

CVI-Africa: Project Summary

CVI

Partner organisations for the CVI-Africa Project



Arts and Humanities Research Council



Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport

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(The Arts and Humanities Research Council funds world-class researchers in a wide-range of arts and humanities areas to address some of society's biggest challenges)

The CVI-Africa project has recently launched two major reports resulting from workshops undertaken with local stakeholders and partners for the following World Heritage (WH) properties:

- Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania), and
- Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria).

The CVI-Africa project

In many regions of Africa, climate change is a major threat and many WH properties are already experiencing impacts from climate change-related hazards. Across Africa, stressors related to temperature increase are projected to be higher than the global mean increase. As the climate crisis intensifies, there is an urgent need to understand the vulnerability of all types of heritage. Those who care for cultural heritage need to respond to these climate stressors given there are profound implications for the future of cultural heritage as well as the sustainable development of many countries.

“...climate change has become one of the most significant and fastest growing threats to people and their heritage worldwide...” (ICOMOS, 2017)

Throughout the CVI-Africa project, there was a strong focus on local capacity building within Tanzania, Nigeria and other low and middle income countries in Africa.

The project provided foundational training to a cohort of six African early- and mid-career heritage professionals in climate change vulnerability assessments of cultural heritage sites using remote learning techniques and hands-on workshops. One outcome was a set of sustainable online training resources addressing climate change adaptation and cultural heritage.

Following this training, the project facilitated two vulnerability assessment workshops where the heritage professionals and others applied newly acquired skills at two WH properties. These vulnerability assessment techniques for heritage will have a wider utility within Africa and further afield. The project has also created long-lasting, sustainable, and meaningful collaborations and relationships, many with international partners.

Reports from both workshops can be downloaded from the project website: <https://cvi-africa.org>

The Climate Vulnerability Index

The Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), developed in Australia, is a rapid assessment tool to systematically assess climate change vulnerability for all types of WH properties (cultural, natural and mixed). The CVI is based on a risk assessment approach, but differs from other vulnerability assessments as it comprises two distinct outcomes:

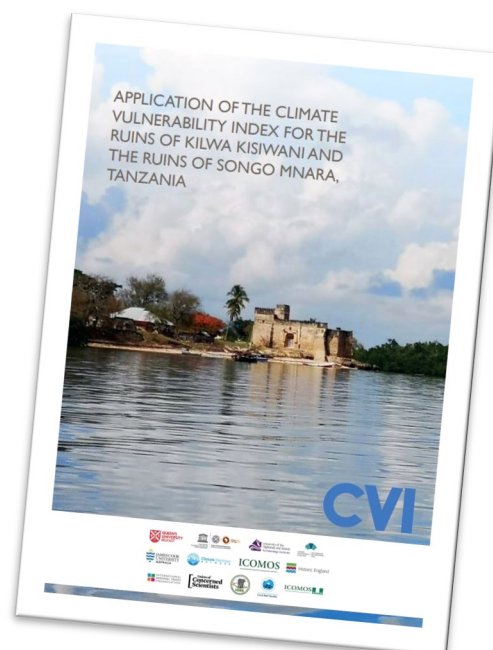
- **OUV Vulnerability:** assesses the values that comprise the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the central concept for World Heritage; and
- **Community Vulnerability:** assesses the economic, social, and cultural dependencies upon the WH property, and the adaptive capacity of these to cope with climate change.

Both assessments of vulnerability are highly relevant for many groups including heritage site managers, responsible management agencies, the businesses that are dependent on the property and the local communities around each WH property, especially as the CVI assesses the extent to which they may be able to adapt.

The CVI is increasingly becoming acknowledged as a systematic way to assess the impacts of climate change upon World Heritage properties, and other heritage locations, in a transparent and repeatable way.

For more information about the Climate Vulnerability Index visit the CVI Heritage website: <http://cvi-heritage.org>

Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)



The Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara are on two nearby islands, off the coast of Tanzania and approximately 280 km south of the Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam. These areas were collectively inscribed on the WH List in 1981 on the basis of cultural criterion (iii) and the WH property one of seven in Tanzania.

Both islands include archaeological sites of prime importance and together provide exceptional architectural, archaeological, and documentary evidence for the growth of Swahili culture and the extraordinarily prosperous Indian Ocean trade along the East African coast.

A CVI Consult (a more concise and rapid assessment than a full CVI Workshop) was held 18th - 19th October 2021. Prior to the Consult, three preparatory webinars occurred with contributions from experts from a wide range of backgrounds. The Consult involved the site manager, a representative from the National Museum of Tanzania, the Chairman and members of the site Ruins Committee and a translator.

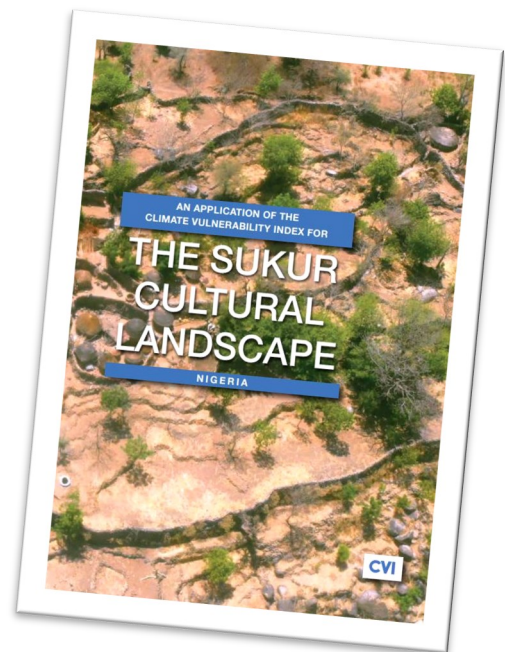
Facilitators and other project team members joined remotely.

The Consult participants selected 2040 as the future timescale on which to assess vulnerability and identified the three climate stressors of greatest threat to the property:

- Intense precipitation events;
- Sea level rise; and
- Coastal erosion.

The OUV Vulnerability for Kilwa and Songa Mnara was determined to be Moderate. The Community Vulnerability was determined as Low. It represents a good example of how climate adaptation measures can protect the OUV of WH properties while simultaneously supporting local communities.

Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria)



The Sukur Cultural Landscape is located in Adamawa State in northeastern Nigeria, some 290 km from Yola, the Adamawa state capital. Sukur is situated in the Mandara Mountain range that borders Nigeria and Cameroon, and is within the Lake Chad Drainage basin, an area known to have been affected by drastic climate and environmental change.

The Sukur Cultural Landscape was inscribed in 1999 on the basis of WH criteria (iii), (v), and (vi). The core area contains the palace of the Hidi (Chief), located on a hill surrounded by villages and agricultural terraces. The palace complex and the villages are characterized by impressive dry-stone architecture. The extensive terraces in the surrounding buffer zone have a special quality as they are home to spiritual features such as sacred trees, sacred entrances or 'gates', and festival or ritual grounds.

The CVI Workshop for Sukur took place 19th - 24th September 2021 and involved site managers, academics, community representatives, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and responsible management agencies. Most workshop participants were at the American University of Nigeria in Yola, whilst other participants joined the workshop online.

Participants selected the year 2050 as the future timescale for which to assess vulnerability. They identified the three climate stressors likely to have the greatest impact on Sukur's OUV for as:

- Drought;
- Temperature trend; and
- Storm intensity and frequency.

The OUV Vulnerability for Sukur was determined to be Low, indicating that while some loss of some attributes is expected to occur, it is unlikely to cause persistent or lasting effects on the values of the property. The Community Vulnerability was also assessed as Low, acknowledging the high level of adaptive capacity within the community.

Changes that might be expected over the next 30 years (ca. 2050 scenario) may not have a big effect on the values that convey the OUV of the property or upon the Sukur community in terms of the economic, social and cultural connections to those values.