



## African World Heritage Fund

[April – June 2021]



## About Us

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The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) is an inter-governmental organisation that was launched in 2006 with the mission to support the effective conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value in Africa. Together with the African Members States of UNESCO and the African Union, the main aim is to develop a strategy to deal with the challenges that many African countries meet in implementing the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

The UNESCO-designated World Heritage Sites in Africa are some of the most spectacular places on earth. The importance of preserving and promoting this cultural heritage escalates with each passing year. It is vital to raise awareness of this rich heritage while informing people of its value and gaining support for the conservation and development of these sites. Through our Quarterly reports, we invite you to visit our all our platforms and learn more about the work of the African World Heritage Fund.

The work of AWHF covers all countries forming part of the African Union.

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# Opinion Piece

"THE YOUTH, AN ASSET FOR AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE IN THE AFRICAN UNION YEAR FOR ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE AND BEYOND"

by: Ms Njeri Mbure



*Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063 envisions 'An Africa with strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics'. For this aspiration to be fully implemented, we require all hands on deck focusing on intergenerational dialogues amongst all stakeholders especially the youth who comprise of 40% of the continents population.*

## Introduction

The African Union declared 2021 as ; "The AU Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage : Levers for Building the Africa We Want". This theme was in line with the widely celebrated Africa World Heritage Day on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. As the world recovers from a global pandemic, it is a challenge yet an exciting opportunity for African youth to contribute their skills, resources, ideas and innovative entrepreneurial practices to building the Africa we want by being an asset for African World Heritage.

Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063 envisions 'An Africa with strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics'. For this aspiration to be fully implemented, we require all hands on deck focusing on intergenerational dialogues amongst all stakeholders especially the youth who comprise of 40% of the continents population. Having the youth at the forefront of playing an active role in promoting conserving and preserving our heritage for future generations, will indeed ensure that even beyond 2021 Arts, Culture and Heritage are very much a priority for the social and economic development of Africa.

Africa is highly underrepresented in the UNESCO World Heritage List (145 sites out of 1121) and has the largest number of sites in the List of World Heritage In Danger. (Out of 39 sites, 17 sites (44%) are in Africa). As a continent, we need to work towards ensuring that we have more sites inscribed and strive towards reducing the number of sites in World Heritage in Danger List. For this to happen, the youth from a young age need to learn and understand the value of Arts, Culture and Heritage. We need to be intentional about teaching these values from an early age, incorporating heritage and culture within the education curriculum from the foundational years through to higher education. This will be a good platform for early introduction of Arts, Culture and Heritage as career choices especially to a continent that has had restricted career choices. One of the challenges in our continent is the low number of heritage and cultural experts and institutions that focus on heritage, culture and the arts.

The African Union has lined up activities and programmes to commemorate the year with priorities in the areas below:



- Arts and Culture;
- Health, Wellness and Post COVID-19 Response;
- African Languages;
- History and Oral Traditions; &
- Heritage.

### **How then can the youth become an asset for African World Heritage?**

Agenda 2063 encourages the motherland to urgently scale up investment in its young people, especially children, as the highest rate of return Africa can realize is through investing in the young generation. In light of this, focus should be placed on creation of sustainable solutions especially towards solving the high rate of unemployment amongst the African youth with work and entrepreneurship opportunities being created in the field of Arts, Culture and Heritage. The youth need to have access to heritage sites, at the moment; most African sites are inaccessible to the youth due to their location and high entry fees. This creates a barrier for the youth to visit and learn more about their sites and more so identify opportunities that can be an asset either, through conservation and preservation activities or promotion of the sites through different platforms especially social media.

More learning opportunities and capacity building workshops need to be identified and rolled out. AWHF and other partners have created a youth forum every year preceding the African World Heritage Day celebrations, this year in particular an entrepreneurship boot camp was organized. It's encouraging for great ideas to be identified among the youth and for the participants to be hand held through mentorship.

*The youth can lead in creation of Heritage, Arts and Cultural clubs either at secondary or tertiary level. This clubs will focus on creating awareness and interest.*

The youth are an asset to the society; they possess energy, ideas as well as skills that give way to more collaboration opportunities. As the famous African saying goes, "United we stand, divided we fall". When we work together and collaborate on projects we can ensure more conservation, promotion and preservation activities that give the youth opportunities to be hands on and participate in the AU year for Arts, Culture and Heritage. The Covid19 pandemic accelerated a demand for digital skills with most jobs moving to remote working. With the youth at the forefront of digital skills,

there are many opportunities to create online exhibitions, virtual tours and online classes that will contribute to the activities lined up by African Union and key partners. Another area where the youth can be an asset is through research. Research contributes to public and personal knowledge; research can be through personal projects or academic projects. There is still more research needed in the area of Arts, Culture and Heritage and especially with Africa as a research focus area.

In line with the activities organized at international, regional or national level, the youth can organize micro events in their communities that are in line with the AU theme and use these events as opportunities to raise awareness and get even more youth involved. Some of the youth activities can include, but are not limited to; visits to the local museums, tentative and world heritage sites, community outreach events, cultural dances, and creative hubs.

The youth can lead in creation of Heritage, Arts and Cultural clubs either at secondary or tertiary level. This clubs will focus on creating awareness and interest.

This is a great opportunity for outreach to high schools and tertiary institutions around African countries, allowing the students to interact with professionals in the heritage industry, learning what their jobs entail and how they can work towards a career in the Arts, Culture and Heritage. State Parties through different heritage organizations can organize local events for the youth to contribute to making 2021 the year of Arts, Culture and Heritage.

The youth can also volunteer their time to Arts, Culture and Heritage organizations, they do not need to have a background in preservation studies, but can use their different skills such as accounting, marketing amongst others to give back and use this time as a learning opportunity on Arts, Culture and Heritage.

## Conclusion

It is very important for Africa as a continent, to look at our youth as an asset, more than as a prospective audience or Arts, Culture and Heritage. The above activities are just a scratch on the surface for what the youth can do to ensure that 2021 is indeed a successful year for Arts, Culture and Heritage. The youth will also ensure that even beyond this year, Arts, Culture and Heritage are a priority and that they are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to Africa as well both economically and socially. As I conclude, I believe that the challenge ahead is to raise awareness of how the youth can plug in, while still attracting them to willingly participate in implementing the AU year for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

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**Ms. Njeri Mbure**

*Youth Forum Alumni*



# HIGHLIGHTS

## AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DAY – 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY CELEBRATIONS



*The closing ceremony webinar featured a keynote address by, Hon. Nathi Mthethwa, Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, South Africa.*

**Webinar on “World heritage as a Lever for the Africa WE Want” ©AWHF**

## WEBINAR ON “WORLD HERITAGE AS A LEVER FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT”

**The main event was conducted by AWHF in partnership with, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, African Union (AU), Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, South Africa (DSAC), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ICCROM and Africa Business Group**

The African World Heritage Day – 5<sup>th</sup> May Celebration concluded on a successful note. This significant event was celebrated under the coveted theme, *“World Heritage as a Lever for the Africa We Want”* within the context of the African Union (AU) declaration of 2021 at the AU Assembly as the AU Year for Arts, Culture and Heritage. The supporting hashtags for the campaign were: *#MyAfricanHeritage, #ShareOurHeritage, #AUYear4ArtsCulture.*

This annual African World Heritage Day remains a significant day for the African continent as it aims to raise awareness, foster promotion and encourage preservation of Africa’s rich heritage, particularly among young people, on the need to value their identity, wealth and diversity. Several events were witnessed throughout the continent through various initiatives, activations and celebrations. The Webinar included participation from various speakers and dignitaries.



### LEST WE FORGET....

*#MyAfricanHeritage,  
#ShareOurHeritage,  
#AUYear4ArtsCulture.*



# HIGHLIGHTS

## WORLD HERITAGE YOUTH FORUM – 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL to 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Mr. Chelvin Ramsamy from Mauritius won the pitching session for his brilliant business idea.

CONGRATULATIONS!



**5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African World Heritage Youth Forum themed: "Youth, Heritage Sustainability: Building the Africa WE Want" ©AWHF**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the African World Heritage Youth Forum which took place from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 under the theme, "Youth, Entrepreneurship and Heritage Sustainability: Building the Africa We Want" and culminated into the celebration of African World Heritage 5<sup>th</sup> May. Thirty-seven (37) youth participants were selected from diverse parts of the African continent to be part of the youth forum programme. The four day programme presented different activities including a business idea pitching session by the young entrepreneurs. Six (6) dynamic Youth Participants pitched their business concepts representing their various countries. The six participants hailed from DRC, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Mauritius, and South Sudan.

After extensive deliberations from adjudicators, the top three winners were, in 1<sup>st</sup> place, Mr **Chelvin Ramsamy** from Mauritius, 2<sup>nd</sup> place **Ms Viola Omina** from Kenya and 3<sup>rd</sup> place **Ms Blen Taye Gemmeda** from Ethiopia. In his congratulatory address, Mr. Souayibou, Executive Director of AWHF, expressed that, "Africa's heritage can only be sustained if the African Youth takes charge of its conservation and promotion".

AWHF extends special appreciation to the all the participants for their involvement, enthusiasm and participation. The partners contribution is also hugely recognised. AWHF looks forward to more successful collaborations with the continued aim of **BUILDING THE AFRICA WE WANT!** The 2022 World Heritage Youth Forum will take place in **Morocco**.



**Pitching presentations by the top three winners ©AWHF**



# AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DAY 5<sup>th</sup> May

## Continental Initiatives



**MOZAMBIQUE, ZANZIBAR, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, SOUTH AFRICA,  
BENIN, BURKINA FASO, KENYA, CAMEROON, MOROCCO, SENEGAL**





# CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES



*Official Authorities included: Chairperson of AWHF, President of ICOMOS, Director of ICCROM, Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development.*

**Webinar on "Sites of Memory and World Heritage Convention in Africa" ©AWHF**

## THE AFRICAN EXPERT'S VIRTUAL MEETING ON SITES OF MEMORY AND WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION IN AFRICA

In line with the declaration of the year 2021 as a Year for Arts, Culture and Heritage by the African Union Assembly of Head of States and Government, the Government of South Africa in partnership with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) hosted a virtual meeting on Sites of Memory and World Heritage Convention in Africa, which culminated in an Inter-Ministerial Meeting from **6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. The structure of the four-day meeting was divided into three components: **1)** Experts' discussion and development of the declaration on Sites of Memory (6 - 7 April),

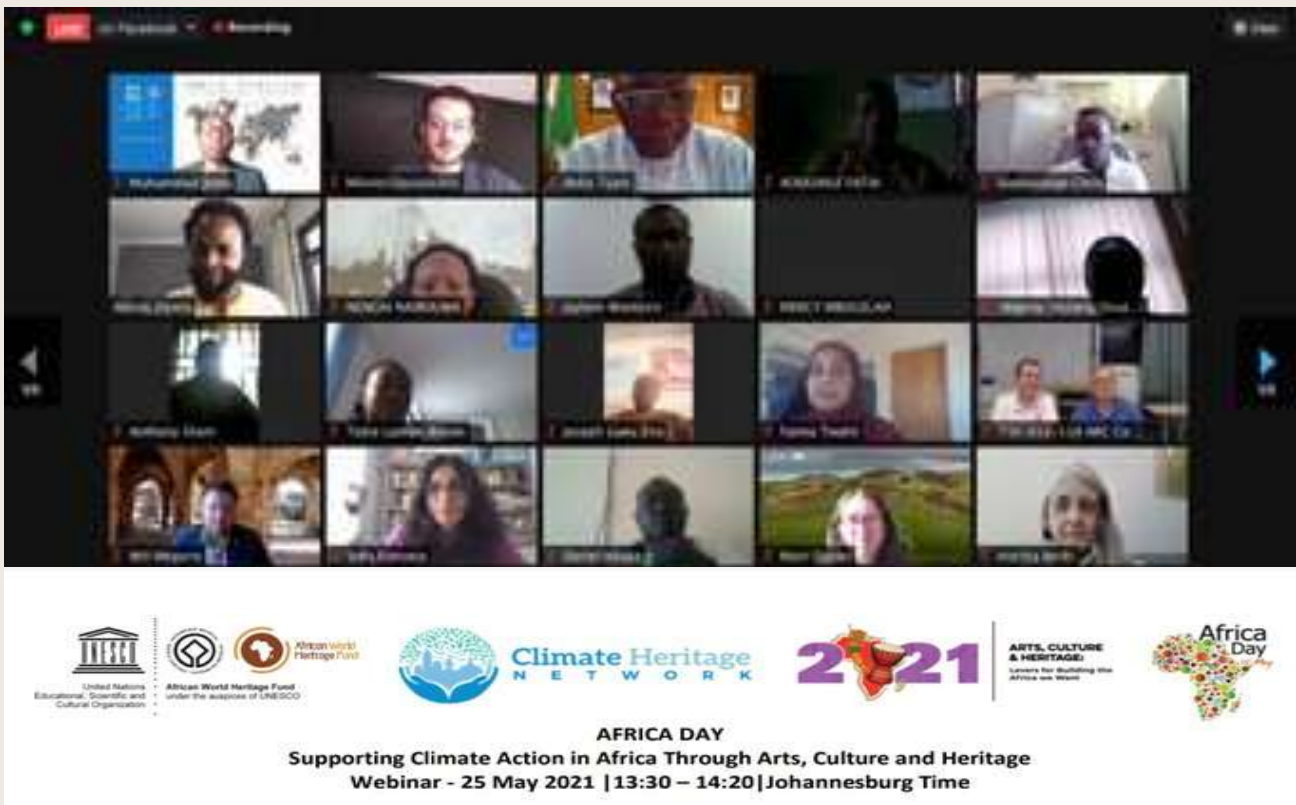
**2)** Presentation of outcomes to Director-Generals (DGs) and Permanent Secretaries (PSs) (8 April), **3)** Presentation of outcomes to Ministers of Culture in the African Continent. (9 April). The aim was to discuss issues around how best attributes related to memory in Africa can meet the requirement of World Heritage. Following the growth of interest in sites associated with memory, and sites associated with memories of recent conflicts, it brought into focus the need to clarify some aspects relating to their evaluation in the context of the World Heritage Convention.



### OUTCOME

*Key actions forward were identified to improve the current status and to further reflect on the operationalization of the concept of sites associated with memories of recent conflicts within the framework of the World Heritage Convention in Africa*





## AFRICA DAY CELEBRATION – 25TH MAY

*"Supporting Climate Action in Africa, through Arts, Culture & Heritage".*

AWHF celebrated Africa Day in partnership with Climate Heritage Network and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) by hosting a Webinar on Climate change, themed *"Supporting Climate Action in Africa, through Arts, Culture & Heritage"*. The webinar aimed to raise awareness about the impact of climate change on Africa's rich heritage.

The significant Africa Day was celebrated throughout the continent under the theme, the *"African Union (AU) Year for Arts, Culture and Heritage: Building the levers for the Africa We Want"*.

## IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

*Climate Change affects sites beyond just the physical damage. Cultural heritage is also affected by the social impacts of climate change. These include cases of communities possibly migrating and abandoning their built heritage.*



# PARTNERSHIPS

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF WORLD HERITAGE



### AWHF MEETS WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CAMEROON TO SOUTH AFRICA

On 26th April, AWHF met with **H. E. Mr. Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi**, newly appointed High Commissioner of Cameroon to South Africa who reiterated their support to AWHF as the government of Cameroon, through the 5year agreement signed by **Hon. Mr. Bidoung MKPATT**, Minister of Arts & Culture of Cameroon.

His Excellency's knowledge of the sector was well versed and several points pertaining to the heritage sector were discussed, He assured AWHF that the government of Cameroon has undertaken to support the efforts of the Fund concerning the promotion and awareness creation of Africa's rich heritage.



#### OUTCOME

*High Commissioner H. E. Mr. Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi will champion a Boardroom Engagement Session about the Central Africa Region World Heritage profile and involve his respective counterparts.*

**THE CENTRAL AFRICA REGION CONSISTS OF 9 AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH A TOTAL OF 13 WORLD HERITAGE SITES COMBINED, COMPRISING MOSTLY NATURAL SITES (11) AND (2) MIXED SITES. THERE IS NO CULTURAL SITE YET.**







# COMMUNICATION

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### AWHF PHOTO CONTEST

On Africa Day 25<sup>th</sup> May, AWHF launched a photo contest on all its Social media platforms. The aim of the contest was to engage our audience and increase our followers while promoting African World Heritage as a collective. We received submissions from all parts of the African continent, with photo entries that reflect African heritage. More than fifteen (15) entries were received. The entries were shared on all AWHF Social media platforms with a brief description of the contestant. The public had to play their part by liking their preferred entry to determine the winner. **Mesfin Gete Wondim from Ethiopia won the contest.** His photos received the most likes across all AWHF Social media platforms from all the entries.

#### ABOUT THE WINNER, MESFIN GETE

**Mesfin** is a junior Archaeologist at the Authority for Research and Conservations of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) and an active member of Ethiopian Heritage Trust Society. The photos he submitted were taken at **Fasil Ghebbi**, a World Heritage Site in Ethiopia. His victory earned him this exclusive feature in the AWHF Quarterly Report. AWHF congratulates Mesfin Gete and extends appreciation to all the heritage enthusiasts who took time to submit their entries throughout the continent.

**277 LIKES ON ALL  
AWHF SOCIAL MEDIA  
PLATFORMS!**



*Mesfin Gete captured at Fasil Ghebi World Heritage Site ©MesfinGete*

# SOCIAL MEDIA ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

The AWHF photo contest was reinforced by the newly adopted Social Media Enhancement Strategy with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May. The aim of the enhancement strategy is to boost AWHF profiling efforts of the work of the organization. The “new normal” enforced by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic led AWHF to find innovative ways to continue to champion African World Heritage protection and promotion. Through the photo contest, AWHF was able to attract a wider reach and solicit engagement throughout the continent and beyond. It is evident that the boosting strategy was able to assist in elevating the profiling and awareness creation of Africa’s rich heritage. The photo contest entries were received from the following African countries: **Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, and Uganda.**



**Facebook Engagement :**  
**+1400%**



**Twitter Engagement :**  
**-36.8%**

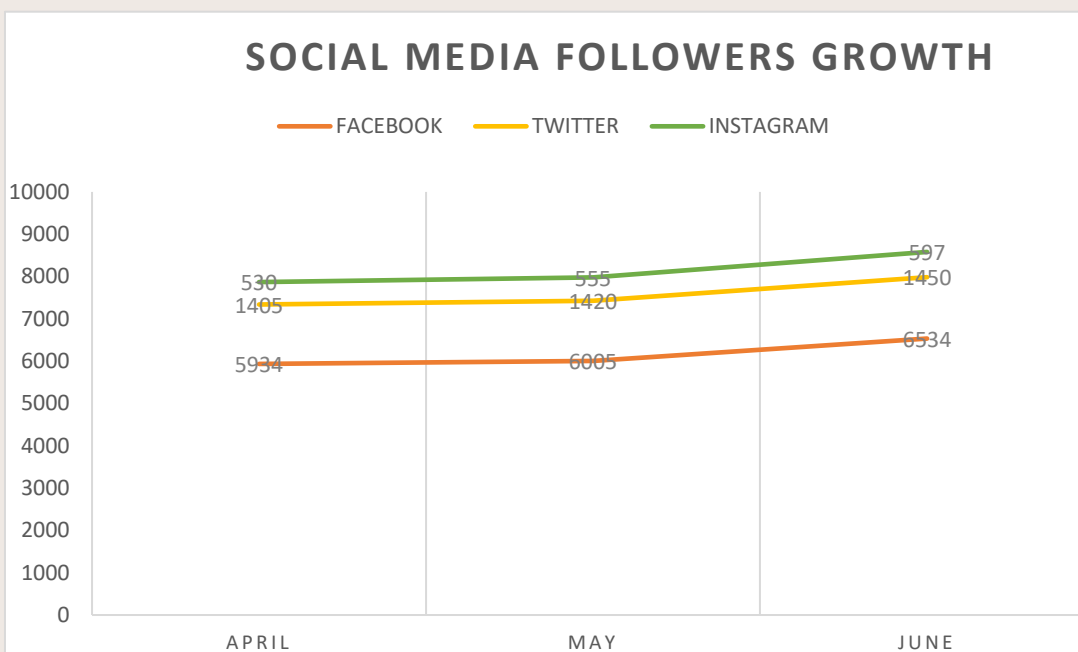


**Instagram Engagement :**  
**+363%**

## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Social media campaign continues to profile African World Heritage Sites as an extension of the African Union (AU) Year for Arts, Culture, and Heritage. During the reporting period, AWHF profiled seven more African World Heritage Sites from the continent. These are : **Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania; the Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa; Thebes and its Necropolis in Egypt; Rainforests of the Antsinanana in Madagascar; Sangha Tri-national, a transboundary site where Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo meet ; Bassari, Fula and Bedik Cultural Landscapes in Senegal; and Great Zimbabwe National Monument. in Zimbabwe**

## SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS OVERVIEW



Facebook Followers

**6534**

Twitter Followers

**1446**

Instagram Followers

**597**

## INCREASE OF SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT REACH

■ JUNE





## 2. WEBSITE



The AWHF website platform is active and functional. Regular updates of activities of the Fund and archived documents/reports are stored, to reflect the current content status. Several improvements have been effected, the Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), the aspect of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), the Map has been updated and many other critical areas. The improvements applied make access of the AWHF website quicker and user friendly and enables quick access to information. The website is also linked to our Social media platforms, (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and can now be accessed six languages: English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Spanish and Swahili.



## 3. BROADCAST MEDIA

Broadcast media is another means to elevate the profiling of the work of AWHF. Various traditional media platforms have shown interest in propelling the awareness creation and promotion of Africa's rich heritage. The following interviews were conducted during the reporting period:

Interviewee	Media Platform	Date	Topic
Mr. Souayibou Varissou	SABC Channel Africa	06 April 2021	Sites of Memory
Dr Albino Jopela	SABC Channel Africa	08 April 2021	Sites of Memory
Mr Jacob Nyangila	SABC Channel Africa (Swahili)	09 April 2021	Sites of Memory
Dr Albino Jopela	SABC Channel Africa (Portuguese)	09 April 2021	Sites of Memory
Dr Albino Jopela	SABC Channel Africa	06 May 2021	5 <sup>th</sup> May Celebrations
Mr Souayibou Varissou	SABC Channel Africa	20 May 2021	National Museum Week – Artifacts
Mr Souayibou Varissou	Kaya FM	07 April 2021	Sites of Memory
Mr Souayibou Varissou	Impulse Radio Africa (French)	08 April 2021	Sites of Memory
Mr Souayibou Varissou	Radio 786	08 April 2021	Sites of Memory



# AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES PROFILED

## SEVEN AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES WERE PROFILED FROM THE FIVE AFRICA REGIONS



### KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK TANZANIA

At 5,895m, Kilimanjaro is the highest point in Africa. This volcanic massif stands in splendid isolation above the surrounding plains in **Tanzania**, with its snowy peak looming over the savannah. The mountain is encircled by mountain forest. Numerous mammals, many of them endangered species, live in the park. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in **1987**,

### FOSSIL HOMINID SITES OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Taung Skull Fossil Site, part of the extension to the site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in **1999**, is the place in **South Africa** where in 1924 the celebrated Taung Skull – a specimen of the species *Australopithecus africanus* – was found. Makapan Valley, also in the site, features in its many archaeological caves traces of human occupation and evolution dating back some 3.3 million years. The area contains essential elements that define the origin and evolution of humanity



### ANCIENT THEBES WITH ITS NECROPOLIS

Thebes, the city of the god Amon, was the capital of **Egypt** during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms. With the temples and palaces at Karnak and Luxor, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, Thebes is a striking testimony to Egyptian civilization at its height. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in





## RAINFORESTS OF THE ATSIINANANA

The Rainforests of the Atsinanana in **Madagascar** 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. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in **2007**.



## SANGHA TRI - NATIONAL

Sangha Tri-National is situated in the north western Congo Basin, where **Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo** meet. The site encompasses three contiguous national parks totalling 750 000 (ha). These parks are, Lobeke National Park - Cameroon, Dzanga-Ndoki National Park - Central African Republic and Nouabale-Ndoki National Park - Republic of Congo. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in **2012**.



## BASSARI, FULA & BEDIK CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The Bassari, Fula & Bedik Cultural Landscape is located in south-east **Senegal**. It includes three geographical areas, Bassari Salemata, Bedik Bandafassi and Fula Dindéfello, each with its specific morphological traits. The Bassari landscape is marked by terraces interspersed with villages and archaeological sites. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in **2012**.



## GREAT ZIMBABWE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The ruins of Great **Zimbabwe** – the capital of the Queen of Sheba, according to an age-old legend – are a unique testimony to the Bantu civilization of the Shona between the 11th and 15th centuries. The city, which covers an area of nearly 80 ha, was an important trading centre and was renowned from the Middle Ages onwards. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in **1986**.





## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### AWHF CALENDAR OF EVENTS (JULY – DECEMBER 2021)

N°	EVENT	PARTNER	DATE/VENUE
1	Workshop on WH and Sust. Develop. In Africa (Online) + Publication		5-7 July 2021
2	29TH AWHF Board Meeting (Online)	Africa Region	12-14 July
4	AWHF Side Event at the 44th WH Committee Meeting	World Heritage Centre (WHC)	30 July
5	Central Africa Region profiling with High Commissioner of Cameroon	Government of Cameroon	05 August
6	Study + Workshop on Curriculum Development on WH and Sustainable Development in Africa (Online)	Africa Region	25-27 August
7	Thematic gap study + Validation meeting (Online)		1 Sep-30 October
8	WH Nomination Training Course (Cameroon)	Government of Cameroon	6-26 September
9	AWHF Grants Evaluation Panel Meeting (Online)	AWHF	14 September
10	AWHF Board Committees Quarterly meetings - Finance, Fundraising, Technical (Online)	Africa Region	27-30 September
11	WH Workshop for Mentors (South Africa)	South African Government	4-9 October
12	Professional Immersion Fellowship (TBC)	ICOMOS	1-30 October
13	Risk management Workshop (Online + Benin)	Government of Benin	10-15 October
14	Fundraising Event (Senegal)	Government of Senegal	5-6 November
16	South African Fundraising Event	South African Government	November
17	Regional Field Workshop on Entrepreneurship around WH Sites in Africa (Botswana)	Government of Botswana	15-24 November
18	AWHF Board Committees Quarterly meetings - Finance, Fundraising, Technical (Online)	Africa Region	7-9 December
19	30th AWHF's Board of Trustees Meeting (TBC)	TBC	9-10 December

## SECRETARIAT



**Mr. Souayibou  
Varissou.**  
*Executive Director*



**Dr. Albino Jopela**  
*Head of Programmes*



**Mr. Jacob Nyangila**  
*Programmes Specialist*



**Ms. Roxanne  
Skosana.** *Programmes  
Officer*



**Ms. Tsholofelo  
Legae**  
*Finance Officer*



**Ms. Luyanda  
Sithole**  
*Partnership Officer*



**Ms. Prisca  
Lete**  
*Administrative  
Assistant*



**Mr. Milutin  
Djuraskovic**  
*Partnership Intern*



**Ms. Mpho  
Kobeli.**  
*Partnership Intern*



**Mr. Katlego  
Panana.**  
*Programmes Intern*

