



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



African World Heritage Fund  
under the auspices of UNESCO



African World  
Heritage Fund

University of  
Kent



## Workshop on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa: Implementing the 2015 Policy

(A partnership initiative by the African World Heritage Fund, the University of Kent, the  
University of Cape Town and Robben Island World Heritage Site)

### Call for Participants

#### 1. Context

Like in other regions, African governments face the daunting challenge of balancing heritage conservation and sustainable development. There is general understanding that heritage should be explored as a driver and an enabler of sustainable development in Africa. Pursuant to this understanding, the UNESCO *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* was adopted by States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in 2015. The 2015 Policy aims to ensure that the conservation and management of World Heritage properties are aligned with broader sustainable development objectives namely environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, as well as fostering peace and security. The 2015 Policy has the potential to address inadequacies such as lack of guidance on operationalising sustainable and adaptive reuses at World Heritage sites, as well as develop indicators and methods for measuring the contribution of World Heritage to sustainable development in Africa. The policy also has the potential to fulfil the African Union aspirations of *Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want* (2015), those of the *2016 Ngorongoro Declaration on Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development*, as well as the recommendations of the *2018 Position Paper on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa*. These documents advocate for a pragmatic approach towards the effective balancing of conservation needs and sustainable development at and around World Heritage sites in Africa.

#### 2. Aims of the workshop

The workshop aims to discuss ways to operationalise declarations and recommendations relating to the implementation of AU Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at and around World Heritage sites in Africa. The workshop also aims to find ways to implement the 2015 UNESCO Policy. This requires applied testing towards assisting State Parties to embark on sustainable and adaptive reuses at and around World Heritage sites. It also implies identifying best practices and challenges at different scales (region, country, site) towards developing locally driven framework and approaches on heritage and sustainable development. Hence the need to undertake preparatory studies, learn from case studies and engage with various stakeholders during the workshop. While local framework will continue upholding the essence of the World Heritage Convention in Africa, it is also expected to provide alternative and sustainable solutions

to assist States Parties in resolving their socio-economic needs. Ultimately, the workshop will provide the basis for improving dialogue and common understanding among/between heritage practitioners and developers (mine, infrastructure etc.) as well as decision/policy makers, thus providing opportunities for strengthening inter-sectoral/interdisciplinary forum on balancing conservation and sustainable development.

### **3. Objectives of the workshop**

On the basis of existing policy and regulatory documents on the matter, the workshop's objectives are:

- To discuss best implementation practices and principles on World Heritage conservation and sustainable development in Africa (primarily through the 2015 Policy and AU Agenda 2063);
- To identify successful ways in which integrated approaches between the pillars of sustainable development have been implemented at World Heritage sites in Africa;
- To identify best practices and challenges in using heritage protection and management to address different SDGs in Africa;
- To identify best practices in sustainable and adaptive reuses of heritage towards building modelling mechanisms on the implementation of the 2015 Policy;
- To discuss performance indicators, methods and means for monitoring the localisation of the SDGs in Africa;
- To encourage dialogue and strengthen inter-sectoral/interdisciplinary forum on balancing conservation and sustainable development at and around World Heritage sites in Africa.

The result of this workshop will be an online publication with case studies and a step-to-step guidance note explaining how to implement the 2015 Policy and other documents at site level in Africa.

### **4. Participants**

This workshop is open to heritage managers, youths, academics, developers, policy makers and stakeholders interested in World Heritage and Sustainable Development in the African continent.

Applicants are requested to send a CV and an abstract (300 words max) outlining how your chosen case or presentation fulfils the aims and objectives of the workshop. Application should be sent to [heritagesustainabilityafrica@gmail.com](mailto:heritagesustainabilityafrica@gmail.com), not later than **30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**.

#### **Important workshop dates:**

- Abstract submission deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- Acceptance of abstracts: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
- Papers submissions deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
- Date of the workshop: 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

**Venue:** Robben Island World Heritage site (South Africa).

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