



Twyfelfontein World Heritage Site, Namibia ©AWHF

QUARTERLY REVIEW 2018

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African World Heritage Fund
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African World
Heritage Fund

Investing in heritage

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Warthog in W-Arly Pendjari Complex, Benin and Burkina Faso ©AWHF

1. CONSOLIDATION OF AWHF CAPACITY

1.1 AWHF APPOINTS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Souayibou Varissou was appointed as the new **Executive Director** of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) with immediate effect. The announcement was made during the AWHF 24th Board of Trustees Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 5th December 2018, in the presence of the African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, **H.E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil Mohammed**.

Mr. Varissou will ensure that the Fund continues to provide support to the African Member States of UNESCO and the African Union for the effective conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value on the African continent. He has the enormous task to lead the organization and ensure that it delivers on its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. Mr. Varissou has a background as Heritage Manager and has been part of the AWHF team since 2009.

The Board congratulates **Mr. Souayibou Varissou** on his appointment and wishes him well in the new position.



Mr. Souayibou Varissou – AWHF Executive Director.

1.2 24TH AWHF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



Group Photo: AWHF Board of Trustees with Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil during the 24th Board Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The 24th Board of Trustees Session of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) was held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on, 4th - 5th December 2018. The meeting was attended by Board Members representing the five regions of Africa, UNESCO and African Union as well as the World Heritage Advisory Bodies who were present in their capacity as observers to the Board. Included, were various officials from South Africa and Ethiopia. The Board meeting was chaired by the Ambassador of South Africa to UNESCO, H.E Mr. Rapulane Molekane. New Board members included Dr. Shadia Mahmoud (Egypt), Ms. Salimata Kone-Tondossama (Cote d'Ivoire), Ms. Carole Karemera (Rwanda) and Dr. Cosma Wilunga (DRC).

The 24th Board of Trustees Session concluded with a field trip to the palace of Menelik II, an Ethiopian emperor whose reign (10th March 1889 – 12th December 1913) contributed significantly to the establishment of the modern and contemporary Ethiopia. A visit was also made to the site museum known as Entoto Saint Mary Museum.

1.3 AWHF BOARD OF TRUSTEES VISIT THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, H.E. MRS. AMIRA ELFADIL



Group Photo: AWHF Board of Trustees with Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil during the 24th Board Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (right) and H.E. Mr. Rapulane Molekane doing the honors of handing over the African World Heritage Sites Book to the Commissioner.

During the 24th Board Session, the AWHF Board of Trustees also made a courtesy visit to the Commissioner of Social Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil where H. E. Mr. Rapulane Molekane granted her with an AWHF publication of African natural and cultural heritage sites of outstanding universal value (OUV).

2. UPSTREAM ACTIVITIES

2.1 WORKSHOP ON WORLD HERITAGE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA

An expert workshop meeting on World Heritage and Educational Institutions in Africa was organised for French and Portuguese Speaking countries in Saint-Louis World Heritage Site (Senegal) from 6th – 8th November 2018. AWHF attended the Francophone/Lusophone workshop to deliver a speech at the official opening and closing ceremonies, interact with the participants and academics and follow up with Senegalese officials on previous engagements.

The programme on World Heritage and Educational Institutions in Africa was kicked off at Great Zimbabwe World Heritage Site on 19th – 21st April 2018 with an expert workshop Anglophone,

aiming at mapping up the status and discussing perspectives in that field. A third workshop putting together selected Anglophone and Francophone participants will be organised in 2019 to finalize the process of involving universities in World Heritage issues in Africa.



Working session with delegates from ERAIFT based in DRC.



Site visit and briefing session at Djoudj Bird Sanctuary in Senegal (left) & Faidherbe Bridge of Saint Louis (right).

UPSTREAM ACTIVITIES

2.2 CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE “HUMAN RIGHTS, LIBERATION AND RECONCILIATION: NELSON MANDELA LEGACY SITES” (HRLR - NMLS) – PROPOSED HERITAGE PROPERTY



Working Session with attending delegates at the (HRLR-NMLS) – Proposed Heritage Property.

Within the framework of the AWHF Upstream Support Initiative, a Consultative Meeting on the “Human Rights Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites”(HRLR-NMLS) – Proposed Heritage Property took place on **4th October 2018**, in the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in Midrand, South Africa. Following the request from the State Party of South Africa in May 2018, the AWHF has been providing technical support for the finalisation of the HRLR-NMLS - Proposed World Heritage Property.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the South African Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), Environmental Affairs (DEA), the National Heritage Council (NHC), AWHF and heritage experts. The Consultative Meeting was aimed at providing technical assistance towards the preparations and analysis of the nomination dossier on Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites. It was also to review the draft nomination dossier for quality check before taking the project forward. Key issues of the HRLR-NMLS Nomination Dossier were discussed and an Action Plan was developed to guide the finalization of the nomination dossier.

3. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 WORKSHOP ON HERITAGE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA - BERGEN, NORWAY

AWHF attended a one day “Workshop on Heritage, Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Africa” which was aimed at strengthening the AWHF's Risk Preparedness programme through in-depth analysis and development data. Grounded on strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on World Heritage in Africa, on **29th November 2018** at the University of Bergen in Norway, the workshop brought together a multidisciplinary group of experts from Norway and Africa to discuss the development of a collaborative project between the AWHF, the University of Bergen, African Universities and UNESCO related centres and various institutions on issues concerning World Heritage, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change.

3.2 AFRICAN UNION (AU) WORKSHOP ON THE CONTINENTAL CULTURAL POLICY



AWHF with the delegation attending the AU workshop on the Continental Cultural Policy.

AWHF was invited to participate at the productive African Union workshop to review the Continental Cultural Policy on the African Creative Economy Sector to include new trends. The workshop took place from **7th – 8th December 2018** at Victoria, Seychelles.

4. PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

4.1 EXPERT MEETING ON “CHINA-AFRICA EXCHANGE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING AMONG WORLD HERITAGE PRACTITIONERS”



Group photos of Experts with the Permanent/Deputy Permanent Delegate of Burkina Faso to UNESCO (Regional President to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee).

An expert meeting was organized on **22nd – 23rd November 2018** by the World Heritage Centre in Paris (France) with the purpose to discuss a proposal for a new initiative entitled *"China-Africa exchange for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among World Heritage practitioners"*.

The experts were tasked with reflecting on past cooperation between the Africa region and China in the field of World Heritage, taking into account the outcomes of the 2016 international conference on "Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development", Arusha, Tanzania.

OUTCOME

The session concluded with an interesting and fruitful interaction with the Africa Group to UNESCO, which revealed their interest to engage further on our programmes and activities. Specifically, the session highlighted the need to: **(1)** focus on African priorities (new nominations, Sites on Danger List, Sustainable Development issues etc.), **(2)** give consideration to high level dimension of the events and engagements and **(3)** have a result-based approach based on capacity building and field projects.

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

4.2 MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND HERITAGE, KENYA AND KAYA PROJECT LAUNCH

AWHF undertook a visit to Kenya and met with **Ms. Josephtha Mukobe**, the Principal Secretary (PS) of the State Department of Heritage, Ministry of Sports and Heritage. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the PS and the new team in the Ministry on activities and programmes of the Fund which would require their support. The meeting was attended by officials from the National Museum of Kenya, who are the focal point for AWHF. AWHF also used this opportunity to follow up on the AWHF funded project development of a Strategic Management Plan for sustainable use of sacred Kayas Natural Heritage in Coastal Kenya. AWHF supported this successful project with a grant of **\$23 000**.



Ms. Josephtha Mukobe (Centre), the Principal Secretary State Department of Heritage, Ministry of Sports and Heritage, Kenya receiving AWHF publication and Annual Report.



Group photo: Mijikenda Kaya Forest Project Team (left) and Kaya elders (right).

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

4.3 ICOMOS WORLD HERITAGE PANEL MEETING, FRANCE

During the World Heritage Panel Meeting, AWHF utilized the opportunity to follow up on discussions of the meeting between the Executive Director of AWHF, Mr. Souayibou Varissou and the President of ICOMOS, **Professor Toshiyuki Kono**, the Director of International Secretariat of ICOMOS, **Ms. Marie-Laure Lavenir** and ICOMOS Board Member, **Mr. Peter Philips** on the side-lines of the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between ICOMOS and AWHF. A number of engagements were undertaken with ICOMOS representatives to discuss the involvement and contribution of ICOMOS in the upcoming projects by AWHF and other partners in Africa.

4.4 COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN AWHF AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE (WHC), PARIS, FRANCE

On 30th November 2018, AWHF met with the Chief of African Unit at the World Heritage Centre (WHC) at UNESCO, Mr. Edmond Moukala, and his team to follow up on discussions and coordination on a number of upcoming collaborative projects between AWHF and WHC.

4.5 COLLOQUIUM ON IRAN SOUTH AFRICA CULTURAL DIALOGUE, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

In an effort to facilitate cultural and communication exchange between Iran and South Africa in the areas of Science and Art and to discuss cultural commonalities and challenges, the Africa Institute of South Africa of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), South Africa and in partnership with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pretoria, organised a high-level colloquium titled “The Iran-SA Cultural Dialogue”, held in Pretoria on 22nd – 23rd October 2018. The colloquium was aimed at building ties between cultural and research institutions in South Africa and Iran. It was also useful to initiate discussion on a potential partnership between AWHF and the HSRC on areas of common interest such as the Sustainable Development and Youth, in light of the programmes that both institutions already undertake in these fields.























Delegation attending the Iran-South Africa Cultural Dialogue – Colloquium.

5. COMMUNICATION

5. 1 AWHF SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTION

AWHF Communication platforms, in particular Social Media, continued to grow steadily with every interaction. During this period, our followers from **Facebook** grew by 25% enabling AWHF to find diverse ways to maximise on the potential growth of the platform. **Twitter** saw interaction through retweets by the Director of UNESCO World Heritage Center, **Dr. Metchild Rossler** and many other high level players. Though our **Instagram** account is relatively new, the creative ways of uploading updates has generated a growing interest.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER PROGRESS

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
01/09/2019 4:40 PM	 Group photo of AWHF at the opening ceremony of the @ICCROM Africa			798	55 32	Boost Post
01/09/2019 10:05 AM	 AWHF wishes everyone a happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed			728	37 34	Boost Post
12/05/2018 12:52 PM	 CONGRATULATIONS on the well deserved appointment of our new			5.8K	406 405	Boost Post
10/31/2018 7:37 AM	 A fruitful partnership meeting took place between AWHF Chairperson,			595	37 34	Boost Post
10/23/2018 5:19 PM	Kindly note that the deadline for the AWHF Conservation Grants has			2.4K	188 72	Boost Post
10/23/2018 12:17 PM	 The pictures of the week highlight uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park			855	74 43	Boost Post
10/23/2018 12:10 PM	 AWHF is with the African delegation currently attending the Ordinary			1.6K	99 106	Boost Post



6. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

N°	EVENT	PARTNER	DATE/VENUE
1	Reflection Meeting of World Heritage Nomination and Evaluation Process	World Heritage Centre	21 – 26 January 2019 Tunis, Tunisia
2	Regional meeting on trans-boundary cooperation for effective management of World Heritage sites in Africa	World Heritage Centre	10 – 16 February Mount Nimba Cote d'Ivoire
3	National Workshop on Management of Cultural Heritage in South African National Parks	SANParks, ICCROM	18 – 23 February 2019 Kruger NP, South Africa
4	Preparatory Workshop for the Third Cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region, South Africa	DEA, WHC, IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM	24 – 27 February 2019, Nelspruit, South Africa
5	AWHF publication on "Community Involvement in the Management of World Heritage in Africa"	World Heritage Centre	28 February 2019
6	Francophonie Festival	Alliance Française	11 March 2019 Pretoria, South Africa
7	AWHF publication on "State of Conservation Reports in Africa"	World Heritage Centre, African States Parties	30 March 2019
8	UNESCO Africa China Conference on World Heritage	UNESCO	9 April 2019 Paris, France



Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania ©AWHF