Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in CÔTE D’IVOIRE


From 11th to 13th October 2019, heavy rains caused the banks of the Comoé River, to burst. Heavy rainfall also led to flooding across a large part of the ‘Historic Town of Grand-Bassam’, a World Heritage property. There was a need to assess the damage and identify which buildings needed the most urgent safeguarding measures. The mission, conducted in close cooperation with national and local authorities, with the support of the UNESCO Office in Abidjan, took place from 25th to 30th November 2019. Seven experts were consulted, with expertise in the fields of hydrology, architecture, structures, heritage, town planning and landscapes. The mission identified which measures needed to be implemented in the short, medium and longer-term, to ensure the stability and security of the built heritage affected by the floods. Furthermore, it resulted in the formulation of recommendations for the integration of a DRR strategy in the overall management plan for the property and the identification of training needs for its implementation.