

20 April 2021

**AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND (AWHF) STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT) ON THE TRAGEDY OF THE RUNAWAY VELD FIRE
AFFECTING THE CAMPUS**

It is with great regret that the Board of Trustees, Patrons and Staff of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) learnt of the runaway veldfire that has gutted parts of the University of Cape Town (UCT) and has destroyed iconic Cape Town landmarks and engulfed Rhodes Memorial.

As UCT is known to have many historic buildings which have now fallen victim to the blaze, AWHF sympathises with all whom have been affected at the University. We believe the safety of all students, lecturers and staff is paramount. We also hope that the extent of the damages can be salvaged.

As a long-standing partner of AWHF, UCT has demonstrated a strong commitment to the cause of protecting and safeguarding Africa's heritage through many initiatives. It is with high regard that AWHF recognizes and appreciates the contribution of UCT, in joint mission to provide support and assistance for the conservation and management of World Heritage Sites in Africa.

As AWHF, we extend our deepest sympathy to UCT during this difficult and inconveniencing time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Souayibou Varissou
AWHF: Executive Director