



African World
Heritage Fund

Investing in heritage

The African World Heritage Fund at Work



Our stories



Mauritius, Le Morne Cultural Landscape -© UNESCO- C. de Zordo



Ghana, Asante Traditional buildings, Abirim shrine priestess- © UNESCO, Sébastien Moriset



Kasubi, Uganda - © AWHF

Africa - The "cradle of humankind", is home to impressive biodiversity, wildlife and cultural treasures from ancient and modern times. Yet many of these treasures remain unprotected and poorly managed. The African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) provides support and assistance for the effective conservation and management of the cultural and natural treasures of Africa.

The African continent is home to heritage which does not only belong to those living in its immediate surroundings, but to all the peoples of the world. This is the concept of World Heritage: our common heritage is our shared past and our shared future. Together, we hold great responsibility in protecting and appreciating it.

Thanks to contributions from its partners, the African World Heritage Fund has been able to carry out programs and training courses, providing support and assistance for the effective conservation and management of our shared natural and cultural heritage. These are some of our success stories.



Fort Jesus, Kenya © Stuart Gray



Kenya Lake System, © Aftab Uzzaman



Meroe Sudan, © UNESCO R. Van Oers



Konso Ethiopia, © Frans Devriese, Belgium



Saloum Delta, Senegal © AWHF

AWHF Nomination Training Courses

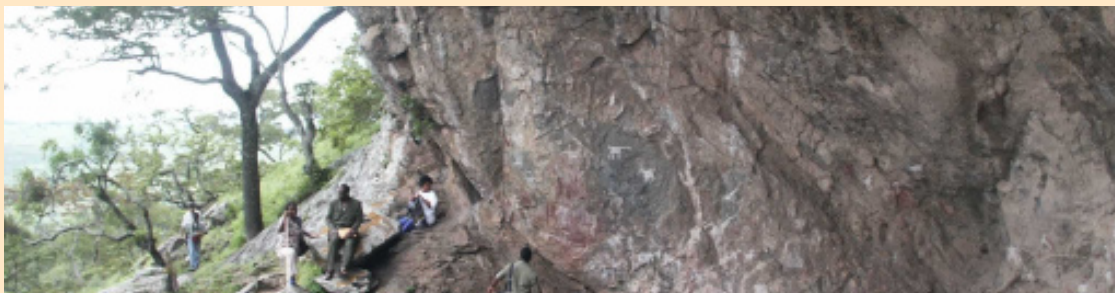
The UNESCO World Heritage List is a prestigious compilation of the world's most outstanding places. In 2012, the list included 936 properties of natural and cultural heritage. There are many benefits linked to having a site inscribed on the list. Not only does it raise awareness and encourage conservation, it also creates opportunities for tourism, infrastructure development and economic growth. The AWHF Nomination Training Programme focuses on the training of local site managers and heritage professionals in the nomination process and the management of sites. Throughout the process of writing the nomination file, the participants are mentored by experts to ensure that the final nomination meets the UNESCO requirements. Our goal is to have more quality nominations from Africa to the World Heritage List. Since 2008, the AWHF has supported 11 nominations from Africa.

In 2011, 5 new sites from Africa were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List



Development of Education and Awareness Raising Programme at Chongoni Rock Art World Heritage Site, Malawi

With the support of AWHF, the Malawian Department of Antiquities documented the rock art at Chongoni. They developed pathways, signage and information panels to the sites and conducted a condition survey of the rock art. Moreover, they conducted a public awareness campaign in schools and community centres and trained six Community Based Organisations on managing and interpreting rock art sites.



Chongoni - Malawi © AWHF



Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, Ivory Coast and Guinea © UNESCO G. Debonnet

Improving the Management of Natural Heritage Sites in West and Central Africa

The West and Central Africa region has a total of 16 natural sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Unfortunately, many of these sites are experiencing challenges related to conservation and management. Some of them have even been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Since 2009, the AWHF together with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) have been implementing the AWHF/IUCN Project for the Improvement of West Africa Natural Resources Management Effectiveness. The objectives of the project are to strengthen the capacities of the heritage managers as well as to provide technical support to the sites. Up to date the project has yielded a number of positive results, some of these include:

- Training of 59 heritage professionals on e.g.
 - monitoring and evaluation of natural and cultural properties
 - protected areas management (issuing an international university diploma)
- Studies conducted e.g.
 - on mining industries' impact on natural properties
 - on how ecotourism contributes to the conservation of protected areas
- Recommendations on the improvement of the protection of the sites, for the benefit of the various stakeholders involved with the sites.



Countries that we worked with in Africa

Algeria	Kenya
Angola	Lesotho
Benin	Madagascar
Botswana	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Mauritius
Burundi	Mauritania
Cameroon	Morocco
Cap Verde	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Namibia
Comores	Niger
Congo	Nigeria
Egypt	Sao Tome
Eritrea	Senegal
Ethiopia	Seychelles
Gabon	South Africa
Gambia	Sudan
Ghana	Swaziland
Guinea	Tanzania
Guinea Bissau	Togo
Guinee Equatoriale	Uganda
Ivory Coast	Zambia





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