



The Ngorongoro Declaration

on Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development,

adopted in Ngorongoro, Tanzania on 4 June 2016

Preamble

We, African experts including States, civil society and private sector actors and international partners, gathered at the international conference on “Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development”, which took place in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania from 31 May to 3 June 2016, acknowledge with gratitude the hospitality of the Tanzanian authorities and the City of Arusha in providing a forum to reflect on the place that should be given to cultural and natural heritage within the sustainable development agenda in Africa.

We acknowledge the contribution of UNESCO in organizing the conference and the support of the Government of the People’s Republic of China and other donors, whose generosity made our participation at the conference possible.

We further acknowledge that the African States Parties to the World Heritage Convention remain committed to a balanced approach in heritage conservation and sustainable development while meeting the needs of local communities and maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of cultural and natural World Heritage sites in Africa.

Recalling:

- The 1961 Arusha Manifesto by President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, which recognized the integral part that natural resources plays in national development;
- The 2002 Budapest Declaration, which stressed the need “to ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development, so that World Heritage properties can be protected through appropriate activities contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities”;
- The 2012 recommendations of the international conference on “Living with World Heritage in Africa” (Gauteng, South Africa), preceded by the expert workshop on extractive industries at World Heritage properties, which reaffirmed the need to balance conservation and development initiatives, and stressed the idea of an inclusive approach especially for local communities;

- The 2012 Kyoto Vision on the occasion of the Closing Event of the Celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* reinforcing the role of local communities in implementing the Convention;
- The 2013 Hangzhou Declaration on “Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies”;
- The 2014 Social Responsibility Declaration by Chinese Enterprises in Africa, which arrived at consensus on the social responsibility of Chinese enterprises in Africa to respect culture and customs and protect the local environment and natural resources and contribute to the sustainable development of African economy and society;
- The 2015 African Union’s “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want”, which addresses issues related to environmental sustainability, climate resilient economies and empowerment of communities with cultural and natural heritage being a catalyst for sustainable development;
- The 2015 “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention;
- The resolution of the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO to proclaim 5 May as African World Heritage Day to reflect on the conservation and promotion of World Heritage in Africa between States and civil societies, in particular women and youth;
- The 2015 Siem Reap Declaration on tourism and culture to protect cultural and natural heritage by building new partnership models towards greater integration;
- The 2016 Robben Island African Youth Declaration on World Heritage stressing the role and responsibility of young people in promoting conservation and sustainability at World Heritage properties in Africa;
- The 2016 African World Heritage Fund’s 10th anniversary seminar on “African World Heritage...Thinking Ahead” positioning Africa to deal with outstanding and emerging issues around conservation, development, climate change, civil society and capacity-building.

Acknowledging that:

Sustainable development can ensure that appropriate efforts are deployed to protect and conserve the cultural and natural resources of a region faced with the challenges of climate change, natural and human-made disasters, population growth, rapid urbanization, destruction of heritage, environmental degradation for present and future generations;

The *World Heritage Convention* provides a unique platform that recognizes the intricate relationship between cultural and natural heritage, as such;

Sustainable development and heritage, in particular World Heritage, can be mutually beneficial if the opportunities they offer are properly identified and transmitted to present and future generations;

Africa's unique context generates intrinsic interactions and continuity between tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage, in a fast-paced development region, where governments strive to provide much needed socio-economic development and peace using cultural and natural heritage resources as a catalyst;

Progress has been made in Africa towards the UN Millennium Development Goals and that African States Parties and civil societies are currently mobilizing to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

UNESCO is convinced that States Parties have shared responsibilities for conserving and managing cultural and natural heritage, inclusive of, but not limited to, World Heritage sites, according to their respective legal frameworks or environmental and social safeguards and with the support of international financial institutions;

Intergenerational relationships, including the significant contribution of women and young people, play a fundamental role in the transmission and evolution of cultural practices and the rights of future generations to benefit from African World Heritage;

The communities that are custodians of the heritage sites make them living landscapes;

Traditional management systems are an essential value to Africa's aspirations towards sustainable development;

We declare that:

African heritage is central to preserving and promoting our cultures thereby uplifting identity and dignity for present and future generations in an increasingly globalised world;

Heritage, including World Heritage properties, is a driver of sustainable development and critical for achieving regional socio-economic benefits, environmental protection, sustainable urbanization, social cohesion and peace;

We call upon:

1. The **African Union and its regional economic communities** to promote sustainable development while guaranteeing the conservation of African cultural and natural heritage in line with its visionary Agenda 2063;
2. **African Heads of State** to adhere to their commitments under various Conventions, including the 1972 World Heritage Convention, while undertaking development projects in a sustainable manner. We further invite African States Parties to harness the opportunities offered by new and emerging technologies to secure the conservation and sustainable development of World Heritage properties;
3. **African States Parties** to develop and implement policies that recognize cultural and natural heritage, prevent and resolve conflicts as well as restore peace and security, and promote social cohesion within and outside their borders using heritage values;
4. **African States Parties** to promote the role that women and youth play in the conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage;

5. **African States Parties** to adopt policies that empower communities and improve their involvement in decision making, benefit sharing and to promote them as ambassadors of World Heritage through inclusive sustainable development initiatives;
6. **Development partners** – international finance institutions, industry, the private sector, and multi and bilateral partners – to consider heritage as a driver of sustainable development, improving the livelihood of the people and assisting in eradicating poverty in Africa, and support the sustainable management and conservation of heritage. In undertaking development projects, innovative solutions should be found to deploy environmentally friendly technologies that will not impact adversely on the OUV of heritage properties;
7. **The international community**, the African Union and African States Parties to cooperate and collaborate in global dialogue to realize their aspirations towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to address the challenges the region faces including poverty, environmental degradation, climate change, terrorism, illegal arms trade, illicit trafficking of flora, fauna and intentional destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage and looting of cultural artefacts, and other issues that critically impact African cultural and natural heritage;
8. **The General Assembly of States Parties and the World Heritage Committee to recommend to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies** to work together with African States Parties to support research in order to find appropriate and sustainable solutions for development projects associated with World Heritage properties;
9. **The World Heritage Committee to recommend to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies**, in partnership with the African World Heritage Fund and African States Parties, to develop a reference framework and capacity-building and educational programmes on heritage and sustainable development issues;
10. **The World Heritage Centre** and the Advisory Bodies in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund and national training institutions at all levels to build capacities among practitioners, communities and networks across a wide interdisciplinary and intersectoral spectrum so as to integrate heritage conservation and sustainable development perspectives. We urge the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Education Sector of UNESCO to develop a curriculum for integration into national education systems;
11. **The Committee and the Advisory Bodies** to support improved regional balance and representation of African expertise in the work of the Advisory Bodies;
12. **States Parties** to strengthen the regulatory environment for addressing heritage concerns in the development process, most particularly by ensuring mechanisms for coordination and strong linkages with established impact assessment processes, urban and rural landscape policies and planning practices and mainstreaming of cultural and natural values into national development policies and investment plans;
13. **Civil society, including local communities**, to strengthen partnerships to uphold values of heritage, including the OUV of World Heritage sites, as an integral part of society's efforts and aspirations for sustainable development.