

RESTORATION MOSQUE and WALL



THE FIRST PHASE OF THE RENOVATION PROJECT OF NANDO
DECEMBER 2013

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INTRODUCTION HERITAGE

Nando is a Muslim village with about 450 inhabitants. Nando was founded in, or shortly after the 12th century and is hidden and well protected in a narrow valley. It is a walled village, which is unique in the Dogon. In the wall are three gates giving access to the three districts of Nando with in total about 70 family houses. Located in the middle of the village is one of the oldest and most beautiful mud mosques of Mali. It is an important pilgrimage for Muslims from Mali and neighboring countries.

The two important public cultural heritage buildings in the village are the mosque and the wall.

Nando is about 20 km away from the Bamako - Mopti road and is thus fairly easily accessible.

In and around Nando is no running water, no electricity and no paved roads.

ADI and FDE have ensured a well with a sunpowered pump, which is an essential facility for the village. In order to be able to survive, the village is almost entirely dependent on agriculture and tourism. As long as the village economy is functioning the young people will remain in the village and is there a future for the village community. Because Nando is an important center for Muslims, the oldest part of the mosque is maintained as good as possible with the limited means that are present. The roof of the mosque, the women area and the outer wall of the village are in poor condition.

The brochure "Restauration Nando, project proposal for a unique village in Mali" includes a list of relevant documentation.





CULTURAL VALUE

The Dogon is known for its special clay architecture. Most houses and the village walls are built from stones that are amply present in the surroundings, covered with a clay layer. Because Nando is traditionally a Muslim enclave amidst an animistic area, there has always been influence from the famous mosque of the city of Djené. For this reason the architecture of Nando is different from that of the villages around the Dogon cliff. Each village district and each family house has its own character. Today, most Dogon villages have a mosque but the mud mosque of Nando's dates back from the 12th century and has an extraordinary expressive character.

Altogether Nando is a unique village and a highlight of the villages in the Dogon. Nando is part of the Dogon area that is UNESCO world heritage.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE TO THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY

Nando is a 'living' village. Most of the houses and public buildings are there because they have a function in the social and economic context of the village. The mosque is the social and spatial center of the village and gives the village an identity in the Dogon and the muslim world. The houses give the families status and identity. Each building has its own specific details. The family has the duty to maintain the family house. The first importance of the heritage is

the survival of the village culture and thus the village community. The last 10 to 20 years the heritage is also important to attract tourists. Tourism has grown because of the great cultural values in the Dogon and especially in villages like Nando. Tourism provides income that Nando and the Dogon desperately need to survive in the difficult conditions on the edge of the desert. Without a support for the village economy the village will sooner or later be abandoned.

DISASTER OR CONFLICT THAT CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Clay architecture is vulnerable. Regular maintenance is essential. The last two years the buildings and walls of Nando are much more damaged than normal because of several actual and negative developments:

1 Fierce rains (due to the climate change?).

2 The economy of the Dogon is severely affected by the turmoil of the rebellion in the North of the country. Prices of construction materials have risen and revenues of tourism are gone.

3 Part of the population, mainly the young people moves to the city because the local economy offers no future. People and knowledge are disappearing.

4 The well produces not enough water for the restoration of the mosque and the houses.



Clearly connected women area of the Mosque

DAMAGE TO THE HERITAGE

The mosque:

- 1) The roof of the women part of the mosque is in a bad condition and is in danger of collapse.
- 2) The roof of the mosque is leaking. Water undermines the roof and threatens the interior.

The village wall:

- 3) The wall around the village is falling apart and parts are missing



The bad state of the walls



The praying area supported before collapsing

URGENCY OF THE SITUATION

- For the stability of the heritage:

The disaster is creeping and has no sudden impact. The need for repair and restoration is acutely. If recovery is delayed the heritage is possibly irreparably damaged.

- 1) Mud architecture decays fast as there is no maintenance;
- 2) Expertise can still be transferred by some elderly people or may be imported from Djenné.
- 3) Additives for the top clay layer make the layer more sustainable but are too costly for the village.

- For the continuity of its function and role within the community:

- 4) Tourism will not return to Nando when the heritage of Nando is neglected or has disappeared.
- 5) Young people will move away if there is no employment in the villages and the quality of life in the villages will decline. Eventually the village will be deserted as happened in the nearby village of Pah.
- 6) Assistance in the restoration of the village will have a positive impact on the community feeling and the desire to continue living in the village.



Detail which clearly shows the todays state, December 2013



Entrance side of the mosque



Demmages on the construction and plastic in the mud



Support construction because of the bad statte of the main wooden beams

ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR SAFE-GUARDING THE HERITAGE

1) In the first place a new well should be ensured so that there is enough water for households and restoration

- The mosque:

2) The roof of the woman part of the mosque has to be removed, New beams and wood layer covered with a waterproof clay layer has to be made.

3) The roof of the mosque has to be sealed waterproof

4) All the clay parts of the mosque have to be covered with a top clay plaster that is enriched with traditional additives that make the layer more sustainable. Therefore some old top layers have to be removed.

- The village wall:

5) Filling up the gaps with new stones

For a sustainable top clay layer costly supplements are needed as Beurre de Carite, Raisins sauvages and nut oil. Much materials as the additives, banco, manure, vegetable fibers, wood and stones, should be transported from far over difficult roads

Do you foresee any problems in the execution and management of these activities (if yes, please explain)?



Outside facade clearly showing the problems at the roof



Detail of roof



Outside walls



Provisionally applied mud



Temporary help constructions and steel wire to keep the construction together

EXPECTED TIME-FRAME

ADI has a solid organization in Mali. ADI runs the project together with the village community. There is a great willingness in the village to do the work.

The Dutch organization FDE facilitates the project and does the research together with the 'Mission Cultural de Bandiagara'. ADI foresees no problems with the restoration except the lack of money.

In total: The whole restoration project of Nando will take 4 years. The project of this request will take 12 months: January-December 2014. The period of time in which the work can be done is dependent of work on the land. Most of the work will be done in the dry season from January to June.

Per activity:

- 1) February-March: preparing of the work, structure of the project organization, collecting and transport of materials and equipment, transport.
Removing old Layers of Banco, removing material and soil at the location of the old wall
- 2) March-May: Applying new wooden constructions and new layers of banco.
Transport of natural stones for the wall
- 3) May-June: Applying the finishing layers of banco.
Rebuilding the wall with the prepared natural stones
- 4) July-October: control of the work and check whether the roof is watertight (rainy season)
- 5) November – December: preparing of the final illustrated report and the financial reporting.
The local partners as Unesco Mali and Mission Culturelle Bandiagara will make their own reports.



The poor banco roof with also the much load witch doesn't preffend the water pooring in during the rainy season



These parts of the top needs to be renovated with better quality of mud and ingredients



The facades are for this moment not directly in risks but the need attending in the next years

FOLLOW-UP OF COMPLETE RESTORATION

These two projects are marking the beginning of the restoration of the whole village. They are important to develop confidence that recovery is possible and to gain experience.

With these pilot projects we will train young people in specific and traditional knowledge needed for restoration of clay architecture. The specific knowledge can be disseminated to other villages and thus ensures employment.

Some private house owners already started with the restoration of their family houses. The knowledge that is generated in this pilot project will have a great impact on the quality and sustainability of restoration of these private houses that are not part of this request.

We have invited Valerie Schuyt en and Marjoleine Boonstra of View Point Productions, to make a documentary of the whole process of the restoration. In november/december 2013 they visited the area to explore the possibilities for a documentary. They will visit Nando and Yougo every year during the 4 years of the restoration of these projects. For this documentary other funds will be accessed by SDO and View Point Productions.



Damages of water inside the mosque with provisionally reparation



HOW THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF THE SITE IS SECURED

ADI aims for a general and integrated approach. Combined with the restoration project, we will stimulate different aspects of the village economy:

- 1 A project will be launched for the recovering of sustainable tourism in the Dogon that allows to form funds for the restoration of Dogon architecture.
- 2 Association Femmes Dogon will set up women groups to start small enterprises.
- 3 ADI will set up projects to improve and broaden agricultural techniques and marketing.
- 4) The new to build practical lyceum in Sangha will provide education in building, restoration, agriculture and tourism to support the activities in the villages,



The main entrance with already a lot of problems with the wooden ceiling



Special element and details that has been protected for water the last 600 years!



Entrance gate at the east side of the village



The whale protection wall at the west side of the village closes the village on a natural way between the two rocky hills

EXPECTED OUTCOME

For the community:

1) The start of the restauration of the villige that gives the village more vitality and future

For the social-economic situation of the area in which the heritage is situated:

2) A support of the local economy that makes the village livable and offers employment to young people

For the appreciation of the heritage:

3) A restored village will attract tourists who will bring in money.

For the capacity building:

4) Trained young people may use there knowledge in the Dogon region



The inspection team during the visit in April 2013 from left to right; Amdou Timbali (Nando), Gedeon Kassouge (ADI), Seydou Ouattara (MCB), Amatique Dara (ADI), Masson Djenne, Issa (Nando), Boubacar Kouramane (Masson Djenne) and Assama (Nando)



The garbage belt that shall be removed by the village to restore the wall



The big problem is that all the reparations are done with very poor material locally in the village, this is not sustainable



The wall continuous but is also partly collapsed or too low



COLOFON

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Valerie Schuit, ViewPoint productions and Marjoleine Boonstra, film director who will make a short documentary on the project and who joined us on our trip in December 2013.

For updated and additional information visit
www.dogononderwijs.nl

Occasionally there are pictures used which are made by people who have joined on one of the many trips. SDO manages an archive of nearly 50.000 pictures from the period 1972 to present.

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