Implementing the Unesco Convention 2005 in Africa: Capacity building for sustainable development.

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Unesco has developed a remarkable programme of technical assistance to assist the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. These missions invariably took the form of investigation and research followed by consultancy, advice and the development of policies and strategies for the host country. However, an unplanned but essential part of these mission was developed by the ‘experts’ on missions; namely, the development of capacity building programmes, training interventions or mini-workshops to both highlight the key texts and their meaning as well as to develop collaborative solutions to implementation challenges faced by stakeholders in government and civil society. It was this latter unplanned for set of interventions that have become the critical success factor for these missions. It is the capacity building initiatives that have led to deepening understanding, knowledge, information sharing and collaboration within the stakeholders so that once the experts have left the country, there is the possibility of implementing programmes that promote and lead to sustainable development. The new training modules being developed by the Unesco Convention secretariat is evidence of the impact of these capacity building interventions.

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