

Report for the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, Azerbaijan, 30 June - 10 July 2019)

1. General information

- **Name of the Centre:** African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)
- **Address:** 1258 Lever Road, Headway Hill, Midrand 1685, South Africa
- **Telephone:** +27 11 313 3911/3061
- **Name and contact information of the Director/Head:** Souayibou Varissou, SouayibouV@awhf.net
- **Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):** Albino Jopela, Head of Programmes, jopsj@dbsa.org
- **Website of the Centre (if available):** www.awhf.net

2. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises)

The Board of Trustees ordinarily meets twice a year in June and December. It's composed of 5 regional members (East, West, North, Centre and Southern Africa), 3 professional members, 3 institutional members (UNESCO, African Union and South Africa as host) and 2 ex-officio members. The Secretariat is currently composed of 8 staff including 1 intern and 1 volunteer. The premise and part of the operation are funded by the host country. Contributions from other States Parties help to consolidate operation and implement programmes. The AWHF also has an Endowment Fund which returns on investment aim to sustain its work. The AWHF's offices are located in the premises of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

3. Updates on the management of the Centre – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted

The 24th AWHF Board of Trustees meeting was held in December 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Among others, the Board (1) Decided to appoint Mr. Souayibou Varissou as the Executive Director of the Fund, (2) Requested the Secretariat to submit a report on the database of African Experts at the 25th Board meeting, (3) Took note of the "Position Paper on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa" and the "Algiers Call to Action: Our Living Heritage for African Renaissance", (4) Approved the AWHF Strategic Plan for the period April 2019 – March 2022 and (5) Agreed that the 25th Board session will be held on 18th July 2019 in South Africa.

4. Programs and activities implemented since April 2018 and planned for the current year, in close collaboration with the Africa Unit of the World Heritage Centre

N.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS¹
1	BETTER REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN CONTINENT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST	
1.1	Francophone World Heritage Nomination Training Course (10 th – 29 th September 2018, Kigali, Rwanda)	2.2, 2.5
1.2	Technical and financial assistance for five World Heritage Nominations projects (Cameroon, Togo, Guinea, Rwanda and Cote d'Ivoire) (from March 2019)	2.2, 2.5
1.3	Workshop on the Preparation of Trans-national Serial Nomination of Geometric Rock Art in Lake Victoria Region (23 rd - 30 th August 2018, Kampala, Uganda)	2.6
1.3	Upstream Technical assistance for World Heritage Nomination "Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites" (April – December 2018)	2.6
1.4	Regional workshop on harmonization of Tentative Lists in East Africa region (10 th – 14 th June 2019, Kigali, Rwanda)	2.2
1.5	Anglophone World Heritage Nomination Training Course (10 th – 29 th September 2019, Nigeria)	2.2, 2.5
2	IMPROVING MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES	
2.1	Conservation Grant assistance to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cote d'Ivoire (Disaster Risk Management Plan at Comoe National Park) - Kenya (Strategic Management Plan for sustainable use of sacred Kayas Natural Heritage in Coastal Kenya) 	4.9, 5.3, 6.1
2.2	Moses Mapesa Educational Research Grant assistance to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benin (Doctoral research of Mr Frank Komlan Ogou at the Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin) - Madagascar (Master II research Mr Rafanomezantsoa Mario Andrianiaina at the Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Antananarivo, Madagascar) 	4.7,4.9
2.3	Call for applications for World Heritage Conservation Grants (April – September 2018)	4.7, 4.9
2.4	Call for application for World Heritage (Moses Mapesa Educational) Research Grants (April – September 2018)	1.3, 4.7
2.5	Third Meeting of African World Heritage Committee Experts (4 th – 8 th June 2018, Harare, Zimbabwe)	1.5
2.6	Workshop on Retrospective Inventory of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and Boundaries Clarifications with ARC-WH (22 nd – 25 th July 2018, Cairo, Egypt)	4.9,5.3, 6.1

¹ WHCBS stands for the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>)

2.7	African Regional Course on Promoting People-Centred Approaches to Conservation of Nature and Culture – PNC18 with ICCROM and IUCN (14 th – 24 th August 2018, Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls, Zambia)	3.3, 3.6, 5.3,10.1
2.8	Disaster Risk Management Workshop on World Heritage Sites in South Africa (29 th July – 4 th August 2018, Parys, South Africa)	4.5, 5.2, 5.3, 8.3
2.9	Follow up of the Francophone Risk Preparedness Workshop and finalisation of Disaster Risk Management Plan for Niokolo-Koba National Parc WHS in Senegal (April – July 2018)	4.5, 5.2, 5.3, 8.3
2.10	Regional meeting on trans-boundary cooperation for effective management of World Heritage sites in Africa (11 th – 15 th February 2019, Mount Nimba WHS, Côte d’Ivoire)	5.3, 6.1
2.11	Preparatory Workshop for the Third Cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region (25 th – 27 th February 2019, Nelspruit, South Africa)	5.3, 6.1
2.12	AWHF database of African World Heritage experts (ongoing)	4.8
3	INCLUSION OF WORLD HERITAGE IN SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES	
3.1	3 rd African World Heritage Regional Youth Forum - Lusophone (29 th April – 5 th May, Island of Mozambique, Mozambique)	1.1, 7.2, 8.2
3.2	Community empowerment at Royal Palaces of Abomey World Heritage Site (1 st February – 30 th June 2018)	5.3, 7.1, 8.1, 8.3
3.3	Position Paper on World Heritage and Sustainable Development for the African Region (April – October 2018)	4.9, 5.3
3.4	The Algiers Call to Action - Our Living Heritage for African Renaissance (April – October 2018)	4.9, 5.3
3.5	AWHF’s Strategic Plan April 2019 – March 2022	1.6, 10.7
3.6	4 th Regional African Youth Forum combined with World Press Freedom Day (1 st - 3 rd May 2019), Youth Seminar and (4 th May 2019) and African World Heritage Day (5 th May 2019)	1.1, 7.2, 8.2
3.7	Workshop on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa (19 th – 23 th August 2019, Robben Island, South Africa)	8.1
4	PROMOTION, NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	
4.1	Side event: World Heritage Leadership - A capacity building programme on People, Nature, Culture (ICCROM, IUCN, Norway) at the 42 nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (25 th June 2018)	9.1
4.2	Side event: Heritage and Water: Cultural Practices in World Heritage sites and Wetlands (ARC-WH, IUCN) at the 42 nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (29 th June 2018)	9.1
4.3	Side event: Roundtable Discussion on “World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa” (UNESCO, DAC, ICOMOS, ICCROM) at the 42 nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (28 th June 2018)	9.1
4.4	Side event: “Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebration - Towards a Framework for African Liberation Heritage and World Heritage” (DAC, ICOMOS, ICCROM) at the 42 nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (28 th June 2018)	9.1
4.5	Publication of annual report (April 2016-March 2017) and online Quarterly Reports (July, October, January and April)	9.1

4.6	World Heritage and Educational Institutions in Africa (26 th – 28 th April 2018, Mavingo, Zimbabwe [Anglophone] and 6 th – 8 th November, Saint Luis, Senegal [Lusophone and Francophone])	1.3, 9.1
	World Heritage and High Learning Institutions in Africa	
4.7	Exhibition at the Festival de la Francophonie (March 2019, Pretoria, South Africa)	9.1
4.8	Series of follow up on fundraising events for contributions from States Parties	10.8
4.9	Participation to various meetings/events in Africa and abroad	7.4, 10.8