23rd-28th January 2019


Contact: david.michelmore@hotmail.com
          estherantohin@gmail.com

Promoting Heritage for Ethiopia’s Development PROHEDEV

Programme of the European Union.
Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Addis Ababa.
The ICOMOS International Wood Committee and the Promoting Heritage for Ethiopia’s Development (PROHEDEV) Programme of the European Union are collaborating in organising an International Symposium and Conference in Ethiopia from 23rd – 28th January 2019. The Symposium will not only enable participants to experience a unique and ancient culture, dating from c. 1000 BC onwards, but will provide an opportunity to see the oldest timber structures in Sub-Saharan Africa and to promote the preservation of wooden structures in Africa.

Days 1 – 2 (23-24 January), in Tigray in northern Ethiopia, will look at a number of very ancient timber churches (including two which are suggested as possibly the oldest-surviving timber structures in the world) dating from the 6th century, onwards, 4th-century monolithic steleae which imitate timber structures, the temple at Yeha, dating to c. 700 BC, which survives to its full original height, and monolithic churches carved out of the solid rock which imitate timber-and-stone construction, thought to date from the 8th century. One retains original contemporary interior woodwork.

Days 3 – 4 (25-26 January) will look at three medieval churches built inside caves in Lasta (further south in the Ethiopian highlands), dating from 11th – 13th centuries, and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, 7th/8th – 13th centuries. Two of the cave churches will be visited on muleback.

Days 5 – 6 (27-28 January) will take place in Addis Ababa, founded as a new capital in 1886, and will involve visits to late-19th and early-20th century timber buildings, some of which show Armenian and Indian influences, and will culminate in an International Conference on timber structures in the prestigious United Nations Conference Centre.

Further details are available from the ICOMOS and PROHEDEV organisers: davidmichelmore@hotmail.com  estherantohin@gmail.com

early booking is recommended to ensure seats on the internal flights

Promoting Heritage for Ethiopia’s Development (PROHEDEV) Programme of the European Union, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Addis Ababa