

## UGANDA

### Tombs of the Buganda Kings at Kasubi

During the night of 16 to 17 March 2010 a devastating fire destroyed one of the most important monuments of East African history, the “world’s largest hut” containing the Kings’ Tombs of Kasubi. The Muzibu Azaala Mpanga building on a hill above the Ugandan capital of Kampala was erected by King Mutesa I, who was buried there together with three other kings of Buganda. In 2001, the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi were inscribed on the World Heritage List as an outstanding example of the architecture of the Buganda Kingdom. Under the huge conical dome of the thatched roof column-like posts carry the ring-shaped roof construction. While the kings’ tombs in the ground have been preserved under stone slabs, of the building itself only charred remains, parts of the wooden construction and remains of a low wattle and daub wall have survived. Sadly, drums, hides, spears, the insignia of the four kings buried at Kasubi, and a padded leopard were also destroyed by the fire.

Before the disaster, the sanctuary of the Baganda was in daily use as a ceremonial centre. In accordance with the decisions of the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee the sanctuary will be reconstructed by using a detailed documentation of the former state of this building, which in past decades was renovated and repaired several times. The reconstruction is to be “based on authenticity in design, materials and techniques as well as continuing use”.

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