



**The Permanent Committee of the African Site Managers Network ASMN
celebrates African World Heritage Day
Online meeting
5 May 2023 2pm CEST
Zoom platform**

Theme: ASMN: Role, Mission, and Partners.

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Context

In the framework of the implementation of the *1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, and in accordance with the wishes expressed by several States Parties in the framework of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region, according to which "*the creation of sub-regional networks of cooperation between site managers could considerably improve the processes of capacity building*" and Decision 44 COM 10B, by which the World Heritage Committee "*Third Cycle Regional Action Plan and its five Strategic Objectives (...)*", in particular strategic objective 3 which foresees the establishment of a network of African site managers by 2022. The first ASMN Standing Committee made up of 15 members representing the five African regions was set up in December 2022 with the election of 5-member of the Bureau.

Considering that the objectives of the ASMN are to:

- Contribute to the improvement of the knowledge and efficiency of the management of World Heritage sites in Africa, by sharing experience and good practices, for the optimal enhancement of the properties, for the benefit of present and future generations
- Become a genuine protagonist on the international scene by participating in the reflection, definition and implementation of international conventions and national policies in favor of World Heritage Sites in Africa
- Represent the collective interests of the African World Heritage Sites, to support the action of the managers, by offering a platform of exchange between the members of the Network as well as with its regional and international partners, and by promoting the notion of "working together" for the safeguarding of African natural and cultural heritage.

Considering the Decision of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference to establish African World Heritage Day on 5 May of each year, which has the following objectives

- Raise awareness of the importance of Africa's diverse natural and cultural heritage and encourage people to play an active role in its conservation for the benefit of present and future generations
- Promote regional integration among African countries in order to protect and manage the common heritage, overcome cultural divides and promote mutual respect and understanding among different communities.

Considering that the African Site Managers' Network seeks to work for a better promotion, representation and conservation of World Heritage Sites in the Africa region for the benefit of present and future generations and to capitalize on experiences and promote sharing and exchange

2- Objectives

- Celebrate African World Heritage Day with the partners
- Present the role and mission of the ASMN
- Involvement of African site managers for the pooling of their expertise, skills and knowledge
- Ensure a better visibility of the ASMN for the managers and for the stakeholders, and encourage them to join the network
- Mobilize UNESCO-AWHF-ICCROM partners to support ASMN and coordinate actions for capacity building programs and/or conservation and management of World Heritage properties.
- Act in a joint manner within the framework of the Network, to make known and recognize the Network and the African heritage and this, in a spirit of tolerance, transparency and mutual respect.

3. Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of this meeting are as follows:

- The mission of the ASMN is well assimilated and clarified
- The efficient involvement of all the members of the Committee for the implementation of the ASMN actions and the mobilization of the managers to join the network.
- The commitment of UNESCO-AWHF-ICCROM partners to support the action of the ASMN.

4. Participants

The 15 members of the Standing Committee of the ASMN will participate in the meeting. Representatives of the three partners will also be invited to the meeting: World Heritage Centre (Africa Unit), the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), and ICCROM.

5. Working languages

The working languages will be French and English with simultaneous interpretation.

Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Jessica Roland Williams		
Time (Paris time)	Description	Speaker
14.00 – 14.20	Welcome remarks Presentation of the ASMN: role, mission and mode of operation	Ms. Fatma Twahir Chairperson of the ASMN
14.20 – 14.30	Role of the Africa Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre	M. Muhammad Juma Chief of Africa Unit UNESCO World Heritage Centre
14.30 – 14.40	Role of ICCROM and ongoing capacity building programs in Africa	M. Espéra Donouvossi Program Manager Young Heritage Africa ICCROM
14.40-15.00	Role of te AWHF in site management and capacity building	M. Souayibou Varissou Excecutive Director of AWHF Dr Albino Jopela Head of Programs at AWHF
15.00 – 15.25	Discussions	ASMN Committee Members All participants
15.25- 15.30	Closing remarks	Ms. Hamida Rhouma Secretary General of the ASMN