

**FIELD PROJECT: RISK MANAGEMENT OF WORLD HERITAGE**

**DATE:** 19 August - 13 September 2013

**VENUE:** Republic of Mauritius

**ORGANISERS:** Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), African World Heritage Fund, and the World Heritage Centre

**FUNDING:** Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African World Heritage Fund

## 1- Background

The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) was launched in 2006 to support African State Parties in implementing the UNESCO Convention on the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In accordance with the World Heritage Convention, the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Africa region took place in 2009-2011. The Periodic report identified four priority areas to be addressed in the region:

- i. Direct community involvement and benefits from World Heritage Properties;
- ii. Recognition, implementation and documentation of traditional management systems;
- iii. World Heritage reconciling conservation and development needs, and;
- iv. The protection of World Heritage Properties in conflict and post-conflict areas.

AWHF, in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF), has developed an Implementation programme to start addressing the priority areas identified in the periodic report. The programme consists of a number of activities, including a field project on risk management.

Heritage properties are increasingly being exposed to different threats such as fire, floods and conflict. The field project will focus on risk management for Aapravasi Ghat, inscribed in 2006, and Le Morne Cultural Landscape, inscribed in 2008, both cultural World heritage Properties in Mauritius. Aapravasi Ghat, located in Port Louis, is the site where modern indentured labour began after the abolition of slavery in 1834. 450,000 indentured labourers from India arrived in Mauritius between the 1830s and the 1920s, marking one of the greatest waves of migration in recorded history. The site consists of a cluster of buildings covering an area of 1640 square metres and falls within the centre of a rapidly growing city with a busy harbour. The main threat to the site is from rapid urban development with several buildings in the buffer zone threatened by demolition and modification. Le Morne Cultural Landscape consists of a mountain in the southwest of Mauritius which was used as a shelter by runaway slaves through the 18th and early 19th centuries. The escaped slaves formed small settlements in the caves and on the summit of Le Morne. The site has become a sacred symbol of the slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering, and their sacrifice. The site is also threatened by increasing urban development.

The field project will focus on creating a risk management plan and undertaking conservation work. It will also be an occasion for the participants to share their experiences for better management and sustainable utilisation of heritage resources. This project is being implemented by regional training institutions in Africa, namely the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) for the Anglophone project and Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) for the Francophone project.

## 2- Objectives of the project

- To improve the risk management and conservation of the property.
- To increase the ability of heritage practitioners and local communities to better plan for risks (including conflict) and take necessary actions for conservation after a disaster.
- To increase knowledge and skills in conservation.
- To enhance networking among heritage practitioners and local communities in order to deal with on-site challenges at World Heritage properties.

## 3- Expected outcomes

- A draft disaster risk management plan produced for the property.
- A key conservation issue concretely addressed during the field project.
- A number of heritage professionals and members of the local community trained and skilled in disaster management and conservation of heritage properties.
- A network for communication and professional exchange established for heritage professionals and local custodians.

## 4- Structure of the project

The project will be 30 days long and consist of:

- Training;
- On-site risk assessments and documentation;
- Implementation of a conservation activity;
- Monitoring and management of disaster risks;
- Development of a disaster risk management plan.

## 5- Working language

The working language for the project is English.

## 6- Participants

10 participants will be selected for the field project. Participants should be affiliated with or have a good knowledge of World Heritage Properties. Participants can include site managers, community members, and related professionals (not necessarily within the heritage sector). The project is open to participants from all African countries.

*Eligible female practitioners and community members are encouraged to apply.*

## 7- Applying for the field project

All applicants should submit the following **application package**:

- The completed **application form**;
- A signed letter of recommendation from the **National Director** or the **national authority** in charge of Immoveable Heritage Conservation/Management in your country.
- A brief description of a World Heritage property that you are affiliated with or have worked on. The description (2-3 pages) will comprise the following sections: historic and geographical

background of property, state of conservation, risks affecting the property/or damage that has occurred, and the measures taken.

## **8- Deadline**

The complete application package should be sent **at the latest on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013 via electronic emails to:** [chda@heritageinafrica.org](mailto:chda@heritageinafrica.org) with copy to [okwarodp@heritageinafrica.org](mailto:okwarodp@heritageinafrica.org) and [PamelaM4@awhf.net](mailto:PamelaM4@awhf.net).

Please copy your electronic application and any appendix or request/information to the three emails above.

## **9- Funding**

The costs for the field project will be covered by the organisers.