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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth Session

Brasilia, Brazil
25 July – 3 August 2010

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress Report on the African World
Heritage Fund

SUMMARY

This report summarizes the progress made by the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) since the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009), as requested by Decision **33 COM 6A**.

Draft Decision: **34 COM 6**, see point X

I. Consolidation and strengthening the African World Heritage Fund

1. In March 2009, a Technical Advisor joined the team of AWHF. His position was made possible for one year through the joint funding from the Riksbankens Kulturfond (Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway) and the Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa. His arrival has strengthened the Fund's ability to effectively serve French-speaking countries in Africa. In May 2009, an Officer for Communication and Resource Mobilization also joined the institution. The main responsibility of the Fund and the Trust to establish an Endowment Fund indicate the importance of this position. In October 2009, a second Programme Specialist funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) joined the AWHF.

II. Policy and guidelines development

2. In November 2009, AWHF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation to collaborate in three main areas:
 - a) Training of heritage professionals in the preparation of nomination dossiers for inscription on the World Heritage List
 - b) Implementation of a programme on sustainable tourism at World Heritage sites in Africa.
 - c) Periodic Reporting Exercise for Africa with a view to developing a programme based on the results of the exercise.

Following a request for action for the establishment of AWHF as a Category II Centre, presented by the Republic of South Africa, the 35th General Conference of UNESCO decided to establish the Fund as a UNESCO Category II Centre.

III. Promotion of the African World Heritage Fund

3. The African World Heritage Fund website has been updated in terms of content, links, pictures and documents. It is in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.
4. An exhibition at Robben Island World Heritage site in South Africa was opened in May 2010. This is a result of collaboration between the African World Heritage Fund, the South African Resources Agency, the Robben Island Museum, and the Spanish and Brazilian Embassies in South Africa. The theme of the exhibition is *A Struggle for Freedom: our African Heritage*. It will be shown during the 2010 Football World Cup and will also be exhibited during the current World Heritage Committee session.

IV. Consolidating the Endowment Fund

5. The Endowment Fund has been created with an initial capital investment of thirty million Rands (approximately 4 million USD). A further fifteen million Rands (2 million USD) has also been invested as a short term transaction account.
6. The following contributions were received for the Fund during the years 2009 and 2010: Africa Union (10,000 USD), Kenya (27,900 USD), Tanzania (80,000 USD), Thailand (20,000 €), Riksbankens Kulturfond i.e. Norwegian Directorate of Culture (24,000 USD for the post of Programme Specialist) and Oman (100,000 USD). Pledges have been made by the following countries: Gabon (60,000 USD), Senegal (60,000 USD) and Algeria (600,000 USD). Requests were also made to Benin, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa,

Sudan and Zambia, to contribute to the Endowment Fund, and to Algeria, Brazil, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for programme funding.

V. Improving the number and quality of nominations

7. One of the African World Heritage Fund strategic goals focuses on increasing the number of nominations from Africa on the World Heritage List. Thus, a series of nomination training courses have been initiated in collaboration with IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. The courses trained African heritage professionals in nomination dossier development and fostered the creation of a network of resource persons on the continent. Below are some results of the first course cycle (November 2008 - March 2010). 18 out of 51 African States Parties were involved in the course.

Country	Property	Category	Status (April 2010)	English/ French
1. Botswana	Okavango National Park	Nature	Ongoing	English speaking course in Lesotho
2. Egypt	Ras Mohamed National Park	Nature	On hold	
3. Ghana	Tongo Tengzug Cultural Landscape	Culture	Ongoing	
4. Kenya	Kenya Lake System	Nature	Submitted WHC	
5. Lesotho	Sehlabathebe National Park	Nature	Ongoing	
6. Mozambique	Querimbas Archipelagos	Mixed	Ongoing	
7. Nigeria	Surame Cultural Landscape	Culture	Ongoing	
	Oke Idanre Cultural Landscape	Culture	Submitted to WHC	
8. Swaziland	Ngwenya Mines	Culture	Ongoing	
9. Zambia	Barotse Cultural Landscape	Culture	Ongoing	
10. Benin	Pendjari National Park	Nature	Submitted to WHC	French speaking course in Benin
11. Cameroon	Lobe Falls Cultural Landscape	Culture	On hold	
12. Central African Republic	AKA Pygmies Forest and residential settlements	Culture	Ongoing	
13. Comoros	3 sites of Comoros Marine Ecosystems	Nature	Ongoing	
14. Gabon	Lastoursville Caves	Mixed	Ongoing	
15. Guinea	Gberedou-Hamana Cultural Landscape	Culture	Ongoing	
16. Guinea Bissau	Bijagos Islands	Nature	Ongoing	
17. Madagascar	Isandra Cliffs and Caves	Culture	Ongoing	
18. Niger	Agadez Old Town	Culture	On hold	

8. While the results of the nomination courses appear promising, it will take time until a real impact is realized in both quality and quantity of nominations. As a result of the training

courses, five nomination dossiers were completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration in 2010. These sites include: Pendjari National Park (Benin); Meroe Island (Sudan); Kenya Lake Systems (Kenya); Sehlabathebe National Park (Lesotho); and Oke Idanre (Nigeria).

9. The African World Heritage Fund organized a training course (31 August -11 September 2009) targeting nomination process and management of World Heritage sites for Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. This was in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), the Mozambican Directorate of Culture and USAID "Programa de Turismo de Moçambique". The objective was to raise awareness and develop competence of heritage professionals in Portuguese-speaking African countries. 15 professionals were trained and the Government of Mozambique expressed willingness to set up a training centre for Portuguese-speaking African countries.
10. Another nomination training course for Arabic Speaking Countries in Africa is scheduled for September 2010.
11. Research has been initiated at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, with various students exploring different topics related to World Heritage sites. The first academic results are expected by June 2010. The program is the first of its kind in Africa. It is hoped that more universities will be drawn into this programme, if funds permit.

VI. Tentative Listing

12. Three workshops for the regional harmonization of Tentative Lists were organized. The first one was held in São Tome in March 2009. Eight French speaking countries attended to work on their respective Tentative Lists. The second one was held in Nigeria in May 2009. It gathered six West African English-speaking countries. The third one was held in Egypt, 14-18 March 2010. It gathered participants from eight African countries.

VII. Management and State of Conservation

13. A workshop supported by AWHF was held at Kilwa Kisiwani in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of the United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop established a framework to coordinate various initiatives on the site, and worked to develop the desired state of conservation for the site of Kilwa Kisiwani which is on the World Heritage In Danger List.
14. Assistance and support was granted to the site of Sine Ngayene and Wanar Stone Circles in Senegal to ensure that the heritage places are promoted and developed. In Botswana AWHF supported the updating of the Tsodilo Hill World Heritage Site Management Plan. The AWHF is also supporting the workshop aimed at enforcing legal measures to protect the historic town of Grand Bassam in Cote d'Ivoire. Support was given to Burkina Faso to stabilize the Ruins of Loropéni and to Mozambique to develop a Management Plan for Mozambique Island.
15. The AWHF in collaboration with IUCN provided financial assistance to the Protected Areas Programme in Central and West Africa (PAPACO) to implement a project aimed at improving the management of eight natural World Heritage properties in West Africa. Evaluation and management tools were developed for these properties.

16. The 6th World Rangers Congress took place in November 2009 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The African World Heritage Fund supported 8 Rangers to attend the Congress. Participants were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
17. As a result of a fire at the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) World Heritage property on 16 March 2010, and following a request from the Government of Uganda, the AWHF in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre sent a team of experts to Uganda (7-9 April 2010) to assess the situation. Based on the interim report produced by the team, AWHF Board of Trustees approved an Emergency Fund to assist in organizing a national stakeholders' workshop in Uganda to discuss and define the reconstruction strategy. AWHF will also support a study on traditional construction practices, survey of the current state of the site and documentation of available data related to the property.

VIII. Infrastructural Development Pilot Studies

18. The AWHF is partnering with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to undertake a situational analysis of the infrastructural needs for tourism development at African World Heritage properties. In 2009 studies were produced on the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania), Twyfelfontein (Namibia), Great Zimbabwe National Monument (Zimbabwe), Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana) and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda). Five more studies are planned in 2010 on the following properties: Timbuktu (Mali), Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe), Island of Gorée (Senegal), Tsodilo (Botswana) and Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania). The aim of these projects is to understand how best to develop African World Heritage properties as tourism destinations in order to unlock the economic opportunities and benefits that tourism can bring to the rural poor.

IX. Conclusion

19. Currently the AWHF is supporting 17 projects in 20 countries. Most of these projects are being implemented with country and regional institutions. The projects' emphasis is the development of high quality nomination documents. Gradually, the issues on conservation and management will also be addressed. The challenge for the next years is the sustainability and growth of the Fund, partly by ensuring that the Endowment Fund is established and operational. The fulfilment of pledges to this Endowment Fund is a key factor in this process.

X. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 34 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/6,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 6A** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);
3. Takes note of the Progress Report made in the implementation of the activities of the African World Heritage Fund;

4. Welcomes the decision of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO to establish the African World Heritage Fund as Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
5. Expresses its appreciation to partners at all levels for their financial support and assistance to the African World Heritage Fund during the years 2009 and 2010;
6. Encourages the African World Heritage Fund to develop a campaign strategy aiming at fundraising for activities and the Endowment Fund;
7. Also encourages the African World Heritage Fund and the World Heritage Centre to define a core of activities to be jointly implemented in Africa in the framework of the UNESCO - African World Heritage Fund agreement signed in January 2010 ;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a progress report on the African World Heritage Fund's activities for examination at its 35th session in 2011.