



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

# World Heritage

# 33 COM

**Distribution Limited**

**WHC-09/33.COM/6A**

**Paris, 29 May 2009**

**Original: English/French**

## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

### CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

#### WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Thirty-third Session**

**Seville, Spain  
22 – 30 June 2009**

**Item 6: Progress Reports on funding initiatives**

**Item 6A: Progress Report on the African World Heritage Fund**

#### **SUMMARY**

This report summarizes the progress made since the 32nd Session (Quebec City, 2008) of the Committee to establish the African World Heritage Fund, as requested by Decision **32 COM 6A**.

**Draft Decision: 33 COM 6A**, See point X

## **I. Creation, consolidation and strengthening the African World Heritage Fund**

1. The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) was created in May 2006 to support the effective conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value in Africa. The Fund, which is a Trust registered under South African law, is the result of work undertaken at and following the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, 2004) by the Africa Group at UNESCO to develop a strategy for dealing with the challenges faced by many African countries regarding the implementation of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*. These challenges were brought fully to light by the *Africa Periodic Report*, presented at the Committee's 26th session (Budapest, 2002).
2. Human resource: After operating for almost a year with only the Director, the World Heritage Centre advisor and an Administrative Assistant, the Fund has now recruited a Programme Specialist and a Resource Mobilisation officer. This will enable the fund to implement its programmes and also double its efforts in fundraising. The post of Programme Specialist is being funded by the Spanish Development cooperation. In July 2008, the contract for Technical Advisor came to an end and World Heritage Centre could not continue funding his secondment to the AWHF. The AWHF would like to express its gratitude to the World Heritage Centre and the Seychelles Government for the services rendered. Given the importance of this post, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway and the Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa agreed to fund the continuation of this post for a period of one year.

## **II. Policy and guidelines development**

3. Assistance Forms: the guidelines and assistance forms for accessing the funds have been developed and are now being used by most countries to apply for assistance. These forms have been sent to Member States and can also be found on the AWHF website [www.awhf.net](http://www.awhf.net). The database for evaluators is being developed to ensure that the applications received are peer-reviewed before recommendations are made to the Board of Trustees. During its last meeting the Board approved eleven projects from Member States for funding and implementation.
4. Strategic documents: The Fund has developed two strategic documents to guide its operations for the next two years. The first is the Strategic Plan, which prioritises the need to establish a sustainable endowment fund and the implementation of projects which will improve the situation of World Heritage sites in Africa. The second document is on Communications and Resource Mobilisation for the Fund. The document outlines the main fundraising campaigns to be undertaken in the next two years to ensure that the set targets for the Endowment Fund are met and programme activities are implemented.
5. Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA): EPA and AWHF have begun to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in the capacity building programmes particularly in the field of Heritage Management. EPA as a regional institution will be implementing a number of projects in collaboration with AWHF.
6. IUCN in West Africa: The AWHF and IUCN office in Ouagadougou are collaborating in developing a project to improve the management of natural heritage sites in French Speaking West Africa. EPA together with the IUCN office Ouagadougou will also be responsible for coordinating the Nomination Training Course to be held in Benin for the French Speaking countries this year in May.

7. Nordic World Heritage Foundation: AWHF has been working in collaboration with the NWHF to improve the quality of nominations for World Heritage sites in Eastern and Southern Africa. The emphasis is on natural sites. Exchange of personnel and sharing of experiences has been developed.
8. In the framework of the support by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa, the two Programme Specialists of the Fund visited the World Heritage Centre in Paris in May 2009 to familiarize with UNESCO World Heritage Centre's working methods and conducted several meetings with the Africa and Arab States Units in preparation of future cooperation and exchanges. This cooperation will be finalized through a 3 years Memorandum of Understanding which will define a core of activities to be jointly implemented including: (1) support to the Second cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise to be launched at the 33rd session in Seville (Spain); (2) support to the activities to be implemented by EPA and CHDA in the framework of the new Programme to follow Africa 2009 Programme; (3) support the initiative to improve the quality of nomination dossiers from Africa Region.
9. Board of Trustees: The term of the Interim Board established in 2006 came to an end in February 2009. A new formal board was selected. The new board consists of five regional representatives, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Africa Union, South Africa and three professional members. The new Board's mandate is for two years.
10. Following the decisions of the Interim Board, the authorities of the Republic of South Africa submitted, on 19 March 2009, a Request for Action concerning the establishment of AWHF as Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. It is expected that this status will strengthen the Fund in carrying out its mandate to implement the World Heritage Convention in Africa and this will also improve its visibility on the international arena.

### **III. Promotion for the African World Heritage Fund**

11. As reported in the Record of Decisions of the Board Meeting held in February 2008, the AWHF website is now operational in English. The French version will be completed soon. However all important documents on the Fund which are put on the internet are presented in both English and French. The brochures to promote the Fund and appeal for funding are now in English, French and Arabic. We thank the Moroccan Embassy in South Africa and the Sudanese Antiquities Department for helping with translation to Arabic. The appeal brochures are being sent to all the State Parties to the World Heritage Convention.
12. Green Vision Foundation: A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Green Vision Foundation South Africa with a view to collaborate in the promotion of African World Heritage sites. Green Vision has undertaken to develop a photographic exhibition on African World Heritage sites to be viewed during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Discussions are underway to have these exhibitions mounted at the Eziko Museum in Cape Town and the History Museum in Pretoria.

### **IV. Consolidating the Endowment Fund**

13. The AWHF with the help of the Development Bank of Southern Africa are looking at a number of options on the investment of the Endowment Fund. Investment houses have been asked to provide proposals for consideration. Care has to be taken with the

investments given the challenges being experienced throughout the world on the economic situation. Advice is being sought from the Development Bank of Southern Africa and other established investment houses on the way forward.

14. Funds Received: By March 2009 the AWHF had received approximately R 61 million (\$6.8 million). Of this approximately \$2 million is for programme activities and operation. The pledges made so far are approximately \$11 millions, thus \$5 million still has to be made good. The list below contains all the countries that have made commitments to the Fund.

Country	Dollars	Rands
<b>Africa</b>		
Egypt	1 500 000	
South Africa		R20 million (partial transfer)
Namibia	100,000(Partial Transfer)	
Morocco	50 000	
Mauritius	10 000	
Kenya	100,000(Partial Transfer)	
Gabon	60,000(not yet transferred)	
African Union	60, 000(not yet transferred)	
Tanzania	1 million ((Partial Transfer)	
Algeria	600 000 (not yet transferred)	
Zambia	50 000 (not yet transferred)	
Nigeria	1 million (not yet transferred)	
<b>Other countries</b>		
Norway	400 000	
Spain	2 500 000	
China	1 000 000	
Israel	20 000	
Netherlands	220 000	
India	50 000	

#### **V. Improving the number and quality of nominations:**

15. A course aimed at improving the number and quality of nominations from Africa was held in Lesotho from the 4th to 16th November 2008. The course was implemented in collaboration with the Lesotho government, CHDA, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICCROM. The course is the first of its kind combining nature and cultural experts. Its main objectives are to increase the quality of African World Heritage nomination dossiers and the number of African sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

16. The course gathered 19 participants from 9 English speaking African countries to work together on the nomination dossier of one site per country. This is the first step of the programme on Nomination Process that has been developed and mainly funded by AWHF. It is phased into 4 steps including follow-up missions and counselling by experts from heritage institutions. The four steps are:
  - A two week training course to introduce the World Heritage nomination process and establish targeted goals for each country – Done for English speaking countries.
  - An eight month period where the professionals return to their countries and continue working on the nomination dossier (fieldwork) – In progress.
  - A two week training workshop which brings the professionals involved to conduct comparative analysis and monitor progress
  - A final period of work in their countries to finalize the draft nomination dossiers.
17. A similar training for African French speaking countries will be held between 11th and 23rd May 2009 at EPA, Porto-Novo, Benin. Nine countries are to participate in first stage of the training course. The course will adopt the same model as the one held in Lesotho.
18. In collaboration with CHDA plans are underway to implement a similar course for Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. The course is scheduled for September 2009.
19. Apart from the Training courses the AWHF supported the work on the resubmitted site of Kaya Sacred Forests. The site was successfully nominated to the World Heritage List in 2008. Support is also being given to the conservation work being undertaken in Burkina Faso at the referred site of Loropeni Ruins.

## **VI. Tentative Listing**

20. The AWHF has embarked on encouraging countries to develop and update tentative lists. Thus Regional Harmonization of Tentative listing workshops are being implemented with the first having been implemented in Sao Tome in March 2009. Eight (8) French speaking countries meet to work on their lists. The second workshop will be implemented in Nigeria in May 2009. Six countries will develop harmonized lists for English speaking countries in West Africa. Others are planned for North African countries and will be held in Egypt in December 2009.
21. In Mozambique a workshop was held in July 2008 to update the tentative list and this has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

## **VII. Management and State of conservation**

22. Following an approach from the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Tanzania, discussions have been held with a view to hold a workshop on state of conservation for the World Heritage site of Kilwa Kisiwani which is on the Danger List. Whilst there are many financial and technical partners working on different aspects of the site, it appears there is serious lack of coordination and understanding of what is required to gradually take this site out of the Danger List.
23. Assistance and support is also being given 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 has supported the updating of the Tsodilo Hill World Heritage Site Management Plan. The AWHF is also supporting the legal measures to protect the historical town of Grand Bassam in Cote d'Ivoire.

24. A workshop on preparation of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the African Region was held in Tanzania from 2 to 4 March, 2009. AWHF in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Government of Switzerland co-funded and supported the meeting which was attended by 36 representatives from 18 African countries and experts from ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. The purpose of the workshop was to prepare draft statements of OUV for sites already on the World Heritage List.

### **VIII. Infrastructural Development Pilot Study**

25. The AWHF is partnering with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to undertake situational analysis of the infrastructural needs for tourism development at African World Heritage sites. The first three studies of Kilwa Kisiwani (Tanzania) Twyfelfontein (Namibia) Cradle of Humankind (South Africa) have already been completed. Three more are planned for Great Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe) Timbuktu (Mali) and Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe). The projects wishes 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 often (rural) areas.

### **IX. Conclusion**

26. Currently the AWHF is supporting seventeen (17) projects in fifteen (15) countries. Most of these projects are being implemented with country and regional institutions. The emphasis with the projects is the development of high quality nomination documents. Gradually the issues on conservation and management will also be dealt with. The challenge for the next two years is to grow the Fund to ensure that sustainability is achieved this means ensuring that the Endowment Fund is set-up and is operational. Whilst pledges have been made it has also proved a challenge to ensure that these have been paid up. The annual report for the AWHF for 2008 will be distributed during the World Heritage Committee meeting in Spain.

### **X. Draft Decision**

#### **Draft Decision: 33 COM 6A**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/6A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 6A** adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008);*
3. *Takes note of the Progress Report made in the implementation of the African World Heritage Fund;*
4. *Expresses its appreciation to partners at all levels for their financial support and assistance to the African World Heritage Fund;*
5. *Calls upon the States 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, including the consolidation of the Endowment Fund;*

6. *Also takes note of the request submitted by the Republic of South Africa to the Director General of UNESCO, to seek a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO for the Fund;*
7. *Encourages the Fund and the World Heritage Centre to define a core of activities to be jointly implemented in Africa;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a progress report on the African World Heritage Fund's activities for examination at its 34th session in 2010.*