

THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND AT THE 41st WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING IN POLAND

LAUNCH OF THE EXHIBITION ON SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA

The AWHF's exhibition was displayed from 2nd to 5th July 2017. It comprised eight printed panels showcasing various angles of slavery related experiences through a combination of photos, maps and texts. The launching ceremony was organised on 3rd July in the presence of esteemed officials including the Minister of Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development of Cote d'Ivoire, Ms Anne Desiree Ouloto and the Director General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova. The launch was structured in a guided tour followed with a group photo of the officials. The exhibition was aimed at giving an opportunity to interrogate the current representation of slavery experiences on the Tentative and World Heritage Lists. It was also an attempt to showcase the richness and diversity of slavery sites. For more information, visit [our website](#).



Exhibition on Slave Trade ©AWHF



Opening of the Exhibition ©AWHF

SIDE MEETING ON "WORLD HERITAGE AND SLAVE TRADE: THE WAY FORWARD FOR A SHARED PAST"



Side Event proceedings ©Angelo Amoussou

The event gathered more than 120 guests and delegates. The Ministers present were: Mr. Ange Nkoue (Minister of Culture & Tourism, Benin), Prof Narcisse Mouelle Kombi (Minister of Arts and Culture, Cameroon) and Dr. Nestor Batio Bassiere (Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Burkina Faso). The main speakers included UNESCO, ICOMOS and personalities who have served in international bodies such as Prof Olabiyi Yai (Benin), Ms. Alissandra Cummins (Barbados) and Prof Christina Cameron (Patron of AWHF). The main outcomes include the need to strengthen serial trans-boundary approaches and the commitment by Benin to host an international conference on Slave Trade in 2018 as a follow up of the discussion engaged this year in Poland.

THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE INSCRIBED FOUR AFRICAN SITES



Mbanza Kongo, Angola ©INPC



***Khomani Cultural Landscape, South Africa
©portal***



***Asmara, Eritrea © Pawel Suder – Narodowy
Intytut Dziedzictwa***

These are **Mbanza Kongo** (Angola), **Asmara, a Modernist City of Africa** (Eritrea), **Khomani Cultural Landscape** (South Africa) and **W-Arly-Pendjari Complex** (Benin, Burkina Faso) which is an extension of W National Park of Niger inscribed since 1996. With these inscriptions, Angola and Eritrea made their first entries to the World Heritage List while Benin and Burkina Faso inscribed their first natural site. South Africa joined Morocco and Ethiopia hosting within its boundaries the highest number (9) of World Heritage Sites in Africa.

The results above are significant and constitute a serious way forward for World Heritage implementation in the African region. These results were achieved through efforts by many stakeholders working closely with the African World Heritage Fund including the World Heritage Committee members (Angola, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe), the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies as well as the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and the School of African Heritage (EPA). AWHF commend the excellent spirit of fruitful partnerships and wishes to congratulate the States Parties of Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Eritrea and South Africa for their successful achievements.



***Lion in the W. Arly Pendjari Complex, Benin
and Burkina Faso ©Cenagref***

TWO AFRICAN PROPERTIES REMOVED FROM THE LIST IN DANGER

Meanwhile, two African properties were removed from the World Heritage List in Danger. These are Comoe National Park (Cote d'Ivoire) and Simien National Park (Ethiopia). Our congratulations to the States Parties of Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia for their outstanding achievements.



Simien National Park, Ethiopia @tweettravels



Comoe National Park, Cote d'Ivoire @allw

MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS

Furthermore, AWHF held meetings with several delegations on issues related to partnerships and to further strengthen relations and growth opportunities for the Fund. The delegations engaged included the Minister of Environment of Burkina Faso, the delegation of China and Norway and daily meetings which were held with the African delegations.



Meeting of African Delegations @AWHF



Meeting of African Delegations @A. Amoussou



Meeting with Dr Nestor B. Bassiere, Minister of Environment of Burkina Faso @AWHF



Meeting with Dr. Xinchao Song, Chairperson of ICOMOS China @AWHF