



Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya) ©AWHF

QUARTERLY REVIEW 2021

[January - March]



African World Heritage Fund

1258 Lever Road, Headway Hill

Midrand 1685, South Africa

www.awhf.net

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1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 AWHF VIRTUAL QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Members of the AWHF Board of Trustees representing three (3) Committees (Technical, Finance & Fundraising), chaired by different selected Committee Members ©AWHF

Three Quarterly Committee meetings took place in March 2021 and were conducted virtually as part of the AWHF Board of Trustees set mandate to monitor the progress of activities. The aim of the Quarterly Committee Meetings is to discuss strategies and reflect on the milestones for the year. The Quarterly Fundraising Committee Meeting took place on **26th March** and was chaired by **His Excellency Tebogo Seokolo**, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of South Africa to UNESCO. The Quarterly Finance Committee Meeting took place on **31st March** and was chaired **Mrs. Lebogang Matlala**. The Quarterly Technical Committee Meeting convened on **12th April** and was chaired by **Dr Shadia Mahmoud**.

The Meetings also ensured brainstorming of strategic intervention gearing towards the **African Union (AU) Year (2021) for Arts, Culture and Heritage: *Levers to building the Africa We Want***".

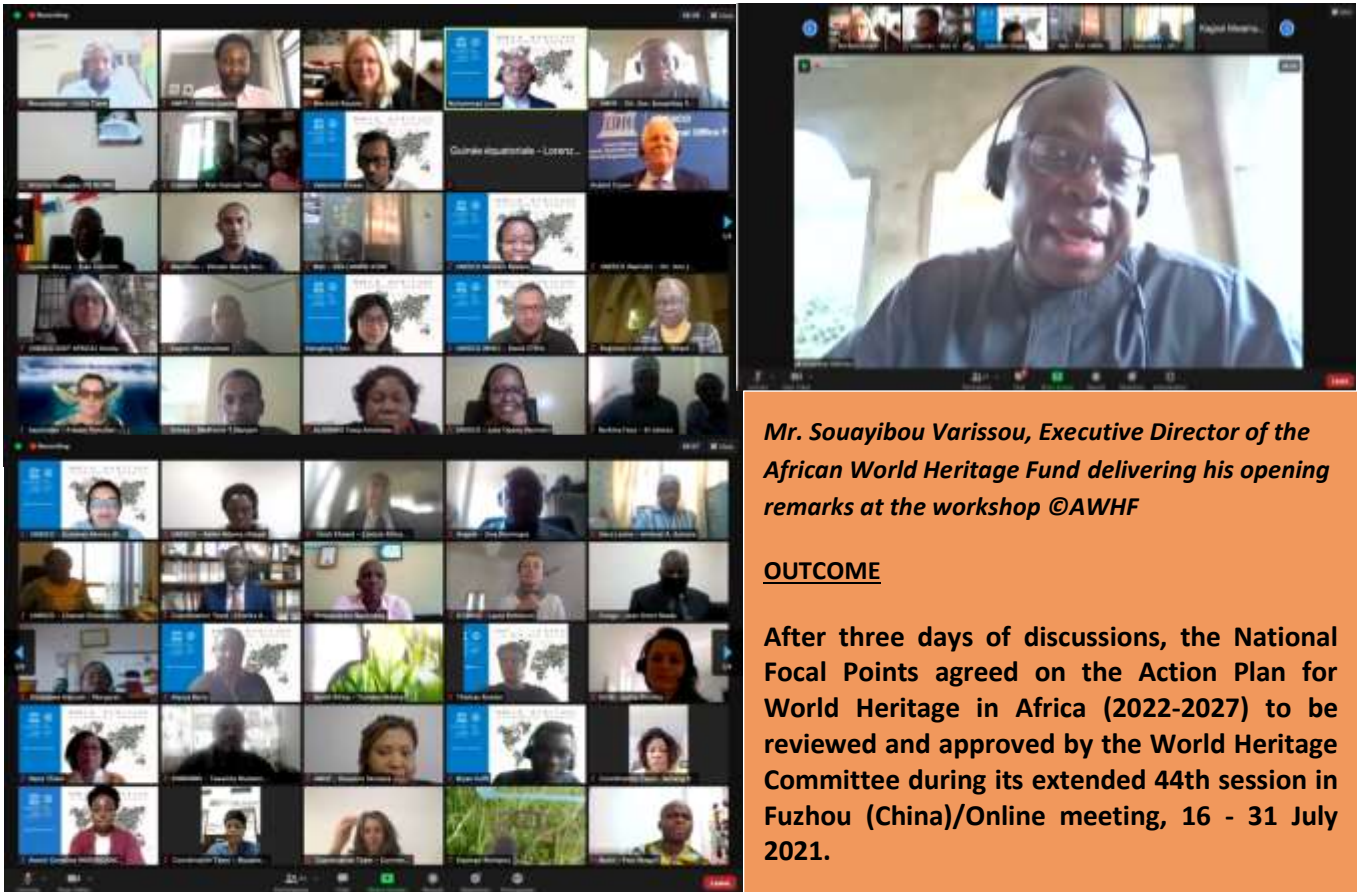
LEST WE FORGET....

We need to come together and strengthen our engagement for the promotion of African Arts, Culture and Heritage as resource for peace building, regional integration and sustainable development in Africa.



2. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

2.1 FINAL WORKSHOP OF THE THIRD PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS



Mr. Souayibou Varissou, Executive Director of the African World Heritage Fund delivering his opening remarks at the workshop ©AWHF

OUTCOME

After three days of discussions, the National Focal Points agreed on the Action Plan for World Heritage in Africa (2022-2027) to be reviewed and approved by the World Heritage Committee during its extended 44th session in Fuzhou (China)/Online meeting, 16 - 31 July 2021.

Participants attending the final workshop of the Third Periodic Reporting Exercise for National Focal Points ©AWHF

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with AWHF, the UNESCO Field Offices in Africa, and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) organized an online regional workshop for National Focal Points from 17 to 19 February 2021. This workshop was initially planned to take place in Zimbabwe. However, due to the current sanitary situation imposed by the COVID19 pandemic, convening an online workshop became the safest and the most feasible solution at this period. The workshop aimed to present the outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise in Africa Region and make recommendations regarding the Regional Report and Action Plan (2022-2027).

The workshop was officially opened by the Director of the UNESCO WHC, Dr Mechtild Rössler, the Executive Director of AWHF, Mr Souayibou Varissou, and four Directors from the UNESCO Regional Field Offices in Africa region (Mr Hubert Gijzen, Regional Director for Southern Africa and Representative to SADC; Ms Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Regional Director for Eastern Africa; Mr Khaled Salah, Regional Director for Central Africa; and Mr Dimitri Sanga, Regional Director for Western Africa).

2.2 WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION GRANTS AWARDED

Following the World Heritage nomination workshops for advanced dossiers organized by AWHF in September 2020, in partnership with EPA, WHC and Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN), the Fund has awarded **Nomination Grants** to the States Parties of Zambia, Malawi and Cameroon. The aim of the Grants is to allow remote and *in situ* mentorship as well as technical assistance for the participants to finalise their World Heritage nomination dossiers. Subsequent to the applications submitted to the AWHF by States Parties and evaluation of the applications by external African experts, the following projects were awarded grants:

- a) **USD 10,000** awarded to the National Heritage Conservation Commission of Zambia for the finalization of the nomination dossier for Barotse Cultural Landscape.
- b) **USD 10,000** awarded to the Department of Museums and Monuments of Malawi for the finalization of the nomination dossier for Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape.
- c) **USD 10,000** awarded to the National Commission to UNESCO in Cameroon for the finalization of the nomination dossier for Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape. This project will be implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture of Cameroun.



Beneficiaries

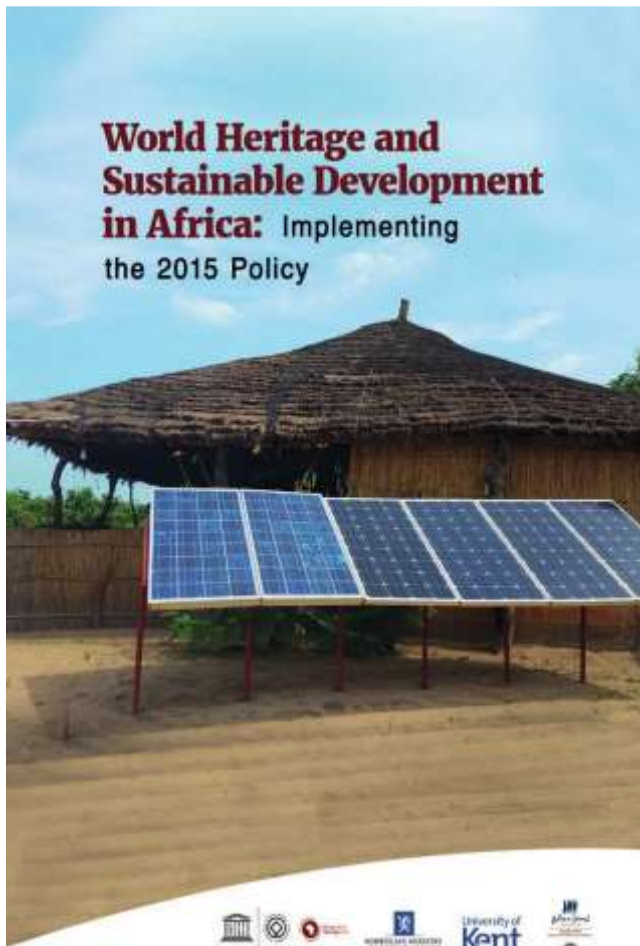
Top left: Barotse Cultural Landscape ©AWHF

Bottom left: Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape ©AWHF

Top right: Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape ©AWHF

3. SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 WORLD HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: IMPLEMENTING THE 2015 POLICY



In line with the African World Heritage Fund strategic objectives – particularly to “stimulate the inclusion of World Heritage properties in sustainable growth for local communities” - a workshop on “World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa: Implementing the 2015 Policy” was held from 19th to 23rd August 2019 at Robben Island World Heritage Site in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop was organized by the AWHF (with the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway), the University of Kent, and Robben Island Museum (RIM), in partnership with the University of Cape Town (UCT). A draft Action Plan for the implementation of collaborative projects between World Heritage Sites and universities/research institutions focusing on sustainable development issues in Africa was initiated. A follow-up workshop on the implementation of the 2015 UNESCO Policy in the Francophone countries is also scheduled to take place in 2021. A publication sharing the experiences of balancing conservation and sustainable development at World Heritage sites in Africa has been finalised and currently being translated from English into French.

4. PARTNERSHIPS

4.1 MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM - TOGO

On 12 January 2021, the Director of AWHF met with **Dr. Kossi G. Lamadokou**, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Togo, to discuss bilateral cooperation. Our gratitude to the Government of Togo on their commitment to conclude an Agreement with AWHF in support of World Heritage protection in Togo and Africa in general.



4.2 MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE - TOGO

Within the same visit in Togo, Mr Varissou conducted an engaging meeting with **Mrs. Lucie Tidjougouna**, Director of Cultural Heritage of Togo and her staff members. Discussions took place about interests in World Heritage projects in Togo and possible collaborations with AWHF.



4.3 MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE - BENIN

A fruitful meeting was held with **Hon. Jean-Michel Abimbola**, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Benin. The Minister thanked AWHF for the support to the regional nomination training course implemented in Benin as well as for the completion and submission of the nomination file for Koutammakou. The meeting was also attended by other officials including the Director of Cultural heritage in Benin. The Minister further requested AWHF to support the slave route nomination project being championed by Benin.



4.4 AWHF PARTICIPATES IN THE ANNUAL FRANCOPHONIE FESTIVAL



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021 AT 6 PM UTC+02

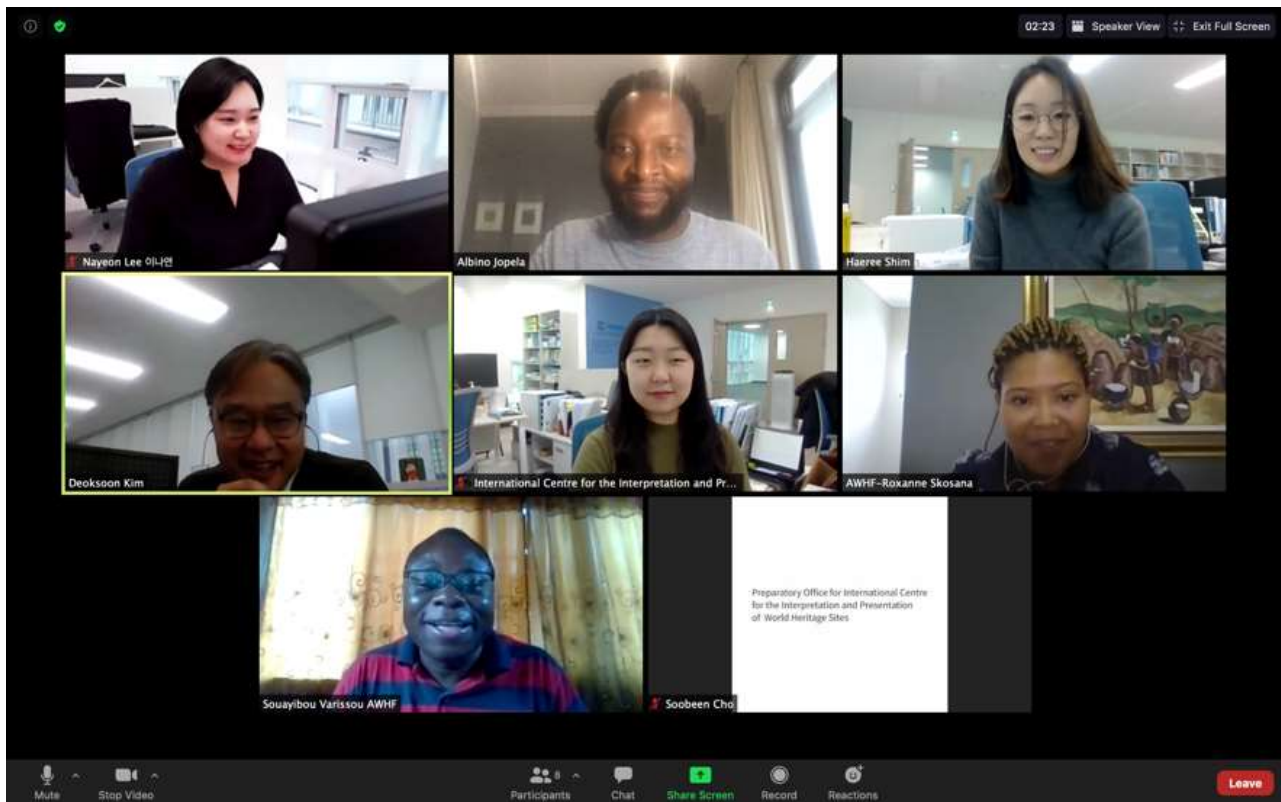
Soirée - African World Heritage Fund

Online Event

Event banner for profiling the AWHF activity "Film Night" via Facebook Live ©Alliance Française

The Francophonie Festival is organised annually in Pretoria by the Alliance Française. It gathers citizens and residents based in and around South Africa, to profile the cultural diversity of Francophone countries and communities. AWHF has been attending the festival for many years and setting up an exhibition stall to display the work of the Fund. This year the event was conducted virtually from 13th March, where AWHF participated in a "film night" which took place on 17th March. This activity saw AWHF presenting about the work of the Fund in line with the theme, "**AWHF in the AU year for Arts, Culture and Heritage**". The session was conducted successfully via Facebook Live. AWHF also created a short video for profiling and awareness purposes of the brand which was featured in the Opening Ceremony on 13th March.

4.5 BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF WORLD HERITAGE



AWHF holding an introductory meeting with the International Centre for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC) @AWHF

The AWHF held an introductory meeting with the Preparatory Office of International Centre for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC). WHIPIC is a newly established Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO in the field of World Heritage, which was approved by the 40th UNESCO General Assembly in 2019. The Centre aims to strengthen the role of interpretation and presentation of World Heritage through its main functions, such as research, education and training, information and network in implementing the 1972 Convention. Chaired by the Executive Director of AWHF, the meeting discussed future cooperation and development of joint projects between the Fund and WHIPIC in the field of interpretation and explanation of World Heritage in Africa. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the AWHF contribution to the “2021 Webinar Series on the Interpretation of World Heritage” hosted by the WHIPIC.

5. AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES PROFILED



*Lake Turkana National Park – Kenya
©AWHF*

*Forts & Castles, Volta, Greater Accra,
Central and Western region – Ghana*

*Koutammakou, the land of the
Batammariba - Togo ©AWHF*



Aksum – Ethiopia ©AWHF

*Asmara, A Modernistic African City – Eritrea
©AWHF*

*Kunta Kinteh Island and relates Sites –
Gambia ©AWHF*



*Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape
of Lopé-Okanda – Gabon ©Mercy*

*Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape – South
Africa ©AWHF*

*Medina of Marrakesh – Morocco
©AWHF*

6. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

AWHF CALENDAR OF EVENTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2021)

Nº	EVENT	PARTNER	DATE/VENUE
1.	Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) in Africa	DFFE, QUB, ICOMOS, CHN	January – June (Physical + Virtual)
2.	Final Workshop of 3 rd Periodic Reporting Exercise for Africa Region	GZ, NATCOMZ, WHC, ROSA, ICOMOS, IUCN, EPA, AWHF-CT-PR	7 – 9 February (Virtual)
3.	Evaluation Workshop – AWHF World Heritage Nomination Programme	EPA, ABs, WHC, RP, former participants	27 May (Virtual)
4.	5 th African World Heritage Youth Forum	ICCROM, ABG, UCT, Private Sector, WHC-UNESCO, IUCN	29 April – 5 May February (Virtual)
5.	Professional Immersion Fellowship	African Universities + States Parties	February – June (Physical)
6.	Expert and Inter-ministerial Meeting on Sites of Memory and World Heritage Convention in Africa	GSA (DSAC, DFFE), WHC, ICOMOS, African Experts	6 – 9 April (Virtual)
7.	Workshop on Conceptualizing Modern Heritage of Africa (MoHoA)	UCT, African Universities, ABs, WHC	19 April (Session 1) 26 April (Session 2) - Virtual
8.	5 th Meeting of African Experts on World Heritage Committee (Uganda)	GU (UWA), WHC, ABs, SP on WH COM	14 – 18 June (Virtual)
9	World Heritage Nomination Workshop for Advanced Dossiers	WHC, UNESCO-FO, EPA, IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM	June (Virtual)