



# **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE**

## **Capacity building Workshop project for Youth on the values of heritage sites**

**DATE:** 21 to 25 May 2007

**PLACE:** Kirstenbosch, Cape Town  
Republic of South Africa

**ORGANIZERS:** South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in  
Co-operation with the South African: National Parks  
Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.)  
National Commission for UNESCO  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre with the Support of United Kingdom's  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

### **HISTORY:**

The workshop for building the capacity among the youth in the conservation and protection of World Heritage sites falls within the framework of the World Heritage Committee's commitment to assist Africa enhance heritage conservation and protection. The workshop is initiated by the Africa Section of the World heritage Centre. It results from the « Periodic reporting Action Plan 2002-2007 » adopted by the World Heritage Committee which gives priority, among others, to the development of human resources in Africa.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The proposed workshop aims at building the capacity of a selected leaders of African youth organizations both in school and out of school, from the West Indian Ocean Islands and from the coastal countries of eastern Africa, in carrying out environmental campaigns and awareness raising activities, and in improving capacity in World Natural Heritage management. It will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources in World Natural Heritage sites situated in the participating countries.

### **The aims of the workshop:**

Through youth training, efforts will be made during the workshop to bridge the gap between communities and the managers of sites while promoting the values of co-existence between highly competing land use types in Africa. In this context the workshop aims to:

- Empower a core group of leaders of environmental NGOs who will then transfer this knowledge to other environmental associations ;
- Empower Youth through their leaders with skills in public outreach and advocacy for the World Heritage related issues they identify as crucial for sustainable development ;
- Improve understanding by young people of Africa of the international environmental instruments such as the World Heritage Convention and their processes and their use in relevant national and local processes;
- Strengthen the Youth community as a whole by increasing its professionalism and effectiveness in the conservation and protection World Natural Heritage sites ;
- Strengthen local and regional networks among NGOs for mutual support and developing common positions about heritage issues ;
- Enable Youth to adequately prepare for participation in international meetings as well as in the follow-up phase of monitoring and implementation of recommendations from these meetings as relates to World Heritage ;

- Provide policy packages on key issues to Youth leaders to enable them to understand the present state of international negotiations regarding the conservation and sustainable development and the role of World Heritage sites in these efforts ; and
- Bridging the information and communication gap between NGOs themselves, and between these with the site managers and the local communities.

### **Participants:**

**Trainers:** A team of high level trainers will be set up, comprising of experts, managers and researchers experienced in activities related to the management of a World Heritage sites or the elaboration of national conservation strategies. These trainers could be international experts or African experts. Competent persons from other organizations involved in conservation activities in Africa could also be called upon (WWF, IUCN, CI, African Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Youth Clubs etc...).

**Profile of Participants:** Leaders of major African Youth organizations highly motivated from the West Indian Ocean Islands and from the coastal countries of eastern Africa on the identification of heritage values of their countries and on strategies for cooperation for their protection. Their familiarity with local conditions, as well as with local communities and grassroots groups and their ability to disseminate information places them in a position to help implement more participatory local development initiatives.

### **Criteria for selection of the participating youth leaders and organizations:**

- Be in a strong position to articulate African needs and priorities for sustainable development through the conservation and protection of world natural heritage,
- The conservation vocation of the organization including the scope,
- Nature and impact of its activities,
- The age and personal prospects for the leaders,
- The capacity for enhancing the networking and collaboration among the Youth groups,
- The capacity for widening and strengthening Youth collaboration and participation in international fora on World Heritage matters including increasing networking, information-sharing and joint activities by Youth organizations.

### **The Programme**

The workshop duration will be 5 working days during which the following themes will be discussed:

- The nature and the significance of the 1972 Convention in the conservation and protection of the natural heritage of 'outstanding universal value',
- Status of conservation and protection of natural WH sites,
- Current Threats and the ongoing need to identify and enhance protection of natural World Heritage Sites in Africa
- Achieving management effectiveness of natural World Heritage Sites in Africa
- Community participation in conservation and protection of natural WH sites,
- Youth participation in natural heritage conservation,
- Regional and sub-regional cooperation network.

### **Expected results of the workshop:**

The training workshop will have significant benefits for African communities. Significant lessons for replication in other countries and regions can be drawn from monitoring and studying the effect of training workshop activities on the conservation and protection of World Natural Heritage sites. The workshop will enable empower through the young people, the local communities living on the outskirts of world natural heritage sites in the management of sites and have a better sense of ownership, and for use for social and economic development. Investing knowledge on the youth ensure the sustainability in the conservation and development of the natural heritage sites and their resources for the future generations.