



QUARTERLY REVIEW

2017

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African World Heritage Fund
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1. HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, AWHF Patron and former president of Namibia
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1.1 MEETING WITH PATRON HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA

From 6 to 7 March 2017, the director of AWHF held a meeting with the former President of Namibia and AWHF Patron, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba in Windhoek, Namibia. During the meeting different ways in which the Patron can assist the Fund were explored. This resulted in the signing of a 3 year funding agreement with the Namibian government. In addition, AWHF met with Ms. Sanet Steenkamp, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.



Ms. Sanet Steenkamp ©newera



1.2 AWHF STAFF

AWHF is pleased to welcome **Ms. Beau Van Dooren** from Belgium who joined the Fund in February 2017. Ms. Van Dooren is on a six months internship programme supported by the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, through the Flanders Trainee Programme and the province of West-Flanders in Belgium. She will be assisting the AWHF's partnership section. After completing her Masters in History and Policy Economics, she gained experience in communications at the creative Europe desk in Brussels.



Ms. Beau Van Dooren



Ms. Andiswa Mnguni



The internship of **Ms. Andiswa Mnguni**, who joined the Fund in June 2016, ended on 31st March 2017. Her internship was supported by the Department of Environmental Affairs, South-Africa. She assisted the Fund as a Programmes Consultant. AWHF values her contribution and wishes her well with her future endeavors.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1 TENTATIVE LISTING EXPERT WORKSHOP

The Anglophone workshop, organized by AWHF in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), took place from 30 January to 1 February 2017 in Mombasa, Kenya. Thirty (30) participants attended the workshop from 15 countries: Egypt, Eritrea, France, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South-Africa, South-Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objectives of the workshop were to review the results of the questionnaire analysis concerning the current status of nomination in Africa and identify, review and prioritize sites with potential for inscription in Africa. Furthermore the workshop focused on strengthening the involvement of Advisory Bodies in the process and their relationship with African States Parties.



Group photo of participants at the workshop © CHDA



Participants visiting the Fort Jesus Heritage Site



Participants during the mission in Burkina Faso



Group photo with local authorities in Gaoua

2.2 PREPARATION OF YOUTH FORUM IN BURKINA FASO

The first Francophone World Heritage Regional Youth Forum will take place from 26th April to 5th May 2017 in Gaoua and Loropéni, Burkina Faso. A preparatory mission was held from 20 to 24 March 2017 by AWHF and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. This was in order to meet and work with the national organizing committee. The mission also met the authorities at the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism and in the region of Gaoua. Thirty participants were selected among the 305 applicants received during the period of the call for applications. AWHF also held a preparatory meeting with the embassy of Burkina Faso in Pretoria.

2.3 EXPERT WORKSHOP ON LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Despite ninety of its properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (49 cultural, 37 natural, 8 mixed), the Africa region's heritage resources are facing numerous challenges which affect the management and state of conservation of the properties resulting in the inscription of many on the List of World Heritage in Danger. While threats are often the result of armed conflicts, they can also be explained by a lack of interest or involvement of local communities in the protection of these properties. The protection of this heritage requires the development of an integrated and transversal approach taking into account every stakeholder; first and foremost indigenous people and local communities linked to heritage sites.



Group photo with the minister of Culture of Benin



View of the expert workshop



Group photo with the Ambassador of South-Africa

An Expert Workshop, took place from 2 to 3 March 2017 in Benin, and brought together experts from the World Heritage Centre, advisory bodies and African organizations/sites to discuss issues, challenges and obstacles to strengthening the involvement of local communities in the management of World Heritage sites. The workshop was structured in a way to identify few sites for pilot projects. The results of these projects will be examined during an international conference in 2018, which will enable the main thrusts of a new methodology to be implemented on cultural heritage sites in Africa. The workshop was organized by UNESCO World Heritage Centre in partnership with Advisory Bodies, the School of African Heritage (EPA) and AWHF.



Participants at the expert workshop on local community involvement in Benin

3. MEETINGS

3.1 MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF CULTURE OF MAURITIUS



The Director of AWHF held a meeting with the Minister of Mauritius during his working visit to South-Africa on 21 March 2017. The meeting was attended by: Hon. Prithvirajsing Roopun (Minister of Arts and Culture of Mauritius), Dr. Nalini L. Luckheenarain (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Mauritius), HE Mr. Vijaye Lutchmum (High Commissioner of Mauritius to Pretoria), Dr. Webber Nodoro & Mr. Souayibou Varissou (AWHF), Mr. Ahmed Bundhoo (Chairperson of Le morne Trust Foundation, Mauritius) and Ms. Thapi Segoati & Mr. Mthetheleli Sonjica (Department of Arts and Culture of South Africa). During the meeting the work of the African World Heritage Fund was introduced and issues around the benefits of heritage to local communities were discussed. To conclude the fruitful meeting, the Minister announced his commitment to the Fund of renewing the Mauritian financial support.



Left photo: Ms. Segoati, Hon. Roopun, HE Mr. Lutchmum, Dr. Nodoro, Dr. Luckheenarain and Mr. Ahmed Bundhoo

3.2 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN



The Ambassador of Spain H. E. Mr Juan Ignacio Sell Sanz met with AWHF in Pretoria. The possibility of a Spanish secondment at AWHF and opportunities for project funding were explored.

3.3 MEETING WITH NEW AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE



AWHF held a courtesy meeting in Pretoria with the newly appointed Ambassador of France to South Africa H. E. Mr Christophe Farnaud. Among others, ways of strengthening partnerships with private sector in France were discussed.

3.4 MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF CULTURE OF TOGO



On 6 March 2017, AWHF and EPA met with the Minister of Culture of Togo, Mr. Guy Lorenzo in Lomé, Togo. The meeting discussed the work of both organizations and collaborations with Togo. The Minister requested support towards professional capacity in his department and pledged multi-year support to EPA and AWHF from 2018. The audience was followed by a series of meetings with various officials of the Ministry particularly with Mr. Comlanvi Zohoun (Counsellor for International Cooperation), Mr. Wediabaló Tinaka (Secretary General) and the Chief Financial Officer.

4. COMMUNICATION

4.1 AWHF AT THE FESTIVAL DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

The opening of the annual Francophone Festival was celebrated on 11 March at the Alliance Française in Pretoria. The three week-long event is a platform available to embassies, institutions, Francophones and Francophiles for the promotion of Francophone cultural and linguistic diversity. More than twenty five (25) countries were represented and an array of exhibitions and experiences rooted in the French culture were displayed. AWHF were among the exhibitors who promoted the cultural and natural heritage sites in Africa.



AWHF with H.E. Salamata Sawadogo, the Ambassador of Burkina Faso



AWHF with H.E. Amos Djadan, the Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire



AWHF with H.E. A. Djadan and H.E. V. Lutchmum (Mauritius)



The Bulgarian exhibition stand at the Francophone festival



AWHF exhibition stand at the Francophone Festival



Benin exhibition stand at the Francophone Festival

4.2 AWHF EXHIBITION

The AWHF exhibition “*African Heritage under Attack*” is currently displayed at the Museum of Africa in Newtown Johannesburg. Twenty four (24) panels are featured, focusing on the dangers that threaten cultural and natural heritage sites in Africa. The exhibition will be displayed until the end of June 2017.

4.3 SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Website: The process of updating the website commenced in January and a donate button was introduced on the home page.

[CLICK HERE →](#)



The donate button offers the public an opportunity to get more involved in the work of the Fund by way of pledging any preferred financial contribution. This donate button is also accessible via **Facebook**.

5. PROGRAMMES

5.1 ONGOING GRANT PROJECTS

MADAGASCAR

The Rainforests of the Atsinanana comprise six national parks distributed along the eastern part of the island. These relict forests are critically important for maintaining ongoing ecological processes necessary for the survival of Madagascar's unique biodiversity, which reflects the island's geological history. Having completed its separation from all other land masses more than 60 million years ago, Madagascar's plant and animal life evolved in isolation. The rainforests are inscribed for their importance to both ecological and biological processes as well as their biodiversity and the threatened species they support. Many species are rare and threatened especially primates and lemurs.



The Rainforests of the Atsinanana in Madagascar © IUCN

In 2016, the AWHF granted the site a total amount of 10,000 USD to support conservation work



The Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves in Niger © Holger Reineccius

In 2016, the AWHF granted the site a total amount of 30,000 USD to support ecological monitoring activities.

NIGER

The Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves is one of the largest protected areas in Africa, covering 7,736,000 hectares. It is the last bastion of Saharo-Sahelian wildlife in Niger. It comprises two main zones: the mountain massifs of Air rising up to 2000m in altitude and the vast plain of the Ténéré desert. In the heart of a desert environment, the Air represents a small pocket of Sahelian plant life with Sudanese and Saharo-Mediterranean elements. The reserves boast an outstanding variety of landscapes, plant species and wild animals. The property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 due to political instability and dissension among the populations.

6. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Event	Date // Venue
Partnership Meetings at UNESCO & with private sector	10 April – 13 April 2017// Paris, France
African World Heritage Youth Forum	28 April – 5 May 2017// Burkina Faso
Side-Event at the World Economic Forum	3 May – 5 May 2017// Durban, South-Africa
African World Heritage Day	5 May 2017// Burkina Faso
Conservation Grant Application	1 July – 31 September 2017

7. AWHF NEWS

- AWHF attended the opening of the first Seminar in Africa on Human Rights and Cultural Heritage at the Ditsong Museum in Pretoria, South-Africa. The opening ceremony was facilitated by the Chief Executive of the National Heritage Council, Adv. Sonwabile Mancotywa on 13 March 2017.



- AWHF will be part of the 7th annual Global Business Roundtable Conference happening at the Sandton Convention Centre from 4 to 7 April in Johannesburg, South-Africa. The theme is “Harnessing Africa’s Resources for Beneficiation and Industrialization”, and AWHF will share a topic on Heritage & the Economy: “Heritage, an unexploited Sector”.

- From 28th February to 2nd March 2017, AWHF participated in a Fundraising Training Workshop in Kenya organized by Capacity Africa. During the training, participants identified key steps in developing a solid fundraising proposal which can benefit the Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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