



# HEART

Heritage Empowered Action for Resilience in Tuti-Island



**HEART** project overarching goal is to improve climate resilience and enhance the adaptive capacity of the Community of Tuti Island - Sudan to prepare for and respond to weather and climate-related risks and longer-term climate change by strengthening their cultural heritage and customary practices of flood monitoring and mitigation known as "Al-Taya." Al-Tayas are multi-disciplinary, well-organized community groups that utilize indigenous knowledge to anticipate and mitigate flood risks, including flood forecast and traditional early-warning methods. These practices, passed down through generations, have played a significant role in protecting the island from annual floods.

The project was implemented between November 2022 and November 2023 under the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)'s capacity development initiative, [Net Zero: Heritage for Climate Action](#). It was one of five field projects showcasing transformative actions integrating heritage conservation, climate action, and community resilience. The project consortium was led by the Sudan Urban Development Think Tank, in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Khartoum and Studio Urban.

the project activities included:

**Situation Analysis and Data Collection** to build a 'climate-culture story' for Tuti-Island, highlighting the root causes of the prevalent climate-related risk and assessing the sustainability of Tuti's indigenous knowledge to mitigate risk in different climate change scenarios. Activities included desk/field research, semi-structured interviews with knowledge-bearers, and focus-group discussions. innovative methods were used such as the Story Circle and al-Taya School to engage the community, capturing their stories, memories and knowledge of al-Taya.

**Knowledge Co-production**, sewing together oral histories from the community with the outputs of the scientific study to co-produce a guideline-document with the community called "Lessons from Tayas." The guide is presented in simple pedagogical format to train future Taya team members and share knowledge with other communities facing similar challenges.

**Studying the effects of the armed conflict on the Heritage**, witnessing how Tuti community were affected by and responded to the armed conflict which erupted in April-2023, provided valuable insight into how the Taya heritage has transformed and adapted to the changing risks and pressing community needs and continued to serve as focal points for community action, managing resources, distributing meals, water, and essential supplies to the affected community.

**Dissemination and knowledge sharing**, a scientific paper, a webinar and an international virtual conference were held to present the project outputs, foster discussion with international experts in climate change, conflict, and culture, and advocate for the inclusion of heritage in global climate action.

The project outputs are:

- Producing the guideline document (Lessons from Taya: A Heritage-based, community-Led Model for Flood Mitigation) documenting the Taya practices in a pedagogic format to pass on to future generations and other communities facing similar challenges.
- A Video Documentary, produced in collaboration with a local filmmaker from Tuti-island featuring the story of Tuti and the Tayas, including photographs, audios, and testimonials from islanders.
- A scientific paper submitted to the special issue of the Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development, "The Climate-Culture Story: Community-led Integrated Strategies for Heritage Safeguard, Climate action, Disaster Risk Reduction and Peacebuilding."
- An online webinar (28 November 2023) to present the challenges and progress of the project, and to foster discussion with international experts in climate change, conflict, and culture.
- An international virtual conference (25-27 March 2024) highlighting the integration of culture into sustainable and resilient human responses to climate change while safeguarding heritage.

### Expanding the impact with DARAJA

Upon project completion, a small accelerator funding was raised to develop and field-test viable strengthening solutions based on Tuti's indigenous knowledge and supported by climate science. The spin-off project, DARAJA-Tuti Island, particularly addresses the increased fragility caused by the armed conflict and the siege on Tuti Island, which blocked access to humanitarian assistance and external aid, further necessitating the need to support community-led action. The aim is to strengthen the Tayas by providing reliable, timely, and easy-to-understand location-based weather and climate information (WCI) and early-warning. The WCI service will be co-designed with the Sudan Meteorological Authorities, media operators, humanitarian organizations, community representatives, and CBOs. Together, they will shape the information provided and the way it is communicated. They will also jointly devise a strategy to disseminate the information and receive feedback from the community. The feedback will be used to improve the service and allow it to better adapt to the changing context. Activities include;

**Information ecosystem mapping** to identify key actors in the weather and climate information services and the dissemination channels which the community use to access and share information and early warnings.

**Co-design/Co-production workshops** with WCI providers, media, humanitarian-organizations, community representative, CBOs to co-design and co-deliver the service.

**Training** for translators/ disseminators of WCI to enable them to understand and interpret the WCI, and to translate and share with the community. Also, Training for community influencers, activist, CBOs and other users as required to gain knowledge/ skills relating to using the information to take actions

**Piloting** the service during the 2024 flood-cycle, and incremental development of the service based on user feedback.

DARAJA-Tuti Island is implemented in collaboration with Resurgence, Sudan Meteorological Authorities (SMA) and the IGAD climate prediction and Application Center (ICPAC).

For more information on HEART project visit <https://sudtt.org/heart-project/>

For more information on DARAJA - Tuti Island visit <https://sudtt.org/daraja-tuti-project/>



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