

## 2024 Report - Coordination CECA Afrique Talato Philippe KABORE

Regional coordinators play a crucial role in achieving the objectives of the largest and oldest committee of the International Council of Museums ICOM, the CECA.

In each region, the coordinator and national correspondents work together to develop cultural education through well-structured programs and projects.

For our part, in Africa, 2024 seems to have been a year of achievement considering the actions done to develop the committee.

Despite the thorny question of financial resources and the current deficiency of the Internet, we have to admit that the commitment and determination of our leaders have enabled us to make a number of achievements for the benefit of the museum community in Africa.

### **- DEVELOPMENT OF CECA IN AFRICA**

As regional coordinator, I have led presentations at national and international meetings of cultural heritage professionals.

Firstly, at the "heritage sessions", a concept created by the ICOM Burkina Faso national committee, bringing together museum professionals to discuss major themes relating to cultural heritage, museums, the International Council of Museums... The theme of this year was "ICOM's international committees, operations and opportunities".

I got there the opportunity to present ICOM CECA, how it works, its objectives, and the members in charge in Africa. I had the opportunity to present the CECA, how it works, its objectives and the new people in charge in Africa, while inviting participants to join. At the end of this session, three participants expressed their interest in joining the CECA.

The second presentation was made at ICOM Africa's first annual conference, held in Ouagadougou from October 14 to 18, 2024, on the theme of "African museums, from inclusion to lifelong learning". It was an opportunity to exchange views with participants on the realizations of CECA and related opportunities. Our presentation prompted a number of questions from participants, which we tried to answer.

The last opportunity to present the CECA was at the Abidjan Workshop. At the start of the workshop, we again gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the representatives of CECA in Africa, our ambitions, the advantages of membership, the network's evolution and prospects.

Photo album of the regional conference in Abidjan:

<https://ceca.mini.icom.museum/fr/conferences/conferences-regionales/>

It was thanks to the combined efforts of Marie Clarté, Nicole, Margarita, Philippe and Charlène that the workshop was held at the Côte d'Ivoire Museum of Civilization. Some were involved in developing the project and applying for the grant, others in the practical organization of the workshop itself.

## - MOBILIZING MEMBERS VIA SOCIAL NETWORKS

The WhatsApp group called CECA Africa (<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LejK9nZe7wh6f5yC049YF0>) is the preferred platform for exchanges, serving as the main channel for disseminating information on CECA activities, as well as the coordination group made up of CECA managers in Africa.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LIfYjc7Q7d1GOYrhIYRrye>

The various correspondents have also set up WhatsApp groups to serve as information channels at national level. In particular, Mr Mamadou Samaké (Mali), Mr Imourou Abdoulaye (Benin), Ms Charlène Kossonou (Côte d'Ivoire) and Mr Djakaria Soré (Burkina Faso) have been very active.

The other focal points in English-speaking countries don't seem to have got into the swing of things, perhaps due to language differences.

In any case, we'll be working to revitalize their participation through frank exchanges.

## - Annual conference in Athens

The annual conference of ICOMCECA is an opportunity to mingle, share experience and network. This year, it was held in Athens, Greece, from November 18 to 24. It sadly ended with the absence of CECA members from Africa.



The Dream Team, as we've been named on the CECA website, is progressing steadily thanks to the commitment of all its members, and that's something to be much-admired!