

# Report for the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee

## (Manama, 24 June-4 July 2018)

### 1. General information

- **Name of the Centre:** African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)
- **Address:** 1258 Lever Road, Headway Hill, Midrand 1685, South Africa
- **Telephone:** +27 11 313 3911/3061
- **Name and contact information of the Acting Director/Head:** Souayibou Varissou, SouayibouV@awhf.net
- **Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):** Albino Jopela, Head of Programmes, JopsJ@dbsa.org
- **Website of the Centre (if available):** www.awhf.net

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

The Board of Trustees ordinarily meets twice a year in June and December. It's composed of 5 regional members (East, West, North, Centre and Southern Africa), 3 professional members and 3 institutional members (UNESCO, African Union and South Africa as host). The Secretariat is currently composed of 10 staff including 2 interns and 2 seconded. The premise and part of the operation are funded by the host country. Contributions from other States Parties help to consolidate operation and implement programmes. The AWHF also has an Endowment Fund which returns on investment aim to sustain its work. The AWHF's offices are located in the premises of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

### 3. Updates on the management of the Centre – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting was held in December 2017 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The meetings among others (1) *Requested* the Secretariat to facilitate the development of a position paper/document on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa in collaboration with the World Heritage Committee African members to be examined at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting, (2) *Further requested* the Secretariat to follow-up in collaboration with UNESCO with the possibility for China to support capacity building programmes in Africa and (3) *Reiterated* the need for continued dialogue with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and AWHF to ensure that challenges experienced in operationalization of the hosting agreement are discussed and solved in good time.

#### 4. Main programs and activities implemented since April 2017 and planned for the current year

Nb	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS <sup>1</sup>
<b>1</b>	<b>BETTER REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN CONTINENT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST</b>	
1.1	Nomination Programme “World Heritage Upstream Support Programme in Africa” (June 2017, South Africa)	2.2
1.2	National Workshop on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (November 2017, Swaziland)	2.3
<b>2</b>	<b>IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES</b>	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethiopia (Conservation of the Vernacular Islamic architectures in the fortified city of Harar Jugol and promoting a better understanding of the World Heritage Convention)</li> <li>• Ghana (Digital documentation for the conservation of Fort William)</li> </ul>	4.9, 5.3, 6.1
2.2	Educational grants for Masters/PhD students working on the themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Historic cities, urban dynamics and challenges of heritage protection in Southern Benin: cases of Abomey and Ouidah”</li> <li>• “Education to sustainable development: education to biodiversity conservation and management of the natural heritage at the Tsingy Bemaraha National Park, Antsalova District, Melaky Region (Madagascar)”</li> </ul>	1.3
2.3	Call for application for World Heritage conservation (July-August 2017)	4.9, 5.3, 6.1
2.4	Call for application for Research and Educational grants	1.3
2.5	Application to Nomination grants (2017-2018)	2.3, 2.8
2.6	World Heritage Committee Experts Meeting (June 2017, Angola)	4.9, 10.7
2.7	Regional Risk Preparedness Workshop (October 2017, Cameroon)	4.5, 5.2, 5.3, 8.3
	National Risk Preparedness workshop (August 2018, South Africa)	4.5, 5.2, 5.3, 8.3
2.8	Technical Assistance to Comoe (Cote d’Ivoire) & Niokolo Koba (Senegal) National Parks (2016-2018)	4.9, 5.3
2.9	3rd Meeting of the African Union Commission Working Group on development of the Model law on the protection of Cultural Property and Heritage (August 2017, Malawi)	4.9
<b>3</b>	<b>INCLUSION OF WORLD HERITAGE IN SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>	
3.1	Youth Forum on African World Heritage for Portuguese Speaking African Countries (April-May 2018, Mozambique)	10.1
3.2	Community project at Djoudj National Birds Sanctuary through Entrepreneurship and Tourism (Senegal)	5.3
<b>4</b>	<b>PROMOTION, NETWORKING &amp; PARTNESHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>	
4.1	Patron Business Leaders Breakfast Event (September 2017, Namibia)	10.8
4.2	Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related C2Cs (February 2018, South Africa)	9.1
4.3	Exhibition and roundtable on Slave Trades in Africa (June 2017, Poland)	9.1
4.4	Various publications (annual report, quarterly reports, newsletters)	9.1
4.5	Participation to various meetings/events in Africa and abroad	7.4, 10.8

<sup>1</sup> WHCBS i.e. World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>).