



The Cross-Cultural
Foundation of Uganda

Annual report 2010

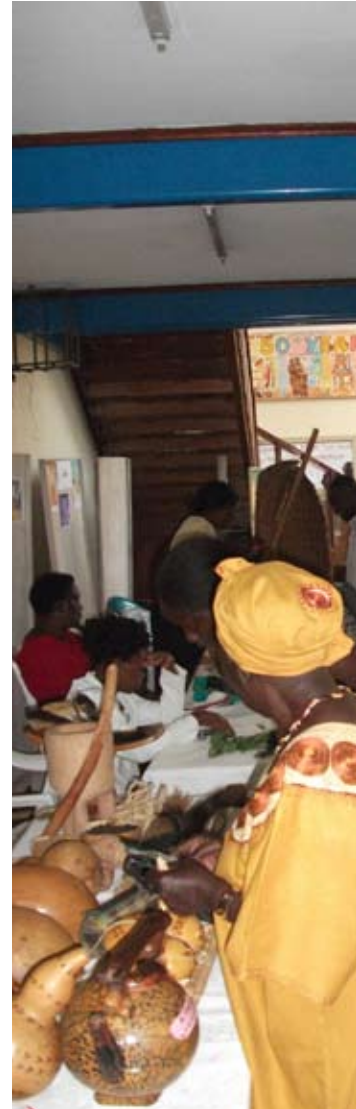


A view of the national community museums exhibition



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Introduction: Does culture in development work?

It is all very well to speak of 'Culture in Development', urging shifts in mindsets, breaking psychological barriers, plunging into the unknown, and yet being optimistic about the outcome. In 2010, the question we sought to answer at CCFU was: "*Does culture in development actually work?*" – for development practitioners and state actors who often depend on the blueprints of tested and tried ideology and approaches, as well as for the general public that is often sceptical about the value of culture in 'modern' development.

This year, we worked with development partners to engage practically with issues of culture in their practice. Through our training and research work, we were inspired by the community response to being perceived as cultural resource persons and their desire to share knowledge. We saw that integrating culture in development does not require an "overhaul" of our approaches but rather critical thinking, analysis and sensitivity to people's potential to contribute to their own development and aspirations.

In May, we were invigorated by the public interest at the national exhibition of community museums and the pride exhibited by the initiators of 21 community museums as they showcased artefacts and literature from their respective regions. Through much of the year, we also listened carefully as we researched how traditional governance systems are still often resilient and frequently people's first stop for redress and justice.

Even more encouraging this year were the invitations by different stakeholders, policy makers and civil society organisations to discuss, understand and integrate aspects of culture in national planning and political engagement. This increasing interest may be attributed to some events that triggered reflection on the value of our culture nationally, such as the Kasubi Tombs inferno and the national and international attention this attracted; the increasingly allegiance accorded by many Ugandans to traditional cultural institutions and the recognition of the influence they wield; as well as the resistance to banned cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, among others.

In 2010, CCFU's work, which ranged from interrogating the interface between traditional and 'modern' value and knowledge systems to appreciating the cultural diversity exhibited by community museums, emphasized the value of pluralism. This calls not only for tolerating "the other" but actively interacting with and appreciating diversity.

It is thus with great pleasure that we invite you to read our Annual report. We urge you to visit our website and Resource Centre at the CCFU offices for a more detailed account of our work.

Emily Drani,
Executive Director

Programme Activities in 2010

The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda has three interlinked programme areas through which we work to better understand the relevance of culture in development. In 2010, our programme activities helped us to deepen our understanding of 'culture in development', to strengthen our efforts to promote and protect cultural heritage and to explore the relevance of pluralism in the local context.

1 Culture in Development

Research, documentation and dissemination

At the end of 2010, CCFU launched 4 case studies on 'culture in governance', which examined the interface between traditional and state governance systems, highlighting the role of cultural leaders (clans, council of elders) in local governance. The first case focused on "Protecting rights to land, our most precious resource" in Lango and Teso, where clan leaders worked with the Land Equity Movement of Uganda (LEMU) to document traditional land tenure principles and practices. The second case on "Traditional and modern conflict resolution mechanism in Pokot" examined the interface between traditional and state government systems in conflict management. In the third case we captured the experiences

of a council of elders or "Isaazi" speaking out against corruption in Tooro, and finally, the fourth case study examined the role of the Alur Chiefdom in managing conflicts in fishing communities in Panyimur(Jonam). These cases revealed the resilience of traditional governance and evolving value systems, and highlighted flaws in these systems in respect to accountability and lack of synergy with state governance mechanisms. A publication entitled "Culture in Governance: Does it work?" containing these cases was launched in November at an event that attracted diverse participants who keenly interrogated the value of culture in governance.



Cultural resource persons contributing to local governance in Tooro, Teso, Pokot and Panyimur(Jonam) (l-r)

The four case studies bring the number of CCFU published works, many of which have accompanying DVDs to 22. In each case the value of cultural resources such as language, values and principles, governance and other social systems, knowledge and resource persons are examined.

‘Culture in development’ training

CCFU has often been confronted with the question: “*How do you integrate culture in existing development programmes?*” In response, the Foundation designed and implemented a 2-week intensive training cycle. This 2-module training course provided an opportunity for 16 participants to analyze the local cultural context, introduce and test culture-specific field tools, cultural analysis frameworks, and practically review existing development tools and approaches. The outcome of this training, supported by the findings from our case study work, was the development of a “Culture in Development”

training guide for development practitioners, which we also launched in November.

In the course of the year, CCFU helped other organisations to integrate culture in their work. A reflection event on culture and conservation was facilitated for the senior management staff of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), in collaboration with Flora and Fauna International (FFI). As a result, guidelines on integrating culture in UWA’s work in Uganda’s protected areas were developed. CCFU also facilitated a write-shop for Plan International staff from Kenya and Zimbabwe to improve on case studies that focused on culture and HIV/AIDS. The Foundation worked with Plan Uganda to complete the documentation of their case study on the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution and translated documentation on “Working with Clan Leaders to promote orphans’ and widows’ rights” into Luganda and Lusoga. These training and reflection events gave CCFU first-hand experience at testing and refining the tools developed, internalizing concepts and principles and reaffirming the practicability of changing development perspective to incorporate culture.



‘Culture in Development’ training, March 2010: participants listen attentively to a contribution from a colleague

Influencing perceptions on ‘culture in development’



In collaboration with the Bayimba Cultural Foundation, Arterial Network and the Uganda National Cultural Centre, CCFU launched the first ever Annual Culture and Arts Conference in May. This event involved a panel discussion on leadership within and outside the culture sector. It was attended by approximately 300 people in the main auditorium at the National Theatre. From the discussions, the need for a streamlined and well coordinated culture sector came out very strongly. Preparations for the next Art and Culture conference in 2011 are underway.

Uganda Art and Culture Annual Conference, May 2010: panelists and participants delve into the history of the culture sector in Uganda and its relevance today.



The Foundation also supported PROMETRA Uganda to plan for an international conference, and produce a DVD and training report on Traditional medicine systems and HIV/AIDS. CCFU presented papers to audiences at the 3rd APRM Governance Forum and at the AGM of the Ugandan Network of AIDS Support Organisations. Representatives of key media houses were engaged through collective and one-to-one meetings to explain the value of culture in development. CCFU took this opportunity to identify contact persons, engage them in disseminating published case studies, and covering CCFU’s public events. All these activities were geared towards contributing to

an enhanced appreciation of culture and its potential to contribute to development.

2 Managing Diversity

The Foundation's objective to value and promote diversity is premised on the conviction that cultural diversity is a source of wealth and strength rather than a threat. Although diversity provides opportunities to understand and address development challenges from various perspectives, for a long time in Uganda's history, cultural diversity has been used as a tool to manipulate allegiances to meet political ends. This has resulted in the current common perception that cultural diversity represents exclusion to the detriment of the public good.

Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme (PPKP)

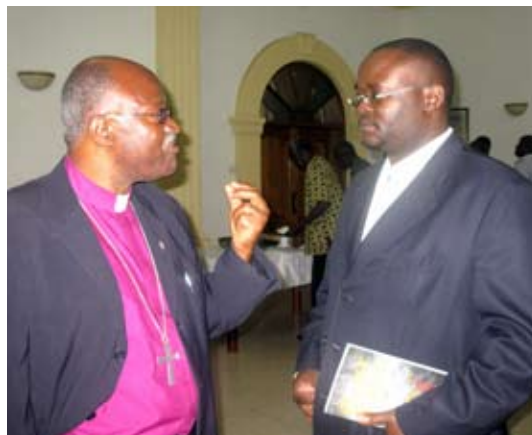
CCFU's involvement in the Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme (PPKP) as a coordinating organisation and implementing partner, provides an opportunity to better understand contextual issues in respect to pluralism from a local perspective. In the course of the year, CCFU along with the PPKP partners (Uganda National NGO Forum, DENIVA, HURINET, Gulu University, Uganda Matyrs University, Gulu NGO Forum, and Mpigi NGO Forum) sought to answer these questions among others: *"How is pluralism defined, understood and lived? How do people respond to diversity? What values and systems support or undermine pluralism and tolerance?"*

A research analysis workshop was organised in June to support the research teams improve on their research outputs. CCFU carried out research and produced a paper on "The Family at the heart of Pluralism" drawing on experiences of key informants in Kampala and Moyo. The other partners also produced papers on: i) Pluralism in Secondary Schools (DENIVA) ii) the lived reality of pluralism in Gulu (by the district NGO Forum and Gulu

University) and Mpigi/Kibaale (by the district NGO Forum and Uganda Martyrs University) iii) Intolerance in Uganda (National NGO Forum), and iv) Pluralism and Public Order Management (Human Rights Network).

The findings of these research works were presented at a national conference in June in Kampala, an international Knowledge Programme conference held in The Hague in September and at a National Convention on Democratic Governance in early 2011. Presentations made at these events stimulated reflections on how knowledge generated is diffused and used to engage the public; how street knowledge is integrated in research and translated into action, the political implications of findings and how vibrant public responses can be sustained.

These research outputs are also useful to reaffirm the value of pluralism and managing diversity in Uganda, to stimulate debate and reflection, and as a point of reference for further research. Effort however needs to be made for wider dissemination and civic action.



National Conference on "The lived reality of Pluralism in Uganda" June 2010: the key note speaker debates the understanding of pluralism in Uganda.



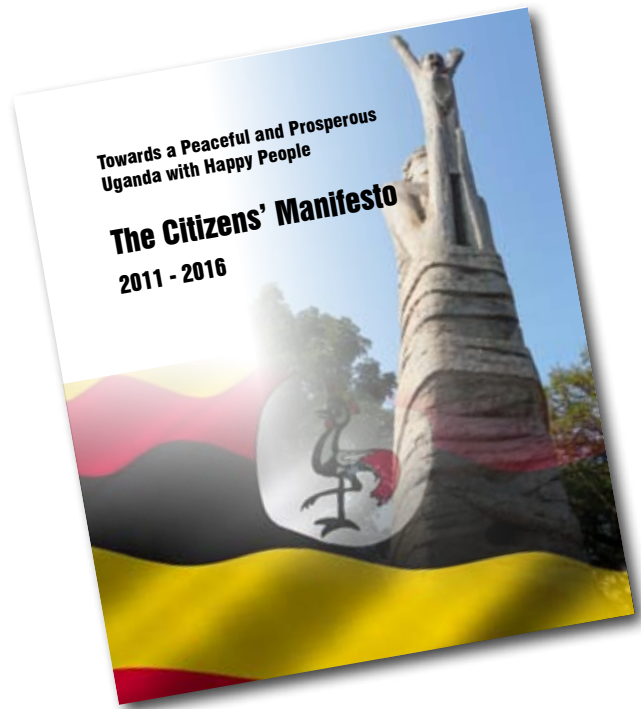
Pluralism: discussing the management of diversity from different perspectives

The PPK programme also provides a number of learning spaces for individuals and organisations to reflect and deepen their knowledge on pluralism from national and international perspectives. CCFU supported 4 Ugandan candidates to participate in the 2010 International Summer School on Human Development and Human Rights organised by HIVOS and the University of Humanistics held in Indonesia (July – August 2010). One MA student was supervised and supported to produce a paper on pluralism, religion and youth employment in the rural areas. In December, a common meeting of the Summer School alumni, MA students and the PhD student was organised to share experiences and contribute to improving these learning spaces in the next phase (2011-13).

At international level, CCFU along with two members of the Steering Committee participated in an international conference organised by HIVOS in The Hague on “Knowledge and Civic Action” where the Ugandan partners presented three of the completed research papers and provided a Ugandan perspective on pluralism. All these experiences contributed to an enhanced understanding of pluralism different dimensions and lessons derived from these activities will inform future activities of the PPK programme in Uganda. All these experiences contribute to an enhanced understanding of pluralism from different dimensions. The lessons derived from these activities will inform the next phase of the PPK Programme in Uganda.

Participating in developing a “Citizens’ Manifesto”

The Citizens’ Manifesto, which is spearheaded by the National NGO Forum aims at strengthening the basis for citizens to hold leaders accountable in the form of a manifesto that reflects citizens’ political, social and economic demands, against which leadership success or failure will be gauged. The development of the Manifesto provided an opportunity for CCFU to contribute to the methodology of data collection taking cultural resources into account. As part of this process, CCFU also organized two meetings with 15 cultural resource persons who developed a vision (from a cultural perspective) for Uganda and identified important common values (such as solidarity, tolerance for different worldviews, multi-culturalism, and exemplary leadership) to inform the Manifesto. The cultural resource persons also suggested ways in which cultural leaders could play an active role in furthering this agenda. As a way forward, CCFU proposes to support the development of a Clan Leaders’ Charter on civic action in 2011.



Citizens’ Manifesto meeting, Jinja, August 2010: Cultural leaders in Busoga contribute to cultural values and resources to be incorporated in the Manifesto

3 Promoting Cultural Heritage

Supporting Community Museums

With support from UNESCO, CCFU assists 21 community museums and cultural centres as a means to promote their cultural rights of self-expression and identity. A national Community Museums exhibition was held in May 2010 to raise the profile of the museums and link them to potential funders and supporters. A brochure mapping the location of 15 community museum accompanied by a brief profile on each was launched at the national exhibition. This was followed by a meeting of museums initiators which resulted in the formation of the Uganda Community Museums Association (UCOMA) and an interim committee to oversee its registration. It is anticipated that this newly formed Association will enable the members define a common vision and articulate their

needs and aspirations. Through regional support/peer visits, the Foundation also provided technical assistance to the community museums to improve on artefact research and documentation, presentation and publicity.

The diversity of the museums presents some challenges in respect to the type of collective support CCFU can provide given the limited resources and diverse needs. In future CCFU proposes to employ different approaches to engage with and support the community museums effectively. The museums still tend to operate in isolation and CCFU plans to run a heritage education programme in 2011 that will in the initial stages link selected schools to museums.



National Exhibition - Discovery of Community Museums in Uganda, May 2010: photo opportunity for initiators and supporters

Lobbying for cultural heritage development and promotion

In the course of this year, the coalition on “Policy Advocacy on Heritage Development and Conservation” finalised a paper, advocacy plan and budget to lobby for the update of the Historical Monuments Act 1967 as well as the ratification and implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on Cultural Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Funding its proposed activities has so far not been successful and the participation in coalition meetings has gradually reduced to a few dedicated members. This has led to a decision to suspend the coalition in its current form until further notice. The objectives of the coalition however, remain valid and CCFU proposes to incorporate these into its heritage programme (temporarily) and plans to hold a national conference on heritage promotion in 2011 with the expectation that this will generate new energy around priority heritage issues. In addition, lessons from other effective coalitions in respect to what keeps them “alive” will be explored and used in reviving this initiative.

At national level, the Foundation contributed to reviewing the Social Development Investment Plan (2010-2014) for the inclusion of cultural issues. It is anticipated that this will lead to concrete actions to promote culture nationally.

In September, CCFU participated in the Executive committee meeting of the International National Trust Organisation (INTO) held in England and contributed to strategic and managerial organisational deliberations. The Foundation was selected to host the next International National Trust Organisation (INTO) Conference to take place in 2013 in Kampala.

In November, CCFU hosted Mr Oliver Maurice, one of the INTO Directors and organized a series of meetings with key stakeholders in the culture sector and field visits to community museums which eventually culminated in a public dialogue on preserving cultural heritage in Uganda.



INTO: Discussing the preservation of cultural heritage in Uganda, including buildings of cultural and historical value

Prospects for 2011

The experiences and lessons learnt in 2010 will inform the thrust of CCFU's work in 2011. In the past year, production and publication of research work, training, support to community museums as well as our heritage work have all provided the Foundation with useful knowledge on the value of different aspects of culture in development. On the one hand, this work reaffirmed our belief that culture can make a significant contribution to development and on the other, we were challenged to reflect more critically on forms of culture that may not be in tune with human rights and democratic principles. CCFU, along with the PPKP partners, will devise strategies to engage civil society in addressing issues related to pluralism and managing diversity at various levels.

Globalization presents new options of worldviews and "ways of life" that challenge traditional perceptions but aspects of culture remain resilient partly because of the intrinsic values attached to cultural identity. In 2011, CCFU's work will focus on capitalizing on the resilience and value attached to culture. Programme activities will influence more development partners to appreciate the value of culture through the dissemination of research outputs on culture in development and pluralism, active engagement with various audiences on specific interest areas and heritage promotion and education.

1 Culture in Development

CCFU will seek opportunities to take forward salient issues emerging from the conclusions and recommendations of our case study work. The Foundation will target universities (social sciences, rural/community development), and Civil Society Organizations involved in training and research for a better fit and possibility of integrating a cultural approach in existing organisational policies and programmes. The Foundation will also rethink the CCFU 'Support Group' to create a vibrant and manageable agenda for specific interest groups. An effective communica-

tions / media strategy will be developed and implemented.

In 2011, CCFU will find opportunities to utilize and improve on the 'Culture in Development' training guide both within and outside Uganda. The Foundation will offer tailor-made training to individual organizations, in respect to integrating culture in development practice, strategic planning and reflection on existing development programmes and approaches. Thus a menu of training products for different audiences will be prepared and made available on request.

2 Managing Diversity

Over the past two years, this programme has been used to engage diverse publics at national and international levels. In 2011, the PPKP partners will utilize the findings of the research work undertaken to facilitate dialogue

and debate, raising salient issues on pluralism and the need to manage diversity within participating universities, NGO networks and in other civil society spaces. CCFU will endeavour to utilise internet based tools to

engage publics within the East African region and beyond. The Foundation will continue to play a coordinating role in the PPKP programme and oversee the implementation of the proposed activities for 2011 which include: research on topical issues; enhanced literature collection on pluralism and a database on

pluralism issues in Uganda /East Africa; public debates on pluralism; integrating the value of pluralism in our heritage education programme; and contributing to on-going processes such as the Citizens' Manifesto by developing a Clan Leaders' Charter, among others.

3 Promoting Cultural Heritage

CCFU plans to implement a heritage education programme in three pilot districts in Uganda. The goal of this programme is to enhance the value of cultural heritage in Ugandan secondary schools. This programme will be linked to community museums as an illustration of heritage protection and promotion and will include the development of a heritage training kit for teachers.

CCFU will continue to provide support and collaborate with community museums that are self-driven and are willing to broaden their scope of operation. The Foundation will support the formation of the Uganda Community Museums Association; engage some of the members in our heritage education programme and provide linkage with support organizations.

At regional and international levels, CCFU will

actively seek opportunities to participate in and contribute to cultural policy formulation processes and where appropriate seek membership / partnership with international organizations. It is expected that this will enhance our knowledge on global policy trends, new approaches and thinking and gain access to opportunities to learn, share experiences and receive constructive critique on our work.

In mid-2011, CCFU plans to organize a national heritage conference during which it is anticipated, a cross section of stakeholders will agree upon priority heritage issues that can form the basis of a common advocacy agenda. CCFU will also participate in INTO Africa related activities and at international level, continue to participate in the INTO Executive Committee meetings, as we prepare to host the INTO 2013 Conference.

Thank you to all our supporters

We take this opportunity to thank all of you who made our work a success in 2010.

Our Board of Trustees has encouraged us throughout the year, and guided us on different aspects of our work. Special thanks go to Patrick Kiirya (Chairperson), our Treasurer, Augustine Omare-Okurut and members Dipak Naker, Rev. Manuel Muranga, Charles Businge, and Juliana Naumo Akoryo Kuruhiira.

From friends of CCFU we received financial support of UGS 590,000,000 with which we were able to achieve some of our objectives and also accomplish some of the activities planned. With gratitude therefore, we acknowledge the contributions of:

- COMPAS
- DanChurchAid - Uganda
- HIVOS and Kosmopolis Institute
- Plan International in Uganda
- PROMETRA Uganda
- Uganda National NGO Forum
- Uganda Wildlife Authority
- UNESCO Nairobi Office
- Supportive individuals
- Other funders

On request, a copy of the full audit report and financial statement can be availed.



The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda has opened a small but quiet and comfortable space for reading. We have a collection of publications on 'Culture and Development' and 'Pluralism' by local and international authors, as well as audio visual materials that present a unique source of information for researchers, development workers, scholars, the media and the general public interested in these subjects.

We welcome you to visit our Reading Room which is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. We hope to see you soon!

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