

ICOMOS  
INTERNATIONAL WOOD COMMITTEE

# A focus on Africa

ICOMOS International Wood Committee Symposium and International Conference



23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

23J. Tigray. Debra Damo monastery. Abuna Aregawi timber church, 6<sup>th</sup> century.

24J. Tigray. Tchergos Agabo, Debra Selam Mikael, Zarema Giyorgis timber churches. Mikael Imba rock-hewn church

25J. Lalibela. Yimrahanna Kristos timber church.

26J. Lalibela. Makina Medhane Alam, Lideta Maryam cave churches.

27J. Lalibela. Beta Giyorgis rock-hewn church. **Addis Ababa.** Finfine hotel, AA museum, Sheikh Hojele Palace

28J. Addis Ababa. International Conference. United Nations Conference Center.

Contact: [davidmichelmore@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmichelmore@hotmail.com)  
[estherantohin@gmail.com](mailto:estherantohin@gmail.com)

Promoting Heritage for Ethiopia's Development PROHEDEV



Programme of the European Union,  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Addis Ababa



**ICOMOS International Wood Committee Symposium and International Conference,**

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 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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.



*Above, mountain-top monastery church of Debra Damo, 6<sup>th</sup> century AD*

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 6<sup>th</sup> century, onwards, 4<sup>th</sup>-century monolithic stelae 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 8<sup>th</sup> century. One retains original contemporary interior woodwork.



*Right, cave church of Yimrahanna Kristos, early 11<sup>th</sup> century*

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 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two of the cave churches will be visited on muleback.



*Above, palace of Ras Birru, c. 1900, Addis Ababa*

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-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> 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:

[davidmichelmores@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmichelmores@hotmail.com)

[estherantohin@gmail.com](mailto:estherantohin@gmail.com)

early booking is recommended to ensure seats on the internal flights

