministry as it works to finalize the Mission Ruins World Heritage Site Nomination.

The Issues

- The question of the 'Outstanding Universal Value' of sites that are entered onto the World Heritage List was a focus of much discussion. The requirement to transcend national boundaries is increasingly encouraging transnational applications for World Heritage site status. However, Mission Ruins of Venn's Town, Mahé, Seychelles offers an entirely different perspective on the

question of slavery and the creation of the Creole culture from other sites currently on the World Heritage List. It is a cultural landscape of global significance.

- Mission Ruins of Venn's Town, Mahé, Seychelles is submitted to the Tentative List under Criteria: (iv)(vi). Our discussions recognised the importance of selecting the right criteria for the final nomination. Decisions about the OUV of the site will lead to more closely defining which of the ten criteria from the Operational Guidelines 2015 the property meets. Thinking strategically about which criteria are the best to choose is both a conceptual and pragmatic starting point on the journey to World Heritage Listing.
- Comparative analysis - an essential component of the nomination process – is a useful tool in establishing the OUV, authenticity and integrity of the proposed WH site. For the Mission Ruins site, comparative examples would include sites that feature reference to the slave trade, missionary work, environment values, and natural beauty.
- The Stone Town of Zanzibar was inscribed on the WH List in 2000, (United Republic of Tanzania, criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)). Zanzibar has great symbolic importance in the suppression of slavery, since it was one of the main slave-trading ports in East Africa and also the base from which its opponents such as David Livingstone conducted their campaign.
- Other areas of interest that could be considered relate to the geomorphology and granite landscape beneath the cultural landscape since it plays a key role in developing the unique biodiversity of the Morne Seychelles National Park. Alfred Wegener's seminal book **The Origin of Continents and Oceans** Methuen, New York (1924) cites the Seychelles Islands as a case study. He develops the theory of 'Continental Drift', a precursor to Plate Tectonics, which is the principle philosophical and theoretical paradigm in the Earth Sciences.
- The engagement and empowerment of stakeholders – local residents, landowners, site managers, visitors, maintenance staff, regulators, and students is an essential aspect of the process of developing a Nomination Dossier. They become key contributors in the determination of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site and the development of the Heritage Management Plan.
- Successful nominations have often benefitted from having a "champion" who shepherds the process and serves as an inspiration to others working on the nomination.

The Mission Ruins Nomination Process

- To insure that the technical aspects of preparing the nomination and the essential contents and reasoning supporting the nomination are sound, the ICTC suggests it would be wise to extend the process of the application beyond the planned February 2016 submission.
- To make the entire nomination process as efficient and successful as possible, create a clear organizational structure from the start of the project for developing the heritage management plan, creating the nomination dossier, and implementing the recommended actions. The clear organization includes:
 - An overall vision of what the process hopes to achieve,
 - Political support for the vision,
 - Financial support for the process of making the nomination and subsequent implementation of the management plan,
 - Expert support for the specific elements of the nomination,
 - Societal support for the vision and the outcomes, and

- A working network to actually do the work and move the process along.
- To maximize support and minimize conflicts in the future, setup and establish excellent working relations with a diverse stakeholder group, including National Park authorities, land owners, service providers, and other involved governmental agencies as well as Port Glaud Heritage Trust and local residents in order to agree on a common statement of the Outstanding Universal Value and to have an inclusive approach to heritage management planning and implementation.
- To safeguard the site and its values, both cultural and natural, that you are trying to protect and share with the world, take the necessary time to create a comprehensive Heritage Management Plan for the site prior to undertaking any immediate interventions on the site itself.
- To involve the African community and broaden overall support for the nomination, continue to engage with the African World Heritage Fund as you move forward with the Mission Ruins World Heritage Listing nomination.

Mission Ruins Heritage Management Plan

- To help with the visitor's understanding and appreciation for the values of the Mission Ruins and Morne Seychellois National Park, find ways to represent its intangible heritage and memory on the site. Some possibilities would be the representation of:
 - The slave background of the students who occupied the site with cultural festival performance, recitals, and dances;
 - The former educational nature of the site with lectures, guided tours, and student field trips;
 - The physical experience of living there with use of the original path as a means of reaching the site.
- To make the winding, circuitous, route to Mission Ruins part of rather than a preface to a visit, encourage the valid perception of going to the Mission Ruins as a pilgrimage to a sacred site, so that the difficulty in getting there becomes component of the entire experience
- To make the on-site experience as meaningful as possible, consider including in the Heritage Management Plan the construction of a visitor centre that can serve as an educational center and includes a space for lectures and other presentations that reinforce the educational aspects of the former school.
- To protect the ecologically sensitive areas of the entire site, make sure that the Heritage Management Plan and future modifications to the site are done with full understanding of their impacts on protected, endangered and endemic species in the National Park.
- To increase local support and involvement of the community, create lasting and meaningful connection with nearby student and adult Heritage Clubs.
- To strengthen the meaning of the site to both Seychelles and the rest of the world, focus on interpretation of both the incredible landscape and the powerful memories on the site.
- To help with the long term management and operation of the site, explore creating strong relationship(s) with private partner(s).

A Cultural Heritage & Tourism Strategic Plan

To expand and enrich the overall experience of cultural heritage sites in Seychelles, examine Madagascar's Heritage Conservation Strategies to promote tourism and local development with an eye towards seeing what can be used in Seychelles. In particular, the following strategies, as presented during the workshop, might be useful:

- Integrate community involvement and awareness as an important component of the heritage conservation strategy, to increase educational opportunities, stewardship programs and community involvement activities. Monitoring is also an important component, to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy, and to provide updates to the strategies as needed.
- Encourage the government to resist placing heritage as a low priority in the face of other pressing development needs because heritage can play a significant role in tourism, generate urban and rural regeneration, and provide social and economic benefits for individuals and communities.
- Assess the level of national and local capacity to promote sustainable tourism in natural, historical and cultural heritage sites and then respond to the determined capacity needs.
- Identify key stakeholders in the sector to be trained and involved in the program, such as tour guides, associations, tourism boards, tourism organizations and heritage clubs.
- Educate local people about the benefits of conservation and tourism and help them to adhere to the paradigm to preserve today's treasures for tomorrow's generations. To be efficient, locals have to benefit from tourism to eliminate actions harmful to the site because the perpetrators don't otherwise benefit from tourism. The practical conservation strategies start from the base and not the opposite.
- Plan for heritage regeneration; heritage learning and the integration of learning about physical and natural resources along with heritage values can begin from an early age.
- Participate in the exchange of expertise and cooperation beyond the limits of Seychelles.
- Updating rules and regulations or laws in a timely manner as needed, in regards with heritage conservation.
- To help local people benefit from cultural tourism, encourage the development of cultural tourism products and create a seamless value chain of cultural experiences.
- To increase consistency and complete consideration of heritage values based on local conditions, consider creating a local "Burra Charter" for Seychelles or the Vanilla Islands region.
- To expand the reach and value of the Community District Awards and their associated publicity to promote the intangible heritage values of Mission Lodge and other heritage sites around Seychelles.

Our special thanks

To our hosts, friends and colleagues at the Seychelles Heritage Foundation

Mr Patrick Nanty	CEO Seychelles Heritage Foundation
Ms Aselma Pilate	Director of Human Resources, Administration and Support services SHF
Mr Maxwell Julie	Project Manager - SHF
Mrs Meggy Tirant	Senior Project Officer - SHF
Ms Katrina Souffe	Senior Information & Communication Officer - SHF
Miss Miriam Cesar	Assistant Information & Communication Officer – SHF