



# **Integrating Culture and Heritage in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Mechanisms**

**13 October 2023**

## **Introduction:**

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa engaged two consultants to assess the integration of culture and heritage in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) mechanisms in nine Southern African countries, namely: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These countries fall under the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa. The assessment was limited to climate and weather-related disasters such as droughts, tropical storms, snowfall, heatwaves, veldt fires and strong winds.

The preliminary findings of the assessment were presented to key stakeholders from the region on 29 September 2023. Inputs received are being used to enrich the Study Report. The Draft Report is set to be shared with relevant stakeholders in the nine countries for further inputs before its finalised. UNESCO ROSA is organising a half day workshop for stakeholders to validate the Report on 13 October 2023. The event will coincide with the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

## **Event objectives:**

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Present the Final Assessment Report for validation by stakeholders.
- Explore the linkages between culture and heritage and climate change.
- Share experiences on protecting culture and heritage during disasters.
- Discuss mechanisms and entry points for integrating culture and heritage in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation mechanisms.

## **Event description**

The workshop shall be in a hybrid format with all the nine countries invited to participate online. A few delegates based in Harare will attend the workshop physically at the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in Harare.

The event will also be an opportunity for stakeholders to commemorate the 2023 International Day for Disaster Reduction, spotlighting the importance of protecting culture and heritage during disasters. Culture and heritage are usually neglected when disaster strikes with focus and resources earmarked for humanitarian efforts and saving lives only. This event is set to raise awareness on the importance of protecting culture and heritage during disasters but also how culture and heritage are a useful resource in disaster risk reduction.

**Provisional Programme:**

**Venue:**  
UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (hosting Zimbabwe Stakeholders)  
Others to join online

**UNESCO ZOOM Platform:**  
[https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_p6Zr8QueSbK1ET\\_GJQLeuw](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p6Zr8QueSbK1ET_GJQLeuw)

**Master of Ceremonies:**  
**Chimbidzikai Mapfumo,**  
Programme Specialist, UNESCO ROSA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:05</b>	Arrival of Delegates and Log in Registration  <b>ALL</b>
<b>10:05 – 10:10</b>	Introductions
<b>10:10-10:15</b>	Opening Remarks and Introduction  <b>Francisco Gómez Durán</b> UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa
<b>10:15-10:35</b>	Presentation 1: Culture and heritage and climate action Presenter: Léonie Evers, UNESCO HQ/CEM
<b>10:35-11:00</b>	Discussion
<b>11:00-11:20</b>	Presentation 2: Protecting culture and heritage during disasters - Lessons from Malawi post-Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Presenter: Andrea Richards
<b>11:20-11:50</b>	Discussion
<b>11:50 – 12:20</b>	Presentation of the Report – Assessing the integration of culture and heritage in DRR & CCA frameworks  Presenter: Dr. Mavhura and Dr. Bongo (consultants)
<b>12:20-12:50</b>	Discussion – Entry points for integrating culture and heritage in DRR and CCA,
<b>12:50-13:00</b>	Closing UNESCO
	<b>END PROGRAMME &amp; LUNCH</b>