****

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Capacity Building in the protection of cultural property among female military in the Eastern Africa Region**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies): | Africa Region --Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania |
| Duration (in months): | 12 months (2021) |
| Name, Unit and contact details of Project Officer(s) : | Karalyn Monteil  Program Specialist for Culture  UNESCO regional Office for Eastern Africa  [k.monteil@unesco.org](mailto:k.monteil@unesco.org) |
| Partner(s) institutions: | African Union  Femwise  African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)  Museum Directors in Eastern Africa region  World Heritage site managers  UNESCO National Commissions  International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) |
| Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs: | 24,937 USD (available, more funds needed) |

Rationale and overall purpose



The destruction of cultural property in the course of armed conflicts has been all too common in recent years, with repeated, egregious violations of the existing international legal rules aimed at safeguarding the cultural heritage of all mankind. Such crimes highlight an urgent need to encourage and ensure the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and of its two Protocols, together with the overall international regime regarding the protection of cultural property.

*African Union peace keeping forces. ©AUC*

The armed forces play a key role in preserving and safeguarding cultural property in times of war and conflict . In fact, in accordance with Article 7 of the 1954 Hague Convention, States Parties to this treaty have an obligation to foster in the members of their armed forces a spirit of respect for the culture and cultural property of all peoples. The Hague Convention also stipulates States Parties to maintain an appropriately trained military personnel: Article 30 of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, requires States Parties to develop and implement, in cooperation with UNESCO and relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, peacetime training and educational programmes on the protection of cultural property for the military. In this framework, UNESCO assists Governments to build the capacities of their military personnel in the field of protection of cultural property.

UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa covers four East African countries that are involved in recent conflicts or are considered post-conflict including Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Only 8 of the 13 countries covered by the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa have ratified the UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania); and out of them only 3 have ratified its first protocol (Djibouti, Ethiopia and Madagascar) and 2 have ratified its second protocol (Djibouti and Madagascar).

In July 2017, UNESCO and the Ministry of Arts and Culture of Mauritius organized a Roundtable of Ministers responsible for Culture in the Eastern Africa region in order to provide a platform for discussion among national and international actors to strengthen synergies for the protection of cultural heritage. This regional conference provided an opportunity for Ministers to share experiences, innovative practices and policies for the protection of cultural property in East Africa. Moreover, increased capacities and strengthened joint actions for the protection of cultural heritage. Lastly, it proposed a new framework in the form of a Regional Ministerial Statement, which called on all Member States in the region to ratify the 1954 Convention and its protocols along with other priorities for safeguarding cultural heritage in the region, which included the integration of culture into disaster risk reduction, humanitarian, security and peace building policies and operations in the region, including in the framework of United Nations and African Union mechanisms.

Through the implementation of its mutually reinforcing culture programmes, UNESCO and the African Union (AU) Commission work with the international community to protect cultural property in the Africa region. The urgent need to protect cultural heritage in Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Islands is further demonstrated by the absence or minimal presence of culture in national plans for development, by the lack of legislation and policies to protect and promote cultural heritage and peace-building, by the increasing threats to cultural heritage from conflict and terrorism and by the increase in refugees and migrants.

UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999)

The [Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13637&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) was adopted at The Hague (Netherlands) in 1954 in the wake of massive destruction of cultural heritage during the Second World War.  It is the first international treaty with a world-wide vocation focusing exclusively on the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict. It covers immovable and movable cultural heritage, including monuments of architecture, art or history, archaeological sites, works of art, manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest, as well as scientific collections of all kinds regardless of their origin or ownership. The States Parties to the Convention benefit from their mutual commitment, with a view to sparing cultural heritage from consequences of possible armed conflicts through the implementation of the following measures:

* Adoption of peacetime safeguarding measures such as the preparation of inventories, the planning of emergency measures for protection against fire or structural collapse, the preparation for the removal of movable cultural property or the provision for adequate in situ protection of such property, and the designation of competent authorities responsible for the safeguarding of cultural property;
* Respect for cultural property situated within their own territory as well as within the territory of other States Parties by refraining from any use of the property and its immediate surroundings or of the appliances in use for its protection for purposes likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict; and by refraining from any act of hostility directed against such property;
* Consideration of the possibility of registering a limited number of refuges, monumental centres and other immovable cultural property of very great importance in the International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection order to obtain special protection for such property;
* Consideration of the possibility of marking of certain important buildings and monuments with a distinctive emblem of the Convention;
* Establishment of special units within the military forces to be responsible for the protection of cultural property;
* Sanctions for breaches of the Convention; and,
* Wide promotion of the Convention within the general public and target groups such as cultural heritage professionals, the military or law-enforcement agencies.F

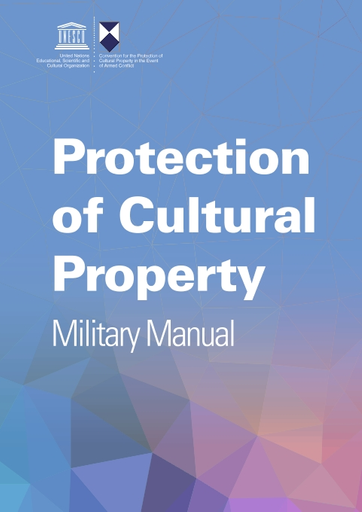
FemWise—Africa: African Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peace Mediation

[FemWise–Africa](https://au.int/en/psc) is a subsidiary body of the Panel of the Wise following recommendations by the Panel. The Panel’s report Mitigating Vulnerabilities of Women and Children in Armed Conflicts in Africa advocated for at least four key actions to be taken by the AU Commission: the appointment of a permanent Office for Women, Peace and Security; formulation and launch of an AU Gender Peace and Security Programme (GPSP); establishment of a permanent Open Session of the Council on Women, Peace and Security; and the launch of FemWise–Africa.

FemWise–Africa focuses on strengthening the role of women in conflict prevention and mediation in the context of APSA by providing a platform for strategic advocacy, capacity building and networking. It aims to ensure that peace processes in Africa are shaped with the contribution of women’s leadership and participation.

Project outcomes and activities

Building on UNESCO’s priority of achieving gender equality as well as it’s Priority Africa Programme, the expected outcome of the project will be to increase capacities among female military personnel to effectively protect cultural property, including World Heritage properties in the Eastern Africa Region.

This project will provide targeted military training for female military personnel in the protection of cultural property based upon the guidance of the UNESCO 1954 Convention and mobilizing the wide network of UNESCO and AU partners in the region. To this end, a regional training workshop will be organized for African Union forces in the region using the UNESCO training materials to raise awareness about the importance of cultural property, and to ensure the military personnel have the practical ability to integrate cultural heritage protection into their training. Accent will be put on training female soldiers through a partnership with the African Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peace Mediation (FemWise–Africa). The **UNESCO Military manual for the Protection of Cultural Property** (which has been translated into Swahili), will be used as a basis for the training on the role of military in safeguarding cultural property from damage and destruction, and East African heritage will be used as case studies.

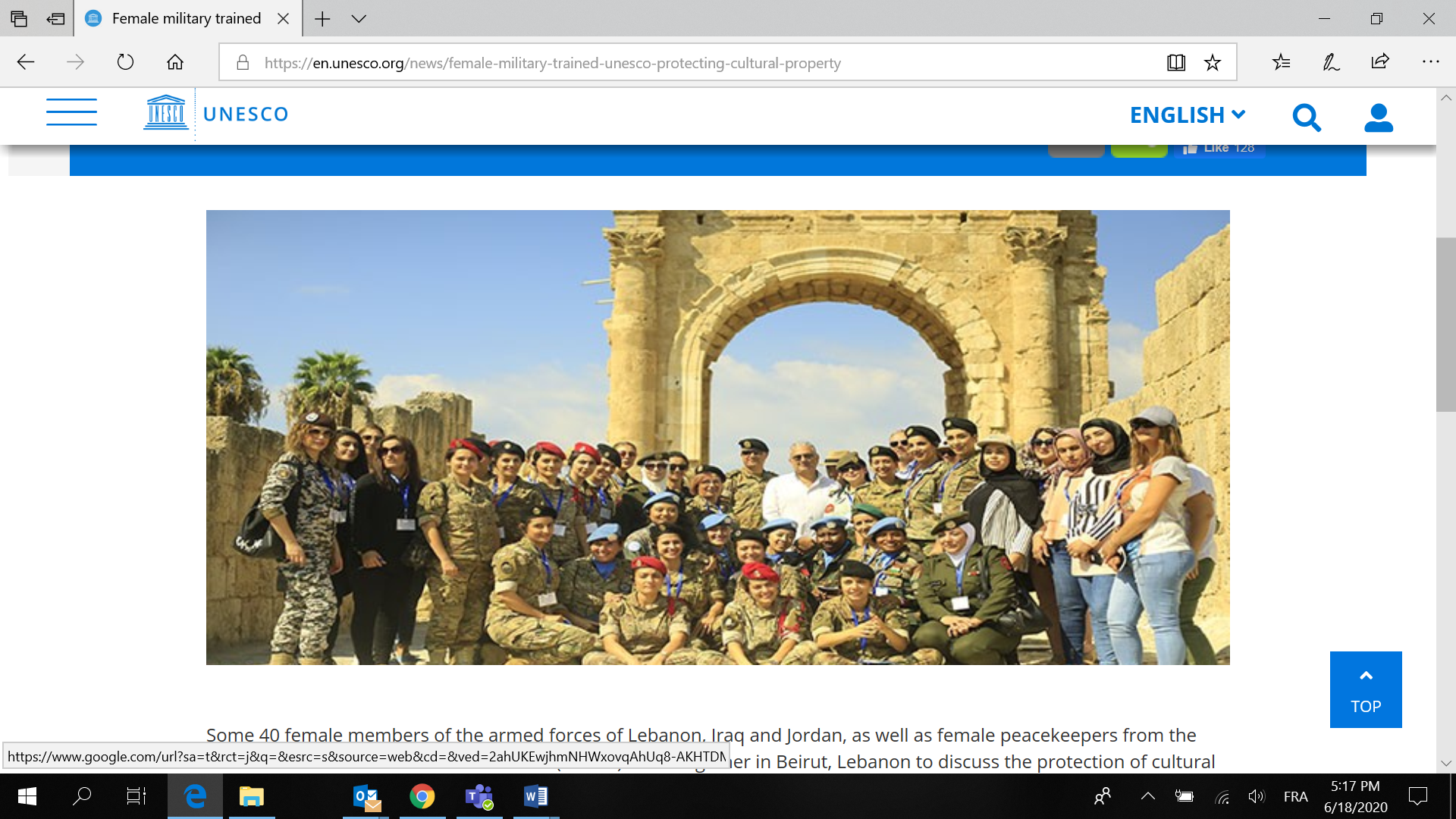
The main activities/outputs of the project will include:

1. Elaboration of a training programme

2. Identification of participants in collaboration with the AU, FemWise and UNESCO National Commissions

3. Implementation of the training workshop

4. Awareness-raising and media outreach, including organization of a press conference

Recent female military training in Beirut provides inspiration

On 1 October 2019, UNESCO Beirut launched a first-of-its-kind three-day workshop addressed to female members of the armed offices, aiming at strengthening their knowledge on cultural property protection in armed conflict, thus reinforcing their capacities and contributing to their career development. Around 40 women from the armed forces participated in the event, with different backgrounds (military officers, civilian legal advisers, and military planners). They came from Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and the UNIFIL.

The main objective of this workshop was to provide specific military-focused accounts of the relevant international legal obligations of states and individuals, in particular the ones stipulated under the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocol, in relation to the protection of cultural property in armed conflicts with suggestions as to best military practice at the different levels of command during the different phases of military operations, whether by land, sea or air. The workshop also aimed to support female military officers in professional development through enhancing their knowledge on the protection of cultural property.

For two days, through a variety of international and local experts’ presentations and panels, the participants were introduced to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, and increased their understanding of their role in protecting cultural property in armed conflict. On the third and last day of the workshop, participants undertook a field visit for training at the Tyr World Heritage property.

Links with International and Regional Development Agendas:

UNESCO shares the vision of the African Union for “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.” The UNESCO Priority Africa Programme aims to “Harness the power of culture for sustainable development and peace in a context of regional integration.” The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want provide a roadmap for safeguarding and sustainably developing cultural heritage through the majority of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably through SDG 16 for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and ‘Aspiration 5: An Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Values and Ethics’.

Why UNESCO?

Capitalizing on the strengths and comparative advantages of UNESCO as the only UN Agency with a mandate for culture, a comprehensive portfolio of international normative instruments in the field of culture, and a wide network of partners, experts and stakeholders, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa is well positioned to Strengthening capacities for the protection cultural heritage in Eastern Africa. UNESCO’s 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols, the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural heritage, 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)’s 1995 Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects together with the AU Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and the African Union Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property and Heritage provide a solid foundation on which to build a future where cultural heritage in Eastern Africa is safeguarded and sustainably developed.

Summary of outcomes, outputs and activities

|  |
| --- |
| **Outcome N°1 Increased capacities among female military personnel to effectively protect cultural property in the Eastern Africa Region** |
| **Output N°1: Capacity building workshops for female military personnel in the Eastern Africa region aiming to strengthen protection of cultural property and World Heritage sites successful organized** |
| **Activity 1.1: Preparation of training workshop including identification of experts/resource persons and participants as well as selection of sites to be used for training purposes.** |
| 1. **Activity 1. 2: Training workshop carried out which includes a field visit to a selected UNESCO World Heritage Site where participants will review scenarios for securing and protecting a site and cultural objects.** |
| **Outcome N°2 Increased awareness of the UNESCO 1954 Convention and its resources** |
| **Output N°2: News articles and stories published on the female military training, the importance of protecting cultural property and the guidance of UNESCO 1954 Convention** |
| **Activity 2: Media outreach through print, broadcast and electronic means including press conference, press releases, web news/articles and social media content** |
| **Outcome N°3 Strengthened network for the protection of cultural property in the Africa region** |
| **Output N°3: Network established consisting of participants and stakeholders in training workshop** |
| **Activity 3: Share contacts of participants in the workshop and create a WhatsApp group for further peer exchanges** |

Implementation Strategy

A partnership will be established with the African Union and FemWise to develop the programme and identify the location and participants for the training giving priority to those countries who have ratified the UNESCO 1954 Convention (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania). All project activities will draw upon the guidance of the UNESCO 1954 Convention and military training manuals. Experts/resource persons familiar with the UNESCO 1954 Convention and the military training manual will be selected to lead the workshop. English/French Interpreters will be identified to support the training workshop.

The concept note and draft programme will be shared with UNESCO National Commissions for UNESCO, and the national authorities will be briefed and regularly updated on the project implementation. The outcomes of the project will be shared widely with Ministries responsible for cultural property.

All programmes and activities will take into account gender equality, and will aim to be gender transformative by encouraging the full participation of female military personnel as well as the development of activities to promote women’s empowerment and active involvement in the protection of cultural property.

A press conference will be organized during the training workshop to raise awareness of the project on national and regional levels, and in order to increase awareness of the importance of protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict.

Contacts will be shared and a WhatsApp group formed among participants and stakeholders in the training workshop in order to encourage peer exchange and foster a regional network for the protection of cultural property.

Stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners

* Female military officers, civilian legal advisers, and military planners
* National authorities responsible for culture and related government agencies
* African Union
* FemWise–Africa
* UNESCO National Commissions
* World Heritage site managers
* Museum Directors
* Media

**Ownership:**

In this project, UNESCO will partner closely with the national armed forces, UNESCO National Commissions, Ministries responsible for Culture, Museum Directors and World Heritage site managers on the country level to ensure the full ownership of the project activities on a national level.

Risk analysis, sustainability and exit strategy

**SWOT Analysis:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Availability of UNESCO Convention guidance and military manual * Past successful experience in training female military in Beirut * Existing network of experts as resource persons to lead the workshop * FemWise network with in the African Union | * Low awareness of the value of cultural property, including World Heritage among military personnel * Multilingual region could cause language barriers * Military restrictions on photographs and videos of personnel could limit awareness-raising efforts and/or press conference |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Increase skills to protect cultural property in the Africa region * Information sharing and networking among female military personnel strengthened in the region * Strengthen UNESCO collaboration with AU and initiate a collaboration with FemWise * Raise awareness of the 1954 Convention and the benefits of ratification | * Risk of COVID-19 restriction measures preventing physical workshops and site visits planned as part of this project. |

Draft Budget Outline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Outcome | Budget |
| Outcome N°1 Increased capacities among female military personnel to effectively protect cultural property in the Eastern Africa Region | 20,000 USD |
| Outcome N°2 Increased awareness of the UNESCO 1954 Convention and its resources | 4937 USD |
| Outcome N°3 Strengthened network for the protection of cultural property in the Africa region | 0 USD |
| **TOTAL** | **24,937 USD** |