



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

Name: Terence Onang

Surname: Egote

Nationality of author: Cameroonian

Language of thesis: English

Title of thesis: Application of the World Heritage Convention in
Cameroon since 1982: an appraisal of the strengths and limitations

Type of thesis: M.A. World Heritage Studies

Supervisor of thesis:

Institution of Supervisor:

Brandenburg Technical University (BTU)

P.O. Box 101344, D-03013

Cottbus, Germany

Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

When the international community recognised that heritage which is of importance to humanity often deteriorates and disappears as a result of natural as well as human made factors, the General Conference of UNESCO at its 17th session in Paris in November 1972 adopted the World Heritage Convention which imposes an obligation on its State Parties to embark on World Heritage as well as national heritage protection. Cameroon which is blessed with rich cultural and natural heritage resources ratified this unique Convention on the 7th December 1982 but since then, the trend of putting it into operation has been lesser. It is against this background that concern arises regarding the country's compliance with the World Heritage Convention.

This thesis critically examines the strengths and limitations of Cameroon's implementation and compliance with the Convention. The study elaborates and focuses on the degree of the country's compliance with her obligations under the Convention. Based on this, the state of World Heritage as well as national heritage in Cameroon is discussed and focus is on what the country has been doing to maintain the value and integrity of its only World Heritage site.

The work also dwells on heritage resources that ought to be protected as required by the World Heritage Convention and exposes the problems confronting these resources. The thesis identifies problems impeding heritage protection in Cameroon and particularly found out that there exist statutory frameworks relating to heritage protection in the country but that they are flawed and poorly implemented and none exists specifically on World Heritage like the case of South Africa and other State Parties to the convention. The work exposes the importance of embarking on heritage protection and discusses some options for improving the situation of heritage preservation in the country.

The study concludes by reiterating on the need for Cameroon to actively join the international community in the global movement to protect heritage.