

***Fact Sheet & Chronology***  
**AFRICAN DIASPORA HERITAGE TRAIL (ADHT)**

**What is ADHT?**

The ADHT is an international cross-border heritage tourism initiative, formed in 2001 by the Bermuda Ministry of Tourism to serve as a catalyst to link historic and cultural destinations throughout the countries of the African Diaspora into a network of vibrant tourist attractions that focus attention on their unified culture, history and heritage. The concept of the ADHT is one of a cross-border cultural tourism initiative to educate visitors, enhance economic viability of African Diaspora countries and conserve the essence of African descent, culture and history.

**The Work of ADHT**

ADHT is developing a network of collaborators who identify, build, finance, promote and market memorable heritage destinations. ADHT destinations foster sustainable economic development, provide inspiring educational experiences, produce quality cultural products that expose visitors to authentic African Diaspora history and culture, and motivate local populations to become active participants in the preservation and dissemination of their history and culture.

**ADHT** seeks to establish heritage trails linking Diaspora traditions in Africa, South and Central America, Bermuda, The Caribbean, Europe, the United States and Canada.

**ADHT Annual Conference** creates a unique and inspiring four-day learning environment where government officials, institutional representatives, historians, educators, artists, cultural policy analysts, architects, media, tourism marketing officials, preservationists and interested individuals—all committed to the development of viable African Diaspora heritage destinations may gather to explore trends, experience cultural expression, participate in professional development sessions, examine model heritage trail programs and enjoy networking with their colleagues.

## **ADHT Milestones**

**2001** The first African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference was launched by the Late David H. Allen, Minister of Tourism on the island of Bermuda.

**2002** The first African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference, hosted by the Government of Bermuda and David Allen, attracted 250 delegates from throughout the Diaspora to explore linkages through a heritage trail program. The concept of the ADHT was very well received by all who attended.

**2005** The African Diaspora Heritage Trail Planning Conference brought together a working group of 50 government leaders, scholars and heritage destination professionals. The meeting was initiated and sponsored by the Minister of Tourism and Transport, the Honorable Ewart F. Brown, JP, MP and was planned and managed by Henderson Associates, Inc. Consensus was reached to call for an ADHT Conference in 2006 and to host the ADHT in Bermuda every other year, alternating hosting with different member countries and destinations of the African Diaspora. Artist/Activist Danny Glover agreed to become the Conference Chair for the 2006 conference.

**2006** The Second African Diaspora Heritage Conference was held in Bermuda and attended by nearly 300 representatives from throughout Africa, the Caribbean and USA. The theme was "Linking Our Futures—From Philosophy to Practice in Heritage Destination Development". Conference resolutions called for the formation of a permanent organization dedicated to assist the development of heritage trail destinations throughout the African Diaspora. The Bermuda African Diaspora Heritage Trail was officially dedicated and