

40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention
“Living with World Heritage in Africa”
Johannesburg, South Africa
26 -29 September 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of South Africa (RSA), in collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), initiated a seven months programme for the Africa region to mark the 40th Anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention under the theme *“World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the role of local communities”*.

The seven months programme, which has contributed to the global discussions on “World Heritage and Sustainable Development”, consisted of the following activities:

i. Situational Analysis reporting (March-April 2012)

The situational analysis report provides an updated assessment of the relations between World Heritage and extractive industries in the Africa region with recommendations therein tabled during the Expert workshop held in May 2012 (South Africa).

ii. Experts Meeting on World Heritage and Extractive Industries [23rd -25th May 2012, Maropeng, South Africa]

An Expert Workshop on “Managing the impacts of development activities and resource extraction in and around World Heritage sites in the Africa region was held at Maropeng, South Africa. The workshop provided a platform for dialogue among 75 experts and representatives from African Governments, extractive industries and heritage institutions. The experts examined the challenges faced in relation to extractive industries and the conservation of World Heritage properties and in reconciling the goals of sustainable development with those of heritage conservation. The meeting developed recommendations on best practice for extractive industries and World Heritage properties to promote sustainable development.

iii. International Conference on “Living with World Heritage in Africa”: 26-29 September 2012

An International Conference on “Living with World Heritage in Africa” was held in South Africa. The Conference brought together about 300 high level decision makers from African Governments, heritage institutions, local communities and the development sectors. Running through the conference theme were sub-themes identifying means and strategies for management of World Heritage properties in Africa in the face of increasing pressure from development. These included (a) World Heritage, Sustainable Development and poverty alleviation and (b) World Heritage and Local Communities. The conference programme included a

- (i) Colloquium for 16 African Ministers of Culture, Tourism, Environment and Mining which discussed World Heritage and Sustainable Development at regional level.
- (ii) Parallel Colloquiums on World Heritage, Sustainable Development and poverty alleviation for the private sector and the tourism industry in Africa and another on World Heritage and the extractive industries. The parallel sessions discussed strategies to ensure that development in Africa meets present socio-economic needs without compromising the future of World Heritage.
- (iii) The Colloquium on World Heritage and Local Communities which sought to understand and define the potential, but also the untapped role of communities in the management and development of World Heritage. The colloquium was attended by 25 community representatives invited from several African countries. Focus was on their experience on living in and around World Heritage properties.
- (iv) An expert seminar attended by 60 specialists who made cross-cutting presentations on the World Heritage and sustainable development. The papers presented will be published by the organizers of the conference.

MAIN ISSUES

- Articulate the role of World Heritage properties in Sustainable Development and explore possibilities to ensure that development meets the present socio-economic needs but without compromising the future of World Heritage in Africa with an emphasis on;
 - World Heritage and Extractive industries
 - World Heritage and Sustainable Development across the spectrum of key socio-economic imperatives (e.g. sustainable tourism, poverty alleviation etc.).
 - How the pillars of sustainable development (environment, economics and social) are integrated into extractive and developments activities in and around World Heritage.
- Explore the means and strategies of creating sustainable management systems for World Heritage on the African continent in the face of developmental pressures and the need to safeguard heritage properties.
- Evaluation of the critical role World Heritage plays in improving community livelihoods in Africa, including understanding and define their potential, but also the untapped role in the management and development of World Heritage in Africa and at international levels with an emphasis on;
 - Community experiences in living in and around World Heritage places.
 - The reality of community beneficiation and involvement with World Heritage properties.
 - Understanding community obligations/responsibilities in the conservation of World Heritage properties.
 - Explore the entrepreneurial opportunities at World Heritage properties.
 - Identify strategies to strengthen local communities' role at and in World Heritage properties.

AFRICAN POSITION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

2nd African Position on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Preamble

1. The *1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (“the World Heritage Convention”) will celebrate its 40th Anniversary in November 2012. In article 4, this most acceded international convention recognises that States Parties have “*a duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations*” of its cultural and natural heritage. The World Heritage Convention recognises that our heritage is irreplaceable and of Outstanding Universal Value to future generations. It also commits the international community to act with common purpose to safeguard, showcase humanity’s heritage.
2. From 1972 to 1992, the World Heritage Committee focused on ratification of the Convention and on the identification, nomination and inscription of properties to establish the World Heritage List. In its third decade, through the adoption of strategic objectives (on the occasion of the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention in 2002), the World Heritage Committee turned its attention to strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List by seeking to have a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value. The strategic objectives also called upon conservation and management of sites, the increase of public awareness and ensuring involvement and support for World Heritage. The 2002 declaration also called upon States Parties to ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development, to ensure protection of World Heritage properties while contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities, including education and access. Today, we can truly acclaim that the Convention and the work of the World Heritage Committee has made progress in these areas.
3. In the forthcoming decade, the World Heritage Committee is challenged to set targets that bring together States Parties, international organizations and other relevant bodies to ensure that the most outstanding examples of the heritage of humanity are not impacted by human conflict, use of its resources or failures in our overarching mandate to protect and conserve them. Platforms for dialogue between nations in the protection and safeguarding of the world’s natural and cultural heritage must be maintained and strengthened. World Heritage properties belong to and must be accessible to the people of the world and contribute to the benefit of communities.

Context of the African Continent

4. As the international community celebrates the World Heritage Convention’s 40th Anniversary, the African Continent is taking stock of its achievements and challenges

with a view to improving the effectiveness in the implementation of the Convention as a tool for conservation and as a contributor to human development.

5. Of the 54 countries on the continent, only Somalia and the newly independent South Sudan have not ratified the World Heritage Convention. The first signatories in Africa were the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Nigeria in 1974 and the latest signatory was Equatorial Guinea Equatorial in 2010.
6. There are 86 World Heritage properties in sub-Saharan Africa (47 cultural, 35 natural and 4 mixed) out of 962 properties listed in the World Heritage List. Sub-Saharan Africa thus has roughly 9% of the total properties on the List. Of these, 18 sites are on the List in Danger, which represents 42% of the total of 42 sites. Most of the African sites in the Danger List are from States Parties in conflict or post-conflict situations.
7. Currently Africa is the only continent with a Fund dedicated to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF). The objectives of the Fund include, among others, ensuring good conservation practice, building capacity, increasing the number of listed properties from Africa in the World Heritage List and ensuring the removal of African sites from List of World Heritage in Danger.
8. The African continent has been a pioneer in capacity building programmes in heritage management and conservation such as the Africa 2009 programme, introduced at a regional meeting of African cultural heritage professionals held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 1998, and the ongoing World Heritage Nomination Training Programme. It has further carried out two Periodic Reporting Exercises which have served also as capacity building platforms in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This includes other on-going programmes such the AfricaNature.
9. To address the unique challenges of the African continent, the World Heritage Committee and the African States Parties have put in place a number of measures over the last four decades to give effect to the obligations and commitments of States Parties in Africa. These include the 1994 Global Strategy and the 2002 First Africa Periodic Report.
10. Notwithstanding its achievements, Africa continues to grapple with numerous challenges in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Despite its immense natural resources and mineral wealth, the continent remains confronted with development needs, growing populations and high poverty levels. The biggest challenge facing the continent is economic development and alleviation of poverty. Safeguarding the continent's heritage must accordingly contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of its people.
11. Africa has its own unique experiences in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention over the last 40 years. Accordingly, the Africa continent presents this Position Paper highlighting Africa's experiences, the gains and challenges and the contributions of the continent to meet the challenges of forthcoming decades.

Historical Background: Chronology of events, actions and happenings

12. The 1st African Position Paper was presented to the 29th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa, in October 2005 and subsequently to the Council of Ministers of Cultures of Africa and Heads of States during the African Union Summit in Khartoum in 2006. The 1st Position Paper emanated from the decision of the UNESCO African Group representatives on the World Heritage Committee and Observers to address problems in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa.
13. The 1st African Periodic Report adopted by the 26th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2002 identified a number of shortcomings in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, particularly with respect to nomination, conservation and protection of World Heritage Properties in Africa. The report noted that Sub-Saharan Africa was the most underrepresented region, accounting for only 7% of properties in the World Heritage List. Furthermore, there were many African States Parties to the Convention that did not have properties in the World Heritage List. At the time, there were countries that had still not ratified the Convention despite its 30 years of existence and that almost a quarter of the World Heritage properties in Africa (14 out of the world total of 35) were on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The prevailing situation was explained on the basis of inadequate resources, weak institutional frameworks, inadequate training and capacity building, low levels of information and awareness raising, poor networking, low levels of local participation and inadequate regional and international cooperation, among others.
14. The 1st African Position Paper, developed to address the plethora of issues affecting African heritage, was conceptualized within the framework of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU) Strategic Programme for 2004-2007. The position paper therefore aligned itself to the objectives of NEPAD that included: eradication of poverty; placing African countries both individually and collectively on a path of growth and sustainable development; halting the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhancing its full and beneficial integration into global economy; and accelerating the empowerment of women.
15. The 1st African Position Paper was supported by a 10 year Action Plan, that comprised 8 strategic objectives, and several expected outputs to be implemented by an African Fund set up based on Article 17 of the World Heritage Convention that states that: *“The States Parties to this Convention shall consider or encourage the establishment of national public or private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of cultural and natural heritage as defined in Article 1 and 2 of the Convention.”*
16. The objectives of the Position Paper reflect the needs of the continent in terms of heritage management and sustainable development, the promotion of the World Heritage Convention in the continent and the solution to the myriad of challenges facing the continent, especially in the heritage sector. The Position Paper further remains true to the spirit and letter of the NEPAD and AU commitment to solving African problems,

including the positioning of the continent in the global arena. Thus the 8 objectives set out to ensure:

- 1) that natural and cultural heritage contribute to sustainable development in Africa;
 - 2) that there is improvement in policy, legal and institutional frameworks for effective and efficient heritage conservation in general and implementation of the World Heritage Convention on the continent in particular;
 - 3) the establishment, in accordance with the recommendation of the first African Periodic Reporting (2002), of the AWHF and other funding mechanisms drawing on the experiences from other organizations, in order to facilitate effective and efficient heritage conservation in general, and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention on the continent in particular;
 - 4) the increase and strengthening of human resource capacity for the protection, conservation and management of heritage through education and training and awareness raising;
 - 5) the establishment of mechanisms for information about knowledge exchange for tangible and intangible African heritage;
 - 6) the conduct of an audit and national inventories and tentative lists of cultural and natural heritage;
 - 7) the increased inscription of new sites by ensuring that African nominations are in conformity with Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and to reduce and eventually remove all African properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
 - 8) the strengthening of heritage protection, conservation and management, particularly in conflict, post-conflict and natural disaster situations.
17. The Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List was adopted in 1994 by the World Heritage Committee. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that the list reflects the full spectrum of the world's cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value. As part of the Global Strategy, several expert meetings took place to help enhance the understanding of Africa's heritage. From these meetings, came recommendations for identification, study, protection and promotion of the archaeological, architectural, technical and spiritual components of the African cultural heritage. It called for the concept of cultural heritage that transcends monumentalism.
18. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, a Workshop on World Heritage in Africa and Sustainable Development took place and a declaration adopted at the meeting stated that: *“the management of heritage is an important tool for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty alleviation; and that: “world heritage status “can make a distinct and valuable contribution to sustainable development in African countries.”*
19. In response to the heritage problems in the continent, the Summit made recommendations to the African Governments that included a call to: reaffirm their political commitments to the promotion of heritage management; reinforce efforts to tackle issues threatening heritage sites and heritage management in Africa, including wars, conflict, poaching, famine, disease and lack of education; introduce legal and policy frameworks which link nature and culture; intensify efforts to raise awareness

among decision makers in the crucial role of heritage in promoting sustainable development and in poverty alleviation; devote resources to heritage management; highlight the crucial role of local communities in the management and ownership of heritage and to continuously empower communities to remain at the centre of heritage management.

20. The path Africa has taken over the years in relation to the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention shows that the continent has had a consistent track record in its implementation. All that has been achieved has been in consultation and in conformity with the AU vision, NEPAD objectives and takes into cognizance the peculiarities of the continent.
21. The question facing the African continent today is whether these actions have borne positive results, addressed all challenges, or only resolved parts of the problem. If so, why? This position paper seeks to identify and deal with current unresolved issues and the existing challenges and pressures being faced.

Successes of the implementation of the Convention in Africa

22. The Africa 2009 programme comprised an overall strategy of the World Heritage Committee for training immovable cultural heritage professionals in sub-Saharan Africa. and carrying out “projet sites” at specific sites in the region to improve the conditions for conservation
23. Following the Africa 2009 programme, the creation of the AWHF and the successful 2nd Cycle Periodic Reporting Exercise completed in 2011, many of the challenges facing the continent have been addressed.
24. Substantial resources have been mobilized through the AWHF to assist in the conservation and management of African heritage across the continent. With the exception of Somalia and South Sudan, many African State Parties to the Convention have either a site in the list or their sites are under preparation assisted through the upstream processes and the nomination training programme.
25. Both through Africa 2009 and the AWHF, training and capacity building has taken place in collaboration with Regional Institutions; such as Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) and the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA). Today, there is a core of dedicated heritage professionals and practitioners across the continent and in nearly all countries that have benefitted from different kinds of training programmes ranging from management to nomination dossier development. This has strengthened institutions to better manage their heritage assets across the continent with the trained professionals providing services.
26. The role of communities in heritage management has been a key element of the training and capacity building with a consistent and intentional focus on producing heritage managers who are aware of the central role of communities. This has ensured community participation and today the continent can proudly demonstrate that there are

World Heritage Properties in many parts of the African continent managed by communities, or in partnership with heritage institutions or agencies.

27. There has been a marked improvement in regional and international cooperation as networks of heritage professionals are created through the capacity building exercises and through institutional cooperation, for example with CHDA and EPA, in planning and running the programmes. The AWHF sponsored nomination training programme has brought closer cooperation not only between the regional institutions and State Parties, but also with the Advisory Bodies such as IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS who have worked closely with the regional institutions, State Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the AWHF in developing and running programmes that address the upstream approach to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This is an area where Africa's experience in working with various partners, including the Advisory Bodies with respect and without fear of conflict of interest, can be emulated by others.
28. One of the examples of regional and international cooperation is in the creation of the AWHF. Many States Parties from Africa and from other regions have and continue to contribute to the activities of the AWHF that address heritage conservation and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention within the continent. This has, to some extent, answered the call to States Parties to invest in heritage at continental level. At sub regional and national level, this is an area that still requires further strengthening.
29. The 2nd Cycle Periodic Reporting Exercise for Africa adopted by the 35th Session of the World Heritage Committee, in 2011, demonstrated regional and international cooperation. Africa successfully worked as a region with both regional and international partners to produce recommendations that will enhance the implementation of the Convention. The Periodic Reporting exercise included, among others, one regional coordinator, four sub-regional mentors, national focal points, managers of sites from the participating States Parties, CHDA, EPA, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, AWHF, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS. The exercise involved funding from various partners, mostly States Parties.
30. There has been further demonstrable cooperation among the various stakeholders the continent, for instance when various States Parties together with AWHF have organized various forums to discuss issues affecting the continent. The Expert meeting on Heritage and Extractive industries held at the Maropeng, organized by the AWHF and the Republic of South Africa in 2011 is a case in point. Others forums include the numerous meetings held during the 2nd Cycle Periodic reporting exercise. These meetings were organized by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the AWHF, CHDA, EPA and the States Parties of Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa and Namibia.
31. In terms of improving the number of African sites on the World Heritage List, the States Parties have not only taken part in the nomination training programmes but, with support from the AWHF and World Heritage Centre, have updated their tentative lists as envisaged in one of the 8 objectives for the 10-year Action Plan implemented by the AWHF. The nomination training has improved the quality of the nomination files

submitted by State Parties. This has also led to an increase in inscription of properties from the continent on the World Heritage List.

32. While the collaboration between the Advisory bodies in training and advice has enhanced the quality of nomination dossiers and ensured that rigor is applied at an early stage in the preparations, the World Heritage Committee will need to spell out and give clear direction as to the kind of interactions/roles among the States Parties, Advisory Bodies, training and funding institutions as well as the World Heritage Centre. This will assist in avoiding any misunderstandings and conflicts of interest.

Areas and issues of concern

33. Despite the obvious and visible achievements in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa, there are still many challenges facing the continent in terms of conservation and management of its heritage. Sub-Saharan Africa still has the lowest representation on the World Heritage List and the highest number of sites on the List in Danger. Whilst the number of African World Heritage properties has increased from 7% to 9% on the World Heritage List, the number of African World Heritage Properties on the List in Danger has increased from 40% to 42%. The increased number of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger is especially attributable to the conflicts in Mali affecting the Timbuktu and Tomb of Askia World Heritage properties, and DRC affecting Virunga and Okapi National Parks World Heritage properties.
34. While there has been substantial improvement in institutional arrangements through capacity building of staff, many States Parties have not updated their heritage policies and put in place appropriate legal frameworks to address their particular challenges. There are still many African States Parties operating on legislation enacted in the 1960s and 1970s. Only a few have incorporated the World Heritage Convention into their legal systems.
35. Few African States Parties are investing in heritage at national level and even less at regional level. Thus there are States Parties that have not invested in the African World Heritage Fund despite being initiators of the AWHF as part of the African Group at UNESCO and at AU level. Lack of investment in heritage at national level undermines the capacity building process, as most trained professionals are either left idle or leave the sector to look for better paying and more active professional assignments. This translates into lack of implementation of the World Heritage Convention and, as such, no or limited conservation and management of properties either already inscribed or on the tentative lists.
36. Africa is still faced with internal strife, wars and destruction. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with five natural World Heritage Properties, has had the Properties on the List in Danger for over ten years, with no sign of the situation being remedied. Likewise, the World Heritage Properties of the States Party of Mali are under threat. The Operational Guidelines treat such cases similarly to cases where States Parties have not complied with the Convention.

37. Africa is a continent rich in both tangible and intangible heritage. Many of the heritage sites, including some World Heritage Properties, have been managed by communities for centuries using traditional management systems. While there is recognition in the World Heritage Convention, through the Operational Guidelines, of the validity of such management systems, there is still a requirement to document traditional systems. Guidance is needed on how this knowledge should be used and set standards and requirements for the use of this as an acceptable tool for managing World Heritage properties.
38. In terms of training, the role of Regional Centres such as CHDA, EPA and College of African Wildlife Management (Mweka), among others, has not been specific with respect to implementation of the World Heritage Convention. While they are used when convenient, there are no structured relationship and support from World Heritage Committee and from the States Parties in the Continent. Similarly, where there have been relations with Advisory Bodies, these have been on an ad hoc basis. There are no permanent structures to ensure the continued collaboration and support between these partners. The current situation has created a situation of temporality and dependency on the part of these centres. This is hindering their ability to effectively contribute to long term and continuous capacity building initiatives in Africa.
39. The Universities in Africa have not been considerably involved when it comes to capacity building in heritage conservation and management, relating to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This is in contrast to the universities in the West where UNESCO Chairs and programmes continue to be created at a fast rate. Universities are the centres of knowledge and any long-term, viable, sustainable training must use the universities and their resources.
40. A crucial element of any discussion on Africa is the issue of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The first of the 8 objectives of the 1st African Position Paper states that natural and cultural heritage should contribute to sustainable development. The World Heritage in Africa and Sustainable Development workshop that took place in Johannesburg in 2002 stated in its declaration that: “the management of heritage is an important tool for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and that world heritage status can make a distinct and valuable contribution to sustainable development in Africa”. Development however can work both ways and has the capacity to destroy the World Heritage that the international community is striving to safeguard. As a result, a number of properties in Africa, such as Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve in Ivory Coast and Guinea, have been put on the List in Danger due to incompatible development and threats derived from extractive industries, in particular mining and oil extraction.
41. Heritage conservation and development, which are not mutually incompatible, pose the greatest challenge to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa. Today, many African World Heritage properties are faced with development imperatives in close proximity to Properties, which are perceived by the World Heritage Committee and specified in the Operational Guidelines as a threat to their Outstanding Universal Value and are often the focus of discussions of the World Heritage Committee. These include extractive industries such as mineral exploration and mining, oil exploration and drilling, as well as other developments such as dam construction for

water and electricity and infrastructural developments. States Parties and managers are often faced with the challenge in balancing conflicting interests and pragmatic guidance is still needed to assist in decision making, particularly in light of the expressed needs for social and economic development and poverty alleviation.

PRINCIPLES

1. Africa region has hosted successful activities to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and all the States Parties should adopt and implement the recommendations from:
 - a. Experts meeting on the extractive industries and World Heritage properties (Maropeng, Johannesburg, South Africa, May 2012)
 - b. Røros Conference (Norway, May 2012).
 - c. the 2nd Cycle Periodic Report for Africa adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (St. Petersburg, 2012)
2. Sustainable development and World Heritage should coexist, and therefore none should be sacrificed for the benefit or survival of the other. The paradigm underpinning the protection and conservation of sites should be rearticulated to reflect that conservation and sustainable development can coexist. The alignment of World Heritage conservation priorities to the development and poverty alleviation needs in Africa is a crucial way forward in formulating frameworks for action.
3. World Heritage Properties are unique and irreplaceable and all parties to the Convention should ensure that long term plans for the development and management of properties are in place and that short term benefits do not compromise long term sustainability. The conservation and protection of the tangible and intangible heritage of past, present and future generations must take precedence.
4. The protection and management of cultural and natural heritage is a central part of development agendas and should effectively be integrated into broader planning mechanisms at national and regional levels.
5. Local communities are central to the conservation, protection and management of World Heritage properties in Africa and they should be actively integrated in World Heritage processes, through robust, deep, and dynamic approaches, to ensure that social, cultural and environmental benefits are derived for communities living at and within heritage sites. Consultation and transparency are key elements for effective inclusion and engagement of communities in the processes of the World Heritage system. The World Heritage Committee and the Africa Union should entrench and mainstream community empowerment in the development process of the respective countries so as to ensure accrual of tangible benefits to the communities
6. World Heritage language needs to be translated to the local contexts in order to sensitise and create awareness among local communities towards their effective participation in World Heritage processes including enhancing benefits from the

synergy and traditional skills held by the community in the care of the sites. World Heritage concepts and relevant legislation should be communicated in a comprehensible manner to secure ownership and participation. Local communities should recognise the obligations and responsibilities that come through their active involvement in World Heritage processes. This includes creating the necessary linkages between the global and local levels in order to encourage sharing of knowledge. Communication should preferably be in their language

7. The intangible aspects of heritage, indigenous knowledge and traditional systems should be integrated in the management, conservation and sustainable tourism initiatives of both natural and cultural World Heritage properties, as the local culture often is the carrier of the very values we intend to protect. Plans should be put in place to ensure the conservation of properties, authentic experiences at them and access to them for the peoples of the world.
8. Public and private partnerships are important and should be encouraged in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties in order to unlock the funding potential, synergies and corporate visibility strategies that eventually lead to job creation and poverty alleviation. Dialogue between the public and private sectors needs to be intensified in order to reconcile differing agendas, while regulatory protocols should be put in place to manage business activities at and within World Heritage properties. The commercial benefits flowing from the site should be reinvested for local benefit.
9. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) is important in the management of World Heritage properties and should be used to improve the visitor experience while at the same time reducing the possibilities of alienation of the communities from the heritage. This should also endeavour to bridge the digital divide and allow better access of heritage to all.
10. Extractive Industries should remain committed in implementing the World Heritage Convention through reinforcing their obligation to use environmentally sensitive and sustainable methods, where the protection and preservation of World Heritage properties takes priority and precedence. The profits of extractive industries should contribute to the management of sites and ensure the socio-economic benefit of communities.
11. Media plays an important role in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. There is need for a stronger relation to be created with the media industry in order to promote and create conditions of peace, understanding and coexisting in diversity emanating from World Heritage properties.
12. State Parties should continue implementing the Global Strategy, while countries that have listed properties are encouraged to support others in order to have balanced and equitable representation in the World Heritage list.
13. The African World Heritage Fund continues to play an important role in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and hence African States Parties

and all other interested parties should support the Fund and use it as a platform to create a dialogue on the continent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are the results of the discussions that took place during the International Conference on “*Living with World Heritage in Africa*”, and these are for all parties responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention:

1. General recommendations

- a. Develop strategic frameworks and coherent strategies that look at the issues of heritage conservation and sustainable development from several perspectives to ensure that development goals are met.
- b. Effectively integrate heritage conservation and management into broader development planning.
- c. Develop adequate terminology and language to convey the implications, responsibilities and processes set forth in the World Heritage Convention. In managing sites, actions need to be jointly defined with communities rather than for them.
- d. Share information and intelligence, particularly in the case of trans-boundary properties, to enhance and improve regional co-operation to achieve effective protection.
- e. Promote Information Technology (IT) and e-economy in processes related to heritage management and development to enhance the livelihoods of people surrounding World Heritage properties.
- f. Encourage States Parties to update legislative and regulatory frameworks that effectively promote heritage conservation, protection and management.
- g. Secure necessary resources to support sustained protection, conservation and management actions at World Heritage properties. In this respect, the principle to encourage public-private partnerships will be crucial. The use of resources from the private sector needs also to be considered for undertaking studies of cultural impact assessment.
- h. Develop new management approaches that are responsive to current needs and arising social and economic needs. These approaches should be supported by the definition of cohesive strategies and adoption of policies at the national level.

2. Recommendations from extractive industries session

- a. The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) should extend the on-going dialogue with the World Heritage Community for the promotion of good practices and to ensure the positive legacy of the industry. Sustainable principles adopted by ICMM should be encouraged for adoption by other extractive industries, and where possible specific guidance needs to be formulated to address the role of extractive industries in the context of sustainable development.
- b. States Parties need to respect the “no go” ICMM principle by not granting licences to non-members at World Heritage properties.

- c. Within the framework of the development of Policy Guidelines for World Heritage property, develop clear guidance to respond to the challenges regarding the higher rate of poverty, underdevelopment and livelihood improvement in Africa.
- d. Assess the full resource potential, including that of minerals and oils, before properties are nominated to the World Heritage List to allow informed decision-making by State Parties and minimize conflicting situations regarding the conservation and protection of World Heritage properties.
- e. Improve technology and mitigation strategies to ensure extractive practices have a lesser extent of impact on existing and potential World Heritage properties.
- f. Strengthen working relations between States Parties and the extractive industries to better reconcile conservation needs with impacts derived from extractive practices.

3. World Heritage and local communities

- a. Define the concept of local community and take into consideration all their complexities. The definition processes should be flexible so that communities not included initially can be integrated when and if necessary.
- b. Recognise the diversity in the definition of community benefits within and beyond the boundaries of World Heritage properties as these may vary from community to community.
- c. Acknowledge and work with communities in heritage conservation and management endeavours and promote the creation of formal co-management structures at World Heritage Properties through incorporating traditional conservation and knowledge systems in the management of the World Heritage properties.
- d. Build and strengthen the organizational capacities of local communities to participate in the collaborative management of World Heritage properties.
- e. Cultural knowledge should be considered when identifying criteria for listing, in particular for natural sites.
- f. Review and harmonize legislative and regulatory frameworks to respond to emerging trends while considering the dynamics and diversity of communities and their values.
- g. Set up sustainable funding mechanism for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties and to support community development needs in and around them.
- h. Develop private-public partnerships for sustainable community development and heritage conservation endeavours.
- i. Reinforce the cooperation and synergy between the different agencies and actors to effectively engage in World Heritage management and sustainable development.
- j. Promote the twinning of World Heritage properties inter-regionally and within regions to ensure the broad and meaningful interaction of the local communities. The true value of communities is mutual learning.

4. World Heritage and Sustainable development

- a. Member States undertake to develop policies that consider cultural and natural heritage as drivers for sustainable development and as –a factor of national and regional identity. The development of policies needs to be accompanied by guidance to ensure their effective implementation.
- b. Member States foster the adoption of the 2006 Charter of African Cultural Renaissance and other relevant charters and agreements at the regional level to create larger synergies that connect culture to economic and social development and priorities and with global policies. Means of ratification of diverse charters need to be disseminated among States Parties.
- c. Promote the involvement of civil society, local communities and private sector and clarify their roles, responsibilities and mandates for World Heritage conservation.
- d. Encourage the application of the principles of Free and Prior Informed Consent in World Heritage processes, including nominations to the World Heritage List and definition and implementation of management systems.
- e. Ensure the realisation of appropriate and equitable community benefits for communities to actively contribute to conservation of World Heritage properties.
- f. Establish management strategies and practices that integrate social and economic development with heritage conservation.
- g. Integrate heritage into education curricula at all levels to ensure the promotion of heritage conservation and recognition of importance.
- h. Call upon States Parties to devote resources to capacity building for sustainable heritage conservation.
- i. Promote balanced approaches in World Heritage management that respect and protect Outstanding Universal Values and attributes of inscribed properties.

5. World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

- a. Foster the development of World Heritage properties as eco and cultural tourism destinations to improve the quality of local community livelihoods.
- b. Promote sustainable tourism as an instrument for conservation and protection of World Heritage properties through, among others, active participation and awareness of local communities. Benefits derived from sustainable tourism practices should also benefit local communities.
- c. Promote the documentation of intangible and tangible skills and knowledge in World Heritage properties in collaboration with Universities.
- d. Ensure benefits to the local communities in and around World Heritage properties by enhancing their skills and capacities to participate in sustainable tourism activities, and encourage the establishment of local enterprises, such as creative industries, tour operations, hospitalities, catering etc.
- e. Ensure that local communities appreciate and support the efforts of sustainable conservation of World Heritage properties.
- f. Ensure that participative monitoring of tourism issues in and around World Heritage properties is an on-going activity; and have relevant instruments in place from both the communities and the heritage sectors.
- g. Use the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme as a framework to ensure the implementation of the priorities set by Africa.

- h. Secure adequate funding mechanisms and provide business plans to ensure proper implementation of Sustainable Tourism initiatives in and around WH properties.

CONCLUSION

The delegates to the International Conference on “Living with World Heritage in Africa” concluded that the results of the seven months programme on the occasion of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Africa can be summarised as:

- a. Our contribution to the heritage of humankind is the sum of our present actions.
- b. World Heritage in 3 words: knowledge, awareness and belonging.
- c. If you do something for me without me you are against me. You cannot say it is for me without me.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITH OUT US