### PART II - FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN AND PROCESS

## 6. DRAFT ACTION PLAN (2021-2027) FOR THE AFRICA REGION

## 6.1. Approach and elaboration

The first draft of the Action Plan for Africa has been developed on the basis of the outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reports submitted by the Africa region States Parties through the Periodic Reporting online questionnaires. It strongly takes into account the contributions gathered from a series of consultations made with different stakeholders including the World Heritage site managers, the Advisory Bodies and heritage experts from the Africa region. Furthermore, the draft has been inspired by the strategy of the AWHF and other recommendations and decisions of the World Heritage Committee with regards to Africa. In February 2021, a 3-day workshop was organised with national focal points with plenary sessions open for discussions for the results and recommendations during previous consultations by site managers and sub-regional working groups. The resulting Action Plan was then reviewed by the Periodic Reporting coordination team and the World Heritage Centre, who harmonised the actions before submitting the Plan to focal points for additional adjustments, comments and recommendations.

On the basis of the comments received, the World Heritage Centre further streamlined the Action Plan, in order to avoid any duplications and achieve a concise set of actions that could be monitored in the future. Additional details on the vision, elaboration, sub-regional actions and implementation strategy are available at this link: <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/document/186411">http://whc.unesco.org/document/186411</a>

#### Vision

National focal points in Africa acknowledged that the Third Cycle Action Plan for Africa should work towards the vision that by 2027 all African States Parties be presented on the UNESCO World Heritage List, empowering and branding a sustainable World Heritage system in Africa.

This vision will be supported by 26 actions encompassed in 5 Strategic Objectives:

- 1. Strengthen the representativity and credibility of the UNESCO World Heritage List in the Africa region.
- 2. Improve conservation, effective management and promotion of African World Heritage.
- 3. Develop capacity for conservation, management and promotion of cultural and natural heritage.
- 4. Enhance heritage education, communication and awareness-raising of World Heritage in the Africa region.
- 5. Strengthen community and stakeholder engagement for effective management of World Heritage properties.

### 6.2. Implementation strategy

The Third Periodic Reporting Action Plan (2021 to 2027) for the Africa region is foreseen to fit into the African Union's Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want, as noted in its Aspiration 5, 'an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics'. In addition, it must integrate national development priorities to ensure relevance and improve attractiveness and capacity, in order to raise resources for implementation. This is the only way to ensure that World Heritage processes in the Region are fully integrated into COVID-19

recovery efforts, given the various competing issues. Finally, the Action Plan aims to adapt the principle of the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the *World Heritage Convention* in order to achieve the appropriate balance between the protection of the OUV of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As countries grapple with the economic challenges brought about by the pandemic, 54 African leaders have unveiled a plan to ensure that stimulus spending in Africa is used to 'build back better' after COVID-19. This plan is characterised by a 'triple dividend' response to building back better, anchored in: (i) reduced pandemic risk; (ii) economic recovery; and (iii) climate resilience. The recommendations of the Plan are targeted to help address vulnerabilities and ensure Africa can rebound from the COVID-19 crisis stronger, whilst being better prepared to deal with sudden issues in the future and remaining on track to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

## 6.3. Appropriation of the Action Plan by States Parties

The proposed Action Plan is intended as a framework for all States Parties in the Region. national focal points are invited, along with their relevant national authorities, to appropriate the Action Plan and decide which of the 26 activities/actions are relevant to them and what level of priority can be given to each action. The objectives of the Plan would only be achieved through the partnership of global, regional and local partners, actors and stakeholders. Such an approach, focused on both local communities and global stakeholders, is enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. As such, the involvement of youth and women, with a strong emphasis on intergenerational exchange, is a continuous theme of this Action Plan.

In compiling the Action Plan, national focal points were aware that some activities related to governance, funding, institutionalisation, youth and capacity building should appear in every strategy. However, there was a consensus to put specific actions to deal with these matters while keeping in mind that these activities are crosscutting for the whole plan.

Furthermore, the national focal points are invited to share the Action Plan with the site managers of World Heritage properties, who may be interested in incorporating some of the actions into their management strategies. This process should also encourage site managers to take into account the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for their respective properties; a short summary report on these results can be found on the website of the World Heritage Centre (on each property's page, in the 'Documents' section). African site managers are invited to use this information in their efforts to ensure the safeguarding of their property's OUV.

During the first step in the implementation the Action Plan, the framework Action Plan will be made available to download on the World Heritage Centre's website (<a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/">http://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/</a>). The Africa region Action Plan will be widely disseminated after its presentation and approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2021. This will involve the following actions:

- The Secretariat, the AWHF and African States Parties will ensure the dissemination of the Final Regional Report, the adopted Action Plan, as well as the related World Heritage Committee's Decision, to stakeholders at a national level and at the African Union.
- The World Heritage Centre will publish the results of the Third Periodic Report in the Africa region in the *World Heritage Paper Series*, if the financial situation permits. States Parties are welcome to contribute financially for this purpose.

• The Secretariat, AWHF and States Parties will monitor the implementation of the regional Action Plan and present a mid-cycle assessment report to the World Heritage Committee.

## 6.4. Monitoring process

In order to monitor the progress accomplished with the implementation of this Action Plan across the Region, the World Heritage Centre proposes to carry out a mid-cycle review in the form of a very short and easy survey. For each action, national focal points will be able to indicate whether it has become part of their national Action Plan; should this be the case, a simple, quantifiable follow-up question will be asked in order to track the Region's progress with the implementation of the Action Plan over time. This process would avoid having to carry out a large-scale monitoring exercise.

At the suggestion of some of the national focal points, the World Heritage Centre recommends, due to the State-Party driven process, that States Parties follow-up on the implementation of the Action Plan with site managers at the national level as well as meeting with other States Parties at the sub-regional level in order to maintain the synergies developed throughout the Periodic Reporting exercise. Those meetings would be a good occasion for the focal points to exchange on their experiences, but also to reflect on their progress with the implementation of the sub-regional priorities for the period in-between the cycles of Periodic Reporting.

## 6.5. Framework of the Third Cycle Draft Action Plan for Africa (2021-2027)

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – 1 STRENGTHEN THE REPRESENTATIVITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN THE AFRICA REGION

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 1.1	Update/develop the national heritage inventories informed by disseminated results of existing thematic studies and gap analysis (AWHF, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN).	Through capacity building, coordination of activities and financing	States Parties  African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) World Heritage Centre (WHC) Advisory Bodies (ABs)				By 2027, at least 60% (29) of the States Parties have updated/developed national inventories based on existing thematic studies  Baseline: 32% (9) States Parties
National inventories updated to reflect the diversity of heritage, following thematic studies and gap analysis	2. Conduct thematic studies and gap analyses to be considered in the development of nomination in the Region contributing to a diverse portfolio of sites including Modern Heritage of Africa (MoHoA), Wetland sites and sites of Memory.	By working with ABs, training institutions and research centres	ABs  AWHF  States Parties  WHC		•	•	By 2027, at least:  i) 3 thematic studies are prepared and disseminated tentatively on MoHoA, Wetland sites and sites of Memory  Baseline: 0 (Thematic studies)  ii) 2 gap analyses are conducted in the Region  Baseline: 1 (Gap analysis)

ER 1.2 Tentative Lists updated or developed in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists	i) Develop Tentative List, for countries which do not have and  ii) Review existing Tentative Lists, based on the assessment of potential OUV in line with AWHF, ICOMOS and IUCN gap analyses and thematic studies.	Through regular communication with States Parties Through national and regional field workshops	States Parties  WHC AWHF ABs Training institutions/ research centres	By 2023, Tentative List is developed for Somalia, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe  Baseline: 0  By 2027, at least 80% of States Parties have updated their Tentative Lists.  Baseline: 18 States Parties (39%) updated from 2015 onwards
ER 1.3 Representativity of Africa on the UNESCO World Heritage List is improved	<ul> <li>i) Encourage States Parties to request Upstream support,</li> <li>ii) Support the development of credible nomination dossiers of each of the 12 States Parties with no properties on the World Heritage List,</li> <li>iii) Assist States Parties with property already inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List to develop credible nomination dossiers in view of improving the representativity and credibility of the World Heritage List in Africa.</li> </ul>	By working with States Parties, ABs, African training institutions, research centres and universities  By strengthening mentorship for the consolidation of existing nominations (in addition to ongoing capacity building)	AWHF  States Parties WHC ABs Training institutions/centres/ universities	i) 5 States Parties have requested and taken into consideration Upstream recommendations ii) one nomination dossier is developed for each of the States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List iii) 3 nomination dossiers are submitted for inscription on the World Heritage List every year  Baseline: 35 (States Parties with at least one site inscribed)

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – 2 IMPROVE CONSERVATION, EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF WORLD HERITAGE

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
	5. Develop innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms dedicated to heritage conservation and management.	Through joint mobilisation of funds with States Parties, AWHF and UNESCO	States Parties  AWHF WHC	•	•	•	At least 3 States Parties developed best practices on funding for conservation and management  Baseline: 4 (TBC)
ER 2.1 Coordination and funding for World Heritage conservation enhanced	6. Strengthen  (i) advocacy with States Parties to financially contribute to AWHF in order to deepen the engagement of the African Union Member States in supporting Agenda 2063 (Aspiration 5)  (ii) collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank, and other regional institutions to support conservation, management and promotion of World Heritage properties in Africa	By working with African Union Commission and regional institutions	States Parties AWHF	•	•	•	i) at least 50% of States Parties signed Charter for African Culture Renaissance Baseline: 14/47 (29%) States Parties since 2006 ii) all 5 RECs have developed and approved sustainable culture and heritage-based strategy. Baseline: 2 (ECOWAS and CEAC)

	7. Finalise all retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUVs), including required boundary clarifications, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee	By working with ABs to develop retrospective SOUVs	States Parties ABs WHC	•			By 2025, 100% of all World Heritage properties in the Region have SOUVs Baseline: 97%
	8. Support the development of Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures to support States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger	By working with ABs to develop DSOCR	ABs States Parties WHC AWHF	•	•	•	By 2023, 100% of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage have DSOCR and a programme of corrective measures  Baseline: 3 properties
ER 2.2 Conservation of World Heritage properties is improved through effective governance, proper	9. Assist in developing capacity on the use of digital and new technologies for the effective management of cultural and natural properties, (specifically antipoaching monitoring for natural properties)	By supporting States Parties to develop and manage digital tools	AWHF States Parties WHC Private sector Training institutions Universities	•	•		At least 15 sites use digital and new technologies for effective monitoring of their properties  Baseline: TBD
documentation and information management	Establish baselines based on OUV to enable assessment and regular monitoring of site management and key conservation factors	By making use of updated data from Periodic Reporting, monitoring indicators, cultural indicators and state of conservation	States Parties WHC ABs				By 2025, at least 20% of States Parties have developed a database with defined indicators, in their management plans and strategies  Baseline: TBC
	Set up monitoring and self-evaluation systems on conservation and management effectiveness     i) Annual implementation reporting by States Parties during the annual meeting  ii) Annual national meeting of Focal	By developing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism	States Parties  AWHF WHC ABs			•	At least 60% use monitoring and evaluation tools, submit annual report during participation in annual meeting  Baseline: TBC
	Points and Site Managers						Daseillie: IBC

	iii) Mid-cycle monitoring survey					
	12. Integrate UNESCO World Heritage into national planning strategies and development of National Heritage Action Plans to enhance synergies among national development agencies, including through increased institutional coordination at the national level	Regular communication with States Parties to support the adoption of sustainable development perspectives	States Parties  AWHF  ABs  WHC	•	•	By 2027, at least 10 States Parties have established mechanism (preferably national legislation) to integrate World Heritage in the national planning
ER 2.3 Strategies to strengthen conservation and management practices in line with the sustainable development perspectives are developed	<ul> <li>i) management plans and/or management systems in line with Operational Guidelines and World Heritage policy on sustainable development</li> <li>ii) guidelines for properties in urban settings in accordance with the principles of UNESCO's 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)</li> <li>iii) cooperation (overall) management plans for transboundary and transnational sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List</li> <li>iv) management strategies that recognize the links between natural and cultural heritage and the wellbeing of communities</li> </ul>	Regular communication with States Parties on sustainable development perspectives.	States Parties  AWHF  ABS  WHC	•	•	i) 100% of World Heritage properties in Africa have a management plan and/or a management system. Baseline: 90% (86 sites as of July 2020 has a MP)  ii) At least 3 HUL guidelines developed Baseline: 0  iii) At least 2 cooperation management plans are developed Baseline: 0  iv) At least 2 projects/programmes/ methods and

						strategies promoting the linkage nature/culture are developed Baseline: 0
	<ul> <li>i) awareness of the sensitivity of World Heritage properties to adverse impacts of developments to avoid impact and reduce risk, strengthen the use of impact assessment tools and integrate World Heritage concerns into development and land use plans</li> <li>ii) alternative sustainable solutions on renovation using new technologies and construction material/methods</li> <li>iii) and implement Disaster/Risk preparedness plans, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation plans in accordance with the World Heritage Strategy on Disaster Risks and policy on climate change to strengthen resilience to natural hazards and climate change.</li> </ul>	By working with States Parties, Advisory Bodies and training institutions to develop relevant tools	States Parties  AWHF ABs WHC Training institutions Private sector		•	i) 100% of States Parties are aware of the ABs' guidelines on impact assessment and at least 10 capacity building activities on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) are implemented Baseline: 2 (TBC) ii) at least 1 guideline is developed Baseline: 0 iii) at least 75% of the properties have risk management plan Baseline: 23% (22 properties as of July 2020)
ER 2.4 Promote resilience at UNESCO World Heritage sites	15. Strengthen the protection of natural, cultural and mixed heritage in conflict areas and develop capacities of heritage institutions through integration into recovery programmes post-COVID-19, armed conflicts, extremism, etc.	By working with States Parties and ABs to develop Risk management tools	States Parties WHC ABs		•	By 2027: i) at least 3 training sessions on UNESCO Conventions are organised for States Parties in conflict situations

		Baseline: 1  ii) number of countries that integrate heritage concerns into disaster recovery plans (e.g. COVID-19, armed conflict, etc.)
		Baseline: 0

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - 3 DEVELOP CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 3.1 Capacities to enhance sustainable conservation and effective management are	16. Develop online modules to build the capacities of African site managers and the general public, notably on emerging issues such as armed conflict resolution, risk preparedness and management planning/effectiveness (including legal framework), sustainable tourism, climate change and public health at World Heritage properties in Africa.	By working with States Parties and Advisory Bodies and the training institutions to develop needs assessment and training modules	AWHF  States Parties WHC UNESCO Field Offices ABs Training institutions				By 2027, 6 capacity training modules/subjects developed  Baseline: TBD
developed	17. Promote and encourage innovation in conservation practices anchored in traditional knowledge through the use of new technologies and digital tools	By working with States Parties and ABs and the training institutions to develop needs	States Parties  AWHF  WHC			•	By 2027, at least 10 capacity building activities on heritage and new technologies carried out

		assessment and training modules	UNESCO Field Offices ABs Training institutions			Baseline: 2
ER 3.2 A network of African experts for World Heritage is established and	18. Enhance sharing of experience, peer learning and transfer of knowledge, including traditional/indigenous knowledge by:  i) Strengthening the Pan African network of site managers as well as capacity of heritage management institutions  ii) establishing a credible and gendersensitive database of African heritage experts, training institutions and universities	By working with site managers experts, training institutions and universities	States Parties  AWHF WHC	•		By 2022, African Site Managers Network with a regular forum is established  Baseline: 0  By 2023, databases of African experts, training institutions and universities are established  Baseline: 2
operational to promote role and responsibilities of site managers	i) regional and sub-regional networking and capacity building, especially among Portuguese and Spanish-speaking States Parties  ii) establishment of twinning programmes between World Heritage properties within and outside of Africa	By working with Field offices, States Parties and network of African site managers	UNESCO Field Offices States Parties Site managers WHC AWHF			By 2027, at least 2 African Sub-regional networks with a regular forum is established Baseline: 0  By 2025, at least 2 World Heritage sites are engaged in twinning programmes/activities  Baseline: TBD

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - 4
ENHANCE HERITAGE EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING OF WORLD HERITAGE IN THE AFRICA REGION

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 4.1 Heritage education (and role of UNESCO's chair) communication and awareness-raising to be enhanced	<ul> <li>20. Develop collaboration between heritage institutions, universities and national education programmes (through school projects and school days on World Heritage) to: <ol> <li>i) develop curriculum on World Heritage education</li> <li>ii) enhance inclusive exchange and immersion programmes on cultural and natural heritage in schools, institutes and universities</li> </ol> </li> <li>21. <ol> <li>i) Raise awareness on World Heritage among the youth, women, and the general public to promote good practices on conservation and management</li> <li>ii) Develop communication materials on the World Heritage Convention to be translated into national /local languages and disseminated.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	By working with UNESCO's Education sector and ABs to support States Parties in their education programme  By using new communication technology, electronic media to coordinate activities in collaboration with Field Offices, AWHF and States Parties	States Parties  AWHF WHC ABs Private sector  State Party Private sector AWHF Universities	•	•	•	By 2025, at least 2 curriculums on World Heritage education are made available  Baseline: 0  By 2025, at least 2 exchange and immersion programmes are supported  Baseline: 0  By 2025, at least 2 examples of using new technologies in awareness-raising are available  Baseline:0  At least 5 materials on the World Heritage Convention are developed and translated in widely spoken languages in Africa
							Baseline: 1

ER 4.2 World Heritage in Africa is promoted at large, supporting the full and effective inclusion	i) Leverage opportunities presented by national and international cultural and natural heritage commemorations to support the participation of communities, women and youth in World Heritage activities  ii) the establishment of heritage education, volunteer and traineeship programmes at national heritage and site management institutions	Through collaboration between UNESCO Field Offices, AWHF and States Parties	AWHF WHC States Parties	•	•	By 2027, 30% of women and youth participated in promotional activities  Baseline: 0
of communities, women and the youth	23. Include, in a systematic manner, young people in capacity building activities by organising regular meetings in and around World Heritage properties	Through ICCROM's Youth. Heritage, Africa Programme, World Heritage Education programme, African World Heritage Day, Youth Forum and World Heritage Volunteers initiative	AWHF  ABs (ICCROM) States Parties WHC			At least 3 young people (under 35 years) participating at site manager events per year Baseline: 2

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – 5 STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 5.1 Improve the role and involvement of local and indigenous communities and stakeholders in	24. Strengthen the conservation and management capacities of community-based organisations whilst mapping and supporting the engagement and involvement of local communities, indigenous peoples, and all relevant stakeholders	Through coordinated activities in collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices, AWHF and States Parties, training institutions and universities and by developing collaboration and synergies between the	States Parties, UNESCO Field Offices WHC AWHF	•	•	•	At least 10% of properties have a strategy to involve community-based organisation and indigenous people  Baseline: TBC

conservation and management of UNESCO World Heritage properties		1972 Convention and other relevant Conventions and Programmes related to nature and culture (refer to the COMPACT approach)					
	25. Develop case studies and support pilot projects to showcase the integration and contributions of knowledge and practices, including traditional management systems	By working with training institutions and universities to develop a mobile app	States Parties  Private sector Universities Training institutions		•	•	By 2027, at least 10% of World Heritage properties develop one pilot project Baseline: TBC
ER 5.2 Contribution to local economic growth and entrepreneurship in and around UNESCO World Heritage properties is increased	26. Strengthen communities and stakeholders to enable sustainable livelihoods in and around World Heritage properties:  i) Develop policies, frameworks and guidelines to support the development of sustainable businesses and tourism.  ii) Diversify investment in sustainable businesses to promote heritage related small and medium size enterprises	By coordinating activities with the private sector, local communities, community-based organisations and heritage experts, site managers, UNESCO Field Offices and AWHF	States Parties  Site Managers Private sector UNESCO Field Office WHC AWHF	•	•	•	By 2027, at least:  i) 5 properties have business plans Baseline:5 (TBC)  ii) 3 small and medium enterprises are developed Baseline: TBC