

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND (AWHF)

The African World Heritage Fund is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO and an inter-governmental organization based in South Africa with a specific mandate of implementing the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the protection and promotion of world cultural and natural places in Africa.

The organization seeks to appoint an **Executive Director**

Employment Type: Fixed Term Contract

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Deadline for application: 24 June 2023 at 12:00 midnight (South African Time)

Application Link to DBSA Careers Site:

<https://dbsa.erecruit.co/candidateapp/jobs/categories>

Key responsibilities include

Under the authority of the Board of Trustees, and the direct supervision of the chairperson of the Board, the incumbent shall be responsible to carry out the mission of the Fund which aims to support the effective conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value in Africa. The incumbent will strive to:

- Provide strategic direction, business development, planning and management of the organization;
- Build strategic partnerships with among others, African governments, international agencies, cooperates and donor agencies;
- Liaising with the African Union and UNESCO as key stakeholders in the Fund;
- Organize the meetings of the Board of Trustees including the related working documents, and ensure timely follow-up of decisions;
- Reporting to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in its capacity as Category II Centre, the African Union and other stakeholders on the activities and finances of the Fund.

Minimum Requirements

Qualifications :

1. Masters / Advanced University Degree in subjects related to Cultural or Natural Heritage Conservation and Business Development or Executive Management.

Advantageous

1. Studies in specific aspects of Heritage Management.

Experience:

1. A minimum of 10 years' practical experience, related to Cultural or Natural Heritage Management, Financial administration, Fundraising campaigns and Human Resource Management.
2. A minimum of 5 years' experience at a management level including the ability to manage a team of Professionals
3. Demonstrated experience in interdisciplinary work.

4. Demonstrated knowledge of leadership and general management practices and techniques, as well as experience in management roles in conservation and management in national and/or international environments.
5. Demonstrated ability to direct change processes at the substantive and management levels within large institutions of national or international scope.
6. Experience in working in multicultural work environments and ability to supervise a large team.
7. Strong analytical, interpersonal and intercultural skills and should be able to demonstrate commitment for the conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage in Africa.

Advantageous

1. Experience at regional and/or international level is desirable.
2. Ability to communicate in French is an added advantage.

Candidates must demonstrate:

- Strong transformative capacity to shape AWHF for the future; increasing its impact and visibility on the African continent and beyond;
- Commitment to the Fund's mission, vision and priorities;
- In-depth knowledge and practical experience of the World Heritage Convention and its implementation in Africa;
- Institutional leadership capacity, high sense of objectivity and integrity, diplomacy, tact and political astuteness;
- Teamwork, excellent interpersonal skills to maintain effective working relationships with internal and external collaborators and partners and ability to build trust and work in a multicultural environment;
- Proven experience and skills in managing staff teams and institutional departments;
- Sound judgement and decision-making skills;
- Ability to interact with a wide range of high-level and international partners and demonstrated partnership development and fundraising experience;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills, with strong representational abilities;
- Ability to communicate effectively and persuasively – orally and in writing.
- Focus on Africa's concerns for cultural and natural heritage, promoting effective capacity building strategies to ensure that Africa increases its footprint on the World Heritage List whilst at the same time providing support to the conservation management and sustainable development of existing sites;
- Ability to build a stronger global network working closely with allied organizations, implementing a clear vision and mission for the organization, assuring effective and efficient operational and financial performance and accountability of AWHF and increasing its reputation;

Candidates should also possess:

- A broad general culture, sound analytic capacities and proven leadership and managerial skills.
- Strong analytical, interpersonal and intercultural skills and should be able to demonstrate commitment for the conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage in Africa.

Background Information

The African World Heritage Fund(AWHF) was launched in May 2006 under South African Trust Law in order to provide finance and technical support for the effective conservation and protection of Africa's natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value. The fund was established as a result of work undertaken by African member states of UNESCO with the objective of developing an ongoing strategy to deal with the challenges that most African countries have in implementing the World Heritage Convention.

The AWHF strives towards the effective conservation and protection of Africa's natural and cultural heritage. AWHF is for African Union (AU) member states that signed the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention in support of these goals. The AWHF is the first regional funding initiative within the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. AWHF pursues the identification and preparation of African sites towards inscription on the World Heritage List; the conservation and management of sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List; the rehabilitation of sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the training of heritage experts and site managers. Through effective and sustainable management, Africa's world heritage sites will be catalysts in transforming Africa's image and act as a vehicle to stimulate economic growth and infrastructure development.