



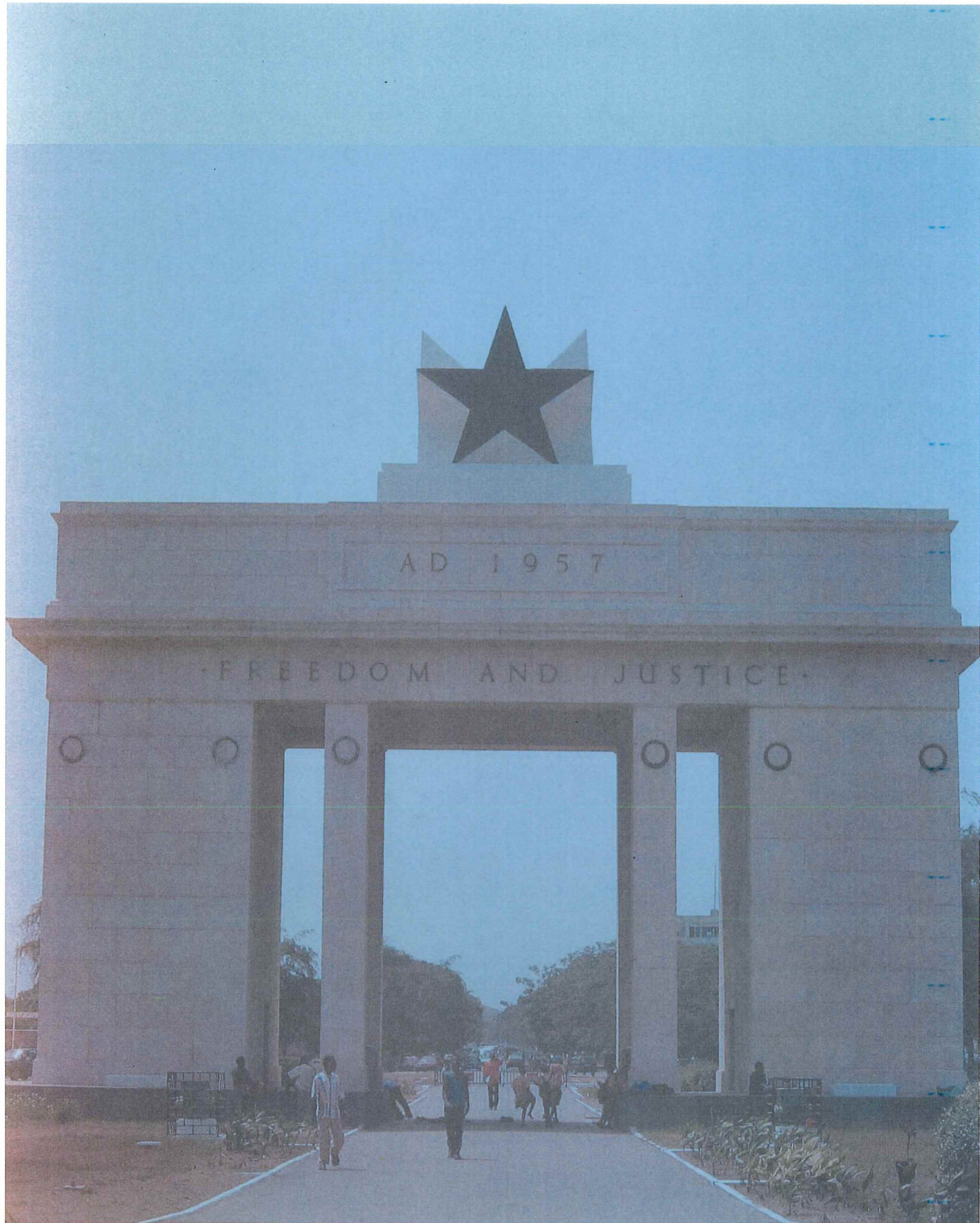
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

UNESCO  
ACCRA



2015-2016  
REPORT









# UNESCO

## ACCRA

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# Foreword

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The beginning of the effective implementation of the Field Reform process, in 2014, came with significant challenges to the UNESCO Accra Office.

Before us laid the challenge of transforming from the status of a Cluster Office to a dedicated National Office focusing on Ghana alone. As part of the process, all our international programme staff were transferred to newly created Regional Offices.

The biggest challenge was to rebuild structures for programme implementation, according to the provisions of the Field Reform process, almost from scratch. In 2014 Isaac Carl Ampah and Mohammed Jakir Hossain, joined as Culture National Programme Officer and Administrative, and Finance Officer, respectively.

In January 2015, we welcomed Abdul Hamid Yakub and Prosper Nyavor as our new National Programme Officers for Communication and Information and Education, both following very competitive recruitment processes.

Jiye Suh, KOICA secondee to our Green Economies in Biosphere Reserves project (GEBR). Osman Zakari, Anne Britt Stroemnes, Asare Odoi-Anim, Jennifer Sackey, Prosper Agbley and Daniel Nimoh followed. In July 2016, we were pleased to welcome Melody Boateng as our National Programme Officer for Science.

When we were beginning to see signs of stability, Mohammed Jakir Hossain, was packing again to move on transfer to the UNESCO Doha Office. Following his transfer in 2015, we were happy to welcome Roger Rwankuba Bashizi, as our new Administrative and Finance Officer, in September 2016.

Despite the challenges, thanks to the commitment of our staff, we have gone a long way in contributing to the implementation of UNESCO's global programme. We positioned ourselves adequately within the UN Family in Ghana, contributing to the UNDAF workplan; we actively engaged into the Agenda Post-2015 consultations and subsequently positioned ourselves to contribute to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable development.





On the programmatic level, we managed to have the seven cultural conventions ratified at once; together with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, we hosted the first Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Consultation in Africa; we assisted Ghana in elevating Lake Bosomtwe to the status of a Biosphere Reserve, making it the third in Ghana; our GEBR project is on course to become a success story; we became a major contributor to the celebrations of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies and a champion in promoting freedom of expression.

Gender being a priority, we run a comprehensive gender audit of our office and programmes and became part of a key initiative to assist Ghana in consolidating its gains towards gender equality in education, implementing the Chinese funded project for Girls, Women Education, and Empowerment. Galvanized by these encouraging developments, our team is poised to forge ahead with the implementation of 2017 programme and beyond.

Tirso Dos Santos  
Head of Office and Representative

## Summary

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This report is a “one stop shop” for information on the activities undertaken by the UNESCO Accra Office in Ghana, under the period in review 2015-2016.

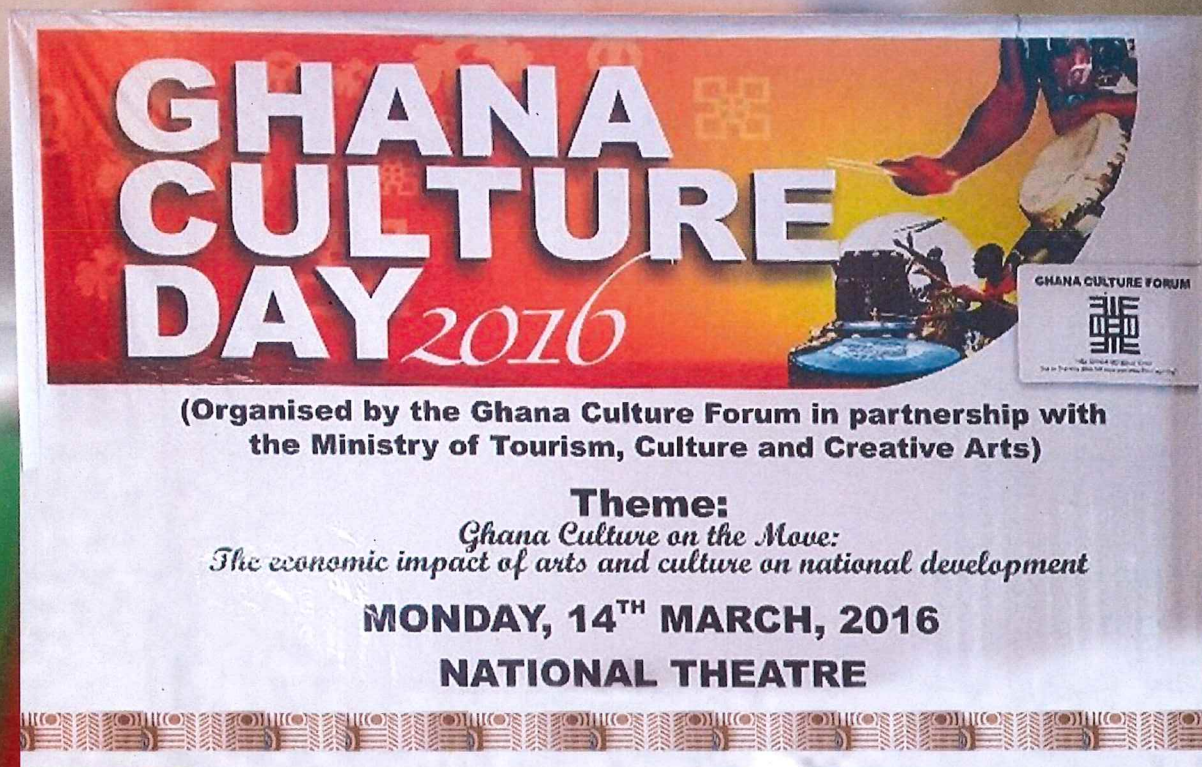
UNESCO, in line with Ghana's National Development Framework and Agenda, works to implement Educational, Scientific, Cultural and Communication programmes that contribute to the building of a more knowledge based and inclusive society. Building innovation-led, knowledge based and inclusive societies is a central theme in the operational strategy for the implementation of UNESCO Priority Africa Flagship Programmes (2014-2021). UNESCO's activities are aligned with the United Nation's (UN) Delivery as One (DaO) agenda for Ghana.





## Ghana Culture Forum

UNESCO provided technical support and some seed funding in 2015 and 2016 to the Ghana Culture Forum as the main civil society network of cultural practitioners, activists and organizations united around a common vision of affirming the cultural foundations of development and enhancing the cultural sector in Ghana.



### Christiansburg Castle Heritage Project

In 2015 and 2016, UNESCO provided support for the Christiansburg Castle Heritage Project led by Professor Rachel Ama Asaa Engmann (a direct descendant of Carl Gustav Engmann, a Danish Governor at the Castle and a Director of the Danish Slave Trading Organization). The

Christiansburg Castle is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was the seat of Danish and British colonial governments and recently, the former Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana.





The Christiansburg Castle Heritage Project complements UNESCO's Slave Route Project by:

- ① Contributing to a better understanding of the causes, forms of operation, issues and consequences of slavery in the world;
- ② Highlighting the global transformations and cultural interactions that have resulted from this history; and
- ③ Contributing to a culture of peace by promoting reflection on cultural pluralism, intercultural dialogue and the construction of new identities and citizenships.

Historical, archaeological, anthropological and documentary film material collected from Christiansburg Castle Heritage Project will contribute to the development of educational materials that help to improve teaching and learning about the slave trade, its consequences and impact. These educational/teaching materials on the slave trade and slavery will be available for use by learners, educators and the general public.

