



**AFRICAN WORKSHOP**  
**On the**  
*Harmonization of World Heritage Tentative Lists*  
*in North Africa*

*Cairo, 16-18 March 2010*

**CONCLUSIONS  
AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> DRAFT**

**AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE ACTION PLAN**

The African Workshop on Harmonization of Tentative Lists in North Africa, held in Cairo, Egypt, 16-18 March 2010, was organized jointly by the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), with financial support from AWHF and from the Egyptian Government.

It was attended by national delegates of natural and cultural heritage designated by the respective National UNESCO Commissions as well as experts in these matters (Annex I – List of participants).

After detailed presentations by the national and international experts and lively discussions, the meeting came to the following conclusions and recommendations:

- **For the AWHF**

1. Acknowledge that the objectives of the WH Convention are not all realized in Africa, and that there is still much effort to be done by all partners,
2. Consider the following recommendations as a World Heritage Action Plan for Africa
3. Implement this **African World Heritage Action Plan** as adopted by this Workshop
4. Establish an African World Heritage Network and its Council as a tool for the sustainable implementation of this Action Plan
5. Establish a plan for teaching an internationally recognized Diploma/Master Degrees for the conservation and management of WH sites and other forms of cultural sites and nature reserves, in Arabic, English, and French, by free distance learning methods, in collaboration with organizations willing to cooperate
6. Prepare awareness material on African World Heritage in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hausa, Swahili, and Amharic languages
7. Establish a Committee, as part of the African World Heritage Council, for the management of World Heritage programmes of teaching, studies, research, and awareness material
8. Request financial support from donor organizations to realize the sustainability of these studies, by free distance learning, for the benefit of African WH site managers, managers of other types of conservation sites, and would-be employees at such sites
9. Establish **MoUs** for cooperation with **Category 2** Centers and relevant UNESCO Chairs in the African region, as well as in

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other regions, to facilitate the implementation of the African Action Plan on World Heritage

10. Integration and harmonization of the recommendations of the various Regional African Workshops, into one comprehensive African Action Plan
11. Harmonization is needed of the process of preparing the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting Reviews, for the African region
12. Support the Algeria Workshop for Preparation of Sites on the World Heritage List for Arab African Countries, in May 2010, and ask these countries to ensure its success, by sending candidatures for trainees and offering trainers if needed. This Workshop should be the prototype of a full fledged Diploma or Master university course as explained below.
13. While recognizing and appreciating the innovative approaches for World Heritage nominations, including serial and transboundary sites, it is believed that twinning, serialization and networking is the best, quickest and most suitable options for inter-state and inter-site cooperation in the management of World Heritage sites in Africa
14. Establish an African Regional World Heritage List, as an intermediate stage between National and International World Heritage Lists.

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- **For African countries**

1. Invite African countries to establish their Tentative Lists as one harmonized whole, for the African Continent, taking into consideration its great variety of natural habitats and its unique cultural diversity, so as to avoid redundancy and competition. They therefore encourage the national authorities of the African Continent to take into account the recommendations of this meeting and to revise their national Tentative Lists under the umbrella of the AWHF, considering the outstanding universal value of this heritage.
2. Propose a number of new sites seen to have Outstanding Universal Value, to be added to the Tentative Lists of the respective States Parties (Annex II – New Proposed Sites for the Tentative Lists).

3. The participants noted potential heritage sites of similar types exist in many African countries (e.g., fossil sites, archaeo-astronomical sites, Prehistoric sites, natural and cultural landscapes, ancient roads, impact crater sites, etc.), and encourage these countries to collaborate towards the study, valuation, and harmonization of their management plans. There is a need and an obligation to prepare comprehensive management plans, in particular for living cities and cultural landscapes
4. There is an obvious necessity for completing a comprehensive comparative study before any nomination. A brief comparative analysis (comparison with other similar properties in the world, whether on the World Heritage List or not) already has to be presented with the Tentative List. Such studies should be done under the umbrella of AWHF to avoid useless repetition, dissimilar conclusions, and waste of time and money
5. Many African sites that are already represented on the World Heritage List; or on the Tentative Lists, or to be proposed later on, need a study of the interaction between people and nature as related to beliefs, traditions and other intangible values of African peoples
6. Involvement of all stakeholders in the nomination process is important so that this would include also public information and participation
7. Holding an African preparatory meeting at the level of Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, at which experts may be invited, before each session of the WH Committee, for harmonization of positions at the session
8. Hold regular cooperation and consultation meetings among African countries for all stages of work on African World Heritage sites.
9. Seek assistance for effective participation of a maximum number of African countries in the annual World Heritage Committee sessions, whether as full members or as observers
10. Establish National World Heritage Committees within African UNESCO Commissions, where these do not exist

- **For the World Heritage Center and the World Heritage Committee**
  1. Reform of the Operational Guidelines is needed to address the gaps in the 2005 version and its modifications, such as, the role of the Advisory Bodies, the upper limit of international assistance, the working of the IAR Panel, the possibility of obtaining small IAR sums for small projects, as well as the enhancing the role of the World Heritage Bureau so as to save more time for the World Heritage Committee's deliberations.
  2. Discussion of the role of the Advisory Bodies and add other professional scientific unions to the roster of the World Heritage Advisory Bodies
  
- **For the WH Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM)**
  1. Define the role of the three Advisory Bodies as responsible partners in all stages of the activities destined for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa, in collaboration with the AWHF, in terms of the present African World Heritage Action Plan.
  2. Request the three Advisory Bodies to involve a larger number of African experts in their studies and in their the formulation of their recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, and to consult their African National Committees in these activities
  3. Also request these three Advisory Bodies to involve in their activities other relevant international scientific bodies (e.g., Ramsar, ICSU, the IAC in the Netherlands, the International Geology Union, IIASA), and also other UNESCO Programmes (MAB, hydrology, geology, oceanography), when evaluating African cultural and natural properties of regional/global or international importance, as well as in the completion of studies on these sites.
  4. Invite the Advisory Bodies to carry on thematic studies, in collaboration with other international scientific bodies mentioned above, to help in the nomination of new and under-represented categories of sites, including: oases, wadis, and mountains, plant and animal fossil sites, Prehistoric sites, rock art sites, bird migration routes sites, coastal zones (corals and

mangroves), nature reserves, historical roads, astronomical heritage sites, old quarry sites, landforms and processes, including the geomorphologic series after the Pluvial Periods, etc.

5. Emphasize that while North Africa is conventionally devoid of biodiversity hotspots based on sheer number of species, the region is rich in species highly adapted to harsh desert conditions. This makes these species a valuable store for truly unique genetic material that is of utmost importance for solving the food shortages of humankind. In this way, the nomination of such biodiversity qualitative hotspots (such as oases, wadis, and mountains) is not only for mere conservation, but also for the realization of sustainable development objectives.
6. Considering the rapid economic and social changes and challenges facing Africa, the Workshop addressed authenticity and integrity as critical issues in heritage conservation;
7. Advisory Bodies and their representatives at IAR Panels are invited to assess the Outstanding Universal Value of an IAR or a Nomination File in their own intrinsic merit, on purely sound scientific evidence, leaving the administrative issues to the discretion of the concerned State Party.

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- **For African Universities**

1. Establish e-Learning and e-training programmes about the conservation and management of WH sites and other forms of cultural properties and nature reserves
2. Encourage the administration of courses related to World Heritage and its management, in African universities, that are not necessarily to be included in or related to a particular programme on World Heritage

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In conclusion, the participants present the above recommendations as an **African World Heritage Action Plan**, to the African World Heritage

Fund, to be submitted to the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee, Brasilia, Brazil, 25 July – 3 August 2010.

It is also to be submitted to all other partners, emphasizing the joint regional approach of the African countries, through the African World Heritage Action Plan outlined above, in the implementation of the Global Strategy for a Balanced and Representative World Heritage List, in which African countries should be well represented

The participants also encourage the local, regional and national authorities to take these recommendations into account and cooperate with the AWHF, the World Heritage Center at UNESCO, UNESCO Regional and country Offices, the Advisory Bodies (including National ICOMOS and IUCN Committees, besides their headquarters), national and international scientific universities and institutions, and national and international NGOs.

The participants also regret the tragic events that recently took place at two important African World Heritage sites, namely, the deadly stampede at Djingareyber Mosque in Timbuktu (Mali) on 25 February 2010 and the fire that ravaged the Kasubi Royal Tombs in Kampala (Uganda) on 16 March 2010 and offer their condolences to the families of the victims.

Finally, the Workshop participants thank and express their deep gratitude to the Egyptian Government and the AWHF for facilitating the activities of this Workshop so that it could achieve its desirable results.