



PRESS RELEASE

Stone Town, 9th October 2013

Launch of a three year project in Zanzibar to create a heritage centre on the site of the former slave market in Zanzibar, preserve the Christ Church Cathedral and support the Wakf Commission

In a significant and tangible demonstration of partnership, the Government of Tanzania, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, the European Union and the United States of America have joined forces to support the preservation and promotion of a landmark historical site in Stone Town, Zanzibar. These organizations believe cultural heritage strengthens community identity and pride. Moreover, when the preservation of cultural heritage is integrated into a coherent development strategy, it can become a potent force for the community's socio-economic development.

This project will result in the creation of a heritage and education centre that will both commemorate the abolition of slavery and educate school children about the history of the abolition movement. The iconic Christ Church Cathedral will also receive urgently needed structural repairs and preservation works. The project will also provide heritage management training to the Wakf commission, which administers endowed property for all denominations of Islam in Zanzibar and is responsible for over 50% of its historic housing stock.

The project will be implemented by World Monuments Fund and its partners, the Anglican Church of Tanzania, the Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society and the UK charity Christian Engineers in Development.

"Our hope is that the preservation and promotion of this historical site in Zanzibar will fuel a sense of common belonging for the Zanzibari people and of ownership of their cultural heritage; it should contribute to building national identity in the diversity, tolerance and solidarity between faiths, communities and peoples." said the EU Ambassador to Tanzania, H.E. Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi.

According to Ms. Bonnie Burnham, President of World Monuments Fund, *"World Monuments Fund is delighted to be working with these government and international partners to conserve this important landmark. This cultural heritage site is significant for Zanzibaris as well as the world, and we hope that the project will serve as a catalyst for the development of a stronger sense of community identity."*

For more information, please contact:

Benjamin Haley - Communications Manager -World Monuments Fund (bhaley@wmf.org) - www.wmf.org
Virginie De Ruyt - Cooperation Officer - EU Delegation Tanzania (virginie.de-ruyt@eeas.europa.eu)

The European Union has awarded a grant of EUR 743 000 to this project

Delegation of
The European Union
In Dar es Salaam
P.O.Box 9514

Tel: +255 22 211 7473/6
Fax: +255 22 211 3277

www.deltza.ec.europa.eu

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".