

AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND (AWHF)

Report for the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Report developed on 8 February 2013

1- Background and mandate of the Centre:

The African World Heritage Fund was created in 2006 and endorsed by the African Union's Heads of States meeting the same year. It was granted the status of UNESCO Category II Centre in 2009 and the agreement between UNESCO and South Africa signed on 27 January 2010.

The AWHF's mission is to strengthen implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in African State Parties, by facilitating application of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in Africa. To that end, the AWHF shall assist African State Parties to:

- Prepare and update national inventories, tentative lists and nomination dossiers;
- Compile integrated management plans for the proper management and conservation of World Heritage properties located in the territory of the relevant African State Party;
- Comply with their obligations under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

2- Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises):

The AWHF's 12th Board meeting was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 6-7 December 2012. The Board of Trustees comprises 12 members including representatives of host country, African regions and professionals, UNESCO and African Union. The Secretariat comprises 8 officers.

The AWHF depends on voluntary contributions from States Parties to the Convention (mainly from Africa) to set up and consolidate the Endowment and Operation Fund. The programmes funding is provided by various partners.

3- Main programs and activities implemented since June 2012 and plans for current year:

3.1- Making the World Heritage List credible, representative and balanced

3.1.1- Regional Tentative Listing workshop (3-5 September 2012, Juba, South Sudan): 22 participants from 7 East African countries attended and are now busy developing/updating their national Tentative Lists.

3.1.2- Launching of online database of the African World Heritage properties (1 February 2013): the database adds some information layers to the World Heritage Centre website such as management plans, photos, administration, contacts details etc. It will be an important tool for increased interaction on World Heritage sites in Africa ([www.awhf.net/our sites/AWHF database](http://www.awhf.net/our_sites/AWHF_database)).

3.1.3- Training course for English speaking countries (Mbale, Uganda, 14-25 October 2012): the 5th nomination course brought together 16 trainees from 8 countries and working on 9 nomination projects. Technical and financial support is being provided to all the counties who attended upon request. In the meantime, the training course for French Speaking countries will be held in Grand-Bassam (Cote d'Ivoire), from 1-12 April 2013.

3.2- Contribute to sustainable management and conservation of World Heritage properties

3.2.1- Conservation grants: the following countries were granted financial assistance during the reporting period:

- Senegal: *participatory establishment of the boundaries and the buffer zone of Niokolo Koba National Park;*
- Tanzania: *Conservation of the Thawi Rock Art complex Kondoa World Heritage Site;*
- Kenya: *Harnessing heritage potentials of Fort Jesus World Heritage site.*

3.2.2- Workshop on risk preparedness (Djoudj National Park, Senegal, 19-23 November 2012): as part of Africa Nature programme which is being implemented in partnership with World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the workshop gathered 13 natural sites managers and provided basics for risk preparedness plans. The Anglophone workshop is planned for May 2013 in South Africa.

3.2.3- World Heritage and sustainable development programme (Johannesburg, 26-28 September 2012): In the framework of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and following the expert workshop on "*Impact of Development and extractive industry activities on World Heritage properties in Africa*" which was held jointly with the World Heritage Centre and the Department of Environment South Africa in May 2012, an international conference was conveyed on "*Living with World Heritage in Africa*". The conference brought together about 300 decision makers and participants covering a wide range of heritage stakeholders such as Ministers, extractive experts, business sector, heritage professionals, academics and community representatives. The conference produced a "declaration on Mali" and the Second African Position Paper on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Position Paper was endorsed by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Kinshasa (DRC) from 29 October to 2 November and presented to the final 40th anniversary meeting held between 6 and 8 November in Japan.

3.2.4- Implementation programme of Second Periodic Report's Action Plan in Africa: the planning and methodology workshop (Johannesburg, 22-26 October 2012) brought together various stakeholders who reflected in depth on the activities to be implemented in 2013-2015 as part of the Periodic Reporting follow-up being supported by the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry. This resulted in a plan of action (5 regional field projects, 4 trainings on Risks preparedness and entrepreneurships at World Heritage sites, 2 research/publications on sustainable development and traditional management systems, 3 rounds of internships at AWHF, EPA and CHDA).

3.2-5- Cooperation with Category II Centres

- The two year exchange programme with NWHF of African and Norwegian young professionals – came to an end in September 2012.
- In cooperation with ARC/WH and NWHF, an exhibition on Arab-African exchange routes was shown at the 36th World Heritage Committee Session – At that occasion, a brochure on all Category II Centres was distributed.

4- Website: www.awhf.net

5- Designated Focal Point:

Name: Souayibou Varissou
Position: Head of Programmes
Tel. +27 112563544/52
Fax: +27 112063009
Email: SouayibouV@awhf.net