



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



African World Heritage Fund
sous les auspices de l'UNESCO



African World
Heritage Fund

THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND (AWHF) AT THE 43rd WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN 2019

1. ONE SITE FROM AFRICA IS INSCRIBED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST: THE ANCIENT FERROUS METTALLURGY SITES FROM BURKINA FASO



Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, Hon. Professor Alkassoum Maiga celebrates the announcement of the inscription of Burkina Faso's Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites on the Unesco World Heritage List ©AWHF

During the 43rd World Heritage Committee in Baku, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso represented Africa by being the only African country to have a site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The announcement was made on 5th July in the presence of the Permanent Delegate of Burkina Faso to Unesco, His Excellency **Mr. Alain Francis Gustave Ilboudo** and the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, **Hon. Professor Alkassoum Maiga** with an entire Burkina Faso delegation. According to UNESCO (2019), the property is composed of five elements located in different provinces of Burkina Faso. It includes about fifteen standing, natural-draught furnaces, several other furnace structures, mines and traces of dwellings. AWHF congratulates the Government of Burkina Faso on the outcome.



Ululations and celebrations of the announcement ©AWHF

The inscription is achieved through efforts by many stakeholders working closely with the African World Heritage Fund including the World Heritage Committee members (Angola, Botswana, 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).

2. AWHF SIDE EVENT ON “YOUTH, INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA”



From left to right: Ms. Njeri Mbure, Mr. Ernesto Renato Ottone Ramirez, Ms. Benis Nchang, Professor Christina Cameron, Mr. Joseph King ©AWHF

The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) collaborated with the International Centre for the study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to organize a Side Event themed “Youth, Innovation and Sustainability in Africa”, aimed at sharing the many opportunities the Africa Programme on changing the face of heritage conservation in Africa will provide for the Youth. The event gathered more than 30 guests and delegates. Two identified Youth Participants, **Ms. Njeri Mbure** from Nairobi, Kenya and **Ms. Benis Nchang** from Cameroon championed the event and shared their previous experiences of the regional African youth forums previously organized by AWHF in conjunction with UNESCO World heritage Centre as well as the upcoming Africa Programme. The main speakers included UNESCO Assistant Director General for Culture, **Mr. Ernesto Renato Ottone Ramirez**, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, **Hon. Professor Alkassoum Maiga**, Director of Sites Unit for ICCROM, **Mr. Joseph King** and **Prof Christina Cameron** (Patron of AWHF).



Side Event on Youth, Innovation and Sustainability in Africa in progress ©AWHF

3. SIDE EVENT ON THE “3RD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE IN THE AFRICA REGION”



Dr. Albino Jopela from AWHF directing the Programme
©AWHF



Side Event on the “3rd Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Africa Region in progress ©AWHF

Furthermore, at this year's 43rd World Heritage Committee Session gathering of global scope, AWHF together with the Africa Unit at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) organised a Side Event on the 3rd Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Africa Region. The aim of the Side Event was to present and discuss the background and implementation framework of the 3rd Periodic Reporting Exercise in the Africa region. Since the launch of the First and Second Cycles of World Heritage Periodic Reporting (PR) in the Africa Region respectively in 2002 and 2011, the implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage has shown improvement over the years.

The panelists included UNESCO Assistant Director General for Culture, **Mr. Ernesto Renato Ottone Ramirez**, Vice President of the World Heritage Committee (Africa), **Dr. Lassina Simpore**, Minister of Arts and Culture, Cameroon, **Hon. Bidoung Mkpatt**. In addition, presentations were conducted by Chief of Africa Unit – UNESCO World Heritage Centre, **Mr. Edmond Moukala** on the “Assessment of the 2012-2017 Action plan for the Africa Region”, the Representative of Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit – UNESCO World Heritage Centre, **Mr. Valentino Etowar** on “Introduction to the 3rd Cycle Periodic Reporting and recommendations” and lastly, the mentor of the 3rd Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise, **Ms. Musawa Musonda Hamusonde** on “Implementation strategy of the 3rd Cycle Of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region”. Executive Director of AWHF, **Mr. Souayibou Varissou** summarised the session by providing the closing remarks.



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4. OTHER ENGAGEMENTS & MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS

Additionally, AWHF held meetings with several delegations on issues relating to partnerships in order to strengthen relations further and for more growth opportunities for the Fund. The delegations engaged included Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS), the Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO, His Excellency **Mr. Anar Karimov**, Botswana and Egypt amongst many. Daily Africa Group meetings were also held with various African delegations.



Meeting with Minister of Arts and Culture – Cameroon, Hon Bidoung Mkpatt ©AWHF



Meeting with Nigeria and Cameroon Delegation ©AWHF



Meeting with the Delegation from Botswana ©AWHF



Meeting with Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO, H. E. Anar Karimov ©AWHF



Meeting with Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS) ©AWHF



AWHF forming part of the UNESCO, Africa, China Side Event presenting on Upstream Nomination ©AWHF