



6 July 2017

Commissioner,
National Museum of Uganda
Kira Road
KAMPALA

RE: Proposal for a partnership between the National Museum of Uganda and Wikimedia Sverige

Dear Madam,

At the end of April 2017 me and my colleague Dr. André Costa had the pleasure of visiting Uganda. During these days we had the opportunity to meet and get to know Mr. Dismas Ongwen. He informed us about the work done around Uganda's cultural heritage sites and what type of information might be available. We had the opportunity to discuss at length what could be done to improve the visibility of Uganda's cultural heritage online on *Wikipedia*, the world's 5th largest website.[1] After these discussions I feel certain that there would be many opportunities for cooperation to mutual benefit.

I would kindly request to initiate **a joint pilot project** focusing on two parts:

1. Collecting information about a number of selected sites in Uganda in a booklet, which will both be printed and handed out locally, as well as shared online under a free license to tourists and other interested people through the Wikimedia projects, where it can also source our articles on Wikipedia. Wikimedia Sverige is willing to support both the printing costs as well as digital hosting and dissemination of the booklet.
2. Bringing information about Uganda's official gazette of cultural heritage sites onto the Wikimedia platforms, and by doing so give the heritage sites visibility to the around 500 million people that use our platforms each month. We would be interested in discussing both a budget and a timeline for digitally indexing the sights in your archives. The work to digitize the archival material and collect structured data could be supported financially by Wikimedia Sverige. We are in negotiations with a local organization, ISOC Uganda, about the practical work around digitization in Uganda. If you see fit, one option could be that their team work together with your experts and archivists to digitize the necessary material.

The gazette would be included in our world unique collection of the world's cultural heritage sites, joining 54 other countries. A source of information used by researchers, decision makers, tourists and the interested public from all over the world. As we *only* include data that is freely licensed under the CC Zero licence[2] there are no limitations how this collection can be reused. Hence, the information also shows up on Google search and in thousands of other places. Our use of the data is non-exclusive so you, and any of your future partners, can of course also use the data.

This basic data about the sites can later be complemented with other types of material, as the National Museum see fit and in discussion with Wikimedia. Wikimedia's technical infrastructure is powerful and robust enough to host any and all freely licensed educational material that you would like to share with the world, without any maintenance cost for the National Museum. As an educational NGO we see these type of activities as core to our mission.

Our project *Connected Open Heritage*[3] is lasting until 31 September 2017 and our hope would be that we can conduct the pilot project as part of it. Through this project we have some dedicated project staff and funding that will allow for us to work with your team. For work happening October forward we would need to design a new project, which of course would take time and we could not guarantee the success.

I hope this letter finds you well and that we shortly can initiate the work with a formal partnership between our organizations.

Best regards,

John Andersson

Executive Director

Wikimedia Sverige (Sweden)

[1] <https://www.wikipedia.org/>

[2] <https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

[3] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Connected_Open_Heritage