



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage Convention

World Heritage in Africa Region

MAIN RESULTS: SECOND CYCLE PERIODIC REPORTING



The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa region was achieved with the support of:

Africa region States Parties to the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Technical Support was provided by:

The exercise received financial support from:

ICOMOS



Published in June 2011 by UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

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CLT-2011/WS/11



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Lions at Ngorongoro Conservation area, Tanzania
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INTRODUCTION

This brochure presents the principal results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region. The exercise involved the 44 States Parties which had ratified the 1972 *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* and the 78 World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List at the launch of the exercise in January 2010.

There have been several World Heritage successes in the region since the World Heritage Committee adopted the report of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region in 2002. Since then, a further eight States Parties have ratified the Convention, four properties have been removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, all properties have Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and 21 new properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, as shown in the table below.

States Parties to the World Heritage Convention	2002	2007	2011	Evolution
	37	44	45	+21,6%
Properties	57	74	78	+34,5%
• Cultural	25	38	42	+68%
• Natural	30	33	32	+6,7%
• Mixed	2	3	4	-
States Parties with at least one site inscribed on the World Heritage List	23	28	30	+30,4%
States Parties with Tentative List	25	35	37	+48%

However, the Africa region remains under-represented on the World Heritage List as less than nine percent of all World Heritage properties are located in this region. At the same time, 41% of the properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger are found in the Africa region. Several of these properties are located in conflict and post-conflict areas, which creates very specific challenges for conservation and protection.

The results and conclusions of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa should be understood and viewed not only as a response to the requirements of the World Heritage Committee, but also as a contribution from the Africa region towards the current reflections regarding the future of the World Heritage Convention as it approaches its 40th anniversary,

For more details and to download the complete Periodic Report, please visit: whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/35COM

◀ Street scene from Goree Island, Senegal

▼ Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve, Madagascar

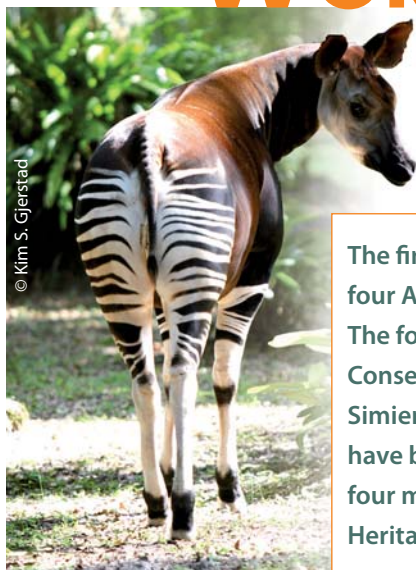


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WORLD HERITAGE IN THE AFRICA REGION



© Kim S. Gjerstad

The first African nominations to the World Heritage List were made in 1978, when four African properties (of a total of 13 nominations), were inscribed on the List. The four properties inscribed in 1978 are: Island of Goree (Senegal), Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania), Rock-hewn Churches of Lalibela (Ethiopia) and Simien National Park (Ethiopia). Since then, a further 74 World Heritage properties have been inscribed. The current 42 cultural properties, 32 natural properties and four mixed properties in the Africa region represent less than 9% of the World Heritage List, which in May 2011 counted 911 properties.

Cultural Properties

The cultural properties are nominated under criteria describing them as “masterpieces of human creative genius” (criterion i), exhibiting “an important interchange of human values” (criterion ii), or bear “exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation” (criterion iii). Others are “outstanding example(s) of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble” (criterion iv), often within spectacular settings of “traditional human settlement, land use or sea use” (criterion v) and “associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs” (criterion vi).

Some of the African cultural properties contain archaeological features and are unique in the sense that as much as they testify of past human activity and civilisation in these areas, they remain a very present reality in the daily lives of the communities living in and around them, serving for spiritual and cultural rejuvenation. Their meanings have changed continuously over

the centuries to fit into the current lifestyles while serving as historical markers of identity, religion and nation. Of the 42 cultural properties in the Africa region, two are currently on the List of World Heritage in Danger: *Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara* (Tanzania), and the *Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi* (Uganda).

Natural Properties

The 32 natural World Heritage properties in the Africa region, makes up a total of 28,720,049 hectares (287,200 km²). Natural heritage properties are “of exceptional natural beauty” (criterion vii), “outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history” (criterion viii), “outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes” (criterion ix) and “contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity” (criterion x). The variety of natural properties in the region includes

mountains, deserts, marine coastlines, forests, savannah, wetlands, lakes and river systems. The properties are of great importance on account of the biodiversity they contain, often endemic in nature. The properties are also unique witnesses to changes in the earth’s geological and biological features.

- ▶ Okapi Wildlife Reserve, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ▼ Robben Island, South Africa



© UNESCO/Francesco Bandarín



© Martin Gray

▲ Binu Shrine, Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons), Mali

Many of these properties are increasingly under threat from armed conflict and development pressures. Currently, 12 of the 32 natural properties in Africa (38%) are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Mixed Properties

The four mixed properties in the Africa region have been inscribed under criteria that, among others, combine human creative genius with superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance, which contribute to the understanding of the earth's history.

This property category represents five percent of inscribed properties in Africa and 14% of the global total.

The properties are located across the regions: *Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda* (Gabon), *Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)* (Mali), *Ngorongoro Conservation Area* (Tanzania), and *uKhahlamba/ Drakensberg Park* (South Africa). The properties include multiple land uses and contain endemic species of wildlife. The geographical distribution of the properties is representative of the rich mosaic of African landscapes, from cliffs to sandy plateaux, of archaeological and geological interest, intertwined with architecture, biological diversity and historic rock paintings, to dense and well-conserved tropical rainforests and relict savannah environments which contain evidence of successive passages of different peoples having lived in these environments.

List of World Heritage in Danger in the Africa region

Sub-regional cluster	State Party	Name of Property	Year of inscription on Danger List
Central Africa sub-region (7N)	Central African Republic	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (N)	1997
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Garamba National Park (N)	1996
		Kahuzi-Biega National Park(N)	1997
		Okapi Wildlife Reserve (N)	1997
		Salonga National Park (N)	1999
		Virunga National Park (N)	1994
	Madagascar	Rainforests of the Atsinanana (N)	2010
West Africa sub-region (4N)	Côte d'Ivoire	Comoé National Park (N)	2003
	Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (N)	1992
	Niger	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (N)	1992
East Africa sub-region (2C+1N)	Senegal	Niokolo-Koba National Park (N)	2007
	Ethiopia	Simien National Park (N)	1996
	Tanzania	Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (C)	2004
	Uganda	Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (C)	2010

C = Cultural property

N = Natural property

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE IN THE AFRICA REGION

The implementation strategy for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region followed several stages:

Information Workshop on the Preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2 - 4 March 2009)

19 States Parties that had neither Statements of Outstanding Universal Value nor Statements of Significance were trained in drafting retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.

Training for regional coordinator and mentors (Paris, France, 10 - 11 September 2009)

A regional coordinator and four mentors from each of the four sub-regions of the Africa Region were trained to provide technical assistance and facilitation throughout the process.

Launch meeting of the Second Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise for Africa (Dakar, Senegal, 20 - 22 January 2010)

The launch meeting gathered national Focal Points from the Africa Region. The Action Plan for the implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise, and follow-up activities, was prepared and adopted.



Sub-regional meeting for East, West and small islands Anglophone Africa region States (Nairobi, Kenya, 4 - 6 May 2010)

The meeting highlighted the need for recognition, documentation and formalisation of traditional management systems, brought forward as one of the main conclusions in the final report of Periodic Reporting. The national focal points expressed willingness to contribute towards any future work to amend the Operational Guidelines with respect to this issue.



Sub-regional meeting for West, Central and small islands Francophone and Lusophone Africa region States (Yaounde, Cameroon, 21 - 23 June 2010)

The specific threats facing World Heritage properties in conflict and post-conflict areas, as well as the need to involve local communities and indigenous peoples in the conservation, protection and management of World Heritage, were the core conclusions included in the final report.

Sub-regional meeting for Southern African States (Windhoek, Namibia, 8 - 10 September 2010)

The challenging co-existence of World Heritage and development needs was raised a key issue in the sub-region, and brought forward as the fourth main conclusion in the Africa Periodic Report. The participants further proposed that a platform should be created for sharing views on the co-existence of World Heritage and development needs to secure that Africa's views are taken into consideration in the ongoing debates concerning the future of the *Convention*.



Periodic Report Analysis and Synthesis Workshop (Mombasa, Kenya, 29 - 30 October 2010)

The workshop brought together the regional coordinator and sub-regional mentors as well as the technical partners, to define the methodology for analysis and synthesis of the results of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

Final regional meeting (Vredefort Dome, South Africa, 14 - 17 February 2011)

The final meeting gathered the national Focal Points of the region, reiterating the concerns and recommendations of the sub-regional meetings as the main messages to convey to the World Heritage Committee and international community.

◀ Visit to Heroes' Acre during sub-regional meeting in Windhoek, Namibia,

◀◀ Launch meeting in Dakar, Senegal

◀◀◀ Group work during the final regional Meeting, Vredefort Dome, South Africa

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION BY AFRICA REGION STATES PARTIES

Section I of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire concerns the implementation of the Convention at national level. From the analysis of the information provided by the States Parties, the following main issues were identified:

Legal frameworks, which are often intersecting and multi-sectoral, exist for the protection of World Heritage in the region. However, the legal frameworks are often inadequate and/or outdated, and the States

Parties report limited capacities for implementation and enforcement. There is a general recognition that legislation needs to be regularly updated to meet new challenges and improve the protection of cultural and natural heritage sites. The domestication of the Convention, through its consideration in relevant national legislations, updating and harmonising of national legislations (where necessary) and translation into local languages will make it easier for the Convention to enter into the general framework of national planning. It is important that the national institutions implementing the Convention have knowledge of other national legislations which could be applied to protect heritage (e.g. town planning laws, forestry and mining laws, environmental planning laws etc.) in order to ensure the best possible protection of heritage properties. Such complementary legislation need to be cross-referenced with the legislation for heritage protection in order to ensure full protection, identify gaps and make any necessary revisions.

The **level of participation** of local communities, indigenous peoples, landowners and the private sector in the implementation of the Convention varies in the region, but is generally limited. This might have consequences for conservation, protection and management as well as the funding situation of heritage properties. States Parties recognise the need for local communities including

indigenous peoples to be fully involved in the management of World Heritage properties. This should be achieved through establishment and managing of projects which contribute to both conservation of the properties and the livelihoods of local communities.

Inventories for cultural and natural heritage in the region, which are the basis for development of national **Tentative Lists**, are completed only in a moderate number of States Parties. Although 37 States Parties report having Tentative Lists, nearly all the States Parties in the region intend to update their Tentative Lists within the next six years. National inventories and Tentative Lists need to be completed and regularly updated, in line with established guidelines. Updating of Tentative Lists should be guided by regional harmonisation initiatives and thematic and gap analyses conducted by ICOMOS and IUCN. The number of Africa region nominations can be increased through a continued facilitation of the nomination process of potential World Heritage properties, which also is considered part of general awareness building.

Financial resources for the conservation and protection of World Heritage are provided mainly by national government funds. After its establishment in 2006, the **African World Heritage Fund** has played an increasing role in complementing the States Parties in this regard. However, there is a strong reliance on international funding across the region.



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▲ Southern Namib Erg, Namibia

▼ Timbuktu, Mali



© Serge Negre

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION IN WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN THE AFRICA REGION

Section II of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire concerns the World Heritage properties in the region, and information is provided by the World Heritage site managers. The States Parties report that the World Heritage properties in the Africa region are generally in a satisfactory state of conservation. Certain properties demand special attention, in particular the 14 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.



▲ Priest and his pupil,
Lalibela rock-hewn churches, Ethiopia

The factors affecting the properties in the Africa region are numerous with more negative than positive impacts in both natural and cultural properties. Natural heritage properties in general are particularly faced with negative impacts from biological resource use/modification, social/cultural uses of heritage, other human activities (illegal activities and deliberate destruction of heritage), sudden ecological and severe weather events, invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species and pollution. The cultural properties are in general mainly affected by local conditions affecting physical fabrics, social/cultural uses of heritage, pollution, sudden ecological or geological events, other human activities (illegal activities and deliberate destruction of heritage), transportation infrastructure, biological resource use/modification and climate change and severe weather events (mixed properties and cultural landscapes in particular). On a general level, physical resource extraction is

an increasing risk factor in a growing number of properties, with obvious potential impacts on authenticity/integrity and outstanding universal value. The impacts of climate change are increasingly becoming a challenge in a number of properties and climate change is considered a substantial potential threat. Management and institutional factors have positive impacts in nearly all properties, an obvious improvement compared to the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting. This is probably due to the impact of the regional programmes (Africa 2009 in particular) on conservation and management.

Traditional management systems have always been applied in the Africa region, which are recognised and considered appropriate by the States Parties to manage World Heritage properties. Establishing methods and frameworks for documenting traditional management systems and relating these to existing World Heritage management plan regimes, is a core issue for the Africa region States Parties.

The analysis of the reports from the 78 World Heritage properties in the region highlights the following points:

The status of **property boundaries and buffer zones** has improved from the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting, in particular for the cultural properties. Insufficiencies in boundaries and buffer zones are still reported, and certain properties report having



▲ Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lope-Okanda, Gabon



© DPC, Burkina Faso

▲ Ruins of Loropeni, Burkina Faso

▼ Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Uganda



© Kim S. Gjerstad

buffer zones not yet presented to the World Heritage Committee. An increasing challenge in the Africa region is development pressures and co-existence of heritage and development, which are often closely connected to poorly defined, not approved or non-existing boundaries and buffer zones.

Legal frameworks which provide the basis for **protective measures** are recognised by site managers, but are reported in many cases to be inadequate. The capacity for implementation and enforcement for maintaining outstanding universal value and integrity/authenticity is generally reported to be weak. This is particularly valid for the natural properties. Illegal activities and deliberate destruction of heritage properties are almost universal challenges for the management and conservation of World Heritage in

the region. There are strong concerns regarding the ability of current legal frameworks to stop development projects and physical resource extraction in and around World Heritage properties.

At property level, the **financial and human resources** remain inadequate to meet management and conservations needs, which might have impacts on the properties' outstanding universal value and integrity/authenticity. There is an improvement in ensuring minimal funding for administration and human resource purposes, but conservation activities still lack the necessary funding. Visitor fees contribute to conservation budgets, especially in the natural properties, but generally there is strong reliance on international funding, which in the long term is not sustainable. The African World Heritage Fund could potentially play a more prominent role in addressing the financial resource needs of African World Heritage properties.

The **involvement of local industry/commercial actors and involvement of, and benefits to, local populations** is reported as below fair. Local communities are sometimes involved in management issues, but rarely in decision-making processes. The involvement of indigenous peoples, where applicable, is often poor. Local communities and indigenous people are reported to benefit only marginally from social and economic benefits potentially created by the properties. The involvement of local industries/commercial actors and landowners might enhance the socioeconomic conditions of local populations, and might also improve on the development pressures which are reported by a high number of properties.

MESSAGES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



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Community involvement and benefits from World Heritage:

Traditional management systems contribute immeasurably to the conservation, protection and management of World Heritage properties in the region, and local communities and indigenous peoples should be closely involved in these activities to ensure long-term sustainability of the properties. In addition, this involvement should result in tangible economical and social benefits, which further implies closer involvement of private sector stakeholders as partners in the effective management and conservation of World Heritage. The regional universities should be brought in as key partners in developing research programmes on World Heritage, which should involve local communities and indigenous peoples - as subjects, researchers and final beneficiaries of the results of such research;

Recognition, formalisation and documentation of traditional management systems:

Traditional knowledge and management systems have immeasurably contributed to the survival of heritage properties and need to be documented and formalised, as well as fully harmonised with existing management mechanisms already approved for World Heritage properties. The documentation of properties in the region needs to advance beyond basic inventories, and be founded on low- and high level research based on gaps identified from previous efforts;

World Heritage and development needs:

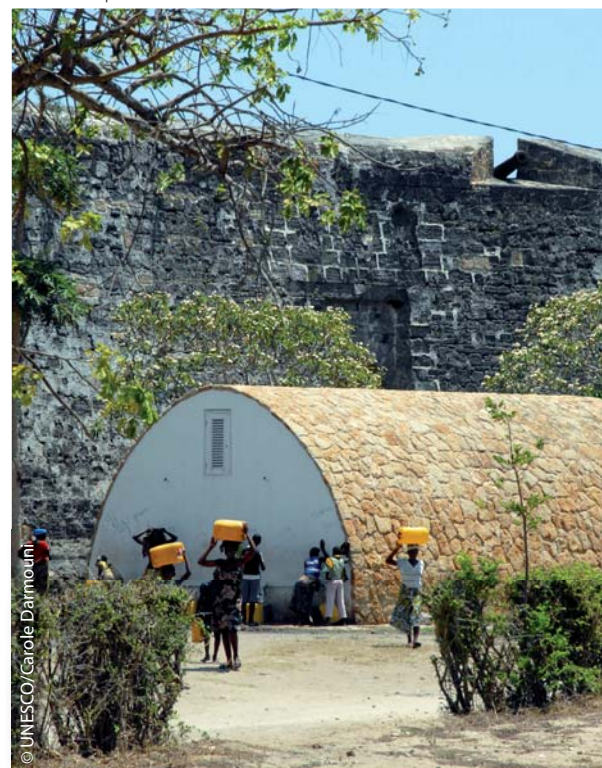
The Africa region is currently undergoing substantial developmental change. Challenges related to managing and conserving World Heritage in the face of development pressures in the region need to be urgently addressed, at policy and operational levels. Environmental impact studies carried out for development projects and physical resource extraction must strongly consider the impacts on heritage properties. A special meeting on the co-existence of World Heritage, development activities and physical resource extraction in the Africa region should be organised. National governments in the region need to streamline urban planning and land management as a strategy to ensure better balance between heritage conservation and development needs;

World Heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas: Special attention and assistance to States Parties affected by

conflict is critical in order to establish and implement necessary mechanisms for heritage conservation, protection and management. Such measures will also benefit some of the properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as a majority of the 14 properties on this list from the Africa region are located in conflict and post-conflict areas. Recommendations and efforts must be coordinated with political bodies of the region which are contributing to restore peace in the concerned countries to ensure adequate protection and long term conservation of the concerned properties.

► Port at Stone Town Zanzibar, Tanzania

▼ Water Cistern, Mozambique Island, Mozambique



© UNESCO/Carole Darmouni



© UNESCO/Lazare Eloundou

▼▲ Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda (before and after March 2010)



© UNESCO/Lazare Eloundou



© UNESCO/Lazare Eloundou

► Community outreach at the Rainforests of Antsiranana, Madagascar

CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

Community Outreach

The involvement of local communities in site management is recognised by States Parties as critical for the enforcement of existing legislations, site conservation and documentation of traditional management practices. There is a gradual reduction of traditional apprenticeship systems, resulting in discontinuity in local crafts and knowledge skills. This needs to be urgently addressed as these knowledge systems are crucial for successful conservation practises, and young persons from local populations must be involved. On-site training for both institutional personnel and members of the local populations

within and around the properties is highly recommended. The direct socio-economic benefits of heritage conservation for communities, addressing the dilemma of making a choice between short term benefits from large development projects and long term benefits from conservation action must be part of the capacity building.

Risk preparedness

The extensive damage caused by the 2010 fire incident at the *Royal Tombs of the Buganda Kings* in Uganda highlights the importance of risk preparedness. Potential impacts



© UNESCO/Bénédicte Leclercq

such as fires, floods, earthquakes, political instability etc., are risks that must be prepared for and taken into consideration in medium and long-term planning. Risk preparedness also becomes increasingly important as climate change poses new challenges for conservation and management of the properties. Capacity building efforts in this regard must be carried out with full participation of local communities.

Enforcement of legislative frameworks and policies

Capacities must be improved for effective implementation and enforcement of legislative frameworks. At national legislative and policy levels, revisions of existing frameworks which reflect current issues affecting heritage management are strongly needed. Capacities for implementation of legislative frameworks and security measures must be developed with the full participation of security agencies and local communities.

Conservation

Capacities for monitoring and carrying out interventions to prevent deterioration and loss of values need to be improved, and this becomes increasingly important as the impacts of climate change create new conservation challenges. Multi-disciplinary professional teams must be established to ensure that the outstanding universal values of World Heritage properties are adequately maintained. Universities and research institutions need to be involved to provide certified training/studies in

heritage conservation, targeting the needs of World Heritage. Site managers must be empowered in order to adequately apply the results of high level research carried out on World Heritage properties for management purposes. Site personnel further require skills to be able to carry out low level research to facilitate decision making for management purposes, based on scientific facts. In addition to institutional requirements, local and indigenous communities can play a strong role in conservation of World Heritage properties, based on age-long traditional practices

Other issues

Other expressed needs are in the areas of education, site interpretation, promotion, visitor-management and tourism. Post-conflict and gender-related issues in management of natural and cultural heritage properties in the region are also important. Establishment of sub-regional networks which involve cooperation among site managers could greatly enhance capacity building processes.

Moving Forward

There is a need for further analysis of the results of the Periodic Reporting to ensure the development of a comprehensive and implementable Action Plan, which includes sub-regional analyses as well as further research and analysis of the main issues identified. The Action Plan must be developed with the full participation of the States Parties to ensure ownership in the implementation process.

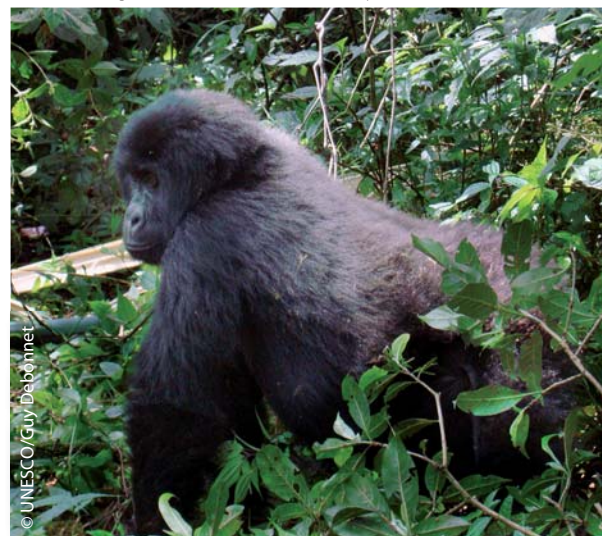
The Action Plan for the region will be presented, along with the proposals for the regional programmes Africa 2020 and Africa Nature, at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2012.



© Thierry Joffroy

▲ Consultation meeting at Djenné Old Town, Mali

▼ Kahuzi-Biega National Park, Democratic Republic C



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The World Heritage Centre would like to express its gratitude to the Africa region States Parties involved in this activity for their diligence, efforts, and continuing commitment and hard work for the success of this exercise.

The World Heritage Centre expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Senegal, Kenya, Cameroun, Namibia and South Africa for their warm and generous hospitality extended at the various regional and sub-regional meetings which they hosted. Special mention must be made of the South African government for its special initiative outside of the Dakar Action Plan, in hosting a meeting for the Southern Africa sub-region in March 2010.

The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa was made possible by the generous financial contributions of the Governments of Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway and France and the African World Heritage Fund.

The World Heritage Centre thanks the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee - International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Centre for the study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - for their continuous assistance and active contributions throughout the exercise.

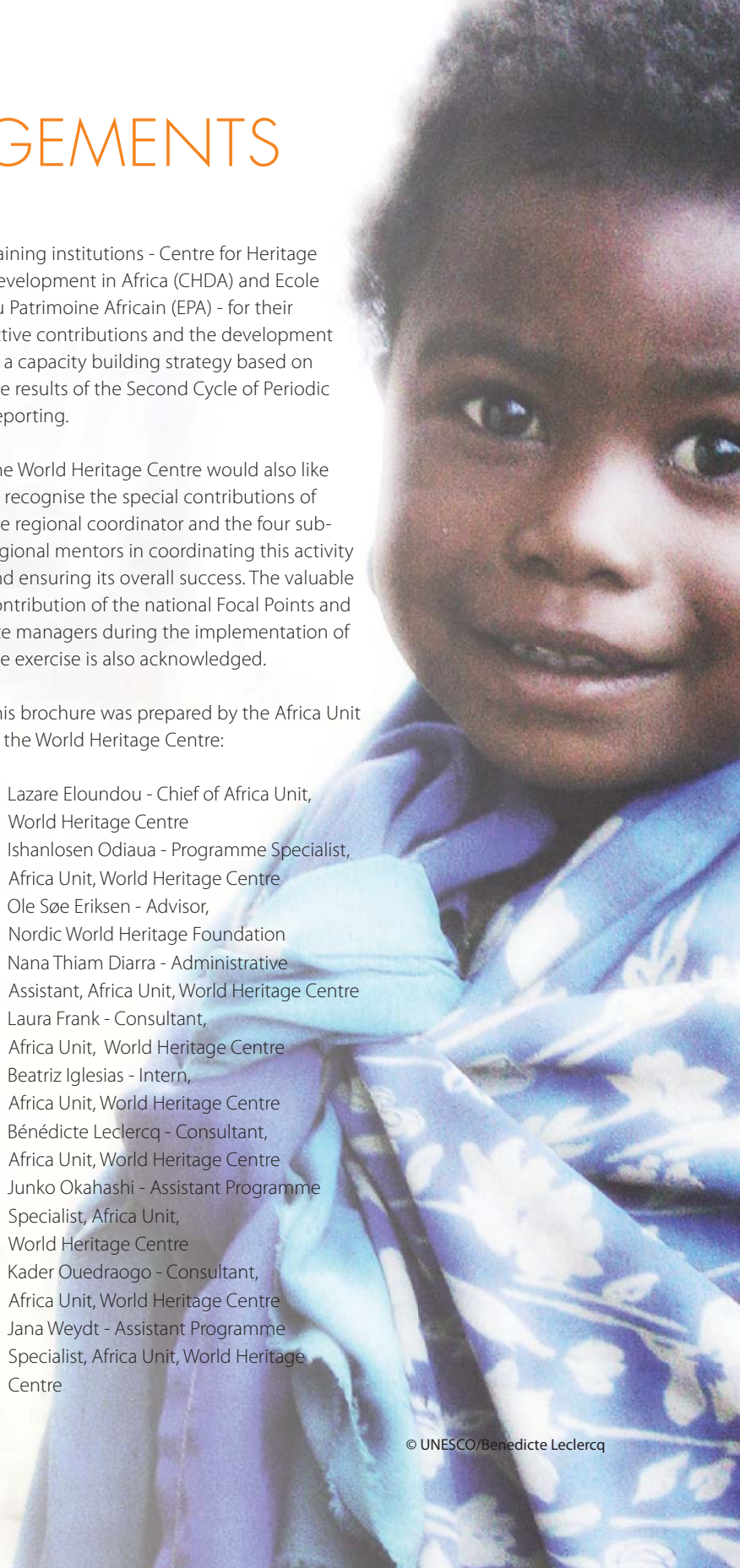
Special thanks go to the Nordic World Heritage Foundation for its technical assistance through the entire exercise, particularly for its inestimable contribution to the finalisation of both the analysis of the data obtained from the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire, and the final report. Appreciation also goes to the regional

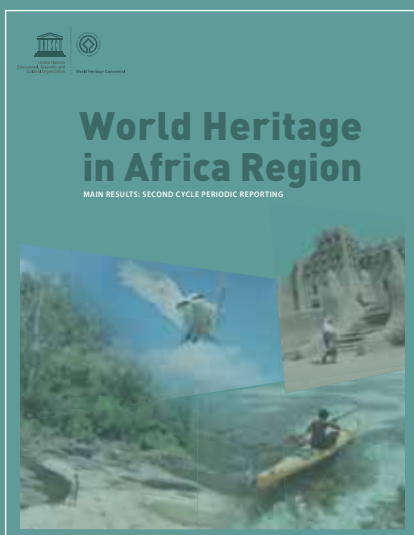
training institutions - Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) - for their active contributions and the development of a capacity building strategy based on the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

The World Heritage Centre would also like to recognise the special contributions of the regional coordinator and the four sub-regional mentors in coordinating this activity and ensuring its overall success. The valuable contribution of the national Focal Points and site managers during the implementation of the exercise is also acknowledged.

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FRONT COVER

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|---|------------------------------|
| Friday Mosque, Djenné Old Town, Mali | © UNESCO/Lazare Eloundou |
| Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles | © Janske van de Crommenacker |
| Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Kenya | © Bakonirina Rakotomamonjy |
| Black-naped tern, Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles | © Janske van de Crommenacker |

BACK COVER

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| House building at Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, Togo | © Thierry Joffroy |
| Penguins at the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas, South Africa | © UNESCO/Leila Maziz |
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This brochure was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Norway, through the Directorate for Cultural Heritage