



TITLE : MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC CENTERS

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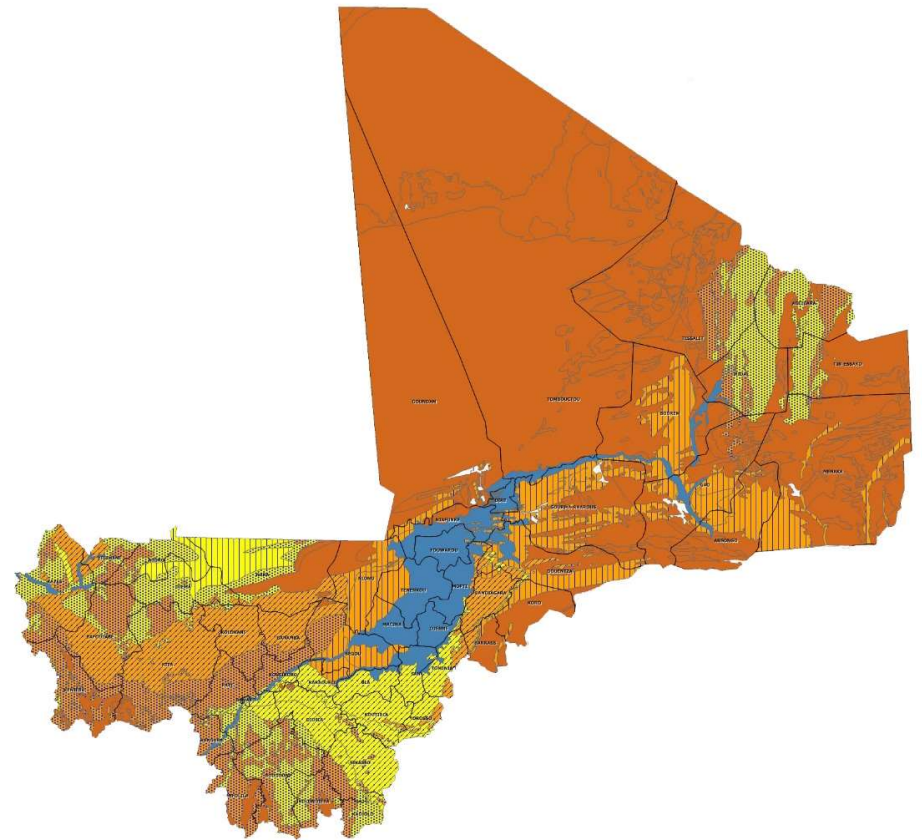
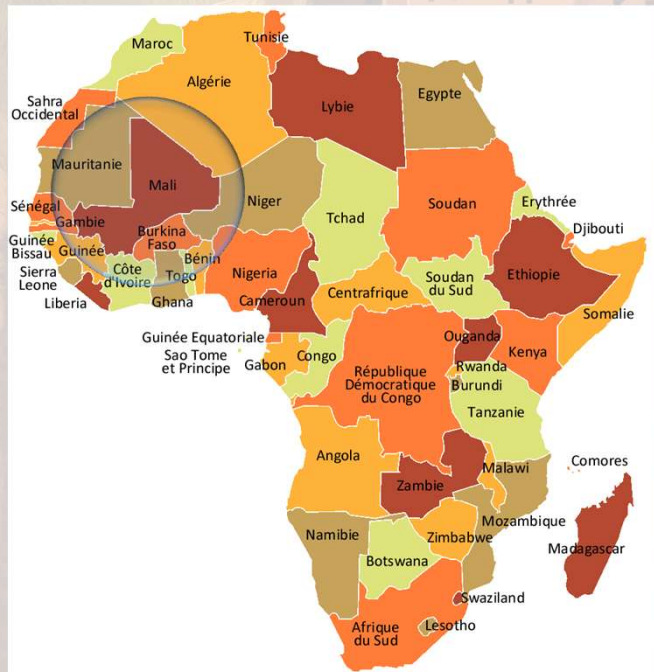
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PRESENTATION OF MALI

Mali is a large country both in terms of its surface area and its cultural diversity. An old land of history, brilliant civilizations and rich cultures, Mali conceals a remarkable tangible and intangible heritage (the manuscripts of Timbuktu, the Mosque of Djenné, the Dogon country...)

The cultural heritage of Mali is a treasure whose sustainability is important to all of humanity. This rich heritage is our common good. It carries the identity and values of an entire people.



The 2012 crisis created a critical situation of instability and insecurity leading to the destruction of several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the mausoleums in Timbuktu. This crisis has provoked a wave of legitimate indignation around the world.

Awareness of the critical situation of the population and property after these unfortunate events was able to generate reflections on the restoration, conservation and development of sites through the regional directorates of Malian heritage. These different reflections have made it possible to develop certain areas in order to protect populations and secure cultural heritage.

We will focus on the restoration, conservation and development of regional directorates of Malian heritage after the 2012 crisis.

This theme raises four major questions, namely:

- What is the role of the Malian regional heritage directorates.
- What is the state of progress in the restoration and conservation of Malian heritage?
- How can we mobilize the financial and material resources necessary to help state structures ensure the maintenance, restoration and conservation of sites?
- What measures should be implemented to create a ten-year master plan?

Introduction au pays Dogon

Extrait du film 'Mali' de Michel Drachoussoff
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What is the role of the Malian regional heritage directorates ?

The national directorate of cultural heritage's mission is to identify, study, protect, conserve and promote the architectural, tangible, intangible, urban furniture, archaeological, ethnological, intangible, photographic and artistic heritage of Mali. It is made up of several regional directorates.

It supports the policy of safeguarding and promoting monuments and sites likely to be registered or already classified as Historic Monuments for their historical, aesthetic or cultural interest. It defines, coordinates and evaluates State action in terms of conservation, communication and development of public archives (the Timbuktu manuscripts, etc.).

It ensures the policy of conservation, protection, restoration and development, and the 2012 crisis enormously slowed down its mission.

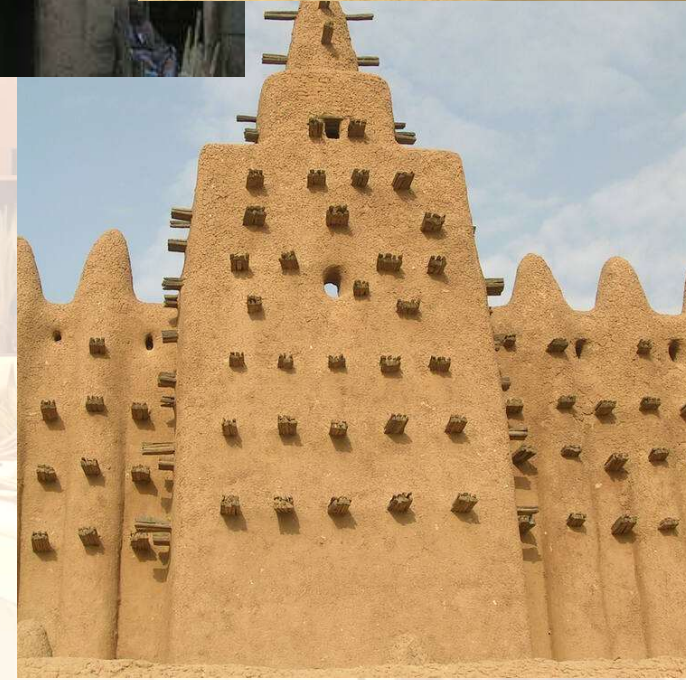
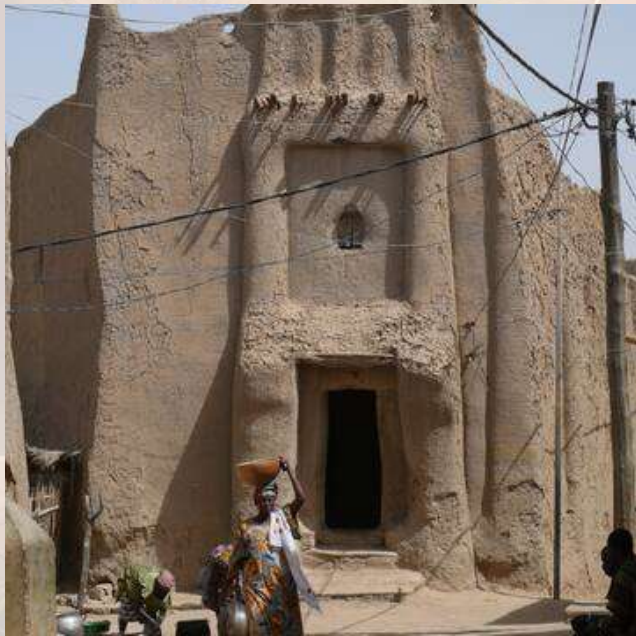
What is the state of the evolution of the restoration and conservation of Malian heritage?

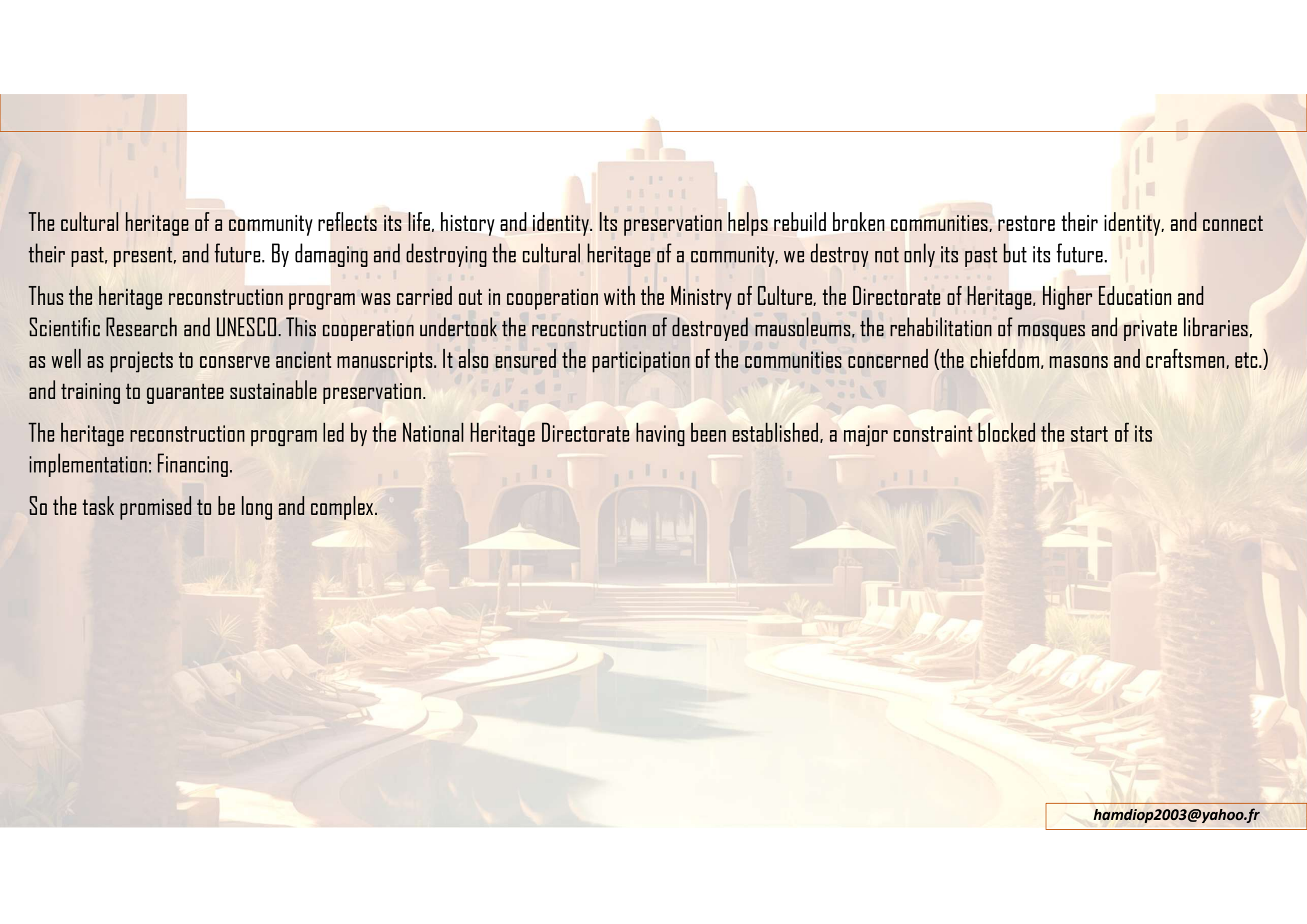
Following the security crisis of 2012 which had a considerable impact on Mali in general and on heritage in particular, the Ministry of Culture through the regional directorates and the support of several partners and donors (UNESCO, etc.) have with great difficulty in developing policies for the recovery of regional management and the restoration of Malian heritage.

Indeed, the crisis of 2012 is the biggest crisis that Mali has experienced. Several properties were damaged or even destroyed, including:

- 14 of the 16 mausoleums of Timbuktu inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List were destroyed by armed groups during the conflict.
- The manuscripts of Mali constitute a unique documentary collection which bears witness to the history of Africa and of all humanity. Some of them date back to the 13th century. During the conflict, more than 4,000 of the 40,000 manuscripts kept at the Ahmed Baba Institute were lost. Some were burned or stolen, while the condition of more than 10,000 of them remains critical.
- ...

DJENNE





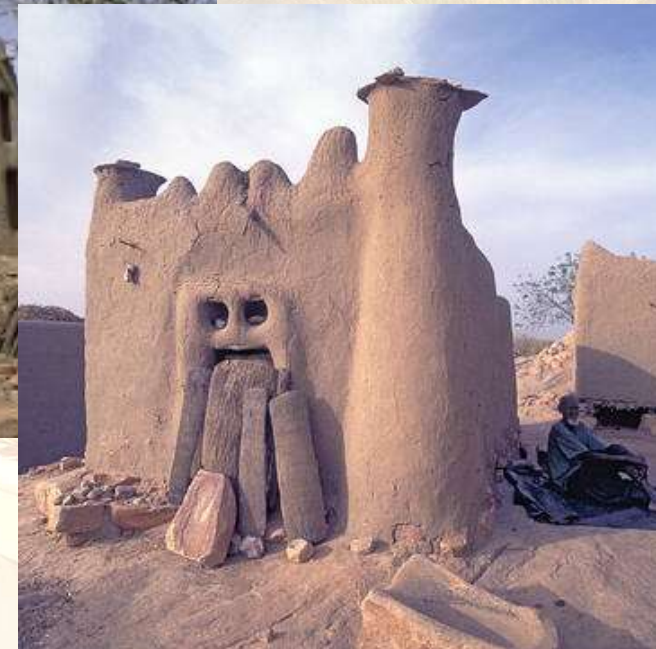
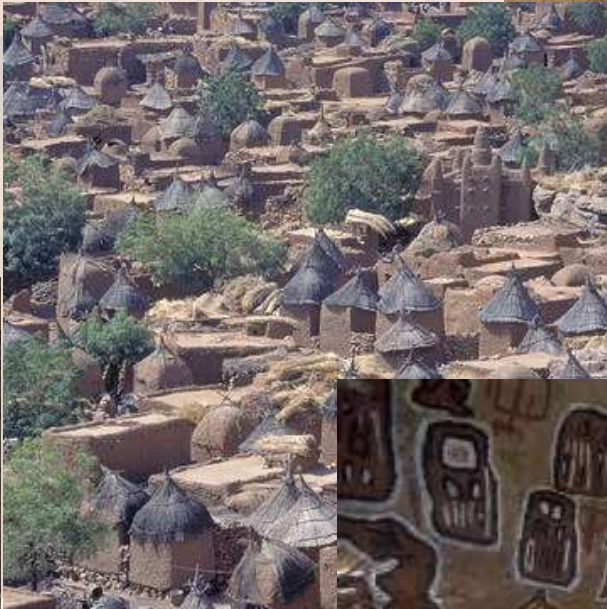
The cultural heritage of a community reflects its life, history and identity. Its preservation helps rebuild broken communities, restore their identity, and connect their past, present, and future. By damaging and destroying the cultural heritage of a community, we destroy not only its past but its future.

Thus the heritage reconstruction program was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Directorate of Heritage, Higher Education and Scientific Research and UNESCO. This cooperation undertook the reconstruction of destroyed mausoleums, the rehabilitation of mosques and private libraries, as well as projects to conserve ancient manuscripts. It also ensured the participation of the communities concerned (the chiefdom, masons and craftsmen, etc.) and training to guarantee sustainable preservation.

The heritage reconstruction program led by the National Heritage Directorate having been established, a major constraint blocked the start of its implementation: Financing.

So the task promised to be long and complex.

LE PAYS DOGON



How can we mobilize the financial and material resources necessary to help state structures ensure the maintenance, restoration and conservation of sites?

One of the most difficult tasks was the financing which amounted to several million dollars.

Thus Mali and its partners (mainly UNESCO) have taken steps to raise funds in order to be able to carry out these projects. Part of the sum sought was obtained after several months of lobbying around the world, which allowed Mali to restore or even reconstruct part of the property using archives.

In order to mobilize more funds, the Heritage Department should proceed:

- An updated, detailed and budgeted study of needs (by site)
- The request for more exhaustive involvement of the authorities in the field of culture (considerably increase the dedicated budget knowing that the economic crisis continues)
- To mobilize more (diplomatic lobbying) to approach all the structures that can contribute to the implementation of the project.
- To arouse the interest of national and international economic operators operating on Malian territory.

TOMBOUCTOU



What measures must be implemented to create a ten-year master plan?

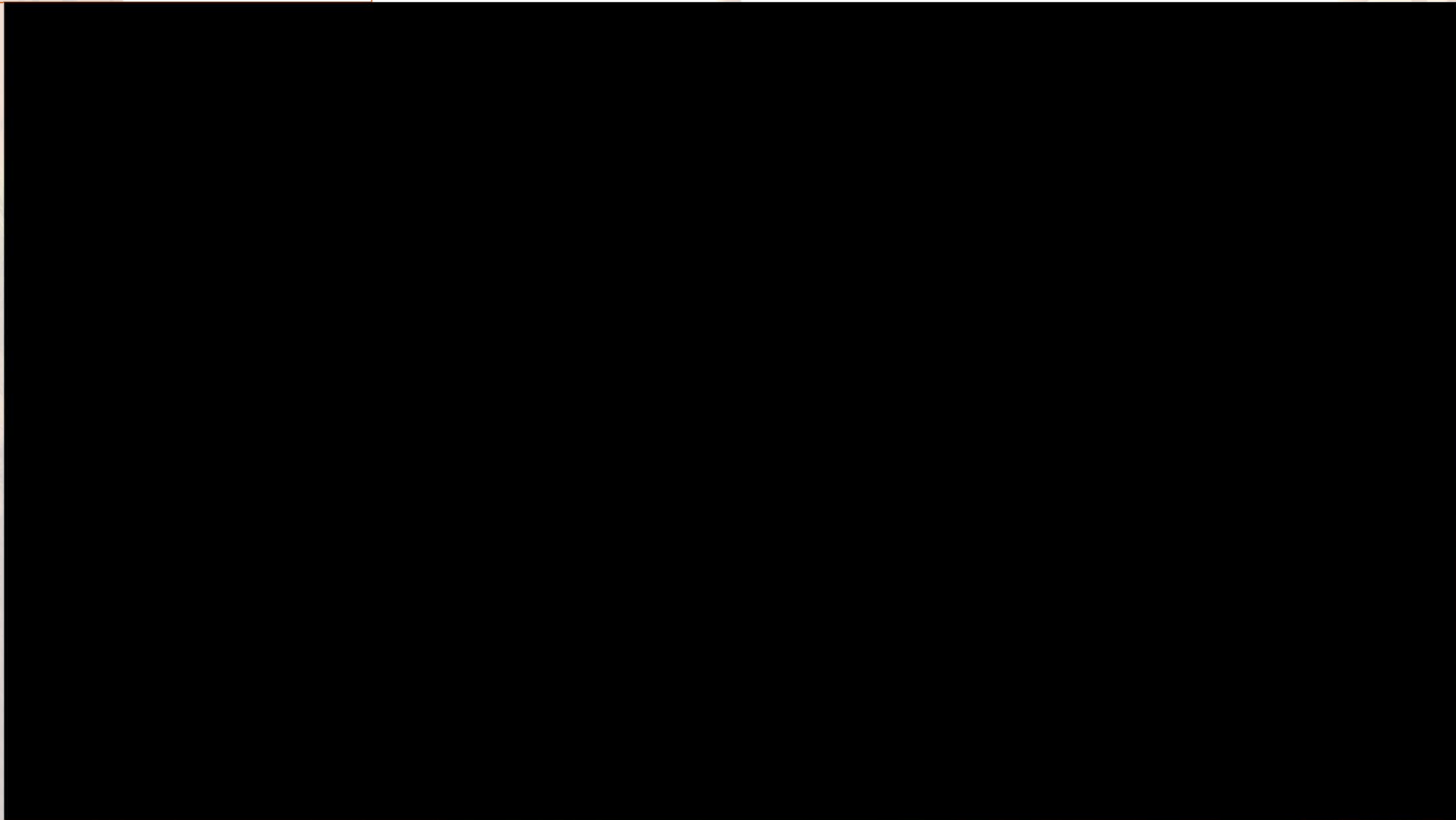
The implementation of a ten-year master plan must be preceded by comprehensive work on the condition of the sites, the digitization of data and, above all, the continuing training of representatives of the regional directorates. Prior research for conservation funds (the security crisis leading to the economic crisis).

Thus a commission should be set up with all stakeholders in the field (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the National Heritage Directorate, UNESCO, ICOMOS, community representatives...).

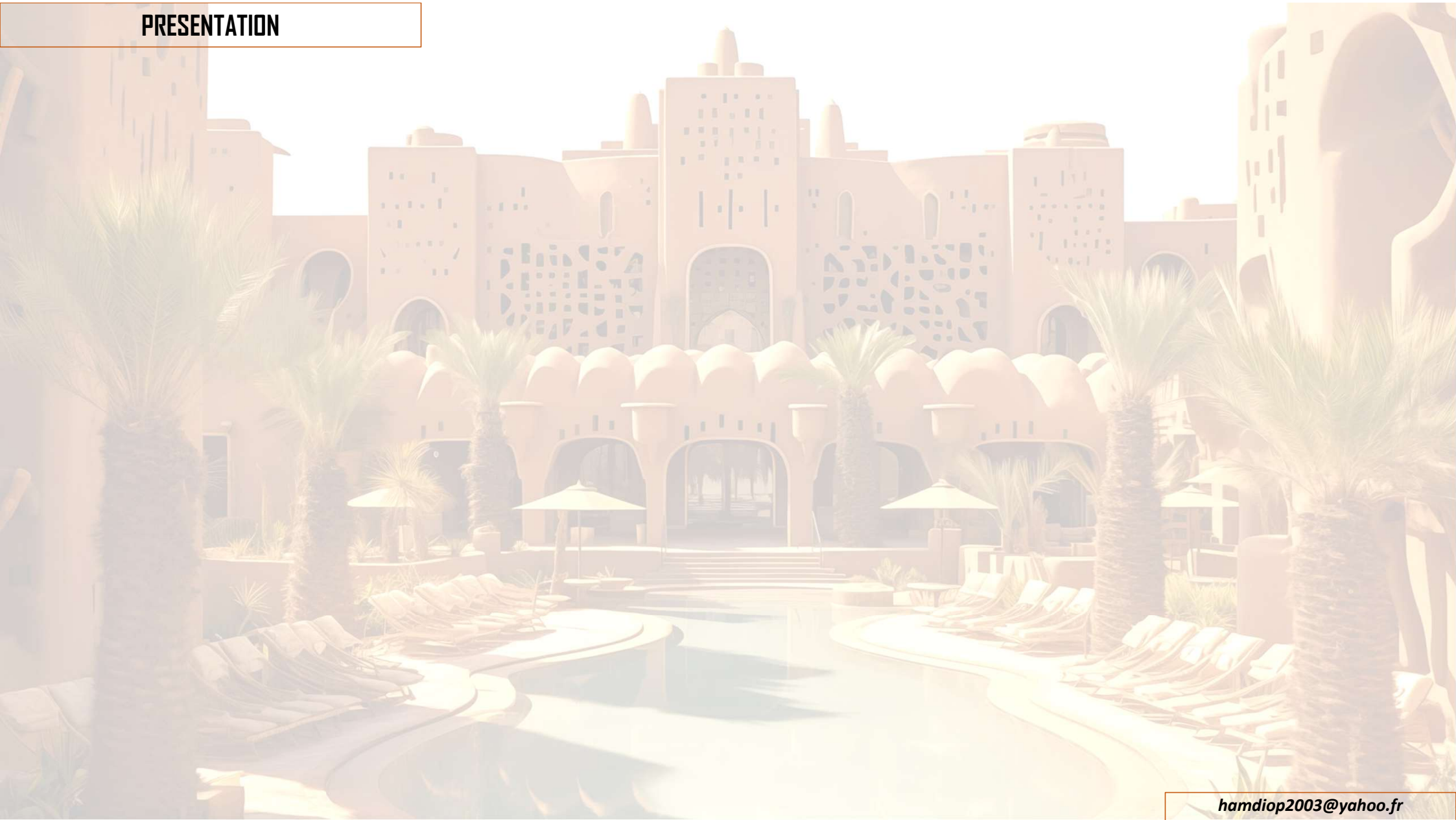
This commission should have the following mission:

- 1- The creation of an updated digital database of tangible and intangible heritage as well as the restoration, conservation and reconstruction plan.
- 2- The adoption of a working methodology by region.
- 3- The creation of a training platform for upgrading agents in the field and raising awareness among the local population
- 4- The creation of an academic program on heritage taught from secondary school.
- 5- Annual forecast budgeting for the implementation of missions to be proposed to the government and Partners.
- 6- Implementation of a plan to restore the tourist flow in order to promote the local economy

TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENT



PRESENTATION



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTENTION

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