

International Conference on Heritage Authenticity in Africa

Nairobi, Kenya, 5 – 9 May 2025

Call for Abstracts

The Government of the Republic of Kenya, on behalf of the UNESCO African States Parties, UNESCO, and the African World Heritage Fund, are pleased to invite the submission of abstracts for the upcoming International Conference on *Heritage Authenticity and Integrity in Africa*, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5th to 9th May 2025.

This call for abstracts aims to provide a platform for African authorities, heritage experts, NGOs, civil society, scholars, and communities across the African continent to exchange research, experiences, knowledge, and observations concerning the concept of heritage authenticity and integrity and its application to conservation and management in both theory and practice within the African context. Local communities and experts from around the world are invited to submit their abstracts on the topic of heritage authenticity and integrity in their respective countries and communities. Selected abstracts will reflect practical approaches to authenticity and integrity within those communities.

This scientific international conference will offer a unique opportunity for open discussion to identify and define the meaning of heritage authenticity and integrity in Africa. Its primary aim is to explore ways to enhance the recognition and development of African heritage sites based on an understanding of what authenticity and/or integrity mean in Africa. Ultimately, this will contribute to expanding the recognition of these two terms in the development, protection, and preservation of heritage sites around the world.

A peer-reviewed volume will document the discussions and the outcomes of the international conference. The publication will showcase a variety of cultural and expert perspectives on the impact of authenticity and integrity on conservation ethics and practices, as presented at the conference, with the aim of fostering a shared understanding of heritage authenticity and integrity in the African context and beyond. The authors of the selected papers will be contacted by the Scientific Committee of the Conference for further guidance and processes concerning the peer-reviewed volume.

Key Dates:

- **20 December 2024:** Abstract [online submission](#) opens
- **31 January 2025:** Deadline for submission of abstracts to the UNESCO Conference Secretariat
- **15 February 2025:** Authors notified of abstract submission outcome
- **28 February 2025:** Authors' registration deadline to confirm attendance to the conference*
- **5 – 9 May 2025:** International Conference on "Heritage Authenticity in Africa" in Nairobi, Kenya.

** Authors and presenters must register **by 28 February 2025** at the latest to confirm attendance. Authors and presenters who have not registered by this date will have their abstracts removed from the conference's program.*

Abstract Guidelines:

- **Focus:** The abstract should focus on one specific country and/or one specific community as a case study to address aspects related to heritage authenticity, integrity and management practices made by the community and/or the government.
- **Submission:** The abstracts should be submitted via the online submission site only.
- **Languages:** Abstracts should be submitted in English or French.
- **Length:** The abstracts can be up to 500 words (maximum) for individual papers excluding paper title, references and appendices are excluded.
- **Format:** The format should be submitted in PDF format only and should include:
 - Title of the paper
 - Author(s)' name, affiliation(s), and country(ies) of the author(s)
 - Email address and telephone number of the corresponding author
 - Author(s)' short bio (up to 150 words maximum)
- Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and communication made with the author(s) **by 15 February 2025**.

*For papers by multiple authors, please mention correspondence authors' contact details in the submission form.

Presenter Agreement:

At the time of submission, please indicate whether you intend to present it at the conference, as per the modality outlined below.

Oral presentation per paper (10 minutes): The selected presentation will last around 5 - 10 minutes each, followed by a possible discussion segment in a session. The session will be managed by session chairs and timekeepers. All required equipment, including software for presentation, will be provided.

Working Languages at the Conference

The working languages will be English and French with simultaneous translation.

By submitting an abstract, all authors agree to the following conditions:

- The work submitted is original and has not been published or presented elsewhere.
- Agree that if the abstract is accepted, UNESCO has permission to publish the abstract in printed and/or electronic formats.
- Agree to have their papers published and presentations broadcast online and through the platforms used by UNESCO.
- Intend to register for and attend the conference with at least one author attending to present the paper.

Entry fee and other participating expenses

- No entry fee is required.

- UNESCO will provide financial support to one selected author that will include most direct/economic airfare, three meals a day, and hotel accommodation during the Conference in Nairobi. In the event there are more than two authors for a paper presentation, UNESCO will provide financial assistance for only one author.

Failure to register by 28 February 2025 will result in the following:

- The proposal being withdrawn from the UNESCO submission platform
- The submitter will not present their abstract at the conference.
- The abstract will not be cited as being part of the conference.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Contact Information:

For any inquiries regarding the call for abstracts, please contact:

africanheritageauthenticity@unesco.org

Note: UNESCO plans to publish a peer-reviewed volume in 2026 to commemorate this Conference. To initiate this publication, UNESCO will contact authors for further guidance.

We look forward to receiving your submissions by 15 January 2025 and to a successful Heritage Authenticity International Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Conference Scientific Committee reserves the right to reclassify submitted abstracts into the most appropriate theme or program.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do I need to be a member of any partner(s) institutions to submit an abstract?** No, anyone can submit an individual abstract or a session proposal. However, authors of accepted abstracts and sessions must register for attendance and participation **by 28 February 2025**.
2. **How do I know if my abstract was successfully received?** If there are any incomplete steps, you will not be able to submit your abstract. You will be able to view a proof of your abstract when you click on the 'Submit' button. You will also receive a confirmation email from the system following the successful submission of your abstract.
3. **Is there a word limit imposed on abstract titles?** No, titles have no limit.
4. **Is there a word limit imposed on abstract text?** Yes, all individual abstract text must be no more than 500 words. Paper titles, references and appendices are excluded.
5. **What is the abstract deadline?** 31 January 2025.

6. **Can I make changes to my abstract text after the deadline?** No modifications are allowed. The system does not permit modifications to abstract text after the deadline under any circumstances.
7. **If I forget to add an author, can I do so after the abstract deadline?** Yes, you can still add an author, if necessary, by emailing the africanheritageauthenticity@unesco.org. However, please make every attempt to add all authors during the abstract submission process.
8. **Can I submit more than one abstract for an individual paper?** No. The system permits the author(s) to submit one abstract only as a presenting author. However, you may be listed as a co-author on more than one abstract. If you submit more than one abstract as a presenter, you will be asked to delete one of the submissions. If your response is not received, one of the submissions will be automatically deleted and will not be reviewed.
9. **Should I put the abstract title, authors and affiliations in the text of my abstract?** No. These items will be collected separately during the abstract submission process.
10. **Is there a limit on the number of co-authors that I can add to my abstract?** No, there are no limits.
11. **Can I submit previously published or presented work?** Not accepted. Proposals should not repeat previously published work and should be original.
12. **Will UNESCO edit my abstract?** No, abstracts will not be edited by UNESCO. Once you submit your abstract, it will not be edited in any way for content. Typographical or grammatical errors that appear in your abstract submission will also appear in the final online program. Abstracts may be formatted only to follow UNESCO publication guidelines or requirements.
13. **Any registration fee is required?** No entry fee is required. UNESCO will provide financial assistance to a selected author. This includes a most direct/economic airfare three meals a day, and hotel accommodation during the Conference in Nairobi. In the event there are more than two authors, UNESCO will provide financial assistance only for one author.