



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



African World Heritage Fund
under the auspices of UNESCO



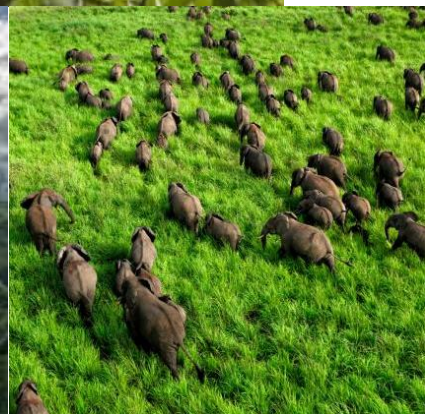
African World
Heritage Fund



28TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND

30 November – 4 December 2020

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo





BACKGROUND

Every year, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) holds two Board of Trustees Meetings, one in June-July in South Africa (host country) and the second one in November-December in another African country. This year in December 2020, AWHF in partnership with the Congolese Institute of Nature Conservation (ICCN) will host the 28th Board of Trustees Meeting in **Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 30th November to 4th December**. The meeting is designed as a face to face gathering which will observe all the protocols and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, an option will be given to connect participants remotely for virtual participation. Three events are planned for this 28th Board Meeting namely 1). **A Technical Workshop on the Implementation of World Heritage Convention in DRC**, 2). **A Stakeholders' Event**, 3). **The Board meetings comprising the Committee Sessions and Plenary Meeting**. A Site visit will conclude the programme of the planned activities.

THE EVENTS

1. TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION IN DRC (30TH NOVEMBER-1ST DECEMBER 2020)

DRC hosts five (5) World Heritage Sites (WHS) and those include the National Parks of Virunga (1979/1994¹), the National Park of Garamba (1980/1996), the National Park of Kahuzi-Biega (1980/1997), the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (1996/1997) and Salonga National Park (1984/1999). All World Heritage Sites in DRC have also been inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger for more than 20 years. There are 3 sites inscribed on the national Tentative List of DRC: Dimba and Ngovo Caves, Matupi Cave and Upemba Depression, all are mixed sites and submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the National Commission on UNESCO in November 1997. WHS in DRC are managed by the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) which is also the national focal point for World Heritage. The AWHF has been working closely with ICCN to champion WH issues in the region and on the continent. The methodology of the workshop, based on continuous interaction among participants, will comprise short briefs, engagements and group discussions. A report will be produced at the end of the workshop.

¹ The first date is the year of inscription on the World Heritage List and the second date is the year of inscription on the World Heritage List in Danger.



1.1 Workshop Objective

Discuss the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in DRC most specifically:

- Introduce the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines;
- Assess World Heritage implementation in DRC in conjunction with *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*;
- Identify key actions forward to improve the current status.

1.2 Workshop Details

- **Date:** 30th November – 1st December 2020
- **Venue:** Fleuve Congo Hotel - Kinshasa, DRC
- **Time:** 9.00 - 16.00 on day 1 and 9.00 - 13.00 on day 2.
- **Participants:** 20-25 participants from Government Ministries in charge of Culture, Tourism and Parks, ICCN, National Museum and Parks, UNESCO Office and National Commission, NGOs, academics, youth and other stakeholders in DRC.

2. **STAKEHOLDERS' EVENT (TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2020, 18.00-21.00)**

The AWHF was created in 2006 in South Africa with the mandate to assist African countries in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention i.e. (1) Support the identification and preparation of African sites, for inclusion on the World Heritage List, (2) Assist effective conservation and management of natural and cultural World heritage sites in Africa, (3) Support the rehabilitation of sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, (4) Train heritage professionals and site managers as an ongoing investment in the conservation and protection of Africa's magnificent and diverse heritage and (5) Ensure sustainable development at and around World Heritage sites, particularly focusing on the involvement and benefits of the local communities.

The AWHF is the result of a joint effort by the African Union and UNESCO. During the 33rd African Union Assembly held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), an AWHF Advocacy Event was organized on 9 February 2020 under the leadership of H.E. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Former President of Mali and AU Champion for Arts, Culture and Heritage and H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson on the African Union Commission. The AU Assembly of Head of States "*called upon African Union Member States and the Private Sector to support the work of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for the profiling, protection and promotion of African natural and cultural heritage*" (Resolution 11 of



the Decisions about Arts, Culture and Heritage). **H.E. Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Republic of DRC**, attended the AU Assembly and the AWHF's Advocacy Event.

2.1 Stakeholder Event Objectives

The format of the event is a cultural gala dinner with the objectives to:

- Raise awareness about World Heritage in DRC and in Africa;
- Provide an interactive platform for sharing of experiences and best practices for cultural and natural heritage protection in DRC and elsewhere in Africa;
- Raise funds that will assist AWHF in facilitating its work and meeting the set mandate. It is expected that an amount of 100,000 US\$ will be raised during the event.

2.2 Stakeholder Event Details

- **Date:** 1st December 2020
- **Venue:** Fleuve Congo Hotel - Kinshasa, DRC
- **Time:** 18.00 – 21.00
- **Guests:** 100 guests including Government officials in DRC; Chairperson and Board Members of the AWHF; Members of Diplomatic Corps including officials from UN Nations Agencies in DRC; Prominent Business Leaders and actors from private sector in DRC; Personalities from cultural and natural heritage sector in DRC; Various media representatives in DRC.
- **Programme:** Keynote address will be by the given by a Government Official.

3. BOARD MEETING (2ND AND 3RD DECEMBER 2020)

The AWHF's Board of Trustees is the highest organ responsible to provide strategic orientations and make decisions in the organisations. It's composed of 14 members and 4 observers representing AU regions and various institutions involved in natural and cultural heritage management in Africa. The Secretariat under the coordination of the Executive Director is responsible before the Board. It produces a set of reports and draft decisions for consideration by the Board.

3.1. Board Meeting Details

- **Date:** 2nd & 3rd December 2020
- **Venue:** Fleuve Congo Hotel - Kinshasa, DRC
- **Participants:** Up to 20 participants from Africa and heritage institutions will attend the Board Meeting. Those participants include:
 - The Chairperson of the Board;



- 5 members representing the African Union regions;
- 3 professional members;
- 8 members representing UNESCO, the African Union, Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and various institutions;
- The advisor to the Board;
- 3 members from the Secretariat;
- Other guests from the Diplomatic Corps and Government institutions in DRC.

3.2 Draft programme

The Board Meeting is organised in 2 main components namely (1) The meetings of the Committees namely the Audit and Finance Committee (9.00-11.00), the Fundraising Committee (11.00-13.00) and the Technical Committee (15.00-17.00) on Wednesday 2nd December 2020. Each Committee is composed of 5-7 Board members. However, observers can also attend Committee meetings and (2) the Plenary Board Meeting on Thursday 3rd December 2020 from 9.00 to 18.00. A detailed programme of the Board Meeting will be shared.

4. SITE VISIT (4TH DECEMBER 2020)

Details of the Site to be visited will be shared.

OTHER

As of 31 August 2020, the Central Africa region hosts 58 properties on the Tentative Lists located in 7 countries. The region also hosts 11 World Heritage Sites (10 natural and 1 mixed) located in 6 countries. 6 of those 11 WHS are on the WH List in Danger and many others are facing serious conservation and management pressures. Three countries in the region have no site inscribed on the UNESCO prestigious list: Burundi, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome e Principe.

NB: ALL PLANNED EVENTS OF THE 28TH AWHF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING WILL BE PROFILED ON MEDIA PLATFORMS!!!

