United Republic of Tanzania

People's Republic of China

# International Conference

## Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development

## Arusha International Conference Centre
## Arusha, Tanzania
## 31 May – 3 June 2016

### I.    Context and issues

The African region contains a remarkable variety of natural and cultural wealth that constitutes the very essence of African cultural identity. With 89 sites (48 cultural sites, 37 natural sites, 4 mixed) inscribed on the World Heritage List, the continent remains under-represented (less than 10%) on the List. However, 33% of the sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger are located in Africa. African heritage sites face challenges related to erratic development, armed conflicts and terrorism, uncontrolled movements of populations, poaching, weak management and climate change. Intentional destruction, looting and loss of heritage, including World Heritage sites, have become hallmarks of civil conflicts and are cause for concern. The displaced populations from conflicts and wars, especially in the central part of the continent, seek refuge in protected areas and inadvertently negatively impact World Heritage sites in these areas.

UNESCO's action in recent years has demonstrated that the conservation of World Heritage contributes greatly to a country's socio-economic development. To this effect, the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention adopted, in November 2015, a *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention[1]*. This policy document reflects the goals of the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2]* that, along with the UN 2015

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[1] http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/20ga/

[2] The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises this sand includes the protection and safeguarding of the world cultural and natural heritage as a specific target of one of its 17 « Sustainable Development Goals, notably No 11 on

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

Sendai Framework for Action, include for the first time, a number of key references to natural resource management and cultural heritage. More recently, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP21[3]) acknowledged Africa's need for universal access to sustainable energy, and set the way forward to cutting global greenhouse gas emissions through the establishment of policies and strategies to assist developing countries.

By identifying, protecting, conserving, presenting and transmitting to present and future generations irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage properties of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), UNESCO's 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage contributes significantly to sustainable development and the overall wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is not unusual that properties on the World Heritage List are also protected by other international legal instruments, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands[4], the Convention on Biological Diversity[5] and the Man and Biosphere Programme[6], which shares nine African sites with the World Heritage Convention.

At the regional level, the African Union's 2015 "*Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want[7]*" is an aspirational document projecting a vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena". The Agenda addresses the question of environmental sustainability, climate resilient economies and communities and restoring Africa's biodiversity to 1963 levels through proper management and reduction of threat levels. While recognizing the role of Africa's cultural heritage as central to its cultural identity, values and ethics, it also acknowledges the threats posed to this cultural heritage. To address this situation, the Agenda aspires to put in place a framework for the *Adoption of African Heritage Sites* by 2025, while increasing the number of African World Heritage sites to 10 times the 2013 level, by 2063.

Local African communities have been in the forefront of conserving their natural and cultural heritage by developing Traditional Management Systems (TMS), which have evolved as adaptive community responses to various contexts and challenges, and are intrinsic to local values. TMS are widely recognized by individual communities, however it is also necessary that national government recognize, formalize and promote TMS as veritable tools for sustainable heritage management and conservation. Such a fundamental approach could serve the interests of both the development and conservation sectors while ensuring that the emergent practices are grounded in the local communities. This could ensure the sustainability of such conservation practices, bringing benefits to heritage sites including World Heritage properties, provided that they are carefully integrated into conservation and management systems, to reflect the symbiotic relationship between the human and natural environments that characterize traditional management systems.

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inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

[3] https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf

[4] http://www.ramsar.org

[5] https://www.cbd.int/convention/

[6] UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/

[7] http://agenda2063.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Final%20Draft%20Agenda%202063%20Framework%20-Formatted%20TOC-1.pdf

It is increasingly clear that addressing the challenges of conservation and sustainable development requires a multi-pronged approach that is both bottom-up and top-down[8]. The concept of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio 2012) could be replicated at national levels to encourage better communication between various actors through policy dialogue between the development and conservation sectors, in recognition of the opportunity that development offers for better management of heritage resources. It will require capacity-building for communities, heritage institutions as well as other development partners and regulatory agencies.

It is in this context that the Africa Unit of the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with its partners, is organizing in 2016 a conference on the conservation and sustainable development of World Heritage in Africa, to be held at, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a World Heritage property in Arusha, Tanzania. This initiative is 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 aims to explore methods to strengthen the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental sustainability, inclusive social and economic development while also fostering peace and security. In the current context of rapidly evolving demographics and climate change, increasing inequalities and threats to heritage and diminishing natural resources, 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 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

## II.  **Goals, targets and topics**

### A- **Goals of the conference**

The conference will bring together and raise awareness among various stakeholders in African heritage on the timely topic of heritage conservation and sustainable development. The discussions will reflect the concern for "*planet, people, prosperity and peace*", identified as areas of critical importance in the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. The conference's principal goal is to address the issues, challenges, and major threats to the effective management and conservation of World Heritage in Africa. More specifically, it will aim to propose solutions by:

- reviewing the activities undertaken in this field and highlighting the success of local projects while establishing a road map for the next ten years,
- encouraging States Parties, political institutions and local authorities to take measures at local, sub-regional, regional, and national levels to conserve heritage as an integral part of sustainable development,
- addressing the question of sustainable development in educational programmes in various learning settings, up to universities, by involving children, youth and

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[8] In this regard UNESCO's various sectors have pioneered programmes focused on a multi sectoral approach to resolving common challenges. One of these is the Exploring Sustainable Development: A Multiple-Perspective Approach -- http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002154/215431E.pdf), which addresses cultural diversity from perspective of the interactions between humans and their natural environment.

academics and by addressing sustainability challenges through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at these different levels.

- encouraging women to increase their involvement in projects linked to heritage conservation and sustainable development,
- developing partner networks, accelerating sustainable solutions at local levels, with a view to promoting cooperation projects , and synergy beyond the conference; and,
- examining post-conflict recovery through five potential case studies: Timbuktu (Mali), Sukur (Nigeria) - after the actions of Boko Haram - Garamba National Park and Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) - in relation to rebel groups - and the safeguarding of peace, cultural and natural heritage surrounding the disappearing Lake Chad.

The conference recommendations will be submitted to States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO, development partners, development proponents and industries, civil society and local communities.

## B- Targets and stakeholders

A wide range of stakeholders in the fields of development and heritage conservation will participate in the conference: private sector representatives, development banks and other development partners, universities, national environmental regulators, cultural heritage institutions, local authorities, African youth and women, heritage experts, site managers, academics, as well as members of the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM, and IUCN) to the World Heritage Committee.

## C- Themes

The conference will explore various themes regarding the transversal relationship between sustainable development and World Heritage. A preliminary list is provided below:

- **Environmental Sustainability** through the protection of biological and cultural diversity, the management of water resources, the strengthening of resilience to natural hazards and climate change. This section will demonstrate how sustainable development and the environment are complementary in creating wealth and livelihoods at different scales on the continent, building on traditional management systems to deliver ecosystem services and socio-cultural benefits.
- **Inclusive Social Development** through mutual contribution to inclusion, equity, enhancing quality of life, well-being, relevance and quality of education, as well as the respect, protection and promotion of human rights. This theme will also examine issues related to the respect, the consulting and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as the question of gender equality in the management of heritage resources.
- **Inclusive Economic Development** through employment, income generation and livelihoods as well as the promotion of economic investment and quality tourism. The strengthening of capacities for innovation and local entrepreneurship will also be discussed.

- **Fostering Peace and Security**: conflict prevention and resolution through traditional and other systems, heritage protection during conflict, post-conflict recovery, planning, and management.
- **Cultural heritage,** through the promotion of cultural capital at heritage sites and beyond, can be a driver of sustainable development. The mobilization of cultural resources and the application of traditional management systems can be leveraged for poverty reduction and economic development for local communities.

## D- Members of Task force

**Individual Experts**

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| Dr Ishanlosen Odiaua | *Task Force Secretary* |
| | *Environment and Heritage Development Specialist* |
| Prof. George Abungu | *Coordinator of Heritage Studies – Archaeologist, University of Mauritius* |
| Prof. Hamady Bocoum | *Director General - Musée des civilisations noires Director - Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire* |
| Dr François Dja Malan | *Lecturer of Ethnobotany, University Nangui Abrogoua (Côte d'Ivoire)* |
| Mr Kagosi Mwamulowe | *Director of East Central Region National Heritage Conservation Commission* |

**African World Heritage Fund**

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| Dr Webber Ndoro | *Director of African World Heritage Fund* |
| Mr Souayibou Varissou | *Partner Relations Officer and Programme Officer* |

**United Republic of Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism**

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| Dr. Freddy Manongi | *Conservator of Ngorongoro Conservation Area* |
| Mr Donatius Kamamba | *Director of Antiquities* |

**IUCN**

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| Mr Timothy Badman | *Director of IUCN's World Heritage Programme* |

**ICOMOS**

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| Ms Regina Durighello | *Director of ICOMOS' World Heritage Programme* |

**ICCROM**

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| Mr Joseph King | *Director of the Sites Unit* |

**UNESCO Secretariat**

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| Mr Edmond Moukala | *Chief of Africa Unit - World Heritage Centre – Culture Sector* |

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| Mr Richard Veillon | *Project Officer - Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit, World Heritage Centre – Cultural Sector* |
| Ms Noeline R Rakotoarisoa | *Chief of Section - MAB Networking: Biosphere Reserves and Capacity Building - Natural Sciences Sector* |
| Mr Alexander Leicht | *Chief of Section of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship - Education Sector* |
| Mr Damir Dijakovic | *Programme Specialist in Culture - UNESCO Office in Harare* |