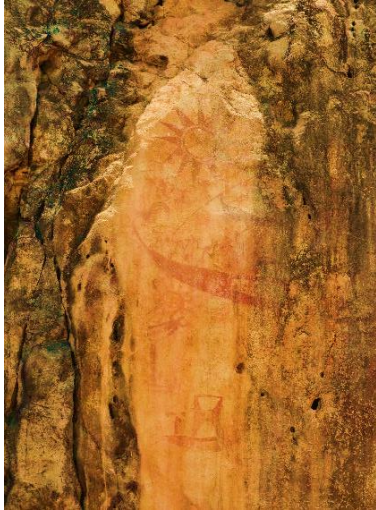


Community-based Conservation of Rock Art sites at the Nino Konis Santana National Park



The Nino Konis Santana National Park, in the Lautém district, is home to more than 30 sites and hundreds of rock art images that date back thousands of years. Many of these sites are used by local communities for cultural practice to this day. With appropriate community consultation, conservation and good management, the rock art could be used to assist with the creation of sustainable economies in cultural tourism and make much needed and meaningful contributions to local people's livelihoods and address serious development issues in the area.

Supported by the Federal Republic of Germany as part of the Federal Foreign Office's Cultural Preservation Program, the UNESCO project *'First Phase Community Based Conservation of Rock Art for Sustainable Development at the Nino Konis Santana National Park, Lautém District, Timor-Leste'* aims to support community custodians and local and government agencies to undertake best practice conservation of the rock art of the Nino Konis Santana National Park, in order to safeguard this significant heritage, whilst generating sustainable tourism and development opportunities for local communities.

Implemented in collaboration with the State Secretariat of Arts and Culture of Timor-Leste, the activities in this project include: a survey of selected rock art sites at the Nino Konis Santana National Park, a training workshop on the conservation and management of rock art sites, and creation of a community guide to rock art safeguarding and management for local stakeholders. The survey, conducted by international stone conservation experts on 20-21 January 2016 at Lene Cece, Lene Hara and Moa Mimi Raka rock art sites within the Nino Konis Santana National Park, aimed to make a

documentation and conservation analysis of the rock art sites, develop holistic management plans addressing conservation issues and provide support to the local custodians in the day-to-day conservation management of these areas. Whereas, the workshop held on 22-23 January 2016 at the Cultural Centre of Los Palos in Lautém District, Timor-Leste provided a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences within the conservation and management of World Heritage rock art sites whilst also supported community custodians, and local and governmental agencies to undertake best practice conservation of the rock art in Nino Konis Santana National Park.

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Links: