

CHAM
a French NGO



International Partnerships



**in Youth and
Cultural Heritage**

∞ INTRODUCTION ∞

This booklet aims to provide you with some basic information about our organisation, its objectives and partnerships.

Convinced of the necessity of extending possibilities for young people to take action to preserve built heritage, CHAM is widening its geographical horizons and fostering fresh partnerships. As such, we are open to collaborating on further projects, with new partners and in other parts of the world.

If after reading the booklet you would like to know more about us and our activities or to consider working on a project idea with us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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∞ An NGO for YOUTH and HERITAGE ∞

The purpose of CHAM is to bring together motivated people, especially young persons, and to help them to carry out conservation and enhancement work on built heritage.

Our activities are of four main types :

* **youth volunteer projects** (also known as “workcamps”) raise teams of motivated young people, led by experienced project officers, in order to undertake work on a heritage site. As well as work, these projects, which last for a few weeks, involve group life and activities, as well as discovery of the local area.

* « **Historic Monuments** » **training sessions** are short projects based on practical conservation work on site, as well as more theoretical visits and lectures on topics such as historic buildings, conservation techniques and the running of heritage projects.

* **on the job training** is carried out over periods of several months to a few years and has the objective of providing jobseekers with basic technical training and professional and social skills.

* **heritage education** activities, in the form of creative workshops and dynamic outings and visits, are run to sensitise and initiate schoolchildren and other groups in heritage matters.

Since 1980, through the contributions of thousands of volunteers and trainees, CHAM has played a part in the conservation of over fifty heritage sites in France and overseas French territories. During the past few years we also have been able to reply to a number of partnership requests from overseas through our assistance in instigating and running youth heritage projects abroad.

Practical work in the conservation and presentation of a heritage site or monument is always at the heart of our projects. Beyond its intrinsic cultural and historic significance, this heritage is part of an area's social and economic life and thus has a role to play in local sustainable development.

Open to all motivated people, without requiring prior experience or qualifications, our projects allow everyone to feel ownership of their built heritage and to become an actor in its conservation. Projects are especially, though not exclusively, adapted to young people (around 16 to 30 years old) who are looking for voluntary or training experience.

Work and group life are carried out in a way that encourages the participants' autonomy and their taking responsibilities and initiatives. As such, projects represent an informal educational experience, facilitating the participants' self-development by building up their capacities, knowledge and social skills.

These initiatives gather together diverse partners from the public and private sectors, institutions and non-profit-making organisations, assorted bodies working at international, national and local levels. We seek to share our know-how in youth and heritage with partners, whilst adapting ourselves to local contexts and needs.

OBJECTIVES &

Practical contributions to both heritage conservation and community development.



Mobilising a wide variety of participants – especially youth



An original approach, serving educational objectives



Solidarity and exchanges – the foundations for our project partnerships



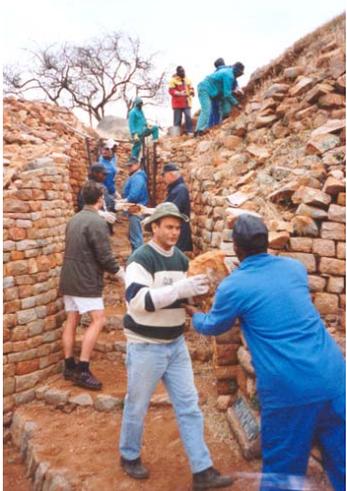
☞ SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

Three years of masonry training for young people with few qualifications



From 2002 to 2005 CHAM coordinated and led an on-the-job training programme in conservation masonry techniques at Kilwa, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Tanzania. Twenty village youth benefited from this training and employment opportunity, conserving the ruins of two medieval mosques and a palace. The operation was requested by the Tanzanian Department of Antiquities and supported by a French Foreign Affairs Ministry special fund.

Promoting heritage volunteering and a fieldwork opportunity for students



Since 2000 six projects at Khami, a 16th century drystone World Heritage site in Zimbabwe, have contributed to the introduction and promotion of heritage volunteering ideas and practices in Southern Africa. These workcamps also constitute the most significant conservation operations to be carried out recently on the site. 130 young people studying archaeology, history and architecture, from nine African countries, have thus been able to do conservation work in the field and to take advantage of a programme of guided tours and talks by conservation professionals. These projects are set up and run by a National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe / CHAM partnership, supported by the French Embassy and the UNESCO cluster office.

AND EXPERIENCES

Training sessions combining theory and practice

Along with the French Ministry of Culture, CHAM has run twenty two-week « Historical Monuments » training sessions at Lille. Young people from different backgrounds have received training in heritage conservation, whilst at the same time playing a role in the safeguarding of the famous citadel built by Louis XIV in the 17th century. These sessions are primarily based on supervised on-site work (brick masonry and stone cutting techniques), plus lectures and visits with a Chief Historical Monuments Architect.

Involving jobseekers in the transformation of a forgotten historical site

The site of *les Lazarets* on Reunion Island (Indian Ocean) is symbolic of the island's multi-ethnicity. It was here that plantation workers emigrating from different parts of the world were placed in quarantine in the late 19th century. Along with an NGO supporting the unemployed, CHAM is organising renovation works on the abandoned buildings, for their re-use as a cultural resource and place of remembrance. Over two years this on-the-job training programme gives fifty jobseekers the opportunity to create new prospects for their futures whilst contributing to their island's historical memory.

Original and useful working holidays for teenagers

Each year CHAM organises a volunteer camp on the medieval castle at Saint Quentin Fallavier, in partnership with the local municipality. These camps, with their specially adapted technical and educational leadership teams, are for 16 and 17 year-olds who want to contribute towards a heritage project during their school holidays. The French Youth Ministry supports these projects as a productive way of offering teenagers an active experience in teamwork and heritage.

A project's **starting points** are :

A heritage site in need of conservation and enhancement work and which has a role to play in community development.

A project partner (national or local authority, NGO or other) who would like to involve a wide range of people, especially youth, in this site's preservation and presentation.

The stages involved in setting up and running a project are :

- * the **feasibility study** – an analysis of the site's potential and needs, outlining projects adapted to the site, to community needs and to the various partners' interests and potential contributions.
- * **project design** – partners decide together on the project's characteristics (duration and dates, participants and facilitators, work and activity programme, necessary equipment, lodgings etc.)
- * a **memorandum of understanding** laying down the project's objectives and characteristics, partnership conditions and the roles of each partner
- * **planning & preparation** includes drawing up a budget and finding financial support, obtaining any necessary authorisations, recruiting participants, preparing project infrastructure, equipment, educational and promotional tools
- * **implementation** – running the actual project on site and along with the participants
- * **evaluation** – assessing the project between partners, sending reports and studying possible continuations and developments



A PROJECT

CHAM's role is to share its know-how in the organisation and running of « youth and heritage » projects and in heritage conservation and enhancement techniques.

Offering expertise

On each project that we set up with a partner abroad, CHAM offers its technical, organisational and educational expertise, according to the specific needs of the project and the partners. We make available our experienced personnel – conservation technicians, facilitators, project coordinators and heritage experts. CHAM is particularly specialised in stone-built heritage, but we are also able to work on other types of architecture. We have a network of architects and other external specialists upon whom we can call, if necessary.

Guiding each stage of the project

CHAM undertakes a feasibility trip and on-site advance visits which result in comprehensive studies and reports with detailed recommendations on the project design and planning, all done in collaboration with the local partners. From our Paris offices we regularly undertake, guide, coordinate, and follow-up the preparation of the work programme and the project in general. During the project itself, our technicians and facilitators are permanently on site. Finally, our support continues into the evaluation and future development stages.



∞ TESTIMONIALS ∞

from 1981 to 2005, CHAM has contributed to the conservation of
over fifty historic sites in France

most of which are registered Historical Monuments.

They date from the 12th to 20th centuries and most are medieval and stone-built. Among them are castles, forts, churches, chapels, abbeys, rampart walls, towers, houses, dovecots, farms ...

OUR PROJECTS IN FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

REUNION (Indian Ocean)

Hell-Bourg thermal baths,
19th century, 1989-1990

Villèle sugar factory, 19th century,
registered HM, 1991-2004

Tombs & mausoleums, Bel-Air
Cemetery, 18th-19th c., 1996 – ongoing

Les Lazarets, la Possession, 19th-20th
c., registered HM, 2004 – ongoing

GUADELOUPE (Caribbean)

Fort Delgres, 17th-18th c., registered
HM, 1993-1994.

MAYOTTE (Indian Ocean)

Villa de la Convalescence, 19th c, 1996
Hajangua sugar factory, 19th century,
1996-1997

Pole Mosque, 15th-16th c, 1997

NEW-CALEDONIA (Pacific)

Teremba fort and prison, 18th-19th c,
registered HM, 1996 – 1997

OUR PROJECTS ABROAD

MALI

Humanitarian project – school construction, 1988

AFRIQUE DU SUD

Fort West at Tshwane (Pretoria), 19th-20th centuries, 2005

TANZANIE

Kilwa, 13th-19th c., designated UNESCO World Heritage, 2002-2005

ZIMBABWE

Khumi, 15th-18th c., designated UNESCO World Heritage, 2000-ongoing

and study trips

MADAGASCAR, 1995

GUYANA, 1997

ZIMBABWE, 1999, 2003

TANZANIA, 2000 & 2001

MOZAMBIQUE, 2003

SOUTH AFRICA, 2004

PARTNERS

CHAM is officially recognised by three French ministries :

Culture and Communication Ministry
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civil Society
Education Ministry

Its projects are also supported by the French :

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Social and Sanitary Affairs

Our projects in France are set up in partnership with :

The sites' owners - local authorities (municipalities) or NGO's
French regional and county councils

We also work with :

Registered Historic Monuments Architects, registered Historic Monuments building firms, the French Heritage Foundation, the French youth information centre network, schools, universities, vocational training schools, other youth and culture NGOs...

For projects abroad, we cooperate with :

Government institutions and organisations responsible for heritage,
French Embassies' Culture and Cooperation Services
the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO –World Heritage Centre and cluster offices),
local and regional public authorities

CHAM is member of ICOMOS France



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