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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-third session

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June – 10 July 2019**

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

5D. Priority Africa, sustainable development and World Heritage

SUMMARY

By Decision **42 COM 17**, the World Heritage Committee invited the Secretariat to report on Priority Africa and Sustainable Development at the 43rd session of the Committee in 2019. This document presents the report of the implementation of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy in Africa.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 5D, see point V.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In November 2015, the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention adopted, by Resolution **20 GA 13**, the Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention (WH-SDP)(the text of the Policy can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/20ga/>). Subsequently, the World Heritage Committee by Decision **40 COM 5C** welcomed its adoption and reiterated the need to achieve appropriate balance and integration between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives and called upon States Parties to ensure that sustainable development principles are mainstreamed into national processes related to World Heritage, in full respect of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties.
2. During the examination of the agenda for the 43rd session at the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, and at the request of the African States Parties, the Committee by Decision **42 COM 17** invited the Secretariat to report on Priority Africa, sustainable development and World Heritage.
3. It is worth noting that properties on the World Heritage List are also protected by other international legal instruments and programmes, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Man and Biosphere Programme, which shares nine African sites with the *World Heritage List* as well as elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

State of conservation of World Heritage in Africa

4. Today the Africa Region has 46 States Parties to the *Convention* (ratification by Somalia underway), and has 95 properties with 52 cultural, 38 natural and 5 mixed, from 35 States.
5. There have been noticeable World Heritage safeguarding successes in the region since the World Heritage Committee adopted the report of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region in 2002.¹
6. On the one hand, the Africa region remains under-represented on the World Heritage List as less than nine percent of all World Heritage properties are located in this region. At the same time, 30% of the properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger are found in the Africa region. Several of these properties are located in conflict and post-conflict areas, which creates very specific challenges for conservation and protection.
7. As the birthplace of humanity, some of the African cultural properties contain archaeological features and are unique in that they testify to past human activity and civilization in these areas, but they also remain a very present reality in the daily lives of the communities living in and around them, serving for spiritual and cultural rejuvenation. Their meanings have changed continuously over the centuries to fit into the current lifestyles while serving as historical markers of identity, religion and nation. Of the 52 cultural properties in the Africa region, four (7,7%) are currently on the List of World Heritage in Danger including Timbuktu (Mali), and the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda).
8. The variety of the 38 natural World Heritage properties in the Africa region, include mountains, deserts, marine coastlines, forests, savannah, wetlands, lakes and river

¹ World Heritage in Africa Region: Main Results: Second Cycle Periodic Reporting.

systems. The properties are of great importance on account of the biodiversity they contain, often endemic in nature and are unique witnesses to changes in the earth's geological and biological features.

9. Many of the properties are increasingly under threat from armed conflict and development pressures. Currently, 12 of the 38 natural properties in Africa (31.5%) are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
10. As outlined in the "Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want", Africa's culture, heritage, religious and spiritual beliefs are at the heart of the common identity and destiny of the entire continent. These elements play a fundamental role in the construction of African identity and social interaction, essential to the continent's strategies for promoting a pan-African approach and the African Renaissance.

II. WORLD HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNESCO policy document on Sustainable Development

11. The *WH-SDP* document reflects the goals of the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* along with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It also includes, for the first time, a number of key references to natural resource management and cultural heritage.
12. The World Heritage Sustainable Development policy clearly enunciates the role of World Heritage properties as a guarantor of sustainable development, with a direct call to harness their full potential to sustainable development. The policy notes that: "States Parties in implementing the *Convention* should consider the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely environmental sustainability, inclusive social development and inclusive economic development, together with the fostering of peace and security". With regard to World Heritage properties, their buffer zones and their wider settings it calls for the implementation of policies, interventions, and practices on the part of State Parties that would:
 - a) On environmental sustainability: Protect and enhance biological and cultural diversity, and ecosystem services and benefits for people that contribute to environmental sustainability; Protect and strengthen the ability of communities to resist, adapt, and recover from the effects of climate change and other environmental hazards.
 - b) On inclusive social development: Recognize cultural diversity, inclusion and equity and the potential to enhance quality of life and wellbeing of all stakeholders, and in particular local communities; Uphold, respect and contribute to the implementation of the full range of international human rights standards; Encourage the effective and equitable involvement and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of World Heritage properties and the respect of indigenous peoples' rights in nominating, managing and reporting on World Heritage properties in their own territories; and establish gender-sensitive, gender responsive, and gender transformative policies and practices.
 - c) On Inclusive Economic development: Foster inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihoods, compatibly with the protection of their OUV; Encourage inclusive and equitable economic investment in sustainable tourism development, including community-based initiatives, and ensure benefit sharing; Strengthen capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship in order to promote a holistic approach to World

Heritage properties and their associated cultural and creative industries and intangible heritage.

- d) On peace and security: Promote the achievement and maintenance of peace and security between and within States Parties; Promote a culturally pluralistic approach to protection, conservation and management; Ensure that all aspects of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention are used to prevent conflicts between and within States Parties; Refrain from any use of World Heritage properties and their immediate surroundings that are likely to expose them to destruction or damage, while also refraining from any act of hostility directed against such properties; and Harness the potential of World Heritage properties and of their conservation to contribute to conflict resolution, the re-establishment of peace and security and for contribution to post-conflict recovery and socio-economic reconstruction.

13. The implementation of the WH-SDP and the engagement of the *World Heritage Convention* with the 2030 Agenda have been addressed in detail in Document 5C.

World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa

14. Africa's cultural and natural heritage is unique and valuable. Africa has a richness in biodiversity and natural resources that have been accumulated over millions of years providing for critical ecosystem services, extraordinary cultural diversity, and a wealth of cultural heritage resources as well as indigenous and local knowledge that are strategic assets for sustainable development.
15. The rich and diverse ecosystem provides for the continent's food, water, energy, health, and livelihood needs. 62% of the population depend directly on ecosystem services in the rural areas, while in the urban areas, the population supplement their incomes, medicines, food, energy, and other essentials from ecosystem-based resources.²
16. Some of Africa's ecosystems are of great ecological, biological, and cultural importance at the regional and global level. 14% of Africa's land mass and 2.6% of the seas are protected areas internationally, in addition some sites are designated as wetlands of international importance, as well as Biosphere Reserves in addition to being World Heritage properties.³
17. Africa has the advantage of low ecological and carbon footprint compared to other parts of the world but faces challenges associated with balancing increasing economic growth, rising population, and the need to protect, conserve, and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services.
18. Cultural resources include a wide range, from archaeological sites and monuments to cities and cultural landscapes with their associated intangible cultural heritage. These are important sources of identity for the communities and the region as well as being important repositories of valuable local knowledge and providing alternative sources of employment. Learning of these local skills and knowledge enables and empowers young people to seek innovative and often more sustainable local solutions to their development needs rather than relying on external expertise alone. Traditional building techniques using local materials as well as the enduring historical markets, streets, and social spaces promote economic and social inclusion as well as environmental sustainability.
19. Africa's diversity strengthens the resilience of African communities. Many livestock herders and pastoralists maintain a range of plant and animal genetic resources for food and

² IPBES Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa.

³ IPBES Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa.

agriculture that helps mitigate the consequences of changing environmental conditions including climate related extremes.

20. Indigenous and local knowledge for managing natural resources is increasingly recognized as vital both for the effective safeguarding of the heritage properties as well as for the development of a low-carbon, ecological, knowledge-based economy.
21. The wealth and diversity of Africa's cultural heritage is intricately connected to the natural environment and to intangible elements. Over centuries, indigenous peoples of Africa have built on an elaborate scale with skill, ingenuity, local knowledge, and artistic achievement that could provide local solutions to contemporary challenges of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and benefitting local employment.
22. Actions towards the Sustainable Development Goals can be sustainably and equitably used to reduce inequality and poverty on the continent by closely aligning the strategic priorities of the African Governments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
23. The "Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want" goals and the UN 2030 Agenda align well so that regional and national initiatives can foster the effective implementation of policies and strategies to support the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage essential to deliver multiple benefits that address equity and contribute to poverty alleviation and inclusive development. They play a profound role in the construction of the African identity and social interaction essential for the continent's strategies for the promotion of a Pan-African approach and the African Renaissance.

III. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRESS SO FAR

24. As Africa is a global priority for UNESCO, the Secretariat has carried out a number of activities in Africa that were largely aimed at reinforcing capacities in the last three years. Some of these efforts are outlined below.
25. The Secretariat, in collaboration with its partners, organized the 2016 conference on the conservation and sustainable development of World Heritage in Africa at Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a World Heritage property in Arusha, Tanzania. This was in line with the fourth objective of the 2012-2017 Action Plan for the African region that underscores the necessity to "*develop and implement strategies to enable States Parties to effectively address the challenge of balancing heritage conservation and development needs.*" The conference aimed to explore methods to strengthen the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental sustainability, inclusive social and economic development while also fostering peace and security.
26. In response to the Ngorongoro Declaration (2016), the Secretariat organized a regional workshop entitled "World Heritage and Education Institutions in Africa" at Great Zimbabwe University (Zimbabwe) and Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis (Senegal). These two events marked an important milestone in the involvement of African educational institutions in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and sustainable development.
27. Likewise, the Secretariat also organized the first regional meeting on "Transboundary Cooperation for effective management of World Heritage Sites in Africa" in February 2019 in Côte d'Ivoire. The main objective of this activity was to exchange knowledge and share experience on the management of various transboundary and transnational World Heritage sites in Africa, including the use of traditional knowledge. The meeting promoted regional integration, addressed the challenges of recurrent poverty while fostering social cohesion and sustainable development. (See Annex)

28. The World Heritage Committee took several policy decisions that certain activities are incompatible with the World Heritage Status. These include extractive activities such as oil and gas exploration and exploitation and mining (Decision 37 COM 7 (Part III)) as well as the construction of dams with large reservoirs (Decision 40 COM 7). In addition, it is important to ensure that any developments outside the properties do not impact negatively on their OUV, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. It is therefore crucial that State Parties avoid large- scale development activities inside the properties and evaluate proposed development interventions in their vicinity carefully prior to approving them, through appropriate impact assessments, as defined by the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy, and based on the guidance on heritage impact assessments prepared by IUCN and ICOMOS. These impact assessments provide additional opportunities for State Parties to reiterate their commitment to sustainable development in ways that do not compromise the OUV of the World Heritage properties and will take an integrated approach in contributing to all aspects of sustainability simultaneously. It also provides opportunities for State Parties to seek alternative solutions and mitigation measures to ensure the protection of the OUV of the World Heritage Properties that may be negatively impacted.
29. Since 2012, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) in close collaboration with the Secretariat and other strategic partners have hosted international and regional events on the safeguarding of World Heritage in Africa in the context of States Parties sustainable development quest. The first major landmarks event that shaped the actions of the AWHF was the seven months programme on World Heritage and Sustainable Development which consisted of (i) a situational analysis (March-April 2012) on the “Impacts of development activities and resource extraction in and around World Heritage properties in the Africa region”; (ii) an expert workshop (23-25 May 2012) on “Managing the impacts of development activities and resource extraction in and around World Heritage properties in the Africa region”, and (iii) an international conference on “Living with World Heritage in Africa” (26-29 September 2012).
30. In 2016, following the Seminar on “African World Heritage ... Thinking Ahead”, held at the Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa World Heritage Site (Cradle of Humankind - Maropeng) from 3 - 4 May 2016, the AWHF in close collaboration with the Secretariat and other strategic partners implemented a program on entrepreneurial skills development. The program aimed to improve the management of the heritage sites; increase benefits for the communities; and enhance networking and exchange between heritage professionals, communities and heritage institutions.
31. The Secretariat in cooperation with strategic partners has organized capacity building activities for the effective conservation and management of World Heritage properties, it includes among others, the UNESCO-Africa-China Forum on World Heritage Capacity Building and Cooperation and the capacity building workshops on 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) including its intersections with sustainable development.
32. In close cooperation with UNESCO’s Field Offices, the Secretariat has carried out significant number of projects to safeguard the World Heritage sites for communities benefits through capacity building on conservation and management of World Heritage properties. One recent example is the development of the management plan for Asmara and the two capacity building workshops on the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape including its intersections with sustainable development and the 2030

Agenda. African States Parties are the first beneficiaries of the International Assurances scheme. In the last three years alone, over 25 requests were approved by the Committee for a total exceeding half a million USD.

Challenges to Implementing the WH-SDP in Africa

33. The socio-economic context of the Africa Region: the challenges of conserving world heritage sites are related to the economic development challenges the region continues to face. Africa's current population of 1.25 billion is likely to double by 2050.⁴ With the highest population growth rate, Africa ranks at the bottom (in sixth position) in GDP per capita, standing at only 1,890, compared to North America (47,750), Europe (29,450), South America (8,510) and Asia and Pacific (7,090), according to the 2018 IMF development index⁵. Infant mortality rate is high in Africa, and, at 51 per 1000 live births, it was in 2017 over six times higher than that in the European region (8 per 1000 live births), according to the World Health Organization (WHO)⁶. Average life expectancy⁷ in Africa is the lowest in the world, standing at 61 (for males) and 64 (for females), compared to Europe where it is 75 (for males) and 82 (for females) and Northern America where it is 77 (for males) and 81 (for females). In education, 38% of African adults (around 153 million) are illiterate, of which two-thirds are women, according to UNESCO⁸. This is far higher than Europe, with a mere 1.8% illiteracy rate. In 2017, the proportion of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa is the highest of all regions in the world, at 22.7% (224 million), according to FAO⁹. These indicators give a clear picture of the struggles African states are confronting in valiantly in striving towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are enshrined in UN Agenda 2030 as well as fulfilling the 2063 Agenda.
34. The challenging conditions exert extreme pressure on Africa's cultural and natural resources, including heritage sites. Additionally, the intentional destruction, looting and subsequent loss of heritage, including in World Heritage sites, have become hallmarks of civil conflicts and are cause for concern. Populations displaced by conflicts and wars, especially in the central part of the continent, often end up seeking refuge in protected areas and, without adequate measures to manage, they negatively impact World Heritage sites in these areas without any explicit intention to cause harm.
35. It is important to note that protected areas only cover less than 15% of the African land (2014 United Nations List of Protected Areas¹⁰). In other terms, over 85% of these resources are situated outside of protected areas including World Heritage sites. However, in the absence of national strategies for natural resource extraction, States Parties, developers and mining companies rarely prioritize the extraction of minerals and oil located outside the protected areas, and are instead drawn to resources inside protected areas, putting at high risk the priceless cultural and natural heritage of Africa.

⁴ IPBES Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa.

⁵ (<https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PPP/PC@WEO/THA>)

⁶ https://www.who.int/gho/child_health/mortality/neonatal_infant_text/en/

⁷ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/270861/life-expectancy-by-continent/>

⁸ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/dakar/education/literacy/>

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-l7695e.pdf>

¹⁰ *Percentage of the total area covered by the protected areas' network among regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)*

36. At the same time, decline and loss of biodiversity results in enhancing climate-related risks, land degradation, loss of soil fertility, productivity, and economic opportunities further threatening food, water, and energy and health security with serious negative impacts on livelihoods and food security as well as increased risks of climate-related disasters.
37. Poaching and illegal wildlife trade as well as unregulated development of infrastructure and human settlements, overharvesting, and other development activities further diminish biodiversity and nature's contribution to people's lives.
38. Governance and institutional structures for managing cultural and natural heritage in Africa need urgently to be strengthened. Africa's legitimate need for development is recognized worldwide. While environmental resource conservation is an integral part of the sustainable development agenda, in Africa, the realities must be managed along with the existing constraints the governments face in trying to achieve socio-economic progress. For the sustainable development agenda to succeed, the region requires greater sensitization to the cultural and natural heritage and social inclusion in policies and strategies in their design, planning, development and execution. Therefore, the sound management of cultural and natural resources is an integral component of sustainable development for Africa.
39. The pursuit to modernize with large development projects as well as rapid and unplanned urbanization diminish and destroy these delicate and rich cultural resources that could help find more sustainable solutions adapted to the Africa region.
40. As observed in the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (*IPBES*) *Regional Assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services for Africa*, the true value of biodiversity's contribution to human well-being is underappreciated in decision-making processes as scientific studies on the valuation of ecosystem services in Africa is relatively low. More studies in this direction would help African policy makers establishing priorities in the use and conservation of biodiversity and related contributions to people.
41. Many of the key challenges to sustainable development in the context of implementing the *World Heritage Convention* are evident also in the World Heritage properties – those inscribed on the List and those on the Tentative Lists.

IV. STRENGTHENING FRAMEWORKS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE WH-SDP AND THE WAY FORWARD

42. Africa is faced with a dilemma, on the one hand the development needs and aspirations of the rapidly evolving demographics are pressing, the socio-economic needs including poverty alleviation, skills and employment for youth, and the increasing inequalities'; the increasing risks of the impacts of climate change, and diminishing natural resources. On the other hand, is a need to envision solutions to these development needs and aspirations in ways that enhance the safeguarding of the OUV of the World Heritage properties.
43. Decision-making in Africa must consider a range of challenges including: the need for industrialization; rapid population growth; food, water and energy security; rapid and extensive urbanization; climate change; land degradation; ineffective governance; histories of unsustainable decisions; and loss of local and indigenous knowledge.
44. Rather than seeing heritage conservation of both natural and cultural heritage as antagonistic to development objectives, there is clearly a need to consider conservation objectives, including those promoted by the *World Heritage Convention* within a broader economic, social, cultural and environmental context, as defined by the WH-SDP and the United Nations "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Equally, there is a need to

integrate the safeguarding of heritage, and World Heritage properties in particular, in national and regional policies and programmes for sustainable development.

45. Transformative changes to bring about improvement in human wellbeing could happen with heritage conservation or follow paths that are destructive to it and that will likely remain unsustainable. To achieve positive outcomes, African countries could focus their development efforts on benefiting local communities, including them in the decision-making, and building on their knowledge and needs with progressive and proactive conservation of the continent's natural and cultural heritage.
46. Policies are necessary to create an enabling environment to develop innovative solutions and mechanisms in order to encourage inclusive development and transition to green and blue economies that support the achievement of the human development goals of health and education among other SDGs.¹¹
47. Collectively, the African continent has a lot to gain in pulling together and harnessing its vast natural resources, both natural and culture, to driving the development agenda towards greater prosperity; and it must also ensure that future growth and exploitation of natural resources is climate resilient, and sustainable¹². Developing national strategies for sustainable development that integrate the management of cultural and natural heritage into it would be a valuable way forward in ensuring the desired outcomes of *both* development and conservation – rather than one at the cost of the other.
48. It is increasingly clear that addressing the challenges of conservation and sustainable development requires a multi-pronged approach that integrates both bottom-up and top-down approaches involving diverse stakeholders from the government, civil society, and the private sector. Solutions and interventions are necessary at a number of levels from establishing and reinforcing national policies and guidelines for sustainable development that integrate World Heritage protection within them, to capacitating local communities in sustainable 'green' livelihoods that use local resources; from developing more robust frameworks for evaluating development proposals that include heritage impact assessments to strategies to encouraging the transmission and use of local cultural and environmental knowledge in ameliorating the health and skills for local youth or managing the ecosystem services of their heritage places.
49. Moreover, inclusive and participatory decision-making are integral to both the United Nations "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the "Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want." There is need to develop and provide guidance on ways to engage closely with the communities that live and work within, or adjacent to, heritage sites in order to leverage their deepest understanding of the special qualities of the site and the traditional methods by which these qualities and values are maintained and enhanced.
50. Better tools and mechanisms are necessary to develop and implement local solutions to global norms (such as the *World Heritage Convention and the 2030 Agenda*).
51. Sensitization and reinforcement of capacities will be necessary at a variety of levels from those of national decision makers to local communities, development partners, heritage institutions and regulatory agencies.

¹¹ UNEP 2011 study, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication: A synthesis for Policy Makers* defines a green economy; the Economic Commission for Africa in its 2016 publication, *Africa's Blue Economy: a Policy Handbook*, defines the Blue Economy.

¹² <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/our-work-africa>

52. Mainstreaming conservation of the OUV of the World Heritage properties, cultural, natural, and mixed, into development policies and actions at the regional, national, and local levels would be a valuable way forward including traditional management systems, and local knowledge would also enable sustainable anchoring of development interventions, reducing conflict.
53. There is need for multinationals to work closely on these issues with all the stakeholders concerned to guide and support African countries to apply innovative solutions to counter the often-conflicting needs of development and the protection of heritage sites.
54. There is currently no mechanism in place to collect information on such successful examples in terms of their specifics including policy and programme intervention, partnerships, financing arrangements, stakeholder engagement, as well as outputs and outcomes in terms of sustainable development. Increased efforts are required to build a knowledge platform to share data as well as the experience, and knowledge of researchers, academic institutions, and
55. While upholding the essence and statutes of the *World Heritage Convention*, decisions not to proceed with any development projects considered a threat to World Heritage sites should be accompanied by the formulation of alternative solutions to assist the States Parties in addressing their socio-economic development needs. It would require the entire World Heritage community to assist and partner with the State Parties in developing appropriate alternative solutions. Such an approach of working and walking together with the State Parties on developing alternative solutions will enhance the contribution of World Heritage to the sustainable development needs and aspirations of local communities as well as national governments in Africa and bring about the desired outcomes of *both* heritage conservation and sustainable development. Such global partnerships and aspirations are also enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Africa 2063.
56. Ensuring policy coherence with regard to major global compacts would also contribute towards poverty reduction and help build resilience harnessing synergies in multilateral agreements and protocols. These include the UN 2030 Agenda, and the Africa 2063 as well as the WH-SDP to deliver multiple benefits, with inclusive governance mechanisms that bring all around benefits to the local communities in and around World Heritage properties.

V. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 43 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/5D,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C**, **38 COM 5D**, and **39 COM 5D**, and **40 COM 5C**, and **41 COM 5C**, and **42 COM 17** adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions and 41st session (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd session (Manama, 2018), as well as Resolution **20 GA 13**, adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session (UNESCO, 2015),
3. Gratefully appreciating the African States Parties for their rich and unique biodiversity and their immense wealth of cultural heritage and local knowledge that have come down to humanity so far; and that must be conserved and passed on to future generations;

4. Welcomes with appreciation the activities of the World Heritage Centre along with Field Offices, the Advisory Bodies, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and other partners in raising awareness and building capacities around various issues related to World Heritage and sustainable development in Africa as well as the efforts towards developing policy and assessment tools and requests that these efforts be pursued;
5. Reiterates the need to integrate the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties with inclusive and sustainable development needs through the effective implementation of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (WH-SDP) aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. Recalls its Decision **37 COM 7** (Part III) which urges all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and the leading industry stakeholders, to respect the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM) “No-go” commitment by not permitting extractives activities within World Heritage properties, and by making every effort to ensure that extractives companies located in their territory cause no damage to World Heritage properties, in line with Article 6 of the Convention;
7. Calls upon the African States Parties to strengthen governance of World Heritage properties and mainstream the WH-SDP principles in national and local conservation and management activities in and around World Heritage properties and processes related to World Heritage in Africa; and to mainstream them in national and local plans for development;
8. Further calls upon African States Parties to focus their development efforts to benefit local communities, including them in the decision-making, and building on their knowledge and needs with progressive and proactive conservation of the natural and cultural heritage; and to create enabling environments for innovative solutions inclusive green and blue economies while progressing towards other SDGs;
9. Calls upon all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention as well as international agencies and development partners, international finance institutions, industries, private sector, and other partners including multi and bi-lateral partners to join in ensuring policy coherence and harness synergies in multilateral agreements, investments, and protocols. These include the UN 2030 Agenda, and the “Africa 2063” as well as the WH-SDP to deliver multiple benefits, with inclusive governance mechanisms that bring all around benefits to the local communities in and around World Heritage properties;
10. Thanks the States Parties and partners who have generously contributed to strengthening sustainable development in Africa and invites all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to support, financially and through other means, awareness-raising and capacity-reinforcement programmes at various levels as well as activities aimed at developing guidance, innovative solutions, tools, mechanisms, and strategies for integrating heritage conservation into sustainable development policies and programmes and mainstreaming the sustainable development approach in conservation and management activities in Africa;
11. Invites the Secretariat to guide and coordinate the efforts of the African States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to apply innovative local solutions that would further enhance the conservation of OUV in World Heritage properties, both cultural and natural, and their contribution to the sustainable development of local communities in particular; and also and to

establish a platform of good practices in integrating heritage conservation with sustainable development for African World Heritage properties.

ANNEX

Major ongoing projects benefitting Africa

Central Africa World Heritage Forests Initiative (CAWHFI)

Countries concerned: Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Gabon

Project dates: 2016-2020

- Following the first phase of the project funded by the European Union and implemented from 2008 to 2013. The donor pursued its support to the World Heritage Centre by allocating 5 million Euro for the protection and conservation of the Congo Basin Forests and its related biodiversity. The project started in 2004 and was previously funded by UNF and FFEM.
- The overall objective is to improve the sustainable management of the natural resources of the Congo Basin with a focus on three World Heritage sites: the Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon), the Lopé-Okanda Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape (Gabon) and the Tri-national de la Sangha (Cameroon, Congo and Central African Republic). The project aims i) to improve and strengthen the management and state of conservation of these World Heritage sites ; ii) to increase the representativity of the natural sites from the region on the World Heritage List by identifying potential sites (i.e: Odzala National Park in Congo) and iii) to enhance the capacities of the national heritage professionals, from the beneficiary countries, to raise the profile of the World Heritage Convention in these State parties.
- The project is implemented by the World Heritage Centre and the Regional Office of UNESCO in Cameroon.

Biosphere and Heritage of Lake Chad (BIOPALT)

Countries concerned : Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad

Project dates: 2017-2020

- This project is part of the Program for the Rehabilitation and Strengthening of the Ecological Resilience of the Lake Chad Basin (PRESIBALT), a program of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the amount of US\$ 6,456,000. It was officially launched on 26 February 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, at the International Conference on Lake Chad, attended by more than 150 people, including representatives of the five beneficiary countries, civil society, local communities, indigenous peoples and development partners. The project aims to (i) promote poverty reduction and a culture of peace; and (ii) strengthen the capacity of Member States to safeguard and sustainably manage the hydrological, biological and cultural resources in the Lake Chad Basin.. The project involves a wide range of activities ranging from the establishment of an early warning system for droughts and floods, to the restoration of degraded ecosystems such as the habitats of elephant and Kouri cattle – the latter an emblematic endemic species that plays an important role in social cohesion. BIOPALT also focuses attention on income-generating activities through the promotion of a green economy and the development of the basin's natural resources. In particular, the project is helping states prepare their application files for the creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve in the basin and nomination files for the designation of Lake Chad as a World Heritage site.
- Within UNESCO, the project is implemented via a multi-sectoral approach involving the International Hydrological Program (IHP) and the Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) for

- the biosphere component, and the World Heritage Center for the heritage component as well as our field offices.

Support World Heritage capacity building in Africa

Countries concerned: Eastern, Western and Central African countries (total **30 countries**)

Programme dates: 2017-2021

The following activities were successfully conducted:

Three staff, one at WHC, and the others in Nairobi Office have been recruited to coordinate the following activities:

- Advise to 20 African States Parties on World Heritage planning processes, development and implementation of activities aimed at strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List and in enhancing management frameworks to ensure the effective conservation, management and protection of World Heritage properties in the Region;
- Implementation of the flagship project Biosphère et Patrimoine du Lac Tchad (BIOPALT) and transboundary related projects; over 60 experts, site managers, technical and financial partners, academics, and representatives of the private sector from 20 African countries representing 40 institutions were mobilized and trained;
- Regular technical guidance has been provided to twenty (20) countries in the preparation of their International Assistance Requests;
- Review reports on the state of conservation of 15 natural properties in Africa in over twenty (20) States Parties.

Financial support is provided by the Government of Norway for World Heritage capacity building in Africa, (475,000 USD)

UNESCO-Africa-China Forum on World Heritage Capacity Building and Cooperation

Countries concerned: Sub-Saharan Africa Region, China

Programme dates: 2019-2022

- A preparatory meeting with African and Chinese experts was organized in November 2018 to establish a baseline for further collaborative efforts between African and Chinese World Heritage professionals. A long-term capacity building initiative is expected, which will focused on: (i) promoting sustainable development at World Heritage sites in Africa and China; (ii) improving representation of African sites on the World Heritage List; (iii) implementing joint pilot projects; (iv) promoting staff exchange; (v) joint research programmes. The first collaborative activity is the planned two-day Forum on World Heritage and Sustainable Development: sharing experiences between Africa and China. It will followed with activities on drafting processes of nomination dossiers, safeguarding of sites on the World Heritage List in Danger and Capacity Building. The project is financially supported by the People's Republic of China. (USD 500,000 per year)

Engaging local communities in the conservation and management of the World Heritage sites in Africa – COMPACT

Countries concerned: Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Madagascar, Ethiopia, South Africa, Lesotho, Niger, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo

Programme dates: (since 2000 – still ongoing – set for 2021)

- First launched in 2000, the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT) is a joint initiative of the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Based on a common methodology on engaging local communities in management and governance of World Heritage properties (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/40/>), COMPACT is a grant-making programme that supports sustainable development of local populations living in and around World Heritage sites, while improving the conservation of natural resources and heritage assets simultaneously. Following the joint programme initiation with UNESCO, National GEF Small Grants Programmes continue these long-term programmes with World Heritage sites in a number of African countries. New COMPACT programme is currently being initiated in Okavango Delta World Heritage site in Botswana, with the support of the UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust cooperation (USD 150,000).

Improving the representation of African sites on the World Heritage List: upstream support for natural heritage

Countries concerned: Ethiopia, Botswana, Angola, Namibia, (possibly other SADC countries)

Project dates: 2018-2020

- Supportive of the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List, this project aims to improve the representation of African natural heritage sites on the World Heritage List. The project provides technical and financial assistance to selected States Parties in the Africa Region in their efforts to establish the feasibility of possible new nominations or boundary extensions of existing World Heritage sites, nominate key natural sites on the World Heritage List and update
- Tentative Lists to include most exception natural sites where such gaps may exist. The project is funded by the UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust cooperation (USD 250,000).

Workshops on “World Heritage and Higher Education Institutions in Africa”

Countries concerned: Sub-Saharan countries

Project dates: 2018 - 2020

- In response to the Ngorongoro Declaration (2016), the World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund and UNESCO Regional Offices, organized two regional workshops entitled “World Heritage and Education Institutions in Africa” respectively at Great Zimbabwe University (Zimbabwe) and Saint-Louis (Senegal). These events mark an important milestone in the involvement of African educational institutions in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and sustainable development. The project aims to address the urgent need to build African capacities in a sustainable way by drawing on the vast pool of expertise available at African educational institutions. The workshops in Zimbabwe and Senegal were financed respectively by the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust cooperation and the African World Heritage Fund. (USD 50,000)

Supporting conservation and promotion of World Heritage in West and Central Africa - Rehabilitation, Research, Promotion

Countries concerned: Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad

Project dates: 2017-2019

- This project, funded by the Hungary Funds-in-Trust, is targeting various activities in favour of the conservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage in West Africa. In Nigeria, the World Heritage Centre is implementing, in partnership with the National Commission for Museums and Monuments of Nigeria (NCMM) conservation works and community infrastructure development at Sukur Cultural Landscape in close cooperation

with the local community. These include in particular restoration and rehabilitation of the site museum uphill, which was severely vandalized during attacks by insurgents; expansion and transformation of the single-hut community clinic into a Local Primary Healthcare Centre with 3 huts within a stone enclosure and the digging of new wells and water points at strategic locations uphill. This project complements the conservation and restoration activities supported by an International Assistance and is key for the basic socio-economic needs of the Sukur community. The works have recently started and are expected to be finished by mid-2019.

- Regarding the "Heritage Passports", the Centre is developing heritage passports for Burkina Faso, Cameroun and Chad. This is implemented in partnership with the Centre National de Recherche pour le Développement (CNRD) in Chad, the Direction des Sites classes – Patrimoine Mondial (DSC-PM) in Burkina Faso, and CRAterre (France), notably for the selection of the sites and the provision of the information to be included in the publication. The Heritage Passport is a proven format that aims to provide simple and practical background information on the location of World Heritage properties, for increased public awareness, and their protection and safeguarding in case of natural or manmade disasters.
- As to the research and promotion component at the Ruins of Loropeni site, the main focus is on academic cooperation which falls within the strategy of the Africa unit of the World Heritage Centre to support cooperation between African universities and the development of curricula for World Heritage. In that context, a workshop for francophone countries on "World Heritage & Institutions for higher education in Africa" was held in Saint-Louis (Senegal) from 6-8 November 2018 to which an extended delegation of heritage experts and academics participated as part of this project. Their participation was key to inform the project for university cooperation in Burkina Faso as they will be in charge of implementing directly the recommendations of the Saint-Louis workshop. The activity also includes the development of signage panels for the Loropeni World Heritage site, equipment for the exhibition room at the Loropéni interpretation centre, and awareness raising.
(USD 100,000)

Regional meeting on “Transboundary Cooperation for Effective Management of World Heritage Sites in Africa”

Countries concerned: Sub-Saharan Africa Region

Project dates: 2018 - 2020

In response to the Ngorongoro Declaration (2016), the World Heritage Center organized the first regional meeting on "Transboundary Cooperation for effective management of World Heritage Sites in Africa" held from 11 to 15 February 2019 in the city of Man (Côte d'Ivoire).

Funded by the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, the main objective of this activity was to exchange knowledge and share experience on the management of various transboundary and transnational World Heritage sites in Africa, including the use of traditional knowledge.

For UNESCO and its partners, including all stakeholders, focusing on African transboundary sites is about promoting regional integration, reducing poverty, strengthening social cohesion, fostering sustainable development, innovation and peace, among peoples.

This activity was organized by the Africa Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Abidjan, the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire represented by the Ivory Coast Parks Office and Reserves (OIPR), Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS) and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF). (USD 50,000)

Future projects (with funding sources identified)

Heritage-related skills, job creation and reduction of emigration in the Sahel region

Countries concerned: Sahel countries (in particular, Chad, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal)

Project dates: 2019-2021

- This project aims to contribute to the social and economic development of the Sahel countries and the reduction of emigration, by promoting youth employment in heritage professions within the Sahel region. It will be part of the implementation of the three following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): end poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1); achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5); and promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all (SDG 8). To this effect, a high-level round-table will be organized, as well as various trainings and activities intended to young people. The project is financed under the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust cooperation. (USD 50,000)

Supporting biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods in Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage property

Countries concerned: Malawi

Project dates: 2019-2020

- The Netherlands Funds-in-Trust has approved a preliminary concept note for a project (USD 45,000) aiming at improving the livelihoods and well-being of local communities living within the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage property in Malawi through support to community-based development plans and natural resource management committees. The project is financed under the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust cooperation. (USD 50,000)

Strengthening the protection of natural World Heritage sites in Africa and promoting their role in sustainable development.

Countries concerned: Sub-Saharan countries

Project dates: 2019-2021

- Under a renewed partnership agreement with the Government of Norway, the World Heritage Centre proposes to implement a number of activities following priorities set by the World Heritage Committee and fully in line with UNESCO's 39 C/5 in key areas which support the conservation of natural World Heritage sites in Africa, enhance support for sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and contribute to revert the current negative perception of the Danger Listing through a methodological framework and awareness raising. These encompass potential priority activities targeting natural World Heritage sites in Africa inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger or that are in urgent need of support, considering that among the 54 sites currently on the List of World Heritage in Danger, 16 (30%) are from the African region of which 12 are natural heritage sites that are under serious threat.
- Other action areas to address threats and Danger Listing foresee support to the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) which, since 2006, has been efficiently providing emergency support, through grants up to 30 000 US Dollar, to natural World Heritage sites in developing countries at times of crisis. The RRF is currently small scale and receives limited funding from 3 private donors. It is therefore crucial to increase the financial basis

for the Facility and mobilize more donors. Other actions will also aim at renewing the communication strategy on the List of World Heritage in Danger in order to reverse its current negative perception.

- A number of activities are proposed to support the conservation and management of African cultural heritage, with particular focus on involving local communities and youth. Particular attention will be given to sites and communities affected by conflicts, notably in the West African Sahel countries, management of urban heritage sites, and strengthening community involvement for the safeguarding of heritage sites. (USD 2,500,000)

Improving the representation of African sites on the World Heritage List: upstream support for World Heritage sites

Countries concerned: Sub-Saharan countries

Project dates: 2019-2023

- Supportive of the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List, this project aims to improve the representation of African World Heritage sites on the WH List. The project provides technical and financial assistance to selected States Parties in the Africa Region in their efforts to establish the feasibility of possible new nominations or boundary extensions of existing World Heritage sites, nominate key natural and cultural sites on the World Heritage List and update Tentative Lists to include most exception natural sites where such gaps may exist. The project is funded by the Japanese Government (up to USD 800,000).

Zanzibar and Oman, a shared history

Countries concerned: United Republic of Tanzania, and East African Coast Region

Project dates: 2019-2021

- After several centuries of Portuguese rule, Zanzibar fell under control of the Sultan of Oman in 1698. In 1840, Sayyid bin Sultan moved the capital from Muscat (Oman) to Zanzibar, consolidating his power over the entire East African coast. During that period, the House of Wonder and many palaces and official buildings, Omani townhouses and infrastructures were built in and around Stone Town, many of which we can still perceive today in Stone Town in various states of conservation. The World Heritage Centre is finalizing the project proposal on the rehabilitation of Beit-al-Ajaib (House of Wonder), which will be financed by the Sultan of Oman (up to USD 800,000).

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Status: For Implementation

Region: Africa

Decision: Approved

Botswana

Conservation / technical

2896	22-May-2017	27,080	Review of the management plan for Okavango Delta World Heritage property
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Cabo Verde

Conservation / technical

2876	21-Mar-2017	27,900	Manuel illustré des normes urbanistiques à Cidade Velha
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Comoros

Preparatory

2999	17-May-2018	29,970	Assistance au montage du dossier d'inscription des sultanats historiques des Comores au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO
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Congo

Preparatory

2874	03-Oct-2017	27,300	Préparation du dossier d'inscription du domaine royal de Mbé sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial
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Cote d'Ivoire

Conservation / technical

2684	12-Mar-2015	5,000	ATELIER D'INFORMATION ET DE SENSIBILISATION SUR LE PLAN DE CONSERVATION ET DE GESTION DE LA VILLE HISTORIQUE DE GRAND-BASSAM
3003	17-May-2018	19,565	Renforcement de la surveillance contre l'orpaillage et le braconnage à l'intérieur du Parc National de Taï

Democratic Republic of Congo

Conservation / technical

2995	17-May-2018	21,700	Organisation du survol
2998	17-May-2018	30,000	Habitat Management and Key Species Monitoring in Garamba National Park

Equatorial Guinea

Preparatory

2623	25-Feb-2014	27,628	Etablissement de la Liste indicative de la république de Guinée Equatoriale
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Ethiopia

Conservation / technical

2893	22-May-2017	24,150	Enhancing the management of the Fasil Ghebbi- World Heritage Property with better Understanding of the <i>World Heritage Convention</i>
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3030	05-Mar-2019	16,995	Systematic assessment of causes and effects of surface degradation of the Tiya megalithic structures and waterlogged field of the property
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Ghana

Conservation / technical

3008	03-Jul-2018	85,086	PREPARATION OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FORTS AND CASTLES OF GHANA
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Lesotho

Conservation / technical

2960	05-Feb-2018	14,056	Strengthening Sehlabathebe community conservation forum to enhance community involvement in the conservation and management of the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage site
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Madagascar

Preparatory

2870	21-Mar-2017	30,000	Réalisation d'un inventaire général du patrimoine et de relevés cartographiques sur le secteur Haute Ville d'Antananarivo
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Malawi

Conservation / technical

2895	22-May-2017	21,079	Strengthening the management of Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage site
3017	05-Mar-2019	30,000	Review of management plan, capacity building and development of a new integrated management planning framework for Chongoni Rock Art World Heritage Site in Malawi.

Mali

Conservation / technical

2962	06-Feb-2018	24,585	Restauration et mise en valeur du Tombeau des Askia à Gao.
2967	06-Feb-2018	24,580	Protection et mise en valeur du bien "Villes anciennes de Djenné"
2993	03-Jul-2018	24,765	Restauration et mise en valeur post-crise de la Falaise de Bandiagara (Pays dogon)

Mozambique

Conservation / technical

3012	14-Dec-2018	23,260	Community Participation in the Management and Monitoring Processes at the Island of Mozambique World Heritage Site
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Nigeria

Conservation / technical

2846	21-Mar-2017	19,867	Conservation and restoration of key features of the site affected or damaged during insurgent attacks on the landscape in addition to replacement of destroyed and stolen fire fighting equipment
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Senegal

Conservation / technical

2897	22-May-2017	29,674	Mise à jour du plan de gestion du Parc national de Niokolo Koba
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South Sudan

Preparatory

2984	17-May-2018	29,900	CAPACITY BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE <i>WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION</i> IN SOUTH SUDAN
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Uganda

Conservation / technical

2963	17-May-2018	24,071	Restoration of the Bujjakukula (Gate House) at the Kasubi Royal Tombs of Buganda Kings
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Zimbabwe

Preparatory

3070	05-Mar-2019	26,100	Development of Tentative List for Zimbabwe
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