

QUARTERLY REVIEW 2020

[July – September]

Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani & Songo Mnara World Heritage Site (Tanzania) ©MercyMbogelah



African World Heritage Fund

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TABLE OF CONTENT

POST COVID-19 PERSPECTIVES FOR AFRICAN HERITAGE – Opinion Piece by Professor Shadre	
Chirikure	- 5
1. HIGHLIGHTS	. 6
1.1 AWHF SIGNS A FIVE (5) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON 1.2 27 TH AWHF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING	
2. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES	. 8
2.1 AWHF SERVES AS CO-CHAIR FOR AFRICA IN THE CLIMATE HERITAGE NETWORK (CHN)	8
2.2 3 RD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR THE AFRICA REGION - COORDINATION TEAM PERIODIC REPORTING MEETING	
3. UPSTREAM SUPPORT	10
 3.1 THEMATIC STUDY ON THE UPSTREAM GAPS OF AFRICAN PROPERTIES ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST: VIRTUAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON THE GAP STUDY 3.2 VIRTUAL WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION TRAINING WORKSHOPS: TENTATIVE LISTING WORKSHOPS 3.3 WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION WORKSHOPS: VIRTUAL WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION WORKSHOP FOR ADVANCED DOSSIERS	10 R
4. PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS	13
 4.1 AWHF CONVENES WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP (AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT DELEGATE OF KENYA TO UNESCO) 4.2 AWHF HOLDS AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO 	
SOUTH AFRICA 4.3 AWHF MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) TO SOUTH AFRICA	
4.4 AWHF MEETS WITH THE CEO OF FREEDOM PARK SITE & MUSEUM	
4.5 AWHF HOLDS AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH THE CEO OF ZINDZI MANDELA FOUNDATION 4.6 COORDINATION MEETING WITH THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE	
5. COMMUNICATION	15
5.1 AWHF SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES	15
6. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES	17



OPINION PIECE BY PROFESSOR SHADRECK CHIRIKURE ...

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1. Introduction

Using thoughts by some scientists, a BBC online report questioned why South Africa (and by extension Africa) had so few deaths from covid-19 given that the pandemic wrought, and is still wreaking havoc, in some of the world's most advanced economies (Harding 2020). What followed, especially from African quarters, was an avalanche of outrage. A fundamental question was why must Africa always experience the worst, and must the continent also not shine and lead? To be fair, the author made attempts to correct the offensive headline, but the damage had already been done. For centuries, Africa has unjustifiably been seen in negative light, and never with positive illumination, especially by some Westerners (Chirikure 2015). If it is good, then it cannot be Africa or African. Well, in the 1890s and 1900s, Great Zimbabwe had to be built by people from outside the continent. Fast forward in the year 2020, African success at handling a pandemic that troubled the developed nations is raising questions about how and perhaps why the continent long equated with darkness has been so successful. From an African centred pivot, varying degrees of success were achieved from Algeria to Senegal and South Africa and other countries.

These many success stories were achieved against a background of African thinking, and African solutions to global problems. Under normal circumstances, Africa is not always given a chance to be itself, and to try its own initiatives. The covid-19 pandemic partly cut off Africa from the rest of the world, allowing the continent to implement its own solutions and to good effect. On this point, it is vital to think about what the post covid-19 future for heritage conservation on the continent might look like and what opportunities and constraints it might bring to heritage.

2. Risk management in African heritage conservation – what might the future look like?

There is a general sense that the covid-19 pandemic introduced a new normal, totally different to what preceded it (Chirikure 2020; Douglass 2020; Ogundiran 2020). Risk and uncertainty were always essential variables in the management of cultural and natural heritage in Africa. Before covid-19, many heritage places had disaster and risk management plans as part of, or in addition to, integrated management plans. Under the previous 'normal', such plans covered the likely impact of man-made and natural factors and sought ways of managing them. However, the risk that was not covered was the one introduced by unforeseen events such as pandemics. The lockdowns imposed to manage pandemics were unprecedented. It is not yet clear what the impact on museum collections and heritage places, especially those that required constant care has been. On one level, preexisting risk management tools contributed towards alleviating some of the impact of this unanticipated threat. This reaffirms the importance of risk management in the sense that it helps heritage places to weather any storm. At another level, very few heritage managers anticipated lockdowns and associated measures. The question then becomes how might the heritage fraternity rethink risk management to ensure that unanticipated risks are factored so that the heritage and those that it employs can weather the storms? Part of the answer lies in detailed studies aimed at understanding the effects of the pandemic and opportunities it brought.

3. Tourism and heritage in Africa

Related to the above, is the fact that heritage is about livelihoods (Chirikure 2020). It also brings revenue through tourism. Before the pandemic, most tourism in Africa, especially that at places such as the Victoria Falls, Serengeti, Virunga and others was based on the spend of international tourists. Covid-19 resulted in lockdown and closing of borders. In most cases, it was only the local tourists who could visit heritage places and museums. Consequently, this motivates added and renewed efforts aimed at promoting local heritage tourism. Adequate investments into products that attract local visitors are extremely essential in the post-covid-19 world. We need to teach each other how to love Africa and to show that by visiting our own places. International tourists are welcome, but it is local tourists who will bring in more impact in terms of revenue, spend and also promoting peace, social cohesion and many other good things. Local tourism if well-developed is bound to be more sustainable and underscores the forgotten fact that Africa must consume its heritage. It must not look after the heritage for those from other continents to enjoy.

4. Local knowledge and resilience

In most cases, the lockdown reduced connections or interrupted them, which opened unprecedented space for local solutions. Because this has worked, it is time to apply African solutions to global problems in the post covid-19 period. Part of the concern and debate has been that the 1972 Convention and Operational Guidelines do not fully capture African sensibilities. The success of Africa in managing the pandemic and heritage during the same pandemic suggests that African knowledge has potential to produce solutions for the rest of the world. It can only achieve that when space is opened for it. This will not be politely bestowed on Africa and Africans rather adequate and robust research and theorisation must be performed to persuade others of the merits of the African experiences. Meanwhile, that resilience and risk management resting on local knowledge is better than that resting on imported solutions needs no emphasis. Such knowledge was applied by communities, by women and by youths and resulted in sustainable heritage management. Therefore, more work needs to be done to incorporate these groups and African values locally and globally. Gone must be the pre-covid-19 situation when ignorance promoted the undermining of some African knowledge, ushering in a new era where African knowledge can be mixed with other knowledge to produce solutions for humanity.

World Heritage has a language, an approach and traditions that emphasise universals and often not particulars. Covid-19 has shown that in some cases it is the local particulars and the specifics that work better than the generalised prescriptions. Are we therefore going to see more local solutions, especially those championed by communities taking a centre stage in protecting, conserving and utilising all forms of heritage including World Heritage? Finally, are experts prepared to learn more and take instructions from communities? Answers to these questions will determine whether the African heritage fraternity will take opportunities associated with a rethink occasioned by the pandemic and its aftermath.

5. Conclusion

The post-covid-19 times must be associated with the unleashing of Africa's potential, especially in terms of conversation inspired by local approaches, local communities and balanced by a careful selection of imported solutions that might work locally. The lessons from this pandemic experience must take Africa forward, not back to the situation where Africa and its knowledge was always questioned and challenged. African expertise and African communities must also be valued while Africans must learn to interact and collaborate across Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone and Arabo-phone divides. Of course, collaborations and learning from others is always welcome. What will not work is a situation where African communities of scholars and those who live within and around heritage places in favour of those from outside the continent.

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1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 AWHF SIGNS A 5 YEARS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON



Honorable Mr. Bidoung MKPATT, Minister of Arts and Culture of the Republic of Cameroon, Mr. Souayibou Varissou, AWHF Executive Director & H. E. Mr. Adrien Kouambo Jomague, High Commissioner of Cameroon to South Africa ©AWHF

The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) concluded of a **5 Year Agreement** with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, through the Ministry of Arts and Culture, represented by Honorable **Mr. Bidoung MKPATT**, Minister of Arts and Culture, Cameroon. The Agreement will see the Government of the Republic of Cameroon making an annual financial contribution to the AWHF, to continue its work of uplifting Africa's rich heritage. Hon. Mkpatt expressed that the agreement with AWHF results from the engagement at the highest level of the Government of Cameroon, to strengthen the capacity of AWHF to support World Heritage implementation in Africa.

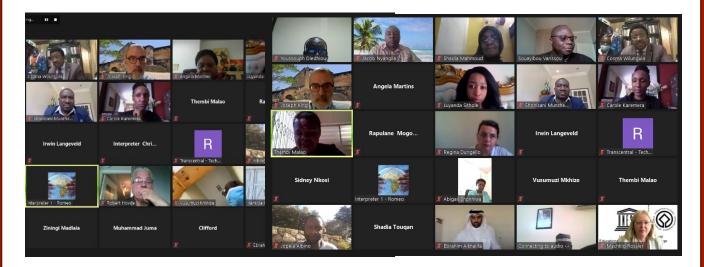
The formal signing of the Agreement was facilitated through **H. E. Mr. Adrien Kouambo Jomague**, High Commissioner of the Republic of Cameroon to South Africa at the High Commission in Pretoria, while the Minister joined via Zoom from **Yaounde**, **Cameroon**. AWHF is committed to bringing Cameroonian professionals and institutions into its regional capacity-building programs, particularly in the preparation of World Heritage nomination dossiers and the better conservation and management of World Heritage properties.

1.2 27TH AWHF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



Virtual proceedings of the 27th AWHF Board of Trustees Meeting chaired by Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize ©AWHF

AWHF held its 27th Board of Trustees Meeting on 23rd July 2020 which was chaired by Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize, Chairperson of AWHF. The three (3) day virtual meeting saw participation from members of the five regions in Africa (North, South, Central, East, West). The African Union Commission was represented by Mrs. Angela Martins, Head of Arts and Culture Division and UNESCO was represented by Dr. Mechtild Rössler, Director of World Heritage Centre and Dr. Muhammad Juma. Other representative included, Advisory Bodies, ICCROM, represented by Mr. Joseph King, ICOMOS, by Ms. Regina Durighello and IUCN, by Dr. Youssouph Diedhiou who joined in the capacity as Observers. Also included were, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway (Mr. Robert Hovde), Arab regional Centre for World Heritage (Dr. Shadia Touqan, and Sheikh Ebrahim), Departments of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC), Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) of South Africa as well as the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and AWHF Secretariat.



2. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

2.1 AWHF SERVES AS CO-CHAIR FOR AFRICA IN THE CLIMATE **HERITAGE NETWORK (CHN)**



AWHF participating in the Steering Committee meeting of the Climate Heritage Network (NHC) ©AWHF

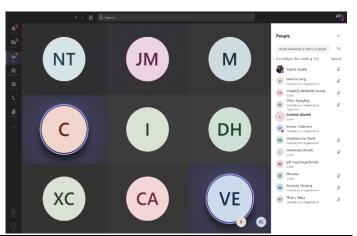
The AWHF, has joined forces with arts, culture, and heritage organisations from around the world to activate the Climate Heritage Network (CHN). The CHN was launched with over 70 founding members at the Climate Heritage Network Global Launch event on 24 October 2019 in Edinburgh, Scotland, and AWHF serves as Co-Chair for Africa. The CHN aims, amongst others, to (i) promote the vision that while culture and heritage are negatively impacted by climate change, they are also a driver for climate action; and (ii) coordinate work by its members, both individually and jointly, to implement a common Action Plan for mobilizing arts, culture and heritage for climate action.



(Left) Kilwa Kisiwani & Songo Mnara World Heritage Site (Tanzania), (Right) Sukur Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site (Nigeria). ©AWHF

2.2 3RD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR THE AFRICA REGION – COORDINATION TEAM PERIODIC REPORT MEETING

Due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Francophone edition of the Workshop for African World Heritage Site Managers was cancelled. The Secretariat, through its Coordination Team, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, provided technical support to States Parties for completion of both Section I and II of the Questionnaire. A series of virtual meetings between the WHC and the AWHF Coordination Team for the 3rd Periodic Reporting were undertaken. The main result was that the States Parties achieved 100% of completion of Sections



Participants: Dr Albino Jopela, M. Charles Akibode, Ms. Chen Xiangling, Dr Corinne Forest, Mr. Valentino Etowar, Mr. Dode Houehounha, Dr Ishanlosen Odiaua, M. Jeff Mapilanga, Ms. Nana Thiam, Ms. Musawa Musonda, Ms. Roxanne Skosana ©AWHF

2.3 MODERN HERITAGE OF AFRICA (MOHOA) PROGRAMME – VIRTUAL BRAINSTORMING SESSION



Partial view of participants to the virtual seminar ©AWHF

In line with the Global Strategy for a credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List, the AWHF has identified modern heritage as one of the marginalised heritage categories that needs identification and documentation. Building on the results of the UNESCO's *Modern Heritage Programme*, the AWHF is coordinating a programme on modern heritage of Africa. Together with World Heritage Centre, academic institutions, the Advisory Bodies for the World Heritage Convention (ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN) and other partners, the AWHF will be supporting a series of workshops and meetings to raise awareness and build capacity amongst key stakeholders on identification, protection and promotion of modern heritage of Africa. The *Modern Heritage of Africa (MoHoA)* Programme will also focus on harmonisation of Tentative Lists that will increase both African representativity on the World Heritage List and highlight the role of modern heritage in the promotion of urban sustainability, in line with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the African Union Agenda 2063. During the reporting period, the AWHF and the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa organized two open-ended Brainstorming Sessions on the **20th and 27th August 2020**. Gathering over 170 participants, the session constituted a platform for key stakeholders including civil society to tackle critical issues regarding modern heritage in Africa's underrepresentation on the World Heritage List.

3. UPSTREAM SUPPORT

3.1 THEMATIC STUDY ON THE UPSTREAM GAPS OF AFRICAN PROPERTIES ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST: VIRTUAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON THE GAP STUDY



Participants of the Review Workshop of Gap Study on African Properties on the World Heritage List ©AWHF

Implemented within the framework of a partnership between EPA and AWHF, the Thematic Gap Study undertook a geographical, statistical and thematic analysis to identify the existing gaps in the existing African properties on the World Heritage List and the potential sites on the Tentative Lists which can fill in the gaps. The study has identified 53 properties (25 natural, 19 cultural and 9 mixed) with potential outstanding universal value which should be prioritised for World Heritage nomination in Africa. As part of the validation process, the Thematic Gap Study was reviewed by a group of experts during and a 3 hours online review workshop convened on **26th August 2020** to discuss the main recommendation from the review panel.



3.2 VIRTUAL REGIONAL TENTATIVE LISTING WORKSHOP

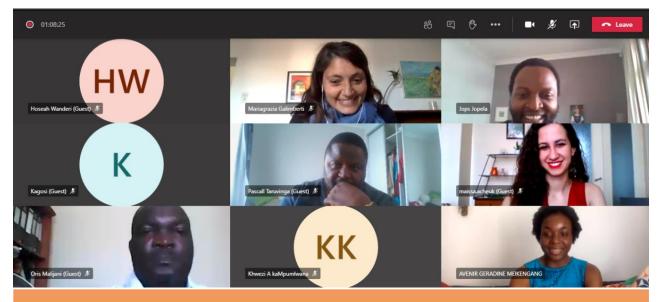
Participants of the virtual World Heritage Tentative Listing Workshop ©AWHF

The AWHF in partnership with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Ministry of Sports and Culture of Rwanda, Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO, the School of African Heritage (EPA), the Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized an online Tentative Listing workshop between **13 and 14 August 2020**. The workshop gathered twenty participants from ten African countries that are underrepresented on the World Heritage List: **Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Chad and Togo.**

RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP:

- a) Implementation of two-phase Tentative Listing project with online/theoretical component (phase 1) followed by field/practical component (phase 2) of development of Tentative Lists.
- b) Presentation of national inventories of heritage sites and preliminary assessment of requirements for their inclusion on national Tentative Lists.
- c) Discussions regarding the appropriate protection and management mechanism for each property to be placed on the Tentative List.
- d) Draft Action Plans for development of national Tentative Lists proposals to be analysed during phase 2 of the workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, initially schedule for December 2020 (depending on the level of travel restrictions due to COVID pandemic).

3.3 VIRTUAL WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION WORKSHOP FOR ADVANCED DOSSIERS



Participants of the online Anglophone World Heritage Nomination Workshop for Advanced Dossiers, 10 – 17 September 2020 ©AWHF

3.3.1 Anglophone World Heritage Nomination Workshop for Advanced Dossiers

Within the framework of World Heritage Capacity Building Programme (WHCBP), an online Anglophone World Heritage Nomination Workshop for advanced dossiers was implemented between 10th – 17th September 2020. The workshop was implemented in partnership with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EPA. The workshop gathered 15 participants from 6 African countries working on the 6 nomination projects: (i) Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape (Malawi), (ii) Surame Cultural Landscape (Nigeria), (iii) Barotse Cultural Landscape (Zambia), (iv) Naletale Cluster of Dzimbabwe (Zimbabwe), (v) The Emergence of Modern Humans: the Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa and (vi) Human Rights, Liberation Struggle, Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites (South Africa).

Taking advantage of the online format of the workshop, an additional 28 guest participants (AWHF partner institutions and young professionals) were also invited to attend and benefit from this capacity building exercise. The workshop was officially opened by the Executive Director of the AWHF, Mr Souayibou Varissou.



The closing ceremony of the workshop with remarks by the President of ICOMOS, Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, Director of Partnership of ICCROM, Mr Joseph King, representative from IUCN, Dr. Youssouph Diedhiou, the Director of EPA, Dr Franck Ogou and Director of WHC and Board Member of AWHF, Dr Mechtild Rössler. Six Action Plans for finalization of individual nomination dossiers were developed by the participants. These workplans constitute the basis for follow up phase which includes technical and financial assistance from AWHF and WHC. *©AWHF*



Closing ceremony of the workshop with remarks by representative of ICCROM, Ms Valerie Magar, representative from IUCN, Dr. Youssouph Diedhiou, and the Director of WHC and Board Member of AWHF, Dr Mechtild Rössler. *©AWHF*

3.3.1 Francophone World Heritage Nomination Workshop for Advanced Dossiers

Thanks to the support of WHC, the Advisory Bodies, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EPA, the Francophone edition of the World Heritage Nomination Workshop for advanced dossiers was implemented from the 24 September to 1 October 2020. The workshop gathered 12 participants from 4 African countries working on the 4 nomination projects: (i) Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape (Cameroon), (ii) Parc national d'Odzala-Kokoua (Congo), (iii) Les Forets seches d'Andrefana (Madagascar) and Extension of Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Benin).

Apart from the professionals in charge and working on specific nomination dossiers, the workshop was attended by additional 25 guests including African young professionals in the field of cultural and natural heritage.

Four Action Plans for finalization of individual nomination dossiers were developed by the participants. These workplans constitute the basis for follow up phase which includes technical and financial assistance from AWHF and WHC.

4. PARTNERSHIPS

4.1 AWHF CONVENES WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP (AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT DELEGATE OF KENYA TO UNESCO)

AWHF held a robust meeting with **H. E. Phyllis Kandie**, President of the Africa Group and Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO on **15th September 2020**. Present were her delegation which included her Deputy, **Ms. Hellen Gichuhi**. H. E. Kandie conveyed her unwavering support to AWHF and displayed keen interest in the work of the Fund. She further encouraged AWHF to keep the communication line open with her office and assured that she remained at the Funds disposal to assist in driving the initiatives forward in achieving the set mandate.



4.2 AWHF HOLDS AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO SOUTH AFRICA

A successful introductory meeting was convened with **H. E. Mr. Y. Amrani,** Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to South Africa on **25th August 2020**. The meeting discussed possible collaborative initiatives that AWF and the Kingdom of Morocco could embark on in the near future in line with the protection, conservation and promotion of Africa's cultural and natural heritage.



4.3 AWHF CONVENES WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) TO SOUTH AFRICA

AWHF met with **H. E. L. Bebe M'poko**, Ambassador of DRC to South Africa along with his First Counsellor and Head of Economic Unit, Mr. Muzungu Diakalo Doctor on **29th September 2020**. The meeting sought to brief the Ambassador of the three-pronged events approach planned for the upcoming 28th AWHF Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting which will be hosted in DRC in December 2020. The briefing included relaying the envisioned programme of all three events, the strategy being implemented and the expected outcome. The 28th BOT is expected to be attended by high level representatives from DRC.



4.4 AWHF MEETS WITH THE CEO OF FREEDOM PARK SITE & MUSEUM, A SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

AWHF held a valuable meeting with **Ms. Jane Mufamadi**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Freedom Park and Museum historic national heritage site in South Africa on **14**th **September 2020**. The meeting sought to find ways of collaboration through identified areas of common interest which were outlined. A three (3) year Partnership Agreement is in the process of being developed, to commence in the year 2021.



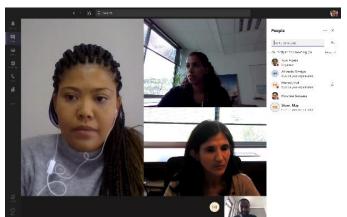
4.5 AWHF HOLDS AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH THE CEO OF ZINDZI MANDELA FOUNDATION

A progressive introductory meeting was held with the **Zindzi Mandela Foundation**, led by **Mr. Mkhulu Nsingiza**, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Nsingiza took interest in the work of AWHF and put forward ways to collaborate. AWHF further committed to assisting the Foundation with facilitating engagements with a broader network base.



4.6 COORDINATION MEETING WITH THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

Being a Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO, the AWHF holds regular meetings with UNESCO aiming at strengthening coordination mechanism to support the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa. Within this framework, two coordination meetings with the Africa and Arab States Units of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre took place on 24 August 2020 and 22 September 2020. The AWHF and WHC reviewed and discussed joint capacity-building projects in



several areas including Tentative Listing and World Heritage nominations (including a thematic gap study), youth engagement with World Heritage, community empowerment and entrepreneurship, World Heritage in Danger, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on World Heritage Sites and the ongoing 3rd cycle of Periodic Reporting for Africa and Arab regions.

5. COMMUNICATION

AWHF SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES

In July 2020, AWHF embarked on a Social Media Campaign for African World Heritage Sites which aims to profile all the 137 World Heritage Sites in the continent. The objective of the campaign is to take the followers on an informative, knowledge sharing and educational journey while broaden awareness about the richness of our African properties and spark interest of the various sites. With the threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, AWHF sought to maintain visibility in an innovative way using digital platforms. Several African sites have been profiled with their Site Managers and the plan is to complete all sites. The campaign involves, member states, site managers and directors and aims to reach as many heritage and tourist enthusiast globally. Each site is taken on a 2 weeks profiling journey and showcases attracting images. **NB: Follow all AWHF Social Media platforms to like, share and interact on the updates.**

AWHF SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES



Twitter handle: @African_WH_Fund

Facebook handle: @African World Heritage Fund



Instagram handle: @Africanworldheritagefund

SOME AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES PROFILED THUS FAR



Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls – Zambia/Zimbabwe ©John Zulu & Amanda



Osun-Osogbo Sacred Groves – Nigeria ©Fatai Ife



Salonga National Park – DRC ©Pierre Kafando



Twyfelfontein or /Ui-//aes – Namibia ©Agnes Shiningayamwe



Mount Kenya National Park – Kenya ©AWHF



Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani & Songo Mnara – Tanzania ©Mercy Mbogelah



Asante Traditional Buildings – Ghana ©AWHF



Tsodilo Hills – Botswana ©AWHF

6. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

AWHF CALENDAR OF EVENTS (JULY - DECEMBER 2020)

N ^o	EVENT	PARTNER	DATE/VENUE
1.	AWHF Grants Evaluation Panel Meeting	IUCN, ICCROM, EPA, African Experts	5 October 2020 (Online)
2.	3rd Periodic Reporting in Africa - Analysis and Synthesis Workshop	WHC-UNESCO, Coordination Team of PR	29 – 31 October 2020 (Online)
3.	Nomination training course (Francophone)	Government of Benin, ICCROM, EPA, WHC-UNESCO, IUCN	November 2020, Porto- Novo, Bénin
4.	5th Regional World Heritage Youth Forum	ICCROM, ABG, UCT, WHC- UNESCO, IUCN	2 – 20 November 2020 (Online)
5.	Publication of e-book on "World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa: Implementing the 2015 Policy"	RIM, University of Kent, IUCN, ICOMOS	November 2020
6.	Expert Meeting on the Implementation of World Heritage Convention in DRC (followed by a Stakeholders Event)	Government of DRC, ICCN, WHC-UNESCO, AU Commission	30 November – 1 December 2020, Kinshasa, DRC
7.	28 th Board of Trustees Meeting of AWHF	Government of DRC, ICCN	2 -5 December, Kinshasa, DRC

NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND



Twelve African countries have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List. This makes it almost half of countries not represented on the UNESCO prestigious list. The countries concerned are: **Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Soudan**.



Ngwenya Mine (Eswatini) @AWHF