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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 second Session

Quebec City, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008

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

SUMMARY

This report summarizes progress since the Committee's 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) to establish the African World Heritage Fund, as requested by Decision **31 COM 23B**. It also presents for information a copy of the Strategic Plan 2008-2010 for the Implementation of the African Position Paper on the State of World Heritage in Africa.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 6A, see Point X

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) offices have now been established at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in Midrand, South Africa. It started operating from these DBSA premises as from October 1, 2007. Previously the office operated from the South African Department of Arts and Culture. The AWHF office staff consist of the Director, the Technical Advisor seconded from UNESCO World Heritage Centre and an Administrative Assistant. Given the limited capacity of the office, logistical support has been provided by the Department of Arts and Culture and DBSA.

II. ESTABLISHING THE STATUS QUO

2. The target for the endowment is to begin to raise a return of at least USD 300,000 per year. This should be raised to over USD 500,000 within the next five years. The target for the Endowment Fund is USD10 million. The endowment proceeds should be made available each year to help States Parties in Africa improve on the application of the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage* in Africa.
3. A series of meetings have been held with both with the DBSA and the Department of Arts and Culture to establish the current situation of the Fund. As of September 2007, the funds for the AWHF housed at the DBSA amounted to R 8,633,605.5 (USD 1,300,000). It was important to be able to establish a list of the countries which had pledged and determine what amounts were promised to the AWHF. These lists of pledges and contributions have now been established.
4. As of February 2008, the amount raised for Funds was R 24 000 000 (USD 3,3m). The following table shows the state of pledges and effective contributions:

PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS-JANUARY 2008

AFRICA

	Pledged \$	Rands	Transferred \$	Rands
Morocco	50000		49985	358092.54
Mauritius	10000		9985	72091.7
Kenya	35000		32983	229626.65
Algeria	60000		0	
Gabon	60000		0	
Namibia	50000		60000	433060
South Africa		20000000		5000000
Nigeria	1000000			
Tanzania	500000			
Zambia	50000			
Africa Union	60000			

Totals	1875000	20000000	152953	6092870.89
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Other countries

Norway	500000			
India (feasibility study)	30000			183141
India (Endowment)	50000		79885	353115
South Korea (advocacy meeting)	30000		29985	210824.54
Spain	1439800		1439800	9800000

China (feasibility study)			199034
China (Endowment)	1000000	1000000	7142000
Netherlands (Feasibility study)		154152	138835.8
Netherlands (Endowment)			610680
Israel	25000		138835.8
UK (for meeting)	48000		
Totals			
	3122800	2549670	18791782.34
Grand Totals	4997800	20000000	2702623
			24884653.23

5. The Funds were audited by the Auditor General of South Africa for the year 2006-2007 and 2007 to 2008. A request to audit the Fund has been made and DBSA has agreed to do this and the process has been started.

III. PUBLICITY, MARKETING AND BRANDING

6. Cooperate Identity tools for the Fund have been developed. These will be used in the promotion and fundraising efforts of the Fund. Support in developing these has partly come from MTN South Africa (a mobile phone company).They include the following:
- *Letterheads and business cards*
 - *Brochures and posters for promotion*
 - *Website*
7. These promotional tools are being produced in two languages: French and English. Plans are underway to source funds to also develop them in Arabic. It was also important to involve professionals from the continent in the development of these tools. Thus a mini-workshop to discuss the work on the cooperate identity tools was held at the end of January 2008.

IV. DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR ACCESSING SUPPORT

8. With the help of the Technical Advisor from UNESCO World Heritage Centre, draft application forms and guidelines for accessing funds by Africa State Parties have now been developed. The application forms for funding and the guidelines have been distributed to the African States Parties and are also available on the AWHF website (<http://www.awhf.net>)

V. PRIORITY PROJECTS

9. The AWHF has begun the process of implementing the priority projects identified by the Board of Trustees during its second meeting held in March 2007 in Paris. The following outline details the progress made to date.

a) Update of the tentative list for Mozambique

A tentative listing workshop was held in Mozambique in June 2008. The workshop was funded by the AWHF and UNESCO Office in Maputo.

b) Nomination file for the Ruins of Mbanza Kongo in Angola

Through the help of the World Heritage Centre contacts have been made with the Angolan authorities. The project is a joint effort with the World Heritage Centre and the

Fund will contribute USD 15,000. AWHF is closely working with World Heritage Centre in order to transfer AWHF contribution.

c) Nomination file for the Island of Meroe in Sudan

AWHF has made a commitment to help in the development of a management plan for the proposed nomination site of the Island of Meroe in Sudan. Some activities being already funded by the World Heritage Centre, discussions with the Sudanese authorities are conducted in order to establish the nature of assistance needed.

d) Preparation of Lesotho tentative list

AWHF has provided to Lesotho in June 2008 USD 20 000 to develop a tentative list and review the legislation framework in that country. The work is conducted in collaboration with the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

e) Referred, differed and incomplete nominations

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Kenya to assist with the referred nomination of the Kaya sacred Forests. An amount of USD 5,000 was provided on April 2007, to cover the cost of the selected international expert recruited by National Museums of Kenya.
- Contacts have also been established with the State Parties of Burkina Faso with regards to the finalization of nomination file of the Ruins of Loropeni.
- AWHF is also considering providing assistance for the completion of the nomination file of the old town of Agadez in Niger.

VI. ESTABLISHING LINKS WITH MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

10. Several meetings have been held with potential strategic partners with a view of establishing a working relationship. All the African State Parties to the *Convention* will be contacted with a view to update them on the *modus operandi* of AWHF and its current status. This should be accompanied by an appeal to the State Parties to financially contribute to the Fund. Once information brochures on the AWHF, currently under preparation, are printed, they will be sent to all the State Parties to the *Convention*.
11. Collaboration and discussion with the World Heritage Centre have been on-going particularly through the Technical Advisor. This ensures the synchronization of World Heritage activities in Africa. All the UNESCO offices *in Africa* have been apprised of the existence of the Fund.
12. Discussions have also been held with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) on developing policies for the Fund, particularly in developing the investment policies for the Endowment Fund. NWHF is also helping in *the process* of applying for UNESCO category 2 Institute.

VII. STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS FOR THE AWHF

13. AWHF has been developing frameworks for its operations particularly for the first three to five years.

a) Communications and Resource mobilization

A document has been developed which focuses on fundraising and communication for the AWHF. The document outlines the main strategic implementations necessary to

provide information and fund raise among State Parties, Strategic Partners, Private Sector and Donor Community.

b) Programme Activity Document

With the help of the NWHF, a Strategic Plan (in the form of LFA matrix) for 2008 to 2010 has been developed for the AWHF. An expert workshop was held in May 2008, in Tanzania, to finalize this important document. The Strategic Plan outlines the major activities for the Fund for the next three years. The main emphasis is on strengthening the Endowment Fund and also capacity building in the process of preparation of nomination files. Thus plans are under way to hold a training course on this in Lesotho in November 2008. IUCN, World Heritage Centre, and ICCROM have been collaborating in preparing a curriculum for the training course which will become a regular feature for the Fund.

c) Operational Framework Document.

The third document developed is the Operational Framework. This outlines the administrative and governance structures of the Fund.

VIII. ADVOCACY MEETING

14. An Advocacy meeting aimed at apprising all the Stakeholders of the AWHF in Africa was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 24-25 April 2008. The meeting brought together 50 State Parties to Convention and representatives from various donors agencies. The meeting deliberated on the issues of the Fund and methods to improve the operation of the AWHF.
15. The Advocacy Meeting was attended by over 50 professionals from all regions of Africa, by the Board of Trustees of the African World Heritage Fund and by the representatives of most of the World Heritage Committee's members from Africa (presently Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Kenya, Nigeria, Mauritius, Benin). The Meeting focused primarily on the key strategic issues faced by the African World Heritage Fund in the present phase of development of its initiatives:
 - a) fund-raising strategy;
 - b) launching of projects and programs;
 - c) promotion of the Fund among donors and the public.
16. The Advocacy meeting proved the viability of the African World Heritage Fund as a tool for supporting identification and conservation of World Heritage sites in Africa, and in fostering capacity building and awareness.
17. The next phase will be focused on two major objectives:
 - a) Strengthening the institutional and operational structure of the Funds, by obtaining the status of Centre of Category II at the 2009 General Conference, and by hiring a permanent professional staff;
 - b) Increasing project delivery by supporting initiatives, receiving grants for project implementation, linking to existing programs (in particular Africa 2009) and establishing partnerships with other NGOs.
18. During the meeting, the State Parties of Egypt and Nigeria announced their decision to respectively contribute 1,000,000 \$ to the African World Heritage Fund.

IX. CONCLUSION

19. The first few months since October 2007 have been spent establishing the operational framework and developing the strategies to strengthen the African World Heritage Fund. AWHF has also been playing a role as a referral place for information. Many State Parties send inquiries to the Secretariat of the Fund on issues pertaining to the World Heritage listing and management. Thus the AWHF is also fulfilling a role as an information centre.

X. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 32 COM 6A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/6A,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 11C.1**, **30 COM 11F** and **31 COM 23B** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006), and at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively;
3. Takes note of the Report of progress made in the implementation of the African World Heritage Fund;
4. Expresses its appreciation to partners at all levels for their support, assistance and financial to the African World Heritage Fund;
5. Welcomes the results of the first advocacy meeting organized in Abuja (Nigeria) from 24-25 April 2008;
6. Calls upon the State Parties to the Convention, the African Union, the public and private institutions, the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue supporting and contributing to the African World Heritage Fund;
7. Appeals to the international community to support the African World Heritage Fund and its funding strategy so as to ensure that the targeted Endowment Fund is quickly consolidated to enable the Fund being operational;
8. Request the World Heritage Centre to submit a progress report on the African World Heritage Fund's activities for examination at its 33rd session.