

AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DAY

5 May 2017

Proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015, African World Heritage Day is an opportunity for people around the world to celebrate one of Africa's most precious resources: its irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage. Recognized as the birthplace of humanity, Africa boasts the remains of ancient civilisations, vast parklands renowned for breath-taking wildlife and unique ecosystems, marvels of earthen architecture reflecting age-old building traditions, and much more. The continent's wealth and diversity is truly astounding.

To date, a total of 131 African properties have been inscribed on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage List in recognition of their outstanding universal value. Faced with contemporary threats such as climate change, uncontrolled development, civil unrest and instability, many of these wonders are in danger. It is therefore more urgent than ever that this heritage be protected and preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. UNESCO is convinced that we must draw on the potential of Africa's cultural and natural heritage as a force for poverty reduction and social cohesion as well as a driver of sustainable development and innovation.

African World Heritage Day aims to increase global awareness of African heritage and to mobilise enhanced cooperation for its safeguarding. To mark the second edition of this international day, we encourage you to host a wide range of events and activities related to diverse aspects of World Heritage, with the active involvement of local communities, women and young people.

The Government of Burkina Faso, in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund, will be organizing a series of flagship events to mark the second edition of African World Heritage Day in 2017, including a Francophone youth forum and a seminar devoted to the theme of training heritage practitioners in Africa. These events will culminate on 5 May with a celebration in the presence of high-level officials.

This leaflet is designed to inspire you to conceive and spearhead activities and events on 5 May 2017 in your country. **Your active participation is vital for the success of African World Heritage Day!** Let us know about the activities planned in your country to mark this worldwide celebration (fill in [this](#) online questionnaire).

SUGGESTED THEMES

- o Balancing conservation and sustainable development
- o Youth and heritage
- o Traditional techniques of conservation
- o Local community participation
- o Endangered wildlife
- o Rapid urbanization and migration
- o Climate change and heritage
- o University training in heritage
- o Recognition of the role of women in safeguarding heritage
- o Indigenous peoples and heritage
- o Thematic related to multiple sites (e.g. slave routes)
- o Creative Industries and heritage

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WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

- o Local communities
- o Youth and women
- o Educational institutions (Universities, schools, etc.)
- o Local authorities
- o Tourism services
- o Ministries: Culture, Tourism, Education, Communication, Environment, Foreign Affairs, Labour
- o Media
- o NGOs and civil society
- o UNESCO Field Offices
- o UNESCO National Commission
- o World Heritage Volunteers
- o African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)
- o Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA)
- o Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA)
- o World Heritage Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM)

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WHERE?

Define a location for each activity. If possible, on or near a property inscribed on the World Heritage List or on the Tentative List.



Site visit during Youth Forum 2016, Robben Island © AWHF

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- o **Competitions for Youth** on the theme: 'Youth and heritage'.
 - drawing (children) or photography (19-26 years old) competition
 - documentary film/fiction (5-15min)
 - quiz on African world heritage will be organized in primary and middle schools
 - + prizes: display of artworks / movies on 5th of May, free visit of one of the sites
- o Artistic-creation / storytelling **workshop for children/youth**
- o **Film projection of Patrimonito** (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/patrimonito/>)
- o **Educational tours for all ages** to increase knowledge on World Heritage conservation
- o Free or reduced entrance prices to monuments, sites and museums
- o **Charity concert or free festival** (film, theatre, dance, puppet, music, etc.) on heritage sites:
 - invite popular and emerging African musicians and artists committed to Africa's development.
 - Charity concerts: The money will be going to African World heritage causes
 - Free festival: open to all, this will encourage the local communities to attend.
- o Guided tours at sites and museums
- o Contests and **support for entrepreneurial development around sites**
- o **Debates and forums** on the sites to discuss conflicts between conservation and development
- o Volunteer **projects to clean and protect the site**, this could be tied in with WH Volunteers
- o Activities linked to other UNESCO thematic programmes
- o **Information sessions on "World Heritage"** for the general public to increase their awareness, involvement and opportunities
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Photographic exhibition at the St. George's Castle in Elmina and presentations on 'Awareness Raising for World Heritage Sites in Ghana'.
© Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, 2016

MEDIA COVERAGE

Find media partners to enhance visibility of the events and activities organized on African World Heritage Day.

- o Local, national and international **radio**
- o National and International **TV**
- o **Press**
- o **News websites**
- o **Social media** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, Tumblr, Tsu etc.)
- ...

FINANCING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The scope of partners depends on the situation in every country.

o **Private partnerships:** African companies (cf. list of 21 African Forbes 2000 companies) and associations (e.g.: Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF), « Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI) Foundation, Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation for Peace, Culture, and the Environment, Fondation Espace Afrique (FEA), The Danish Center for Culture and Development, the Prince Claus fund for Culture and Development, the HIVOS Culture Fund, the Sustainable Development Goals Fund, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues etc.

o **Public partnerships:** Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Education, Foreign Affairs, Labour, Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy, Embassies etc.

o **Banks:** African Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (BIDC), Development Bank for the Central African States (BDEAC), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Islamic Bank of Development (IBD) etc.



Site tour of Robben Island, Youth Forum 2016 © AWHF



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE
AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DAY A SUCCESS!**