

International Summer School

African Heritage and the Pillars of Sustainability



Call for Papers



African Heritage and the Pillars of Sustainability

2016 International Summer School

Iringa, Tanzania
25 –31 July 2016

The *International Graduate School: Heritage Studies at Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg*, in cooperation with the *fahari yetu* project under the University of Iringa / Tanzania is offering a joint summer school on the topic:

“African Heritage and the Pillars of Sustainability”

The summer school is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Background

Sustainability and the participation of local people for the protection and use of cultural and natural heritage have emerged as central aspects in the teaching and research of Heritage Studies at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg. In this respect, the *IGS Heritage Studies* at BTU has developed paradigms on heritage and sustainability parallel to the important paradigms of UNESCO. This also applies to the thematization of sustainability in processes of protection and use of heritage as well as a critical examination of the manifold destruction of heritage. At the same time, it is clear in international reflections on these important issues that the West still heavily dominates the theoretical and strategic discourses. They do not sufficiently reflect African experiences and perspectives of heritage, sustainability and development. Therefore, the implementation of this first summer school at the University of Iringa / Tanzania, with a regional focus on heritage, sustainability and local development, has been organized in order to go beyond the current discourse.

Goal

The goal of this summer school is to develop skills and capacities in the management of heritage and sustainability through theoretical and applied concepts, taking into account the particular conditions in Tanzania.

Methods

The content and goals of the summer school are based on an application-oriented concept of teaching and learning and thus on the linkage of academic theory with regional management practice. These fundamental concepts of management, sustainability and the empowerment of local stakeholders in Tanzania and especially in the *fahari yetu* project will be presented, discussed and reflected upon in lectures and seminar units.

Target Groups

We cordially invite applicants from the following target groups to submit abstracts for papers to present at the summer school:

1. MA or PhD students

MA or PhD students in study programmes related to culture, heritage and tourism in Tanzania and other African countries are invited to expand their academic and practical capacities in the field.

2. Practitioners

Junior and senior professionals from institutions or projects dealing with culture and heritage management are welcome to share their experiences for integration in the theoretical body of knowledge in the field.

Content

Overview

The summer school is organized according to thematic areas, which are based both on general and theoretical research questions and case studies from the region. However, the World Heritage discourse will be our point of reference. Concepts, conditions or local developments are seen, on the one hand, from the very global point of view and they are, on the other hand, presented and discussed within the local discourse. We thus want to achieve both a general vision on a sustainable protection strategy and a special view on African heritage.

Thematic areas

- 1. Foundation and concepts: the pillars of sustainability for the protection and use of heritage in general and in the region in particular**

Since the adoption of the World Heritage Convention in 1972 the protection of the heritage of humanity has become a concern of the peoples of world. Tangible and intangible heritage has been identified as a source for building identity and thus as a source for human development. Human development needs economic development, and therefore the heritage of humanity has been converted from a cultural and natural good that has to be protected, into a commodity. The use of the heritage of humanity for economic development is as important today as its protection. It is evident, however, that the use of heritage has sometimes caused damage. In other words, the use of heritage has not always been sustainable. Therefore, in recent years strategies of protecting and using heritage have been linked with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, hoping to achieve long-lasting results. Thus the first part of the summer school intends to introduce the key-concepts of sustainable heritage protection and use strategies of and for African heritage.

- 2. Cultural and natural heritage conservation in the context of economic underdevelopment: case studies from African countries**

Heritage professionals have suggested the inclusion of culture as a forth pillar of sustainable development as presented in the UNESCO Hangzhou Declaration of 2013, which seeks to integrate culture within all development policies. In Africa, despite high economic growth levels, poverty and

social exclusion continues to affect many societies severely as a result of uneven globalization and climate change. The Johannesburg Declaration on World Heritage in Africa and Sustainable Development, held from the 19th to the 23rd of August 2002 under the auspices of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, noted that the management of heritage is an important tool for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Today, governments, conservation organizations, local authorities and other stakeholders seek to identify strategies to combine policies of promoting economic growth, social inclusiveness, environmental protection and heritage conservation. This topic examines the challenges and prospects of these strategies from a practical and critical point of view.

3. Local heritage, community participation and cultural tourism

Community involvement is the 5th goal of the Global Strategy of the World Heritage Convention. It has been included in the overall development goals of the Convention, hoping to convince more locals to protect their heritage and to use it at the same time, i.e. through tourism. According to the World Heritage Convention, it is always local heritage that gives significance to the concept. Yet, the protection of local heritage has the same requirements to fulfil as heritage in general. Heritage protection and heritage use needs a fundamental knowledge of heritage management, including competence for writing management plans. The 4th topic is therefore organized from a general point of view in understanding “what is a management plan?” and how to write a management plan for its implementation on a local level. The implementation of management plans on a local level includes the local heritage itself, strategies for community involvement and, last but not least, strategies for the use of heritage through sustainable tourism.

4. Conflicts and synergies between cultural and natural heritage protection and conservation

The cultural utilization of natural resources needs to follow principles of sustainability whereby environmental resources are protected and preserved, while at the same time facilitating economic development. This premise leads to conflicts as well as to synergies between natural and cultural heritage conservation and management. From an environmentalist point of view, culture as human activity, on the one hand, poses a potential threat to protectable natural resources and might be excluded. On the other hand, promoting human ownership and engagement with the natural environment may also support its protection. From a cultural perspective, the restriction of natural resource exploitation may hamper the process of improving the well-being of people, specifically in developing countries, unless environmental protection goes hand in hand with creating alternative income generation opportunities for communities. This theme explores the potential of heritage management to act as an agent of cultural change towards environmental sustainability. Experts, practitioners and students are expected to provide insights into the relationship between cultural and natural heritage values and conservation, and their application in the African and Tanzanian context. Case studies from and around World Heritage sites and other protected areas are particularly welcome.

Site visits

The themes of the summer school will be illustrated with practical examples of local heritage management from the *fahari yetu* project and site visits.

Application procedure:

1. Select one of the four thematic areas outlined above in order to give a 15-minute oral presentation in one of the workshops
2. Prepare an abstract of max. 250 words of your proposed paper presentation
3. Submit your application to heritagestudiesafrica@gmail.com by 29 April 2016, including the following documents:
 - Abstract of your proposed paper presentation (0.5 page)
 - Curriculum Vitae (1 page)
 - Letter of Motivation indicating the chosen thematic area (1 page)
 - Proof of enrolment as a Master's or PhD student or employment in heritage related institution/project

For further information, please visit our website at: <https://heritagestudiesafrica.wordpress.com>