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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10B: Report on the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Africa

SUMMARY

This document presents the outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Africa region in pursuant to Decision **41 COM 10A** and is structured with the following main parts:

Part I – Third Cycle Periodic Report in Africa

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by States Parties in Africa

Chapter 3: Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at World Heritage Properties the in Africa

Chapter 4: Monitoring Indicators for the Africa region

Chapter 5: Conclusion

Part II – Framework Action Plan and process

Chapter 6: Draft Action Plan (2021-2027) for the Africa region

Chapter 7: Draft Decision

Additional information on Periodic Reporting in the Africa region is continuously being published at the following address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/>.

Draft Decision: 44 COM 10B, see Part II, Chapter 7

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The World Heritage Committee, at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), launched by Decision **41 COM 10A** the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region, in accordance with Article 29 of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the Region involved African States Parties to the *Convention* and the World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including the sites inscribed by the Committee at its the 43rd session (Baku, July 2019).

The reporting exercise took place from September 2019 to July 2020 and 46 African States Parties to the *Convention*, of which 35 have a total of 96 World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, answered an online questionnaire subdivided into two sections:

- Section I: Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* on a national level;
- Section II: Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* on a World Heritage site level.

The 96 properties – 53 cultural, 38 natural and 5 mixed properties – from the Region represent nearly 9% of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Region is disproportionately represented on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with 16 properties (12 natural and 4 cultural), even though 3 properties have been removed from the List since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

The key findings of the exercise can be summarised as follows:

1. Synergies

The degree of synergies between Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations was assessed for the first time as part of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Overall, there is good cooperation and synergy with other relevant Conventions and Programmes. UNESCO's Cultural Conventions, particularly the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), are the most ratified in the Region while the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme has the highest participation with over half of the States Parties participating. Few States Parties participate in the UNESCO Global Geoparks programme and there is only 1 UNESCO Global Geopark in the Region. Regarding UNESCO Recommendations, only 5 States Parties do not use the provisions of the 1972 Recommendation, and only 24 States Parties use the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) to set policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage in urban setting. Regarding the level of inter-agency cooperation for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of national heritage, most States Parties indicate that there is some cooperation.

2. Legal frameworks

Despite the legal frameworks on heritage protection widely existing, States Parties reported almost unanimously that the existing capacity and resources to enforce them could be strengthened. 4 States Parties (Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe) reported that there are no national legal frameworks for the identification of natural or cultural heritage.

3. Inventories and heritage registers

Most States Parties in the Africa region have initiated the process of establishing inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage at various levels, with a greater emphasis on inventories for natural heritage than for cultural heritage. Sites on the Tentative Lists in 19 States Parties benefit from protection under other international designations,

including UNESCO Conventions or Programmes and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The use of the Upstream Process in the revision of national Tentative Lists remains limited and in some cases, the States Parties are not even aware of the Upstream Process. The preparation of nomination dossiers remains very much driven by national government institutions, with consultants/experts and site managers having the highest level of involvement in the preparation of recent nomination dossiers.

4. Capacity building

The World Heritage Resource Manual '*Preparing World Heritage Nominations*' remains a primary resource for most States Parties, who also consider that strengthened protection and conservation of heritage are the highest perceived benefits from World Heritage nomination. With varying levels of implementation of existing national strategies for capacity development, including being carried out on an ad hoc basis only, priority areas for capacity building for the conservation, protection and presentation of heritage are related to statutory processes, international assistance and nominations; conservation and management of heritage sites; and the sustainable tourism use and management of heritage sites. 16 States Parties have national capacity building strategies that address World Heritage processes, and nearly two-thirds of the properties have site-specific capacity building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property. Given the need for site management, the establishment of a network of site managers to enhance peer learning and exchange of knowledge and experience, initiated during the Second Cycle and presented at the [Periodic Reporting Training Workshop for Site Managers](#) (17-22 February 2020) in Nairobi, Kenya, received strong support at subsequent meetings during the exercise.

5. Human and financial resources

The availability of capacity and financial resources remains a challenge for most States Parties in the Region, with only 6 States Parties – Botswana, Cabo Verde, Congo, Madagascar, Niger and Uganda – indicating that the capacity of these agencies/institutions is adequate. Nearly half of the States Parties in the Region have established funding mechanisms for the protection of World Heritage. 40 States Parties report varying degrees of deficiencies in carrying out their mandates due to the capacity of their national agencies being inadequate to protect World Heritage. National governments remain the major source of funding for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage, particularly for running costs and maintenance. Private sector funding was rated at the lowest rank. The average total expenditure spent on heritage conservation in the Region remains at less than 1% of national budgets. The amount of funding allocated is considered insufficient for the conservation and protection of national heritage.

6. Research

While 32 States Parties report that they have institutional capacity to conduct research on World Heritage issues, they affirm that such capacity could be improved. The absence of institutional research capacity has led 9 States Parties to collaborate with partners in order to respond to their needs. In 4 States Parties, there is a total absence of institutional capacity, with no options for research. The low level of research at World Heritage properties in the Region remains a cause for concern as research outputs could inform decision-making for sustainable conservation and effective management.

7. International cooperation

International cooperation complements national governments' efforts, particularly in hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars; by bilateral and multilateral agreements; in sharing expertise for capacity building; and by participating in other UN programmes, including sustainable development and human rights and gender equality programmes and sharing expertise to promote equitable participation for communities.

8. Heritage education programmes

The existing educational and awareness programmes for children and/or young people are often limited or carried out in an ad-hoc manner at 31 properties. National strategies to raise awareness about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage exist and are effectively implemented by the States Parties of Lesotho and Senegal.

9. State of conservation of World Heritage properties

Generally, the World Heritage properties in the Africa region are in a good state of conservation and management, in accordance with the responses of the questionnaire. They have impacted the lives of neighbouring communities in a positive manner, despite several factors that affect them in varying ways. However, some challenges persist, namely a gap in human resources and financial resources, the increasing impacts of natural factors as seen in coastal erosion, drought and invasive species. The most relevant factors affecting the properties are management and institutional factors, biological resource use/modification, social/cultural uses of heritage, local conditions affecting physical fabric, and climate change and severe weather events. Only 22 out of 96 properties have a disaster, climate or conflict risk management plan.

10. Sustainable development

World Heritage listing can effectively contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2015 Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development, particularly for the protection of biological and cultural diversity, and ecosystem services and benefits. 70% of the properties have management systems that include a strategy with an action plan, to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived economic, sociocultural and environmental impacts, in line with the sustainable development perspectives. This could be further strengthened using different guidance for the integration of sustainable development in World Heritage conservation and management. Only 27 out of 96 properties have a framework for inclusive economic development, including equitable access and distribution of resources and opportunities arising from the protection of the property.

Proposed Regional Action Plan (2021 - 2027)

The Regional Action Plan (2021 - 2027) proposed in part II of this report addresses the major issues raised in the questionnaires and at the various meetings held during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

The 5 main points that influenced the structure of the Regional Action Plan are as follows:

1. The need to increase the representation of the African region on the UNESCO World Heritage List;
2. The continued search, by African States Parties, of a balance between conservation and sustainable development to support local, national and regional economies and livelihoods;
3. The urgent need for various levels of capacity development for World Heritage site managers, African experts, youth, community representatives and decision makers to promote sustainable conservation and effective management;
4. Developing and enhancing the role of communities and indigenous people, relevant stakeholders, women and youth in the conservation, management and promotion of UNESCO World Heritage properties;
5. An urgency to mitigate disaster and risks and strengthen resilience to armed conflict, natural hazards and climate change, and support post-pandemic recovery efforts at World Heritage properties.

A first step in implementing the Action Plan is to widely disseminate the Report and the Regional Action Plan after its presentation and approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2021. This would involve the following actions:

- The States Parties with the support of the World Heritage Centre (WHC) will ensure the dissemination of the Final Regional Report, the adopted Action Plan, as well as the related World Heritage Committee's Decision, to stakeholders at a national level and at the level of the African Union Commission.
- The World Heritage Centre and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) will publish the results of the Third Periodic Report in the Africa region in the World Heritage Paper Series. States Parties are invited to contribute to this effort.
- The States Parties with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the AWHF will monitor the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and present a mid-cycle assessment report to the World Heritage Committee in 2024.

PART I – THIRD CYCLE PERIODIC REPORT FOR AFRICA

1. INTRODUCTION

The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage requires, in Article 29, States Parties to carry out Periodic Reporting to inform the World Heritage Committee and the UNESCO General Conference of the status of the implementation of the *Convention* in their respective territories. Periodic Reporting is important for more effective long-term conservation of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as strengthening the credibility of the *Convention's* implementation. It is also an important tool in assessing the implementation by States Parties and World Heritage site managers of policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly.

According to Paragraph 201 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, Periodic Reporting serves the following purposes:

- a) To provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party;
- b) To provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time;
- c) To provide updated information about World Heritage properties and record the changing circumstances and the properties' state of conservation;
- d) To provide a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences among States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation.

Since the adoption of Periodic Reporting by the World Heritage Committee, two cycles have been completed. The First Cycle was carried out from 1998 to 2006, and the Second Cycle from 2008 to 2015.

The World Heritage Committee launched the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in 2017 (Decision **41 COM 10A**, Krakow) and decided that the exercise would begin in the Africa region in 2019. This report presents the outcomes of this exercise.

1.1. First and Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region

1.1.1. First Cycle: background, outcomes and follow-up

Background

The Periodic Report for the Africa region was presented to the World Heritage Committee ([WHC-99/CONF.209/12](#)) at its 23rd session.

The First Cycle of Periodic Reporting was largely experimental in nature. The Africa region was the second to submit Periodic Reports, after the Arab States. The questionnaire consisted of two sections:

- Section I: Application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party, which concerned 31 States Parties to the *Convention*; and
- Section II: State of conservation of specific World Heritage properties, which covered 40 properties inscribed prior to 1998, located in 18 States Parties of which there were 16 cultural properties, 23 natural properties (including 2 transboundary properties) and 1 mixed property.

The final report ([WHC-02/CONF.202/16](#)) of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting was presented to the 26th session of the World Heritage Committee (Budapest, 2002). The report presented the challenges faced by many African States Parties, among others:

- Africa was under-represented on the World Heritage List, constituting only 7% of the properties on the List, at the time of writing this report;
- 43% of the properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger are from the African continent;
- The management of the African properties needs to be strengthened.

The exercise raised awareness about the *Convention* and its activities in the participating States Parties and proved a useful instrument for establishing a network of African institutions and experts. It also enabled the creation of databases for African World Heritage properties. States Parties in the Region developed a Regional Action Plan in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and international experts. The Action Plan outlined a strategy for heritage conservation in Africa, with a main recommendation being the creation of an 'African Heritage Fund'.

The World Heritage Committee supported, with Decision **29 COM 11C.2**, the establishment of the African World Heritage Fund, which was created in 2006 and has become a major player in the implementation of the *Convention* on the African continent and has contributed substantially to the reinforcement of the capacity, development of Tentative Lists, preparation of nomination dossiers, implementation of conservation and management activities and other World Heritage-related activities.

Another major outcome of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region was the structuring and strengthening of the 'Africa Regional Programme', which include the 'Africa 2009' programme for culture and the 'Africa Nature' programme. These programmes formed the implementation backbone of the strategic objectives for World Heritage in Africa. In retrospect, the conclusions and recommendations following the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting may have too heavily emphasized the findings in Section I of the Questionnaire, at the expense of pertinent conservation and management issues expressed at site level in Section II.

The full Periodic Report and Action Plan were published in 2003 in the [World Heritage Paper Series, no.3](#).

1.1.2. Second Cycle: background, outcomes and follow-up

Background

Following the completion of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting for all regions (2000-2006), the World Heritage Committee decided, in Decision **7 EXT.COM 5**, to launch a Periodic Reporting Reflection Year. The *Committee* revised the timetable for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting by Decision **30 COM 11G**, and 2009 was identified as the year to launch the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region. Revisions to the Questionnaire and necessary prerequisites for launching the Second Cycle, including the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUVs), were outlined in Decision **31 COM 11D**. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre to identify the properties requiring a revision of their SOUVs (Decision **32 COM 11A**).

At its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), the World Heritage Committee launched the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Africa region with Decision **33 COM 11C**. The World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the States Parties and the Advisory Bodies, set

in place an implementation strategy that included the appointment and training of a regional coordinator and 4 sub-regional mentors, who provided technical support for the exercise.

The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region involved 44 States Parties to the *Convention*. The exercise covered all 78 World Heritage properties from 30 States Parties in the Region, inscribed between 1978 and 2009. The entire exercise was coordinated by the World Heritage Centre in partnership with the ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN, Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and the AWHF. The Nordic World Heritage Foundation provided technical assistance for the exercise. A progress report was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010 (document [WHC-10/34.COM/10B](#)).

Outcomes and follow-up

The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region revealed that most related statutory issues, particularly related to retrospective SOUVs and boundary clarifications, had been resolved. The States Parties identified 4 main concerns for the basis of recommendations to address in the Africa region:

- Direct community involvement and benefits from World Heritage properties;
- Recognition, formalisation and documentation of traditional management systems;
- World Heritage and development needs;
- The protection of World Heritage properties in conflict and post-conflict areas.

The following main issues were identified at national level.

- Legal frameworks, which were often intersecting and multi-sectoral, existed for the protection of World Heritage in the Region. However, they were often inadequate and/or outdated and the States Parties reported limited implementation and enforcement capacities.
- The level of participation of local communities, indigenous peoples, landowners and the private sector in the implementation of the Convention varied in the Region but was generally limited.
- Inventories for cultural and natural heritage in the Region, which were the basis for development of national Tentative Lists, were completed only in a moderate number of States Parties. Although 37 States Parties reported having Tentative Lists, nearly all the States Parties in the Region intended to update their Tentative Lists within 6 years.
- National governments provided most of the financial resources for the conservation and protection of World Heritage. Since its establishment in 2006, the AWHF has played an increasing role in complementing the States Parties in this regard. However, it should be noted that there is a strong reliance on international funding across the Region.
- The States Parties reported that the 42 cultural, 32 natural and 4 mixed World Heritage properties in the Africa region were generally in a satisfactory state of conservation. Certain properties required special attention, in particular the 14 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

- The status of property boundaries and buffer zones had improved from the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting, especially for the cultural properties, but boundaries and buffer zones remained insufficient. Certain properties reported having buffer zones, but these had not yet been presented to the World Heritage Committee. Development pressures and co-existence of heritage and development were reported as an increasing concern; often closely connected to poorly defined, not approved or non-existing boundaries and buffer zones.
- Legal frameworks were recognized by site managers but reported to be generally inadequate. Illegal activities and deliberate destruction of heritage properties were almost universal challenges for World Heritage management and conservation in the Region;
- At the property level, financial and human resources were reported as insufficient, with a continued strong reliance on international funding, particularly for natural properties.
- The involvement of local industry/commercial actors and involvement of and benefits to local populations were recorded as below average.

Follow-up on the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Africa region was presented to the World Heritage Committee in its subsequent Decisions: 36 COM 10D (Saint Petersburg, 2012) ; 37 COM 10C.2 (Phnom Penh, 2013); 38 COM 10B.2 (Doha, 2014); 39 COM 10B.2 (Bonn, 2015); 40 COM 10B.2 (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016); 41 COM 10B.2 (Krakow, 2017) and 43 COM 10A.3 (Baku, 2019).

1.2. Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa region

1.2.1. Background

The questionnaire for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was revised during the Reflection on Periodic Reporting (2015–2017) to incorporate several changes and improvements. These include emphasis on the exercise as a State Party driven process; full integration of the Sustainable Development approach; an emphasis on synergies with other conventions and programmes relevant to World Heritage; and the creation of a monitoring indicator framework for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. The World Heritage Committee adopted this new format at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017).

The Committee also decided to maintain the same reporting order of regions as for previous cycles, with 1 region reporting each year; the Africa region starting in 2019. The Committee also recognized the AWHF's support for a State Party driven exercise in the Africa region by setting up a Periodic Reporting coordination team; organising regional meetings and providing targeted technical support to African World Heritage national focal points and World Heritage site managers, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre. Official language groupings informed the organisation of meetings rather than sub-regional groupings.

46 States Parties to the *Convention* in the Africa region participated in the exercise. Somalia ratified the *Convention* in July 2020 (therefore entered in force in the State Party in October 2020) and did not participated to the exercise but was encouraged to fill the section one of the questionnaire.

Sub-regions	States Parties
Central Africa	Angola – Burundi – Cameroon – Central African Republic – Chad – Congo – Democratic Republic of the Congo – Equatorial Guinea – Gabon – Sao Tome and Principe
Eastern Africa	Comoros – Djibouti – Eritrea – Ethiopia – Kenya – Madagascar – Mauritius – Rwanda – Seychelles – South Sudan – Uganda – Tanzania (United Republic of)
Southern Africa	Botswana – Eswatini – Lesotho – Malawi – Mozambique – Namibia – South Africa – Zambia – Zimbabwe
Western Africa	Benin – Burkina Faso – Cabo Verde – Côte d'Ivoire – Gambia (the) – Ghana – Guinea – Guinea-Bissau – Liberia – Mali – Niger – Nigeria – Senegal – Sierra Leone – Togo

1.2.2. Scope

46 States Parties were required to complete Section I, while 35 States Parties were required to complete Section II of the online Periodic Reporting questionnaire for the 96 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as of 2019 (53 cultural, 38 natural, 5 mixed and including 6 transboundary properties).

1.2.3. Structure of the Questionnaire

The Third Cycle questionnaire comprises two sections: Section I focuses on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at the national level, while Section II focuses on its implementation at each World Heritage property. The questionnaire has the following structure:

Section I (State Party level)	Section II (World Heritage property level)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Synergies with other Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations for the Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage 3. Tentative List 4. Nominations 5. General Policy Development 6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of Cultural and Natural Heritage 7. Status of Services for the Identification, Protection, Conservation and Presentation of Natural and Cultural Heritage 8. Financial Status and Human Resources 9. Capacity Development 10. Policy and Resourcing of World Heritage Properties 11. International Cooperation 12. Education, Information and Awareness Building 13. Conclusions and Recommended Actions 14. Good Practice in the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention 15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Heritage Property Data 2. Other Conventions/Programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected (if applicable) 3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value 4. Factors Affecting the Property 5. Protection and Management of the Property 6. Financial and Human Resources 7. Scientific Studies and Research Projects 8. Education, Information and Awareness Building 9. Visitor Management 10. Monitoring 11. Identification of Priority Management Needs 12. Summary and Conclusions 13. Impact of World Heritage Status 14. Good Practice in the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention 15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

1.2.4. Implementation strategy

The World Heritage Committee, by Decisions **41 COM 10A** (Krakow, 2017) and **42 COM 10A** (Manama, 2018) requested that the World Heritage Centre coordinate the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. The World Heritage Centre further developed, and

widely disseminated a set of training and guidance materials for a broad range of stakeholders in response to the Committee Decision **43 COM 10B** (Baku, 2019).

Through its Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit, the World Heritage Centre appointed a Periodic Reporting Coordinator to oversee the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and to ensure a common approach in implementing the exercise across all the regions. For the exercise in the Africa region, the Coordinator collaborated with the Africa Unit of the World Heritage Centre.

The AWHF facilitated the State Party driven Periodic Reporting exercise in the Africa region by appointing a coordination team consisting of a regional coordinator and 4 sub-regional mentors – 2 each for cultural and natural properties – and an assistant to the coordination. The team was gender balanced with 4 females: a regional coordinator, 2 mentors and the assistant; thus contributing to a sustainable development perspective into the process of the *World Heritage Convention*. The female coordination assistant was also appointed to ensure the intergenerational transmission of knowledge of young Africans in World Heritage processes through mentorship.

Each State Party designated a national focal point to coordinate the exercise at the national level. Thus, the World Heritage Centre and AWHF cooperated closely with national focal points, site managers and heritage stakeholders, UNESCO Regional Offices, Advisory Bodies and African experts to implement the exercise. The roles and responsibilities of the key actors are presented in the table below.

States Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National focal points supported site managers and coordinated their responses on Periodic Reporting; consolidated national responses to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire; completed and submitted Section I of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire; validated and submitted Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site managers responded to Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire; participated in regional workshops; prepared the requested cartographic information for the Retrospective Inventory.
AWHF– coordination team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the AWHF facilitated the State Party driven Periodic Reporting exercise in the Africa region by appointing a coordination team; checked Sections I and II of the questionnaire to ensure consistency between the contributions of national focal points and site managers; organised regional meetings and provided targeted technical support to national focal points and World Heritage site managers in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre; drafted and finalised, in collaboration with States Parties and the World Heritage Centre, the Third Periodic Report and Action Plan for the Africa region.
Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided technical support and guidance at workshops; reviewed draft retrospective SOUVs after official submission by the relevant State(s) Party(ies).
UNESCO Regional Offices and UNESCO National Offices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitated and co-organised regional meetings and workshops; communicated with national focal points and World Heritage site managers during the Periodic Reporting period.
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided technical support and guidance to States Parties responding to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

- provided access to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire to national focal points and site managers
- managed the [online platform](#) of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise
- Finalised, in collaboration with States Parties and the AWHF, the Third Periodic Report and Action Plan for the Africa region.

There was close coordination between the various stakeholders. In particular, the teams from the World Heritage Centre and the AWHF held nearly 50 virtual meetings between December 2019 and February 2021 and this allowed for effective planning. The World Heritage Centre established a Helpdesk to support and maintain communication with the States Parties and to respond rapidly to questions and to deal with technical issues related to the online questionnaire. This made it possible to respond to 850 queries from national focal points and World Heritage site managers via the dedicated Periodic Reporting email, phone calls, social media, or cross-platform messaging applications, between September 2019 and July 2020.

The World Heritage Centre and AWHF's support to the national focal points and site managers resulted in feedback that contributed to the constant improvement of the online Periodic Reporting questionnaire. The interactions also confirmed that the guidance tools on the Periodic Reporting platform were widely used in the process of completing the questionnaires.

A recurrent concern expressed by national focal points and site managers from Lusophone countries was related to the requirement to complete the questionnaire in either one of the working languages of the *Convention*, English or French. The World Heritage Centre responded by translating the questionnaire into Portuguese for Lusophone national focal points and site managers in responding to the questions.

In an effort to make the Periodic Reporting data available as soon as possible, the World Heritage Centre published the short summary reports containing the responses provided by the site managers and national focal points in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. In agreement with the States Parties concerned, these reports have been uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's website in the original language of submission and can be found on the page dedicated to each State Party and World Heritage property, under the 'Documents' tab.

In addition, the national datasets with the raw data extracted from the questionnaires were provided to the national focal points, thereby ensuring that the data collected during the Periodic Reporting exercise can be used independently by all stakeholders in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, including to enhance site management as well as for policy and decision-making. In addition, national focal points can continuously access the reports through Periodic Reporting platform.

1.2.5. Methodology

- *Self-assessment*

Periodic Reporting is a self-assessment exercise, and thus reflects the perspective of national focal points and site managers on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at national and/or local levels. As can be expected in such a questionnaire, there are some inconsistencies between answers to similar questions, which can be considered normal.

Self-reporting always implies a degree of subjectivity, and the way questions were first formulated by developers of the questionnaire and then understood by the end users might influence the results. The Third Cycle Periodic Reporting questionnaire is

designed to be as accurate as possible, but some discussions on this topic took place during the exercise as national focal points raised issues regarding the comprehension of some specific questions of questionnaire. It is to be noted however that national focal points and site managers who had experience of the Second Cycle Periodic Reporting questionnaire agreed that the Third Cycle questionnaire is generally more complete, clear to understand and easier to use.

- *Workshops, meetings and activities*

Several meetings were organised as part of the implementation of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Africa region. The table below presents the implementation schedule prepared during the 'Preparatory Workshop on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for the Africa Region' hosted by the State Party of South Africa in Nelspruit from 25 to 27 February 2019. It was presented and adopted at the Regional Workshop for national focal points on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting Exercise in Africa (Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire) in September 2019. The table below was adapted to reflect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on activities.

Activity	Description	Date and Location
Preparatory Workshop for the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa	Reflect on the format of the Periodic Reporting Exercise in an inclusive way.	25 to 27 February 2019, Nelspruit, South Africa
Start of the Reporting exercise in the Africa region in September 2019	The World Heritage Committee to confirm the start of the exercise in the Africa region.	July 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan
First Regional Workshop for National Focal Points	Capacitate the national focal points to complete Section I of the online questionnaire as well as provide mentorship and guidance to the completion of section II.	11 to 14 September 2019, Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire
Implementation at State Party level	Development of national Periodic Reporting workplans to conduct the Third Periodic Reporting Cycle.	1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020
	Conduct national workshops and consultations with various stakeholders to build capacity at national and local levels.	
	Technical guidance and backstopping to be provided by coordination team and UNESCO.	
	States Parties are encouraged to share the details of these workshops reports with the AWHF and the World Heritage Centre.	
Completion of Section I of the questionnaire	national focal points, with active participation of all stakeholders, complete Section I of the questionnaire under the guidance of mentors, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, who will also monitor implementation progress.	11 September 2019 to 31 January 2020

Training Workshop for Anglophone site managers, including Mozambique	Bring together site managers. Participants will also complete Section II of the questionnaire and further carry out an initial analysis of the information gathered so far under guidance of mentors, Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre.	19 to 21 February 2020 Nairobi, Kenya
Training Workshop for Francophone site managers, including Lusophone countries	Bring together site managers. Participants will also complete Section II of the questionnaire and further carry out an initial analysis of the information gathered so far under guidance of mentors, Advisory bodies and WHC.	22-24 March 2020, Meyomessala, Cameroon <i>Cancelled. Individual training and support were provided instead</i>
Completion of Section II of the questionnaire	Site managers complete Section II of the questionnaire under the guidance of national focal points, the coordination team, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, who will also monitor implementation progress.	30 September 2019 to 31 May 2020
Submission of Questionnaire on 31 July 2020	All completed and validated questionnaires will be submitted by the focal points. The timely submission will facilitate the analysis of the results in preparation of the final workshop.	Deadline: 31 July 2020
44th World Heritage Committee Session	WHC will develop and submit the progress report of the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise to the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee. Side Event on the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region.	June-July 2020 <i>Postponed</i>
Data Analysis and Report Synthesis Workshop	Workshop with World Heritage experts of the four sub-regions to define the methodology for data analysis and start developing a synthesis of the results of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise as well as the Action Plan.	28 to 30 October 2020, UNESCO Paris, France <i>Online meeting</i>
Drafting of the Regional Report and formulation of the Action Plan	This quarter, following the above-mentioned workshop, will be dedicated to preparing and drafting the regional report and the Regional Action Plan.	November 2020 to February 2021
Sub-regional Online Consultation Workshops with Site Managers <i>(Added in replacement to the postponed meeting in March 2020)</i>	To share and discuss the preliminary outcomes of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire and to gather inputs from World Heritage site managers to contribute to the initial draft Action Plan for Africa. 4 series of consultation organised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Africa (27 November 2020) – site managers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia (the), Ghana, Guinea, Liberia (observer), Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone (observer), Togo. • Central Africa and Lusophone, Francophone countries from other regions (1 December 2020) – site managers from Angola, Burundi, Cabo Verde (observer), Chad, Cameroon, Comoros (observer), 	27 November 2020 to 4 December 2020 Online meeting

	<p>Congo, Djibouti (observer), Gabon, Guinea-Bissau (observer) Equatorial Guinea (observer), Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda (observer), Sao-Tomé and Principe (observer).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Africa (3 December 2020) – site managers from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe. • Eastern Africa (4 December 2020) – site managers from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Uganda, Somalia (observer), South Sudan (observer), Tanzania (United Republic of). 	
Final Regional Workshop for National Focal Points	National focal points and all stakeholders to validate the draft Report and Action Plan and develop recommendations as well as perspectives.	10-12 February 2021, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe <i>Online meeting</i>
Finalisation of the Periodic Report	Undertake further work to improve and fine-tune the delivery of the regional report and Action Plan, based on input from States Parties at the final regional workshop.	February to March 2021
45 Extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee	Presentation of the final outcomes (Report + Draft Action Plan) to the World Heritage Committee at its Extended 44th session.	16-31 July 2021 Fuzhou, (China)/online meeting
	Side Event on the results of Third Cycle Periodic Reporting in Africa region.	
Implementation of Regional Action Plan	Implementation of regional actions outlined in Regional Action Plan.	As from August 2021
	Development and implementation of national action plans.	
Mid-Cycle Monitoring Survey Report	The World Heritage Centre will carry out a monitoring survey on extent of the implementation at national and regional level on the implementation of the Action Plan	Report to World Heritage Committee at its 47th session

Following the launch workshop in Côte d'Ivoire, at which a 'train the trainers' approach was adopted, national focal points were asked to share the knowledge they acquired at the workshop with the site managers in their respective countries. They were encouraged to organise national workshops and training sessions to enhance the State Party driven approach of the exercise. Several States Parties organised [national consultations and workshops](#) to support the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, reinforcing interaction between various stakeholders at national levels.

- *Response to the COVID-19 pandemic*

In response to travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Heritage Centre and the AWHF–Periodic Reporting coordination team mapped the

challenges faced by site managers and national focal points in a pandemic context and consequently adjusted the implementation schedule.

This led to the coordination team providing targeted support to national focal points and site managers, by means of messaging apps and emails. The World Heritage Centre and coordination team weekly monitored the progression of the completion of the online questionnaire. Particular attention was paid to national focal points and site managers with low progression rates in completing the questionnaire, with the World Heritage Centre following up with phone calls as needed. This approach was successful despite the challenges of limited internet connection, especially for Francophone and Lusophone World Heritage site managers who had expected to receive in-person training at the planned workshop in Cameroon. Some national training workshops were postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic.

The World Heritage Centre and the AWHF note with appreciation the commitment and resilience of all the African World Heritage site managers involved in this exercise despite the prevailing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries. From March to May 2020 the overall average completion rate of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire increased from 55% to 95%.

- *Formulation of the questions*

National focal points and site managers found that some of the questions were either difficult or very difficult to understand. Some site managers reported that the formulation of questions in the questionnaires were often complex and led to some difficulties and misunderstandings, despite the very helpful guidance from the coordination team and the World Heritage Centre.

Some questions were unclear and did not always provide as much useful guidance as could be expected. For instance, many respondents did not understand the question on public annual expenditure in Section I (questions 8.4 and 8.5). Some of the responses were thus incredible as they exceeded 2% of total annual expenditure even though available data indicates that annual budgets for heritage conservation in any given country rarely exceeds 2% of total annual public expenditure.

- *Data collection and analysis*

National focal points validated the site managers' responses before submitting Section II for the World Heritage properties in their respective countries. This process aimed to ensure that accurate and reliable information was provided regarding national implementation programmes and the state of conservation of each World Heritage property. However, some discrepancies between the two sections of the questionnaire were observed, in particular with new chapters related to synergies with conventions, programmes. For example, in Section I, national focal points would confirm that the State Party is not party to a programme, but site managers would, in Section II, respond that the World Heritage property is protected under the programme. Prior to the deadline to submit the questionnaire, the coordination team carried out several consistency checks and followed up with the concerned States Parties in order to review their answers before the final submission.

For analytical purposes, the reliability of the data as a prerequisite for findings and conclusions for it to have validity must be considered (that is, 'will we get the same results if the exercise is repeated under similar circumstances?'). Validity, as a degree of accuracy, leads to the question 'do we measure what we want to measure?'; and the

rigour with which the study was conducted in terms of design, decisions concerning what to measure and the care taken in conducting these measurements.

In order to balance some of the issues regarding the validity of the Periodic Report, conscious efforts were made to utilize knowledge obtained through other sources in the analysis process. The information available at the World Heritage Centre, such as the regional and sub-regional meeting reports, state of conservation reports and reactive monitoring reports were consulted as necessary. This was useful not only for data analysis but also for informing the drafting of the Regional Action Plan, in line with the World Heritage Committee's call 'for cross-referencing between state of conservation and periodic reports to enhance consistency in reporting mechanisms and to ensure that follow-up action is taken as necessary' (Decision **29 COM 7B**). Through these measures and the implementation strategy for the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Africa region, the overall reliability and validity of the conclusions presented in this report is considered satisfactory.

Data presented in this Report

Selected graphs and tables are reproduced in the text to illustrate the contents of the Report. It must be noted that the analysis on which these tables and graphs are based excludes States Parties or properties which did not reply to a specific question.

Serial and transboundary properties

There are 6 transboundary and serial transnational properties in the Africa region. States Parties sharing these properties were invited to consult with each other and designate one site manager and focal point to oversee the completion of Section II of the questionnaire. The other national focal point(s) and site manager(s) collaborated closely with the designated persons to complete the questionnaire. The affected site managers reported on the fruitful cooperation and synergies between them during the exercise.

Overall, transboundary properties reported that issues specific to these types of properties were given enough scope in Section II and could therefore be reported appropriately compared to the Second Cycle. Additionally, site managers and focal points reported that it was sometimes difficult to provide one single answer to questions, when important differences exist between components of a property. Therefore, they were bound to choose an option which reflected closest to the situation to the property and provided additional comments in spaces allocated at the end of each chapter.

1.3. Feedback on the Third Cycle

The fact that national focal points and site managers filled out the questionnaire to 100% during a global pandemic was in itself a major achievement of the Third Cycle in the Africa region. While the site managers assessed the Periodic Reporting exercise as relatively positive, the interpretation of the results is quite delicate due to the large variety of properties types, and the subjective understanding of the questionnaire by each respondent.

Most site managers indicated that the exercise helped to improve awareness of current management issues, particularly raising attention (for instance) to the importance of management plans or systems. Better cooperation between stakeholders has been stressed repeatedly as a positive outcome, and it was further highlighted. Site managers commented severally on the many positive experiences and benefits of World Heritage List and frequently suggested that the questionnaire should be designed taking into consideration of the regional context.

1.4. Overview of World Heritage properties in the Africa region

The World Heritage Committee inscribed the 1121st property on the List at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019). This brought the total of World Heritage properties in the Africa region to 96, representing 8.5% of the World Heritage List, in contrast to the Second Cycle where the total number of inscribed sites in the Region represented 10%.

1.4.1. Outstanding Universal Value: criteria used for inscription

The World Heritage Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value if the property meets one or more of the criteria listed in paragraph 77 of the *Operational Guidelines*. These criteria have been applied as follows for properties in Africa:

Criterion and description	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	Total	%*
Criterion (i) 'masterpiece of human creative genius'	7	0	1	8	3.59%
Criterion (ii) 'interchange of human values'	15	0	0	15	6.73%
Criterion (iii) 'exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization'	38	0	3	41	18.39%
Criterion (iv) 'outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble'	23	0	2	25	11.21%
Criterion (v) 'traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use'	16	0	1	17	7.62%
Criterion (vi) 'associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or beliefs'	25	0	0	25	11.21%
Criterion (vii) 'superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty'	0	23	4	27	12.11%
Criterion (viii) 'major stages of earth's history'	0	7	1	8	3.59%
Criterion (ix) 'ongoing ecological and biological processes'	0	20	3	23	10.31%
Criterion (x) 'significant natural habitats for <i>in-situ</i> conservation of biological diversity'	0	31	3	34	15.25%

* Percentage of properties in Africa region inscribed under a single criterion

N.B.: a property can be inscribed under as many criteria as the Committee deems appropriate at the time of inscription.

Since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the World Heritage Committee has inscribed 18 new properties – 11 cultural, 6 natural and 1 mixed – from the Africa region on the World Heritage List. These new inscriptions were based on the 10 criteria that help define OUV. For cultural properties, Criterion (iii) 'exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization' remains the most applied criterion for inscription; followed by Criterion (iv) 'outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble'. For natural properties, the most common criteria have been Criterion (ix) 'ongoing ecological and biological processes' and Criterion (x) 'significant natural habitats for *in-situ* conservation of biological diversity'

Number of properties inscribed under each criterion in the Africa region since the second cycle of Periodic Reporting (2008-2019)										
Criterion	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)
Number of times used	0	3	10	8	3	4	4	1	5	4

1.4.2. State of Conservation of World Heritage properties in the Africa region

Beyond collecting and updating basic statutory information, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa provided further information on the state of conservation of all World Heritage properties in the Region and notably those properties that are not currently being reviewed by the Committee (or might, in some cases, never have been discussed by the Committee since their inscription). There is an important connection between the Periodic Reporting process and the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties by the Committee, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. Periodic Reporting allows for a self-assessment by the national and local authorities in charge of a World Heritage property, while monitoring activities and the reviews by the Committee provide an external perspective involving international experts. Independently, neither process allows for a complete and accurate overview of the situation: one is focused on the cases with known issues, while the other is a subjective self-assessment. Together, they complement each other and allow for a comprehensive understanding of the state of conservation of properties in Africa.

The World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of an average of 35 World Heritage properties in Africa each year. Following the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting, 796 reports were presented for the Africa region, concerning 76 properties in 31 States Parties. The reports highlighted that the most pressing concern for most of the properties are the management systems/plans, illegal activities, land conversion, civil unrest, financial resources, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community. These correspond closely with the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Following the Second Cycle, available records provide the following breakdown of the state of conservation reports presented to the Committee for properties in the Africa region.

➤ Central Africa

- 82 state of conservation (SOC) reports for 11 of the 12 properties from 6 of 10 States Parties.
- Main issues: illegal activities, civil unrest, mining, war, management systems/plans, livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animal, land conversion, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community.

➤ Eastern Africa

- 119 SOC reports for 20 of the 34 properties in 7 of 12 States Parties.
- Main issues: management systems/plans, illegal activities, land conversion, housing, Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation, water infrastructure, mining and financial resources.

➤ Western Africa

- 265 SOC reports for 22 of the 28 properties in 10 of 15 States Parties.
- Main issues: management systems/plans, illegal activities, mining, financial resources, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community, land conversion, housing, ground transport infrastructure.

➤ Southern Africa

- 90 SOC reports for 16 of the 22 properties in 7 of 9 States Parties.
- Main issues: management systems/plans, housing, mining, major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure, surface water pollution, financial resources, solid waste, illegal activities, human resources.

- *List of World Heritage in Danger*

The Africa region ranks second to the Arab States region on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with 16 properties (12 natural and 4 cultural). Since the Second Periodic Reporting exercise, the World Heritage Committee removed the following sites from the World Heritage List in Danger:

- Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara, Tanzania (United Republic of) (Decision **38 COM 7A.27**)
- Comoé National Park, Côte d'Ivoire (Decision **41 COM 7A.5**)
- Simien National Park, Ethiopia (Decision **41 COM 7A.13**)

During this same period, the Lake Turkana National Parks in Kenya, Selous Game Reserve in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Old Towns of Djenné, the Tomb of the Askia and Timbuktu in Mali were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. All 5 properties from the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been on the List for over an average of 22 years.

In 2019, the World Heritage Committee decided (Decision **43 COM 8C.2**) to retain 13 World Heritage properties from the Africa region on the List of World Heritage in Danger as they face the following threats (in descending order): illegal activities, the inadequacy of the management systems/plans, civil unrest, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community, land conversion, war and deficiencies in legal framework.

Sub-region	State Party	World Heritage property / Year of inscription on List of World Heritage in Danger
Central Africa	Central African Republic	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (N) / 1997
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Garamba National Park (N) / 1996
		Kahuzi-Biega National Park (N) / 1997
		Okapi Wildlife Reserve (N) / 1997
		Salonga National Park (N) / 1999
		Virunga National Park (N) / 1994
Eastern Africa	Kenya	Lake Turkana National Parks (N) / 2018
	Madagascar	Rainforests of the Atsinanana (N) / 2010
	Tanzania (United Republic of)	Selous Game Reserve (N) / 2014
	Uganda	Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (C) / 2010
Western Africa	Niger	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (N) / 1992
	Mali	Old Towns of Djenné (C) / 2016
		Timbuktu (C) / 2012
		Tomb of Askia (C) / 2012
	Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (N) / 1992
Senegal	Niokolo-Koba National Park (N) / 2007	

List of World Heritage in Danger in the Africa region as of March 2021

It is worth noting that while certain threats (such as management systems/plans) stand out as an important negative factor affecting the properties in the State of Conservation reports, they were either considered as a positive factor or not flagged as a key issue by the focal points and site managers in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. This most probably stems from the different perspectives and modes of assessment, and both sources were considered in a balanced way when working on the Action Plan for Africa.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA

This section presents a summary of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by States Parties at the national level. It is based on the analysis and outcomes of Section I of the Third Cycle questionnaire, which was completed and submitted by the national focal points on the behalf of their respective States Parties. In all, all the 46 States Parties to the *Convention* during the reporting period submitted completed questionnaires.

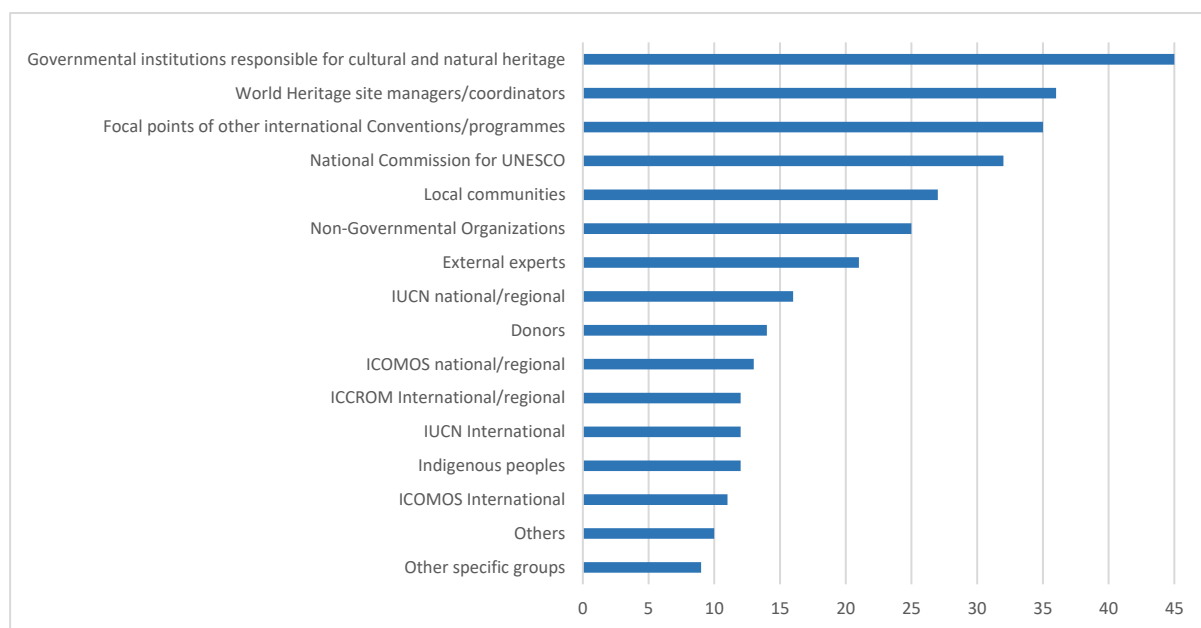
This analysis is based on the quantitative summary prepared by the AWHF Periodic Reporting coordination team, and the examination of Section I questionnaires. Some tables from the statistical summary are provided in this chapter, and the complete set of statistics can be found with the link provided in Annex I to this report.

2.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of the data provided by States Parties in the Africa region in Section I of the questionnaire of the Third Periodic Report Cycle, on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at national level.

The chapter first sought information about the primary government bodies responsible for the implementation of the *Convention*, the entities involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Report and other key institutions.

Based on the information provided, the governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage were actively involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Reports. A predominant number of States Parties noted the involvement of World Heritage site managers (36 States Parties), the focal points of other international conventions and programmes (35 States Parties) and UNESCO National Commissions (32 States Parties).



Groups and institutions that have been acknowledged as contributors to the Report.

2.2. Synergies with other Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations for the Conservation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage

The *Convention* is implemented in varying degrees by States Parties in the Africa region. While it provides a framework of protection for cultural and natural heritage, there are existing and

potential synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other UNESCO Conventions, programmes and recommendations.

2.2.1. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Several States Parties are Party to, or are in the process of adhering to, other international conventions and treaties that could add another layer of protection to World Heritage properties.

13 States Parties intend to designate World Heritage properties for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List) in the next 3 years. These include Central African Republic (Manovo-Gounda National Park), Chad (Lakes of Ounianga), Côte d'Ivoire (Comoé National Park), and Madagascar (Rainforests of the Atsinanana, Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve).

The Periodic Reporting exercise provided the opportunity for States Parties to request the World Heritage Centre to update its records. For example, Benin and Burkina Faso requested that the World Heritage Centre update its records regarding the Ramsar Listing of the transboundary World Heritage property of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex.

Conventions/Treaties	Sub-region	Party to	Adhesion in progress	Not party to
Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	Central	10	0	0
	Eastern	12	0	0
	Southern	9	0	0
	Western	15	0	0
	Total	46	0	0
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Central	9	1	-
	Eastern	10	1	1
	Southern	9	0	0
	Western	14	1	0
	Total	42	3	1
Convention on International Trade on Endangered species in wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)	Central	9	1	-
	Eastern	9	1	2
	Southern	8	0	1
	Western	14	0	1
	Total	40	2	4
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	Central	8	1	1
	Eastern	8	0	4
	Southern	7	0	2
	Western	13	2	0
	Total	36	3	7
Convention on Wetlands of international Importance (RAMSAR Convention)	Central	8	1	1
	Eastern	9	1	2
	Southern	9	0	0
	Western	14	1	0
	Total	40	3	3
International treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (ITPGRFA)	Central	7	1	2
	Eastern	7	1	4
	Southern	8	0	1
	Western	12	0	3
	Total	34	2	10
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	Central	6	1	3
	Eastern	8	1	3

	Southern	6	1	2
	Western	12	1	2
	<i>Total</i>	32	4	10

2.2.2. UNESCO Culture Conventions

29 States Parties have ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 3 are in the process of adherence while 14 are not Party to this Convention. There are 14 States Parties to the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 26 States Parties are not party to it, while 6 are in the process of adherence.

There are 29 States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 4 are in the process of adherence while 13 are not party. 12 States Parties have ratified the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 8 are in the process of adherence and 26 have not ratified the *Convention*. Regarding the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 41 States Parties have adhered, 3 are in the process of adherence while 2 are not party. 39 States Parties are party to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; 2 are in the process of adherence and 5 are not party.

2.2.3. UNESCO Programmes

- *Man and the Biosphere Programme*

35 States Parties participate in UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. There are 85 Biosphere Reserves in 31 countries in the Africa region; some of which are World Heritage properties. In Eastern Africa, Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest in Kenya; Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania (United Republic of). In West Africa, 7 World Heritage properties are Biosphere Reserves. They are W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (WAP) Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Benin/Burkina Faso/Niger), Tai National Park and Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire), Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea), Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger), Saloum Delta and Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal).

In central Africa, only 1 World Heritage property is a Biosphere Reserve – Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon. In southern Africa, Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe) is a Biosphere Reserve.

Some States Parties have expressed intent to nominate part or whole of their World Heritage properties as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, as indicated below.

State Party	World Heritage property(ies), (or part(s) thereof), that the State Party intends to nominate as (a) Biosphere Reserve(s) under the intergovernmental Man and the Biosphere Programme
Central African Republic	Sangha Trinational
South Africa	iSimangaliso Wetland Park
	Maloti-Drakensberg Park
Uganda	Rwenzori Mountains National Park

- *UNESCO Global Geoparks*

Although 12 States Parties indicated that they take part in this programme, there is only 1 UNESCO Global Geopark in the Africa region – Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark in Tanzania (United Republic of). The State Party of the United Republic of Tanzania has also indicated that the nomination process for the World Heritage property of Serengeti National Park as a UNESCO Global Geopark, is underway.

2.2.4. Cooperation and synergies between Conventions and Programmes

There is good cooperation and synergy, in varying degrees, between the focal points of the various Conventions and Programmes, in particular with UNESCO's 2003, 2005 Cultural Conventions.

National focal points in Southern Africa are all involved in the revision and implementation of the national strategies, policies and action plans for natural heritage, beyond specific issues related to World Heritage. This is not the case in the other regions.

For cultural heritage, World Heritage focal points in Southern and Western Africa have the highest levels of involvement in the revision and implementation of national natural heritage strategies, policies and action plans, beyond specific issues related to World Heritage. The lowest level of involvement (proportionally) is reported from Eastern Africa.

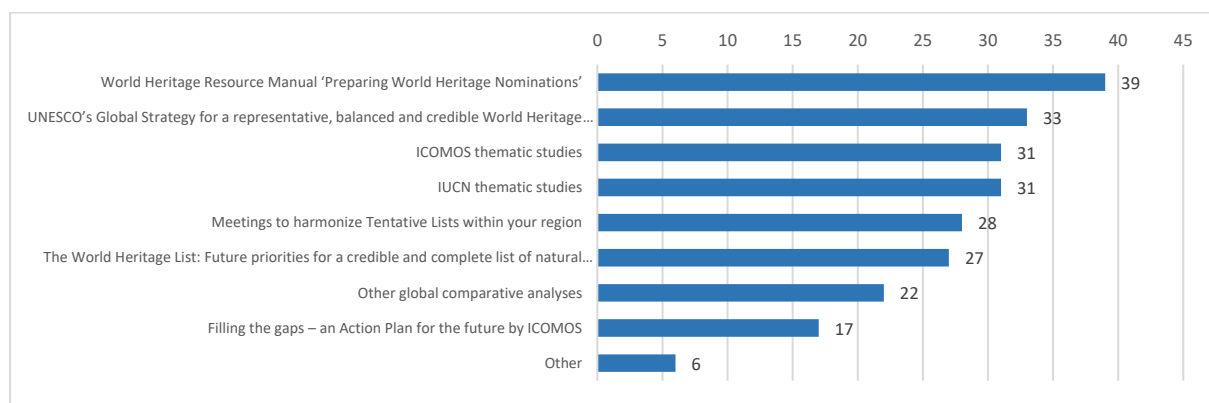
2.2.5. UNESCO Recommendations

37 States Parties use the provisions of the 1972 Recommendation Concerning the Protection, at National Level, of Cultural and Natural Heritage to set policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. The highest use of the Recommendations is reported in Western Africa, followed by Southern Africa and Central Africa. Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Gambia (the), Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone report that they use the Recommendation in setting strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage through activities such as building inventories (Gambia [the]), management plans (Nigeria), capacity building (South Sudan).

24 States Parties apply the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), with the highest number (10) in Western Africa. Mauritius and Kenya have included the principles set out in the two Recommendations in their national legislations.

2.3. Tentative Lists

States Parties use various tools to carry out preliminary assessment of OUV. The World Heritage Resource Manual 'Preparing World Heritage Nominations' is the most used tool with 39 States Parties using it. 33 States Parties use the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List, with the highest use in Western Africa. Finally, 31 States Parties use the thematic studies prepared by IUCN and ICOMOS. Only 17 States Parties use 'Filling the gaps, an action plan for the future by ICOMOS'.

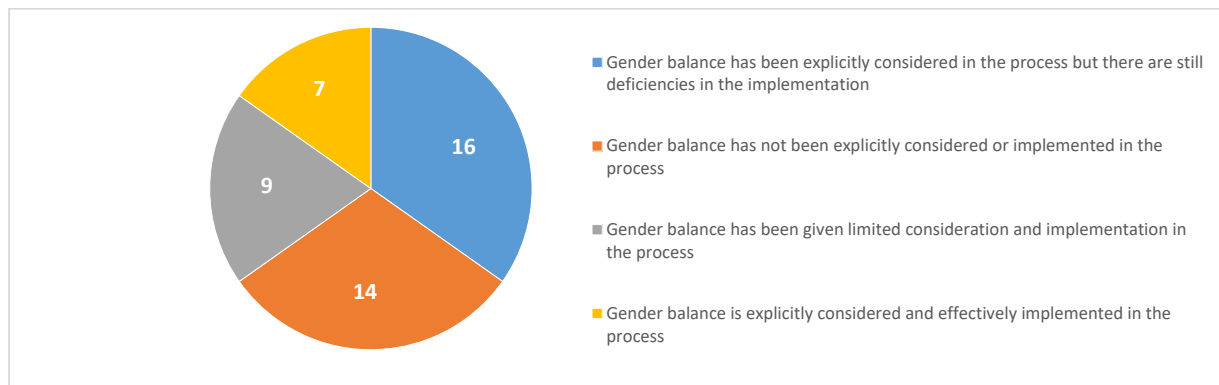


Tools and guidance material used in by States Parties in the preparation of Tentative Lists.

While only 5 States Parties – Benin, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo – have used the Upstream Process in the revision of their Tentative Lists, 39 States Parties intend to use it during the next revision of the Tentative List.

States Parties generally recognise that sites registered on their Tentative Lists have the potential to generate dialogue and cooperation with different communities.

Gender balance remains a challenge in the preparation of Tentative Lists, with only 7 States Parties that have explicitly considered gender balance while preparing the Tentative List.



States Parties where an explicit gender balanced contribution and participation has been considered in the preparation of the Tentative List

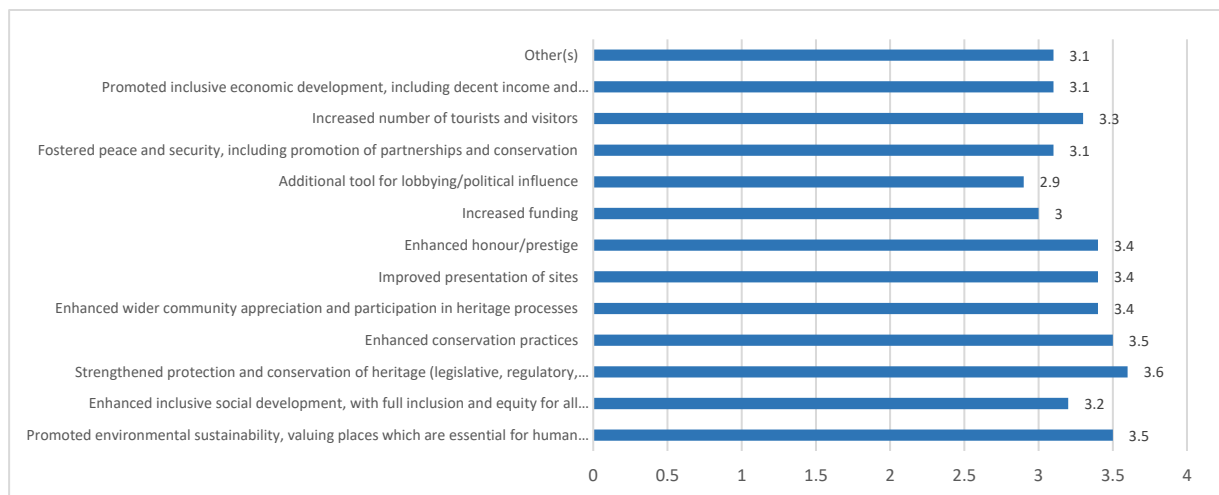
Sites on the Tentative Lists in 19 States Parties benefit from other international designations under other UNESCO Conventions or Programmes or under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

2.4. Nominations

States Parties involved various entities in the preparation of recent nomination dossiers. These include national institutions, consultants/experts and site managers.

Compared to the situation of Tentative Lists, it appears that there is improved gender participation in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers, with 30 States Parties reporting that there is gender balance.

Regarding perceived benefits from World Heritage nomination, strengthened protection and conservation of heritage is the highest rated benefit. This is followed by environmental sustainability as well as enhanced conservation practices. Interestingly, and at an aggregate level, the lowest rating is for World Heritage nomination as an additional tool for lobbying or political influence.



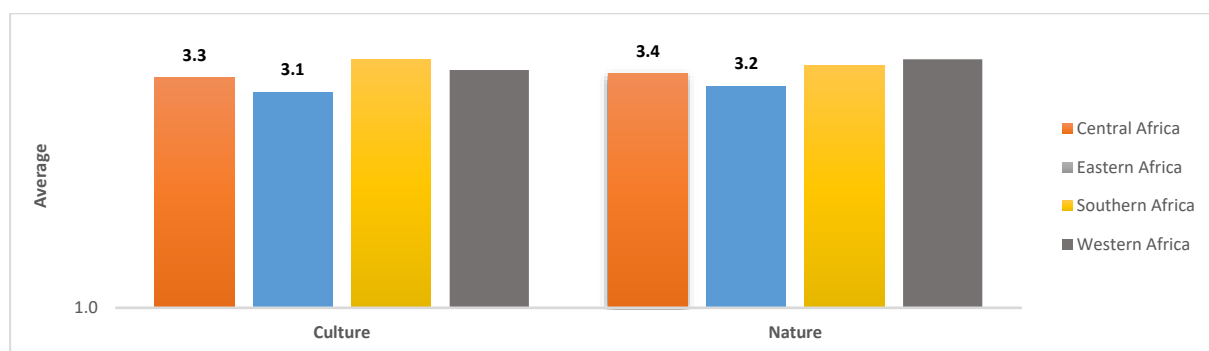
Perceived benefits of World Heritage status that received a rating from fair to good (rated on a 4-point scale, 1=none, 2=Limited, 3=some, 4=high)

World Heritage listing is considered to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2015 Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development, particularly contributing to the protection of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services and

benefits. Lowest on the rating scale is the contribution of World Heritage listing to ensuring conflict prevention and contributing to post-conflict recovery.

2.5. General Policy Development

Since the Second Periodic Reporting Cycle, several States Parties have updated national policies or regulatory frameworks to strengthen heritage protection. Some of the updates have been in the fields of cultural heritage, urban and town planning, land administration, tourism, environmental protection and forestry. In particular, some States Parties – Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa – have put in place specific legal protections for World Heritage properties. These existing legal frameworks are considered adequate for the identification of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage.



Adequacy of national legal frameworks for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage

Average values, numeric values 1 = There is no legal framework for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage, 2 = The legal framework is inadequate for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage, 3 = The legal framework is partially adequate for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage, 4 = The legal framework is adequate for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage, missing values are not included in calculation.

4 States Parties (Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe) report that there are no national legal frameworks for the identification of natural or cultural heritage.

Despite the existence of these legal frameworks, States Parties report almost unanimously that existing capacity and resources to enforce them could be strengthened. The challenges encountered in enforcing the legal frameworks include:

- some legal frameworks have become obsolete and do not reflect national realities or good international practice;
- insufficient human and financial resources to monitor and enforce legal provisions;
- weak capacity to implement the existing requirements.

Existing national policies give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities. Some examples of specific policies include the Community Based Natural Resources Management Policy in Botswana that provides opportunities for communities to participate in the management of heritage resources, under which Chief Samochao was awarded a honour (in 2014) for his contribution to the preservation of Tsodilo World Heritage site; the National Heritage Act 27 of 2004 of Namibia involves communities through joint management committees; in Burkina Faso the National Culture and Tourism Strategy and the Strategic Plan for the Development of Cultural Heritage give a function to heritage in communities.

The level of integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and planning is similar to that of the perceived contribution of World Heritage listing to the SDGs.

Several States Parties intend to formulate, and in line with the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), policies for the identification and protection of historic

layering in urban environments, while also encouraging the HUL approach across their territories.

Only 5 States Parties report that there are policies that integrate and implement heritage concerns at the level of large-scale planning programmes, and which are effectively implemented. For 38 States Parties these policies exist with some deficiency in implementation and do not exist in 3 States Parties.

There is an encouraging use of various strategies and policies agreed by the World Heritage Committee or the General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention* – in the areas of Climate Change, Disaster Reduction Strategy, Capacity Building and Sustainable Development – by States Parties in the Region.

2.6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of Cultural and Natural Heritage

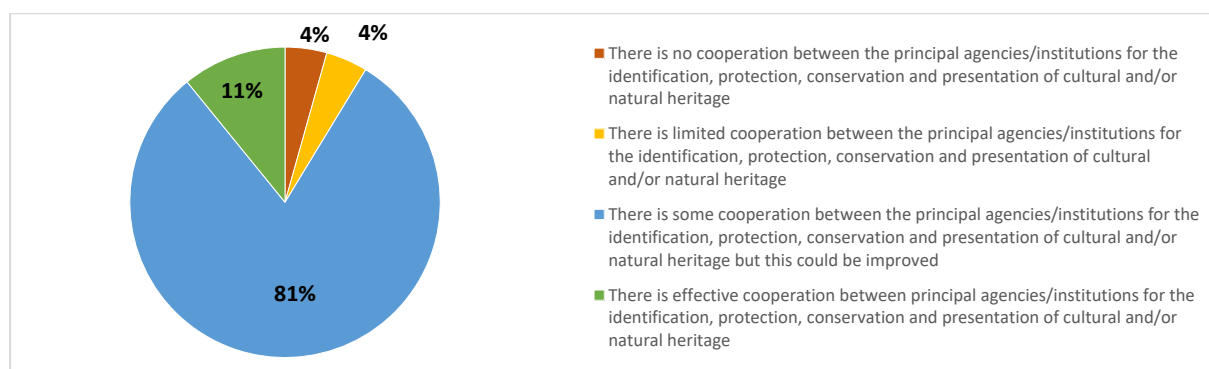
Most States Parties in the Africa region have well-established inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage at various levels, with more inventories for natural heritage than for cultural heritage. In Eastern Africa, most inventories exist at national/federal level in an equal proportion for cultural and natural heritage. While few States Parties report that there are any inventories at the regional/provincial/state and at the local level, some States Parties provide different perspectives. South Sudan is the only country in Eastern Africa where this process has not yet been established. In Western Africa, Ghana reports that it has not initiated the process of inventory for cultural at local level and that no inventory has been initiated for natural heritage. Sierra Leone and Nigeria have developed inventories at national/federal levels, but Sierra Leone has not established this process at regional or local levels.

All States Parties report that communities and indigenous peoples are regularly involved, or will be involved, in the identification sites of natural and/or cultural heritage for inclusion in their inventories/lists/registers on occasions. The inventories are generally reported to capture the diversity of natural and cultural heritage.

The established inventories/lists/registers are used by most States Parties for the identification of sites to be included on the Tentative List. Some States Parties, such as Gambia (the), have not updated their inventories in over 20 years.

2.7. Status of Services for the Identification, Protection, Conservation and Presentation of Natural and Cultural Heritage

Inter-institutional collaboration is important for identifying, protecting and conserving heritage. Most States Parties report that while there is some cooperation between the principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage, there is room for improving this collaboration. Only 5 States Parties in Eastern and Southern Africa consider that there is effective cooperation.



Level of inter-agency cooperation in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of national heritage

Regarding cooperation of, and with, other government agencies – such as those responsible for tourism, defence, public works and fisheries – in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage, only 5 countries affirm effective cooperation between the heritage sector and all principal agencies/institutions while 30 States Parties consider that even though cooperation exists, there are still deficiencies. The level of cooperation between agencies at different levels of government identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage is slightly higher for natural heritage than it is for cultural heritage. There is also cooperation with civil society for the identification and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

2.8. Financial Status and Human Resources

National governments remain the major source of funding for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage, particularly for running costs and maintenance. International Assistance from the World Heritage Centre comes a close second, ahead of international multilateral funding, other levels of government (provincial, state), international bilateral funding and funds from other international conventions. Some countries report modest funding support from non-governmental organizations and private sector entities.

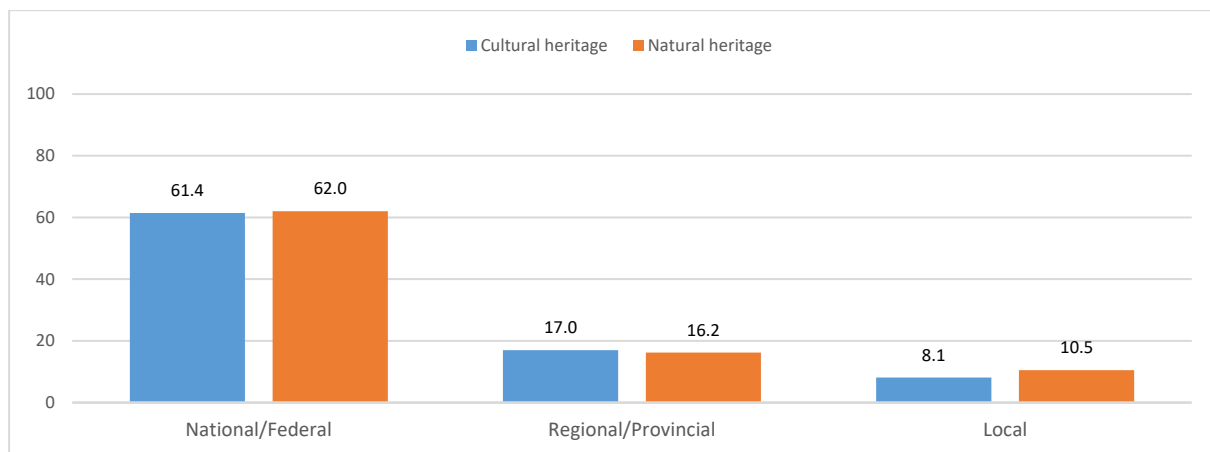
National policies exist in several countries to ensure that revenue from heritage sites is allocated for the conservation and protection of national cultural and natural heritage. This trend is particularly high for natural heritage sites in Western Africa.

Region/Sub-Region	Culture	Nature
Africa	26	29
Central Africa	4	5
Eastern Africa	6	7
Southern Africa	7	7
Western Africa	9	10

Number of States Parties that have policies to allocate site revenues for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage

Despite this, the amount of funding allocated is considered insufficient for the conservation and protection of national heritage. The average total expenditure spent on heritage conservation in the Region is less than 1% of national budget. This question was particularly challenging to understand, and a few countries reported very high percentages of up to 60% of annual public expenditure on heritage conservation, which is not reflective of the actual situation. Overall, Eastern Africa shows the percentage of highest annual public expenditure for cultural heritage (1.28%) as well as the highest expenditure for natural heritage (1.16%). This could be explained by the fact that Eastern Africa has the highest number (34 in total) of World Heritage properties in the Region including 20 cultural, 13 natural and 1 mixed site.

Respectively, Central Africa and Southern Africa report relatively high expenditure for natural heritage. These two sub-regions have the highest number of natural sites behind Eastern Africa. They also have the lowest number of cultural sites explaining a higher percentage of expenditure dedicated to natural heritage by States Parties. In other regions, the highest percentage of annual expenditure is spent on cultural heritage in Eastern and Western Africa with respectively 1.28% and 0.44%.



Percentage of total annual expenditure spent on heritage, at each level of government

The availability of human resources to protect heritage is generally reported as inadequate. A closer look reveals some exceptions to the rule: Kenya, Botswana and Cabo Verde have adequate human resources to ensure the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage.

2.9. Capacity Development

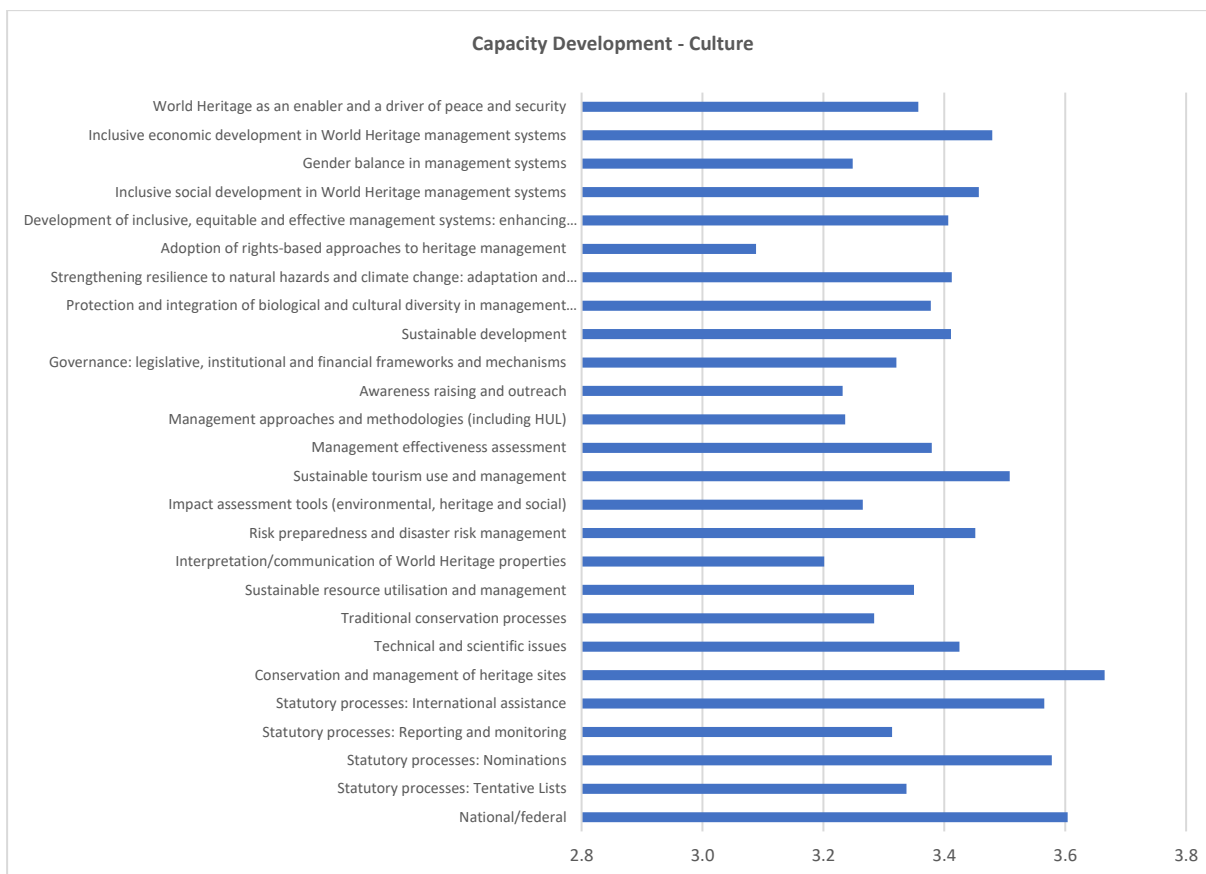
Capacity development remains a constant need for States Parties in the Region. The top capacity building priority is in the area of the conservation and management of heritage sites and the sustainable tourism use and management. Capacity building efforts should be targeted at government agencies, heritage practitioners, communities and universities. The role of universities is particularly important for technical and scientific studies.

Other priority areas for capacity building are reporting and monitoring; Tentative Lists, technical and scientific studies, sustainable use and management of resources, protection and integration of biological and cultural diversity in management systems, strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change, impact assessment tools and interpretation/communication of World Heritage properties.

The 2011 World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy is central to national capacity building efforts, identifying national capacity building priorities, raising funds to support capacity building programmes and raising awareness about the need to protect cultural and natural heritage.

In addition to the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, some States Parties have also developed their own capacity building strategies. 20 countries have a national capacity development strategy for heritage conservation and management although there are some deficiencies in implementation. In 20 others, there is no national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management but there are ad hoc capacity building efforts to meet identified needs. 5 States Parties report the absence of national capacity building strategies in any form.

Where national capacity building strategies exist, no State Party reports that it is effectively implemented. In 20 countries, the strategies are not effectively implemented, in another 20 countries there is no strategy in place and capacity building efforts are carried out on an ad hoc basis. At the other end of the scale, 6 States Parties report that they have no national World Heritage capacity building strategy.



Rating of capacity building priorities for cultural properties

2.10. Policy and Resourcing of World Heritage properties

While States Parties have established agencies/institutions for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage properties, 40 countries report varying degrees of capacity to carry out their mandates. Only 6 countries – Botswana, Cabo Verde, Congo, Madagascar, Niger and Uganda indicate that the capacity of these agencies/institutions is adequate.

States Parties provide support and encouragement for sustainable tourism at World Heritage properties. To this end, States Parties have developed sustainable tourism strategies (35); governance structures to facilitate cooperation and stakeholder engagement for sustainable tourism development (31); building the capacity of site managers (26); and have provide financial resources for developing activities related to sustainable development.

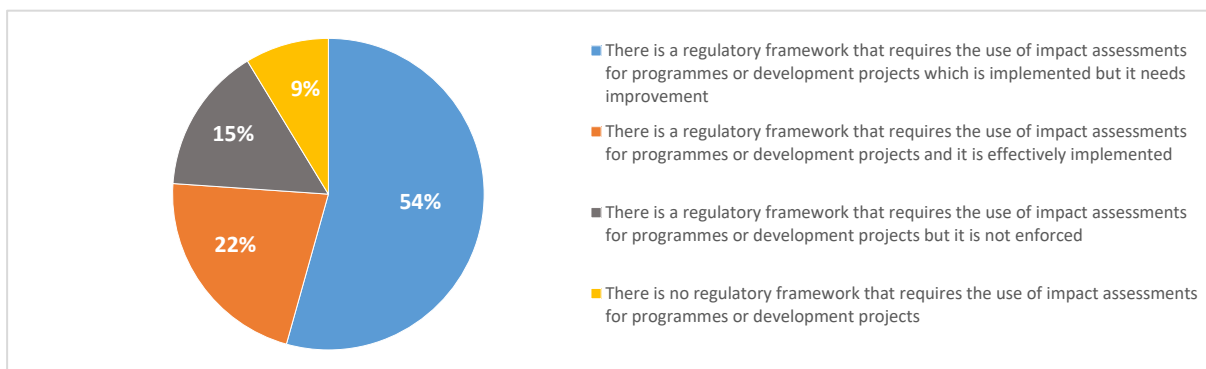
Support for sustainable tourism planning is done through various means such as tourism management plans (Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia) and site-specific visitor management plans (Mauritius).

Region/Sub-Region	By providing financial resources and incentives for sustainable tourism related activities	By developing policies and/or requiring sustainable tourism strategies to be developed	By providing capacity building for site managers	By facilitating network cooperation and stakeholder engagement through the development of governance structures or other mechanisms for cooperation

Africa	23	35	26	31
<i>Central Africa</i>	4	5	6	8
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	8	10	5	5
<i>Southern Africa</i>	4	9	5	7
<i>Western Africa</i>	7	11	10	11

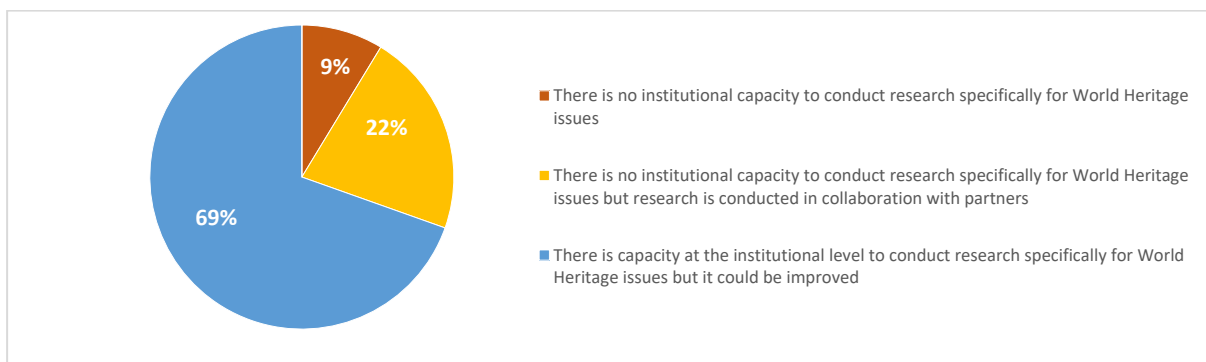
How does the State Party encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably?

The World Heritage Committee requires that States Parties carry out impact assessments for programmes or development projects when they are likely to have an impact on the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and wider setting. Regulatory frameworks that require the use of impact assessments for development projects exist in ten countries where they are effectively implemented. In 25 other countries, these frameworks could be improved. Weak enforcement of impact assessment regulations is an issue in 7 countries while 4 countries (Sierra Leone, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe) report that they do not have a regulatory framework in place to guide impact assessments. The most common form of impact assessment in use is the environmental impact assessment.



Number of States Parties that require the use of impact assessments for programmes (for example, strategic environmental assessments) or development projects (for example, environmental impact assessments, heritage impact assessments) that may have an impact on the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting

The existing institutional capacity to conduct World Heritage-specific research, available in 32 countries, could be improved. The absence of institutional capacity to conduct research in 10 States Parties has led to collaboration with partners to meet the identified research needs. There is no institutional capacity for carrying out World Heritage research in Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Guinea-Bissau.



Institutional capacity to conduct World Heritage related research

22 States Parties have established funding mechanisms for the protection of World Heritage. These include national, public and private foundations or associations for raising funds and receiving donations for the protection of World Heritage. Examples of such mechanisms include the Okapis Fund in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Wildlife Endowment Fund in Kenya, National Heritage Fund in Mauritius, Seychelles Islands Foundation and the Diamonds Trust of Botswana.

2.11. International Cooperation

Since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, States Parties in the Region have promoted international cooperation and established various types of cooperation mechanisms. The most common forms of cooperation are through hosting and/or attending international training meetings, bilateral and multilateral agreements, sharing expertise for capacity building, financial support, participation in other UN programmes such as sustainable development programmes and human rights and gender equality programmes; and sharing expertise to promote equitable participation in heritage mechanisms for communities. States Parties also collaborate with embassies to support the protection and management of heritage resources. Despite the wide range of potential collaboration, 4 States Parties do not appear to have promoted or established cooperation or collaboration since the last Periodic Reporting Cycle.

Region/Sub-Region	No	Yes
Africa	32	14
Central Africa	8	2
Eastern Africa	10	2
Southern Africa	6	3
Western Africa	8	7

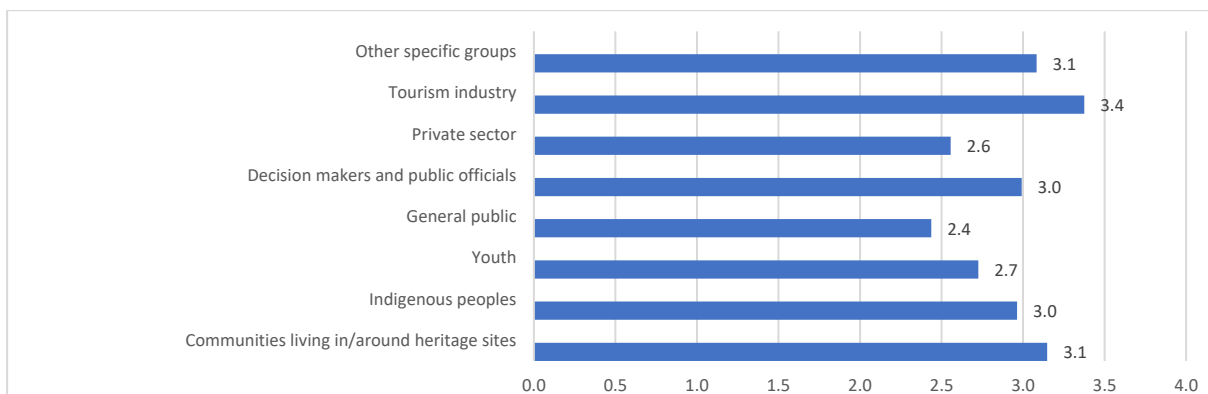
Number of States Parties have World Heritage properties that have been twinned with others at a national or international level

International cooperation for World Heritage is also promoted through twinning with other properties at a national or international level. 14 States Parties have World Heritage properties that have been twinned with others at national or international levels. The highest numbers are reported from Western Africa (7) and the lowest from Eastern and Central Africa (2 each).

2.12. Education, Information and Awareness Building

National strategies to raise awareness about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage exist and are effectively implemented by 2 States Parties – Lesotho and Senegal. While these strategies exist in 31 countries, there are some implementation weaknesses. Although there are no strategies in 11 States Parties, awareness-raising activities about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage are carried out on an ad hoc basis.

The tourism sector in the Africa region has the highest level of awareness about World Heritage in the Region. Communities living in/around World Heritage properties are aware of the special nature of the sites. The rate of awareness about World Heritage is lowest amongst youth, the private sector and the general public.

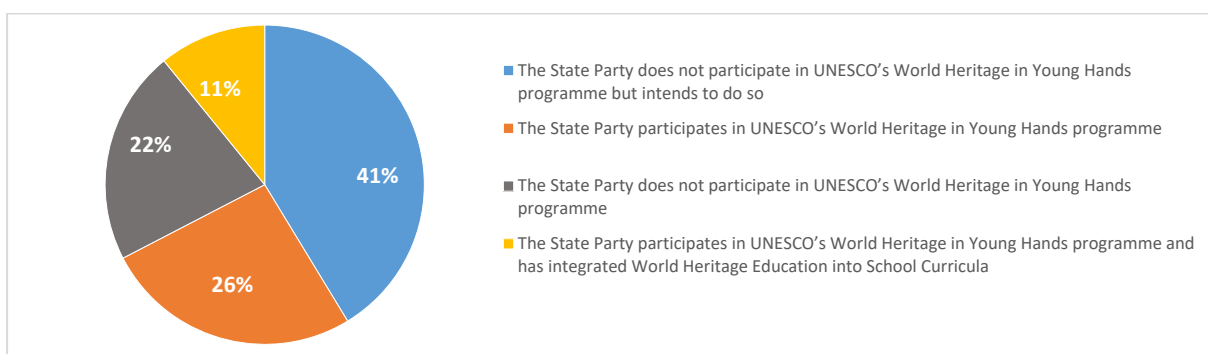


Rating general awareness about World Heritage amongst specific interest groups on a scale from 1 to 4 (4=good, 3=fair, 2=poor, 1=none).

37 States Parties have heritage education programmes to improve understanding of cultural and natural heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue. However, 5 States Parties do not have any education programmes to promote diversity and dialogue around heritage.

The most frequent activity to promote intercultural dialogue among children and youth is organised school visits to World Heritage properties. Other promotional activities include activities for students within school programmes, youth fora (including the AWHF's annual youth forum) and activities linked to heritage within the framework of UNESCO clubs/associations. Teacher training courses on the use of the World Heritage in Young Hands kit are less frequently used.

5 States Parties – Congo, Mauritius, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Senegal – not only participate in the World Heritage in Young Hands but have integrated it into their school curricula.



Participation in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands Programme

2.13. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

The States Parties have made several recommendations to be carried out and these are presented below by sub-region.

Central Africa

- Organise national workshops on the 2011 HUL Recommendation to facilitate its integration into national policies on heritage, urbanism and the environment;
- Revise national cultural policies through the integration of World Heritage issues;
- Carry out awareness meetings and promote cultural philanthropy at all levels;
- Develop capacity building programmes with strategic partners (Advisory Bodies, AWHF and the World Heritage Centre) and national training institutions: nominations procedures, risk assessment and development of preventive and corrective measures;
- Encourage lifelong learning for heritage professionals, particularly in the public sector;

- Increase financial and human resources for institutions in charge of heritage and provide financial resources for the identification of cultural and natural heritage leading up to World Heritage inscription;
- Strengthen national educational programmes with curricula focused on heritage;
- Promote collaboration between national agencies responsible for cultural and natural heritage;
- Translate the *Convention* and relevant national laws into national languages to improve awareness at all levels;
- Strengthen international cooperation, especially in the case of transboundary/transnational sites, such as Lake Tanganyika;
- Carry out research specifically on World Heritage issues including studies on the impact of World Heritage in the life of communities;
- Conduct national consultations with all stakeholders to sensitize them on the need to involve the communities in the management of their property;
- Establish national heritage trust funds with transparent governance systems, to diversify funding sources for heritage protection;
- Establish effective communication systems to raise awareness and involve local communities in the management of the property;
- Carry out inventories of cultural and natural assets, leading up to the development of Tentative Lists;
- Organise awareness raising and advocacy activities on heritage conservation for school children, youth, government officials, community leaders, elected officials and youth;
- Develop regulatory frameworks for impact assessments to guide decision-making or projects likely to have an impact on the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting.

Eastern Africa

- Reinforce and improve national capacity building strategies related to heritage protection and management by using UNESCO's 2011 World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and through particular attention to the 1972 and 2011 Recommendations;
- Improve financial support to national institutions while also mobilizing resources through bilateral and multilateral agreements;
- Reinforce cooperation with UNESCO and other related Culture related bodies at national and international level;
- Develop and strengthen national heritage policy and regulatory frameworks through provisions to engage relevant agencies, with specific policies targeted at local community engagement;
- Develop national cultural and natural heritage strategies;
- Strengthen the engagement of women in heritage conservation through the development of gender-heritage strategies and showcase the importance of World Heritage as an integral part of National development through dissemination and awareness raising activities;
- Conduct national heritage inventory and improve heritage documentation through the development of heritage databases;
- Create synergies in the implementation of multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies;
- Devise other mechanisms other than capacity building strategy to raise awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage.

Southern Africa

- Put in place mechanisms for implementing the 1972 Recommendation and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historical Urban Landscape ;
- Support and develop national capacity building strategies;
- Monitor implementation of the national capacity building strategy;
- Support actions related to the application of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historical Urban Landscape;
- Develop research on cultural and natural heritage in all the protected areas, including World Heritage sites;
- Provide adequate financial and human resources to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage;
- Share expertise with local communities;
- Collaborate with all stakeholders to conserve cultural and natural heritage in sustainable development in order to enhance, promote and protect quality of life, human rights and gender equality;
- Enhance coordination and/or integration of implementing multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies;
- Strengthen international cooperation and participation in UN programmes, including compliance in bilateral and multilateral agreements;
- Enhance coordination of activities among national agencies in order to protect, conserve, present and manage World Heritage properties.

Western Africa

- Revise relevant national regulatory frameworks to ensure adequate legal protection for cultural and natural heritage;
- Build national capacity on the 1972 Recommendation and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historical Urban Landscape;
- Collaborate with other national stakeholders, particularly in the education sector, to increase awareness amongst young people regarding the protection of national heritage in general and World Heritage in particular;
- Strengthen the capacity of heritage site managers in heritage management by designing a 5 year comprehensive capacity building programme on heritage management, identifying and developing a common platform (quarterly review meetings) for all Focal Points that brings together agencies responsible for the management of natural heritage in order to recognize and co-opt World Heritage Focal Points as key persons in the revision and implementation of heritage strategies; by training personnel and providing equipments to improve the capacities of agencies/institutions involved in the management of heritage;
- Review and update Inventories/lists/registers for both cultural and natural heritage;
- Generate more funds to increase the budget allocation available for basic conservation, protection and presentation of both cultural and natural heritage;
- Develop strategies to create awareness and engage communities through the provision of adequate resources, while highlighting inclusion and the participation of women;
- Carry out a review of inventories and documentation of heritage sites with the involvement of local communities in the identification of site values;
- Support the implementation of policies and strategies decided by the World Heritage Committee for the effective management, development and protection of cultural and natural heritage;
- Enhance inter-sectoral collaboration and increase civil society involvement in the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of cultural and natural sites.

2.14. Good Practice in the Implementation of the Convention at State Party Level

Overall, the best practices reported by States Parties regarding the implementation of the *Convention* are: (i) sustainable development; (ii) synergy with other conventions; (iii) state of conservation; (iv) management; (v) governance and (vi) capacity building.

In Western Africa, best practices are recorded under sustainable development, synergy and the state of conservation; while governance and capacity building are rated as average (see figure below). On the other hand, in Southern Africa the trend is similar except for 3 States Parties (Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe) which report low averages for several practices including synergy, governance and capacity building.

In Central Africa, the best practices are those related to sustainable development, conservation status, management and capacity building. In Eastern Africa, high-scoring good practices are sustainable development, conservation, management, synergy and governance by all States Parties, with the exception of capacity building with low averages in Comoros, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

2.15. Assessment of Periodic Reporting Exercise

In Central and Southern Africa, the main institutions responsible for communication with UNESCO are specific departments within the Ministries in charge of the environment, tourism, arts and culture, or sports. Communication through state-owned institutions, such as the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature in the Democratic Republic of Congo, are an exception.

On the other hand, in Eastern and Western Africa, communication with UNESCO is carried out through directorates, national commissions or centres, self-governing offices and museums. Others include the ministries in charge of the environment, tourism and culture, waters and forests for some French-speaking Western African countries.

- *Relevance and Objectives of Periodic Reporting*

States Parties in the Region report that they are satisfied by the monitoring carried out by the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, site managers and the national governments.

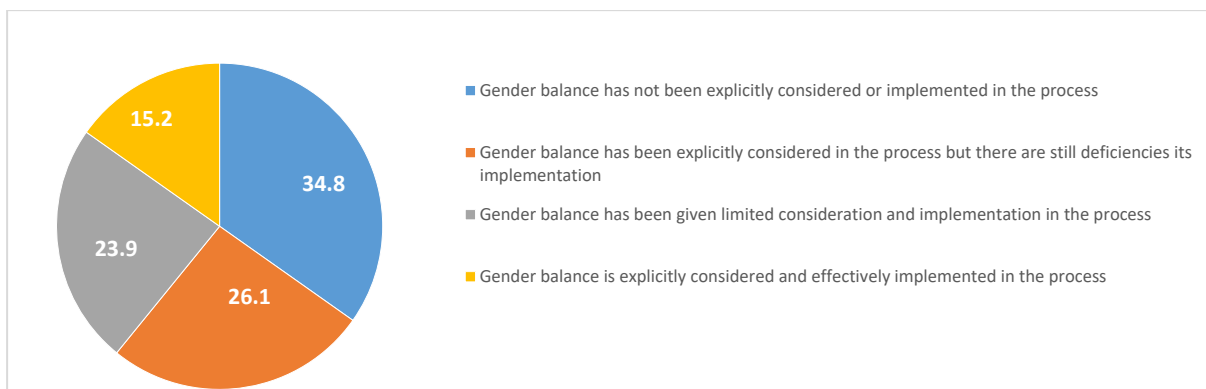
The data from the Periodic Reporting questionnaire will be made available to States Parties who have already indicated that the data will be helpful for improving the implementation of the *Convention* at a national level, updating management plans, raising awareness and carrying out advocacy around World Heritage and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

- *Time allowed for gathering information to fill in the questionnaire*

States Parties (72%) reported that there was adequate time to search for the information needed to complete the questionnaire. However, Central Africa is below (at 60%) the regional average, with States Parties such as Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon reporting that there was not enough time to gather the necessary information to address the various issues.

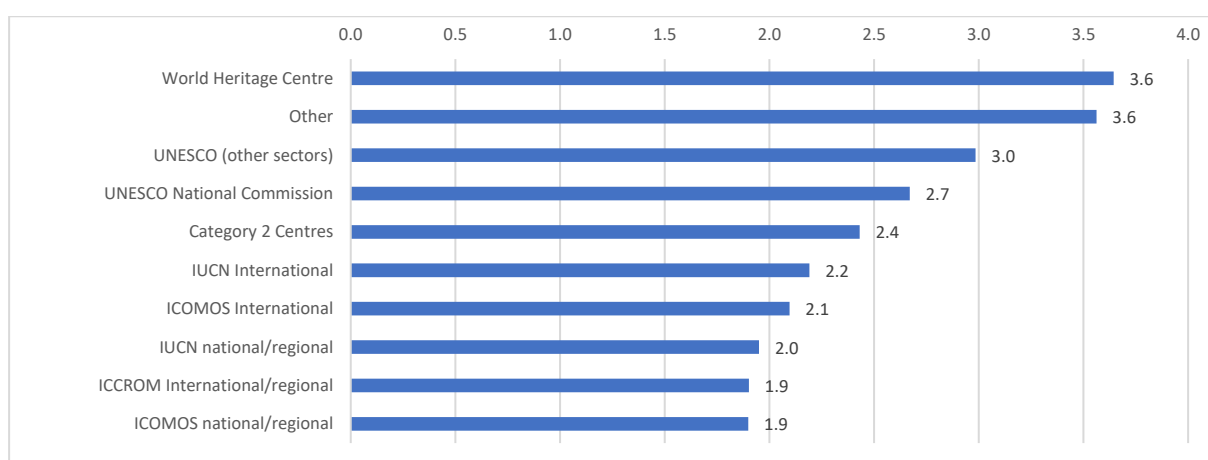
The general trend indicates that data collection required more time with the exception of Western Africa, where consultation with stakeholders took longer. In Central and Eastern Africa, the number of people involved in data collection and consultation was higher than those involved in filling out the questionnaire. In Southern Africa, more people were involved in filling out the questionnaire, while in Western Africa more people were involved in consultations. Most of the information required to complete the questionnaire was accessible to ensure the completion of Section I.

- *Gender balanced contribution and participation in filling out the questionnaire*



Gender balanced contribution and participation considered and implemented in filling out questionnaire

- *Level of support received for the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire*



Rating on the level of support received in terms of training and guidance for the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire (1=none, 2=poor, 3= fair ,4=good)

The level of support received from Category 2 Centres was rated as lower than the support received from the World Heritage Centre. This is a surprising result for the Region given that the Category 2 Centre, AWHF, was responsible for the close support to the States Parties throughout the process. This could also be due to States Parties not understanding that the AWHF is a Category 2 Centre. This points to the need to customize the questionnaire to regional contexts.

States Parties considered that online training resources provided by the World Heritage Centre for Periodic Reporting adequate for national authorities to complete the online questionnaire.

Conclusions on Section I

Despite the challenges of internet access and low resources that some national focal points faced, there was a general positive reaction to the Periodic Reporting exercise. The workshops were useful in understanding and filling in the questionnaires and the remote support appreciated.

National focal points found the Periodic Reporting very useful as it provided them the opportunity to learn more about the national obligations regarding ratified conventions, to gain clarity on the policies, strategies and resources available for the sustainable management of heritage properties at the national level. They also recommended that the final Third Periodic

Cycle report should be transmitted to all States Parties to enable them to prioritize and commit to the implementation of the proposed actions.

The outcomes of the exercise will enable States Parties to design new action plans and new projects. States Parties are further committed to monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Periodic Report in a timely manner. For future Periodic Reporting, it could be helpful to include in the online tool a timer to clock the number of hours spent completing the questionnaire.

The management of transboundary/transnational sites remain challenging, with competing national priorities regarding the conservation of shared properties – it will be necessary to strengthen synergies with all stakeholders.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION* AT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN AFRICA

This section of the report presents the results of the analysis of Section II of the Periodic Report questionnaire, which focuses on the implementation of the *Convention* at site level. It provides an understanding of how national and local contexts, with differing factors, affect the conservation and management of the 96 properties in the Region. Site managers completed Section II of the questionnaire; the respective national focal points then validated the completed Section II, prior to submission. A summary of the analyses of quantitative data from Section II is presented through a hyperlink in Annex II.

3.1. World Heritage Property Data

The number of World Heritage properties in the Region has increased from 78 to 96, since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. The table below presents the cumulative numbers of properties on the List, since the first inscriptions. The highest number of inscriptions was in the 1980s and the lowest in the 1990s.

Period	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	Total	
				Decade	Cumulative
1972 – 1979	4	2	1	7	7
1980 – 1989	11	18	1	30	37
1990 – 1999	4	9	0	13	50
2000 – 2009	23	3	2	28	78
2010 – 2019	11	6	1	18	96
Total	53	38	5	96	

Progression of World Heritage Inscription in Africa region since 1979

In 2020, there were 96 World Heritage properties in the Africa region, from 35 States Parties – 53 Cultural, 38 Natural and 5 mixed properties – representing 8.5% of the World Heritage List.

Type of property	Central Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa
Cultural	1	20	12	20
Natural	9	13	9	7
Mixed	2	1	1	1
<i>Sub total</i>	12	34	22	28
Total	96			

Distribution of World Heritage properties in Africa region

Thirteen properties report various levels of boundary modifications since the Second Cycle. This is different from the information (5 properties only) received by the World Heritage Centre (information up to 2018). This could be due to changes made at national level but not communicated to the World Heritage Committee.

State Party	Name of World Heritage Property
Côte d'Ivoire	Comoé National Park
	Historic Town of Grand-Bassam
	Taï National Park
Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kahuzi-Biega National Park
Ethiopia	Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela
	Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region

Several properties also report using various social media channels for promotional purposes.

3.2. Other Conventions/Programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected

This part of the report aims to identify links between the *World Heritage Convention* and other Conventions and programmes, in order to recognise the multiplicity of values of each site and highlight synergies with other UNESCO initiatives.

At site level, World Heritage site managers are often not aware or are misinformed about other international conventions that provide an added layer of protection to the World Heritage property.

3.2.1. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Nine properties are reported to be granted Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Following verification from UNESCO databases, the highest number of additional protection for the properties is under the Ramsar Convention and UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme. Participation in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention is still low. For instance, as of 2020 only the State Party of Mali had proposed two World Heritage properties – Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) and Old Towns of Djenné –for the granting of Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

Seventeen World Heritage site managers indicated that their States Parties would, in the next 3 years, be requesting Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for their World Heritage properties. 48 site managers indicated that the State Party would not be requesting Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in the next 3 years while 31 reported that the Protocol is not applicable to their properties.

Ten properties are currently on the Ramsar List, protected by the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)*.

Sub-regions / States Parties	World Heritage properties listed as Ramsar Sites
<i>Central Africa</i>	
Cameroon and Central African Republic	Sangha Trinational (transboundary)
Democratic Republic of Congo	Virunga National Park
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	
Seychelles	Aldabra Atoll
Uganda	Rwenzori Mountains National Park
<i>Southern Africa</i>	
Botswana	Okavango Delta System
Lesotho/South Africa	Maloti-Drakensberg Park (transboundary)
Zimbabwe	Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas
<i>Western Africa</i>	
Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger	W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (transboundary)
Côte d'Ivoire	Historic Town of Grand-Bassam
Senegal	Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary

World Heritage properties Listed as Ramsar sites per Africa States Parties

60 World Heritage site managers indicated that their States Parties do not intend to designate part or whole of the World Heritage properties for inclusion on the Ramsar List, while 27 indicated that this question is not applicable to their World Heritage properties.

3.2.2. UNESCO Cultural Conventions

Certain elements related to some World Heritage properties have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the 2003 Convention. Examples include the Ethiopian Epiphany (inscribed in 2019) which is associated with the World Heritage properties of Aksum and the Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela; Kankurang, Manding initiatory rite (inscribed in 2005) associated with some of the rites of the Stone Circles of Senegambia; and the Traditional Mauritian Sega (inscribed in 2014) associated with the Le Morne Cultural Landscape in Mauritius. In addition, the Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests (Kenya) have been inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2009. There is little awareness of associations between UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme and the World Heritage properties. The known, verified, associations are the religious manuscripts of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church associated with the World Heritage properties of Aksum and the Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia; the royal archives associated with the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga in Madagascar; records of indentured immigration associated with the Apravasi Ghat and records of the French occupation of Mauritius associated with the Le Morne Cultural Landscape in Mauritius.

3.2.3. UNESCO Programmes

11 World Heritage properties in the Africa Region are listed as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves:

Benin	W-Arly-Pendjari Complex Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Benin/Burkina Faso/Niger). Region 'W' in Niger established 1996, extensions in Benin and Burkina Faso as a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in 2002. Extension and inclusion of Arly (Burkina Faso) and Pendjari in 2020.
Burkina Faso	
Niger	
Cameroon	Dja Faunal Reserve
Côte d'Ivoire	Tai National Park
	Comoé National Park
Guinea	Mont Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
Kenya	Mount Kenya
Niger	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves
Senegal	Saloum Delta
	Niokolo-Koba National Park
Tanzania (United Republic of)	Serengeti National Park–Ngorongoro Conservation Area

There is only one UNESCO Global Geopark in the Africa region: the Ngorongoro Lenghai UNESCO Global Geopark coincides with the World Heritage property of Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania (United Republic of).

3.2.4. Cooperation and synergies between Conventions and Programmes

There appears to be limited cooperation between World Heritage site managers and the focal points of other designations/programmes. The highest recorded level of communication is with the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme for mixed and natural World Heritage properties and for the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) for natural World Heritage properties. For cultural properties, the highest level of communication is with the focal points for the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict and the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

3.3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Site managers validated the existing SOUVs currently available at the World Heritage Centre.

The key attributes of OUV of most World Heritage properties in the Region have been preserved. However, at some properties key attributes have either been compromised or even lost.

	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
<i>All</i>	80.5%	17.4%	1.6%	0.5%
<i>Cultural sites</i>	80.3%	18.1%	1.1%	0.5%
Africa	80.3%	18.1%	1.1%	0.5%
Central Africa	33.3%	58.3%	8.3%	0.0%
Eastern Africa	76.0%	22.4%	1.0%	0.5%
Southern Africa	76.9%	21.3%	1.9%	0.0%
Western Africa	93.8%	5.4%	0.0%	0.8%
<i>Mixed sites</i>	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Africa	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Central Africa	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Eastern Africa	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Southern Africa	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Western Africa	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Natural sites</i>	80.7%	16.0%	2.5%	0.7%
Africa	80.7%	16.0%	2.5%	0.7%
Central Africa	82.4%	13.2%	2.9%	1.5%
Eastern Africa	71.6%	25.5%	2.9%	0.0%
Southern Africa	86.8%	10.3%	1.5%	1.5%
Western Africa	91.9%	5.4%	2.7%	0.0%

3.4. Factors Affecting the Properties

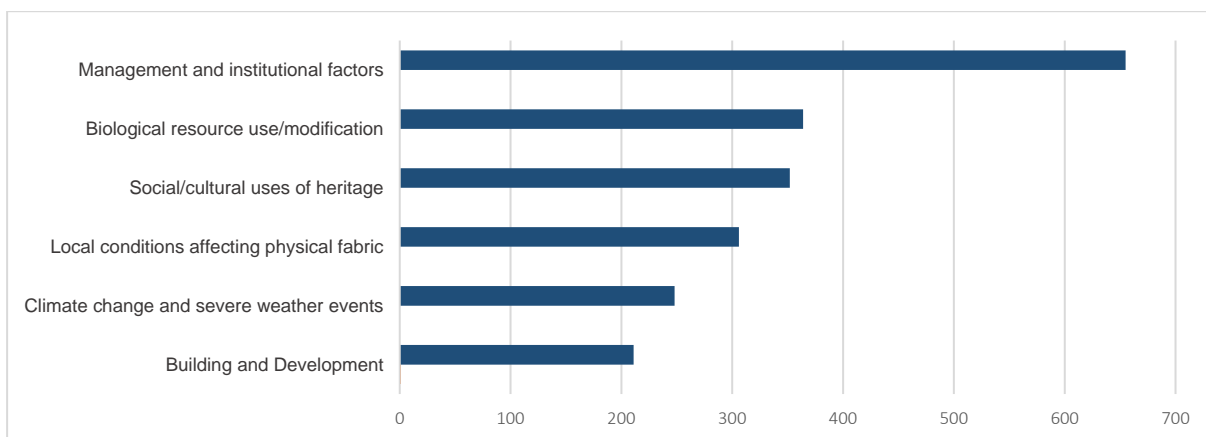
The questions 4.1 – 4.14 of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire asked to provide information about the range of factors that are affecting each property. There were 13 factor groups listed in the questionnaire, each of which consists of three to ten secondary factors. In total, 76 individual factors could be chosen from the options in the questionnaire. Each factor was assessed according to whether it affects the property positively or negatively, whether its impact is current or potential, whether it originates inside or outside the property and whether the trend is increasing, decreasing or stable.

At sub-regional level, management and institutional factors are the most relevant factors in all four sub-regions. Climate change factors are relevant in all sub-regions, except in Central Africa.

Central Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa
Management and institutional factors	Management and institutional factors	Management and institutional factors	Management and institutional factors
Biological resource use/modification	Social/cultural uses of heritage	Biological resource use/modification	Social/cultural uses of heritage
Social/cultural uses of heritage	Biological resource use/modification	Social/cultural uses of heritage	Biological resource use/modification

Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Local conditions affecting physical fabric
Other human activities	Climate change and severe weather events	Climate change and severe weather events	Climate change and severe weather events

At the regional level and of the 13 factor groups, the most relevant factor groups are management and institutional factors, biological resource use/modification, social/cultural uses of heritage, local conditions affecting physical fabric and climate change and severe weather events.



Most relevant primary factors in Africa region

3.4.1. Management and institutional factors

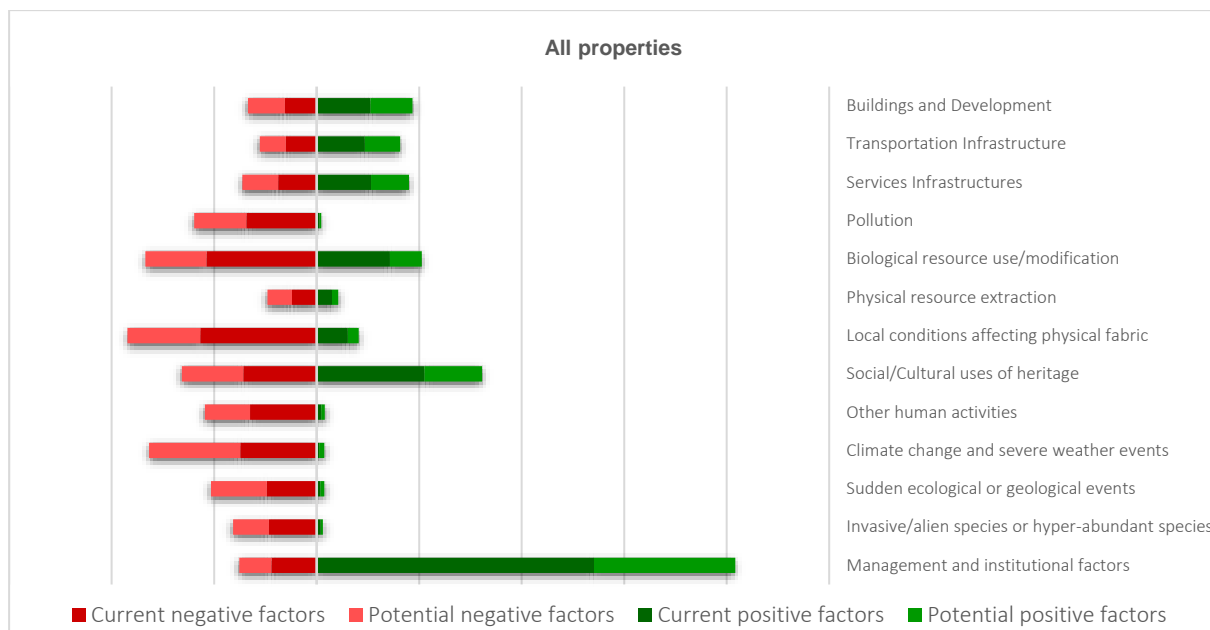
This group of factors has the highest current and potential positive impacts with legal frameworks, governance and management activities having the most significant current positive impacts at all properties, including for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The existing management plans are considered to allow for participatory management involving various tiers of government and traditional authorities. The highest positive impacts of this factor group are recorded in Eastern Africa. The few negative impacts recorded from this group are due to limited financial and human resources. Low impact research and monitoring activities do not appear to present any potential negative impact.

3.4.2. Biological resource use/modification

Most of the impacts in this group are recorded at natural, mixed sites or at cultural landscapes. Current positive impacts are reported from the collection of wild plants and crop production for subsistence at properties such as the Dja Faunal Reserve, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Okavango and Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves. The highest negative impacts from this group of factors are from livestock farming, land conversion and subsistence hunting. Poaching remains an issue at several natural sites. These factors have the highest current and potential impact for natural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3.4.3. Social/cultural uses of heritage

This group of factors are related to ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses; society's valuing of heritage; indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting; identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community; and impacts of tourism/visitation/recreation. Continued community use of sites for spiritual purposes is important for the protection of sites, even though in some cases, there are concerns about hunting and gathering that could impact on the sites' ecosystems. Associative ritual uses are reported to contribute to social cohesion at some properties. However, there are concerns about the carrying capacity of the properties as the numbers of visitors increase. For sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, these factors have the highest current and potential impact on natural properties.



3.4.4. Local conditions affecting physical fabric

This group of factors ranks highest in terms of negative on all the properties and includes all biological or environmental factors that contribute to the deterioration of the properties. Water, pests, wind and dust cause the most significant impacts. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria), Bassari Country: Bassari, Fula and Bedik Cultural Landscapes (Senegal) and Namib Sand Sea (Namibia) have however recorded current positive impacts of this group of factors, relating to relative humidity and wind respectively.

3.4.5. Climate change and severe weather events

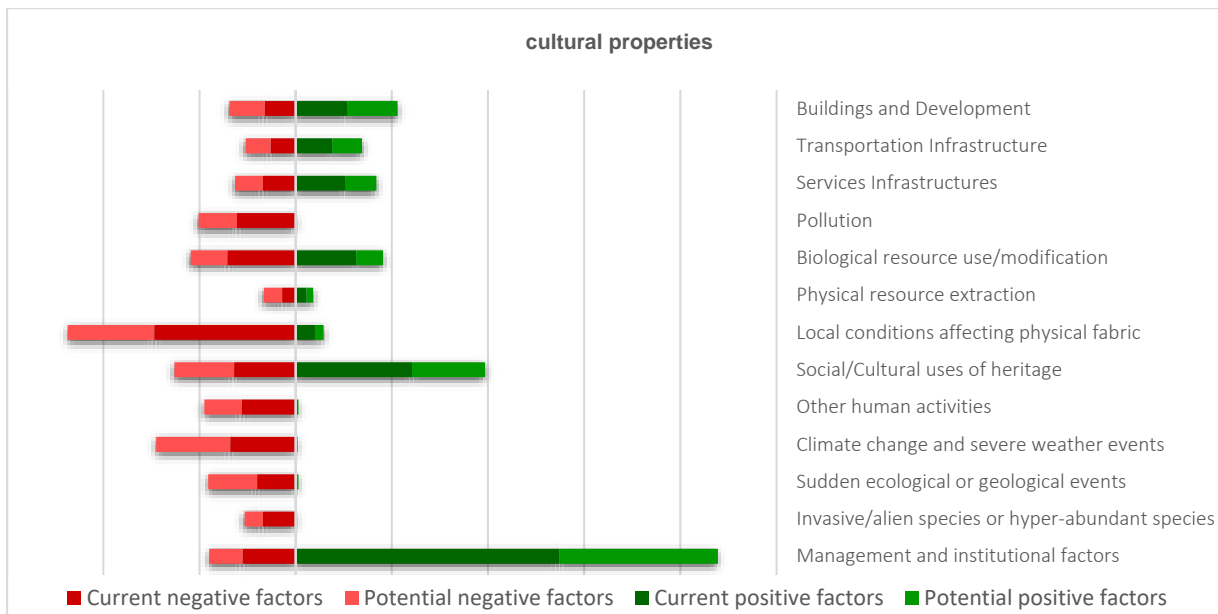
Several properties are experiencing the direct effects of climate change and many are affected by severe weather events. The most significant factor is temperature change followed by drought, flooding and storms. At an aggregate level, these factors are reported to have significant impacts on properties in Eastern and Southern Africa such as Twyfelfontein or /Ui-//aes (Namibia), Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains (South Africa) and Lamu Old Town (Kenya).

3.4.6. Buildings and development

Factors such as interpretative and visitation facilities and major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure are reported to have both current and potential positive impacts at most properties. However, housing, commercial development and industrial areas are negatively affecting some of the properties with cultural and natural properties respectively recording 33% and 31% of properties with current negative impacts. This is a clear indication of the challenges States Parties face in ensuring that building regulations, land-use plans and conservation plans are known and applied by all relevant authorities.

3.4.7. Factors affecting cultural properties

Management and institutional factors have the highest positive, stable and potential impact on the 52 cultural properties in the Region. Social and cultural uses of heritage, along with buildings and development, also have an increasing positive impact trend on the cultural properties. There is an increasing trend in the negative impacts from local conditions affecting physical fabric, climate change and severe weather events. 29 of the 52 World Heritage cultural properties are negatively impacted by water. There are little or no positive trends shown by factors like climate change, invasive alien species or sudden ecological and geological events.



Local conditions affecting physical fabric, biological resource use/modification and climate change and severe events have current negative impacts on cultural properties. There are no current or potential positive impacts from *pollution, other human activities, climate change, sudden ecological and geological events and invasive alien species*, and there are indications that the negative impacts from these factors could increase. Dust and pests affect 20 properties each, with illegal activities also recorded at 22 properties. Invasive alien terrestrial species, relative humidity and wind each negatively impact 23 of the properties.

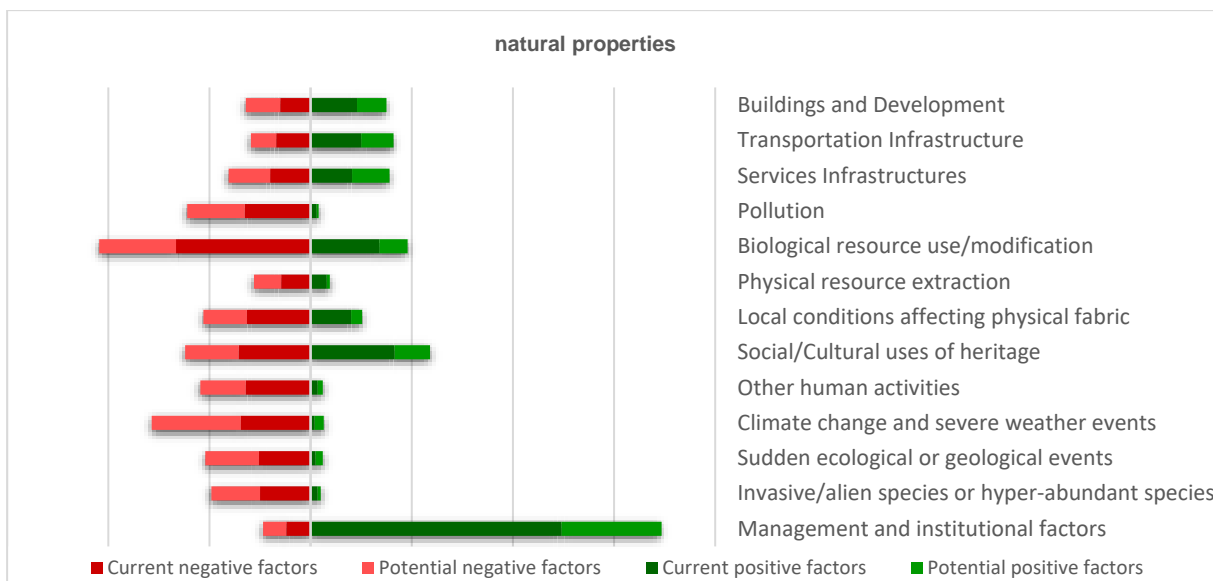
3.4.8. Factors affecting mixed properties

Management and institutional factors have an increased positive impact on mixed properties. Local conditions affecting physical fabric and climate change and severe weather events have high negative current and potential impacts on the 5 mixed properties in the Africa region. Services infrastructure and buildings and development have very low negative impact with invasive alien species and other human activities also showing very low positive impacts on the mixed properties. Factor such as pollution, climate change and severe weather events and sudden ecological and geological events have little to no positive impacts, current or potential, on the properties.

4 of the 5 mixed properties are heavily impacted by dust and invasive alien terrestrial species. Military training, fire, deliberate destruction of heritage, financial and human resources among 8 others, negatively impact 2 of the mixed properties and 3 of them are negatively impacted by pests, illegal activities, and drought and quarrying among others.

3.4.9. Factors affecting natural properties

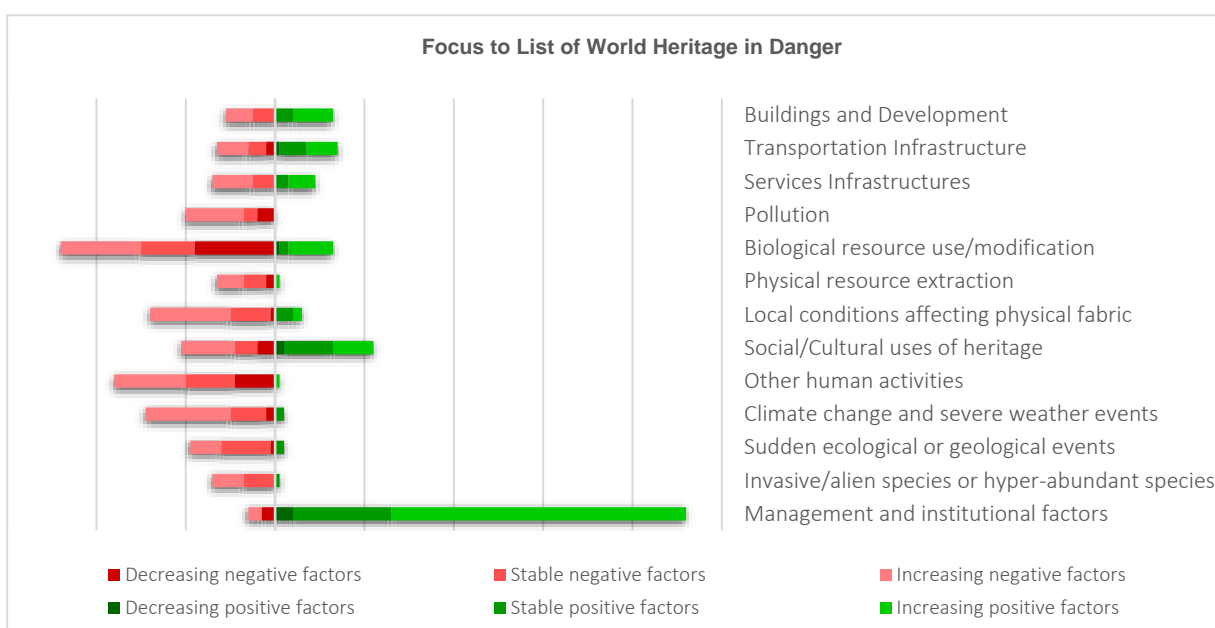
Management and institutional factors have positive impacts on the 39 natural properties in the Region. However, anthropic activities such as biological resources use/modification, illegal activities, livestock, fire, erosion and siltation, fishing, solid waste and subsistence negatively affect the properties.



Fire, erosion and siltation and invasive alien terrestrial species each have negative impacts at 22 properties. Other high impact factors at natural properties include climate change and severe weather events, social cultural uses of heritage and other human activities. Flooding, deliberate destruction of heritage, pests, temperature and crop production each affect 12 properties. Physical resource extraction is considered to have a positive impact, although there is a higher negative trend. The high rate of illegal activities will require enhanced and improved law enforcement and effective implementation of legal frameworks in order to protect the properties and their OUV.

3.4.10. Factors affecting sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Management and institutional factors have a positive impact on the 16 properties from the African region on the List of World Heritage in Danger, each of which is listed for reasons related to compromised OUV. The sites are highly affected by local conditions affecting physical fabric, biological resource use/modification, other human activities and climate change and severe weather events. These factors are likely to continue affecting the sites negatively in future. This could be a result of the many efforts being made in these sites to restore any site attributes that could have been compromised.

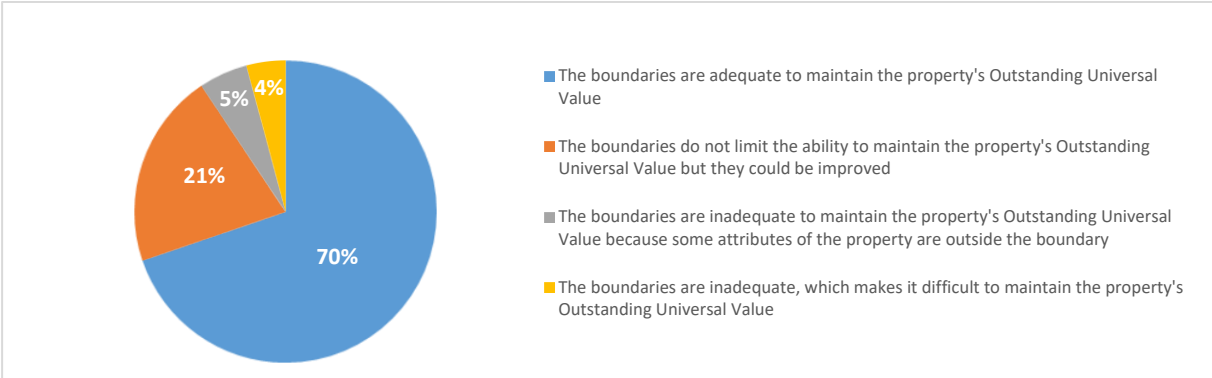


10 of the 16 properties are located in conflict areas. This could make it challenging to restore the compromised attributes. Additionally, 14 of these properties are affected by illegal activities. Other impacts come from erosion and invasive species, subsistence and livestock farming, flooding and drought. There is an increasing negative trend of the impacts from biological resource use, local conditions affecting physical fabric, other human activities and climate change. Impacts from invasive alien terrestrial species, pollution and physical resource extraction appear to be stable.

3.5. Protection and Management of the Property

3.5.1. Boundaries and buffer zones

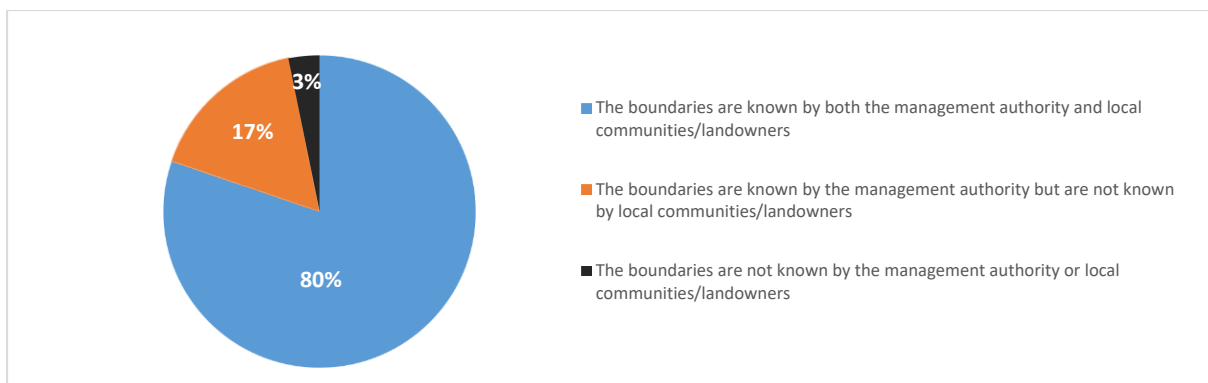
The boundaries of 67 World Heritage properties are considered to be adequate to maintain their OUV. While the boundaries of 20 properties are not limited in their ability to maintain the properties' OUV, they could be improved. However, the boundaries at 4 properties are inadequate and this could make it difficult to maintain OUV; at another 5 properties, some attributes are located outside the property boundaries.



Adequacy of boundaries to maintain the property's OUV

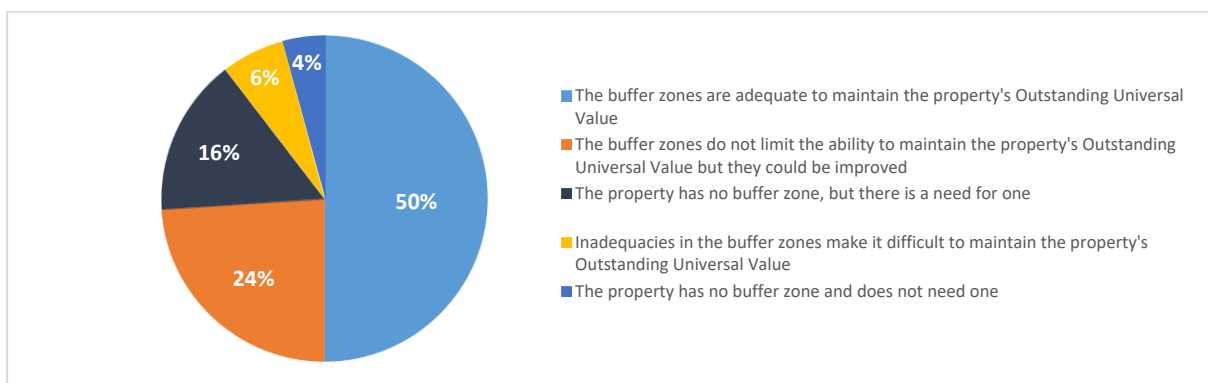
Management authorities and the local communities are generally aware of the property boundaries. The boundaries of 3 properties – Lower Valley of the Awash, Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia), Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana) – are not known by the local communities and management authorities.

States Parties	Inadequate boundaries to maintain the property's OUV because attributes are located outside the boundary	The boundaries are inadequate, which makes it difficult to maintain the property's OUV
Ethiopia	Lower Valley of the Omo	Simien National Park
	Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela	Harar Jugol, the Fortified Historic Town
Kenya	Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site	-
Malawi	Lake Malawi National Park	-
Mozambique	Island of Mozambique	-
Ghana	-	Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions
Mali	-	Timbuktu



Knowledge and recognition of boundaries of the World Heritage property

Buffer zones are adequate to maintain the OUV at 48 properties; at 23 properties, the buffer zones could be improved even though their current configurations do not limit the ability to maintain OUV. At least 4 properties are reported to neither have, nor need, a buffer zone. 15 properties need a buffer zone and there are inadequacies in the existing buffer zones at 5 properties.



Adequacy of buffer zones to maintain the property's OUV

There is some inadequacy of buffer zones at the following properties:

States Parties	The property has no buffer zone, but there is a need for one	Inadequacies in the buffer zones make it difficult to maintain the property's OUV	The buffer zones do not limit the ability to maintain the property's OUV, but they could be improved
<i>Central Africa</i>	25.0% (3/12)	8.3% (1/12)	16.7% (2/12)
Angola	-	-	Mbanza Kongo, Vestiges of the Capital of the former Kingdom of Kongo
Central African Republic	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park	-	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kahuzi-Biega National Park	-	Virunga National Park
	Salonga National Park	-	-
Gabon	-	Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda	-
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	14.7%	8.8%	32.4%
Ethiopia	Lower Valley of the Awash	-	Aksum
	Lower Valley of the Omo		Harar Jugol, the Fortified Historic Town
	Simien National Park		Konso Cultural Landscape
Kenya			Tiya Lamu Old Town

	Lake Turkana National Parks	Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site	Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests
Uganda	Rwenzori Mountains National Park	Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
Tanzania (United Republic of)	-	Kilimanjaro National Park	Ngorongoro Conservation Area
			Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara
			Stone Town of Zanzibar
			Serengeti National Park
Southern Africa	18.2% (4/22)	4.5% (1/22)	13.6% (3/22)
Botswana			Tsodilo
Lesotho, South Africa	-	-	Maloti-Drakensberg Park
Malawi	Lake Malawi National Park		-
Mozambique		Island of Mozambique	-
South Africa	iSimangaliso Wetland Park	-	Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape
Zimbabwe	Great Zimbabwe National Monument	-	-
	Khami Ruins National Monument	-	-
Western Africa	10.7% (3/28)	3.6% (1/28)	25.0% (7/28)
Burkina Faso	-	-	Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites of Burkina Faso
Cabo Verde	-	-	Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande
Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	Comoé National Park
Côte d'Ivoire/ Guinea	-	-	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
Ghana	Asante Traditional Buildings		
	Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions	-	-
Niger	-	-	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves
Mali	Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)	Timbuktu	
Senegal	-	-	Island of Gorée
Togo	-	-	Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba
Total	15	6	23

3.5.2. Protective measures

The protection provided by boundaries and buffer zones is established through legal and regulatory frameworks. At 57 properties, the legal frameworks are considered, adequate for maintaining the OUV, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity of the properties while there are some deficiencies in implementing legal frameworks at 33 others.

The legal frameworks are considered as inadequate at 5 properties – Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia), Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania (United Republic of)), Asante Traditional Buildings and Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana) and Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Togo). Of particular concern is the Lower Valley of the Awash in Ethiopia where it appears that there is no legal framework for maintaining the OUV including the conditions of authenticity and/or integrity of the property.

Similarly, the legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the OUV, including the conditions of authenticity and/or integrity, is considered to provide an adequate basis for effective management and protection at 38 properties. At another 30 properties where adequate legal frameworks exist, implementation could be strengthened. There is no legal framework for the buffer zones at 4 properties while the following 17 do not have buffer zones.

Sub-region	State party	World heritage property
Central Africa	Cameroon	Dja Faunal Reserve
	Central African Republic	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park
	Democratic Republic of Congo	Kahuzi-Biega National Park
Eastern Africa	Ethiopia	Simien National Park
	Uganda	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park Rwenzori Mountains National Park
	Tanzania (United Republic of)	Ngorongoro Conservation Area
Southern Africa	Malawi	Lake Malawi National Park
	South Africa	iSimangaliso Wetland Park #Khomani Cultural Landscape
	Zimbabwe	Great Zimbabwe National Monument
		Khami Ruins National Monument
Western Africa	Ghana	Asante Traditional Buildings
		Forts and Castles Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions
	Mali	Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)
	Niger	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves
Togo	Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba	

Existing legal frameworks are enforced at an acceptable level, though with some deficiencies, at 51 properties, while there are adequate capacity/resources to enforce legislation and/or regulation at 28 World Heritage properties. There are major deficiencies in available capacity and resources to enforce legislation at 13 properties.

3.5.3. Management systems/plans

Various management systems/plans are in use at World Heritage properties in the Africa region. They include public, traditional, charitable, local community and private ownership managements. While, the public management system, at national and local levels, dominates the management system of 83 properties in the Region, it is not unusual that 2 or more types of management systems are used concurrently. At least 5 natural properties – 3 in Central Africa and 2 in Eastern Africa –are managed by non-governmental organizations.

The Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi in Uganda is the only property reported to be governed by a traditional management system. The Fortified Historic Town of Harar Jugol in Ethiopia is also managed through a combination of a formal management system and existing traditional social structure of 'Afocha' (associations), 'kebeles' and 'Neighbourhood Committees'.

Various tools govern the management of properties in the Region. The most common tool is the management plan which is used at 83 of the properties. Other management tools, used in various combinations, in the Africa region include:

Type of management tool	N° of properties
A statutory management plan or zoning plan for the property	57
Other forms of statutory or non-statutory plans (for example, strategic plans)	36
Traditional ways of management recognized by local communities and other specific groups	35
Governance mechanisms that foster and respect traditional practices, knowledge and uses of the property	48
Agreed 'Memorandums of Understanding' between different managing institutions, groups or others, including documents agreed with local communities for management	37
Mechanisms to promote equal participation among and within groups, including different levels of authority, local communities, indigenous people, women and men, and other specific groups	42

A framework for inclusive economic development, including equal access and distribution of resources and opportunities arising from the protection of the property	27
A code of practice developed by local communities or other groups	17
A code of practice developed by industry	10
An integrated management plan combining World Heritage and any other designations	46
An annual work plan or business plan	61
A disaster, climate or conflict risk management plan	22
A visitor/visitation management plan	27
An environmental management framework	28
Assessment of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services provided by the property	19
Joint approach to management of cultural and natural heritage	33
Others	2

The management system/plan currently in use are reported to be fully adequate to maintain OUV at 63 properties; however, they are only partially adequate at 27 properties. The management system/plan in place at the Lamu Old Town in Kenya and Asante Traditional Buildings in Ghana are reported to be inadequate to maintain OUV. Four properties do not have in place a management system or plan: Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic); Lower Valley of the Awash and Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) and Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana).

The effective management of World Heritage properties requires coordination between the various levels of government. There is adequate coordination at 21 properties (9 culture, 1 mixed and 11 nature) varying levels of coordination at 74 properties. There is no reported coordination between government entities at the Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia).

The UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape appears to be little known at site level. Nevertheless, it is at the heart of policy development and best practices for the protection of 4 cultural properties: Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius), Island of Mozambique (Mozambique), Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande (Cabo Verde) and Island of Gorée (Senegal). The Recommendation is used in varying degrees at other properties.

The Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties is used in the management of the 14 properties only in Africa ; another 22 properties make "some use" of the Policy while 60 properties do not use it in any form.

State Party	World Heritage site	State Party	World Heritage site
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo	Sangha Trinational	Chad	Lakes of Ounianga
Democratic Republic of Congo	Okapi Wildlife Reserve	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Salonga National Park
Kenya	Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest	Kenya	Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site
Madagascar	Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve	Mauritius	Le Morne Cultural Landscape
Tanzania (United Republic of)	Stone Town of Zanzibar	Bostwana	Tsodilo
South Africa/Lesotho	Maloti-Drakensberg Park	Burkina Faso	Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites

Côte d'Ivoire	Historic Town of Grand-Bassam	Mali	Tomb of the Askia
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List of the World Heritage Properties making use of the Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties

The risk management policy at 14 cultural and natural properties is fully based on the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties; 35 properties make some use of it while 47 do not use it in any form. The following properties have developed a risk management policy fully based on the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters:

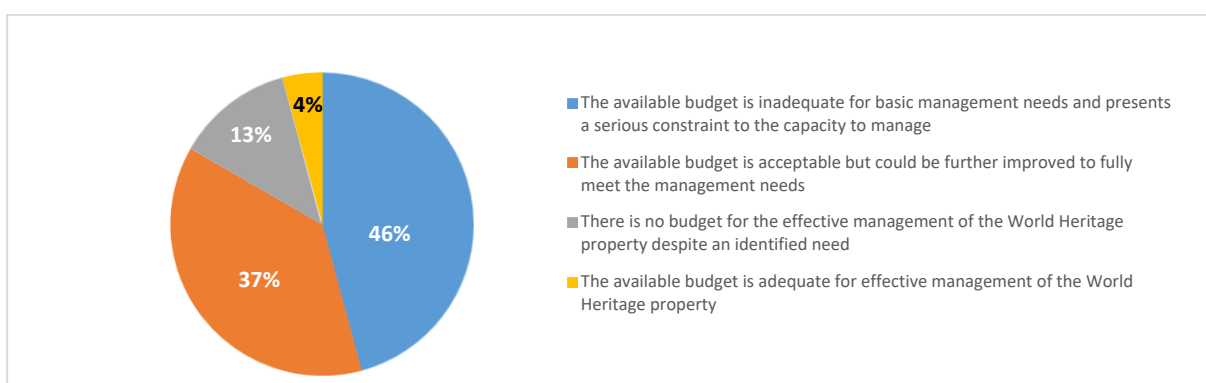
The management and the conservation master plan at the World Heritage property in Eritrea (Asmara: a Modernist African City) includes a disaster risk reduction strategy. At Tsodilo (Botswana), the fire risks are addressed through a fire management strategy developed with the assistance of UNDP. At Robben Island, the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan comprises of risk assessment and a strategy for managing possible disasters within the site.

85 properties in the Region have an annual work plan, but implementation is reported to be better at some sites than others. Ten properties, particularly cultural properties in Eastern Africa, were reported to not have an annual work/action plan despite an identified need. An annual work plan does not exist at Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) and is not considered necessary.

The management of properties in the Region is often carried out with the participation and contribution of various groups living within or outside the properties. The level of participation and contribution from the local communities, the local authorities, indigenous people, landowners, women and other specific groups is generally high for all the properties.

The management systems contribute significantly to achieving the objectives of the 2015 Policy for the integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the *World Heritage Convention*. They particularly contribute to gender equality; provide ecosystem services/benefits to the local communities in a significant manner; social inclusion and equity, equal opportunities for all; integrate a human rights-based approach; and foster inclusive local economic development.

3.6. Human and Financial Resources



Sufficiency of current budget to effectively manage World Heritage property

Funding from national governments remains the main source for recurrent expenditure at World Heritage properties in the Africa region. Dedicated sources, including international assistance from the World Heritage Fund, provide short- or medium-term funding for specific projects at sites. There are different perceptions of the adequacy of the available budget at the various properties.

Site managers report that despite the need, there is no budget for the effective management of 12 World Heritage properties, 10 of which are cultural properties. The available budget is

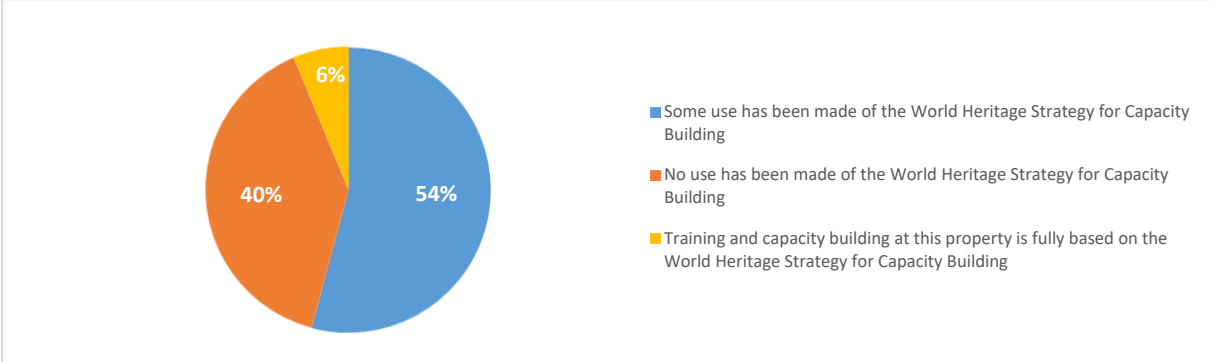
adequate for the effective management of 4 World Heritage properties in the Region: Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius); †Khomani Cultural Landscape and Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa); and Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad).

While funding available from national governments at most of the properties, is sometimes insufficient, there is assurance that it is secure and will be sustained over the medium-term and long-term. Existing sources of funding are not secure at 27% of the properties. For some properties that have depended on tourism revenue (particularly international tourism) for funding, the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have amplified the need to diversify revenue streams. This could pose further challenges, in post-COVID recovery efforts, in the implementation of the *Convention*.

Human resources for management needs are adequate at only 13 properties and to varying degrees at the others. Regarding the distribution of existing human resources, there were proportionally more men than women involved in the management, conservation and interpretation of the World Heritage properties. Most staff at the properties are reported to come from communities around the site, with slightly more women from local communities. In all, availability of human resources was rated highest for administration and conservation followed by community participation and inclusion, site interpretation and visitor management. The availability of human resources for risk preparedness was rated the lowest.

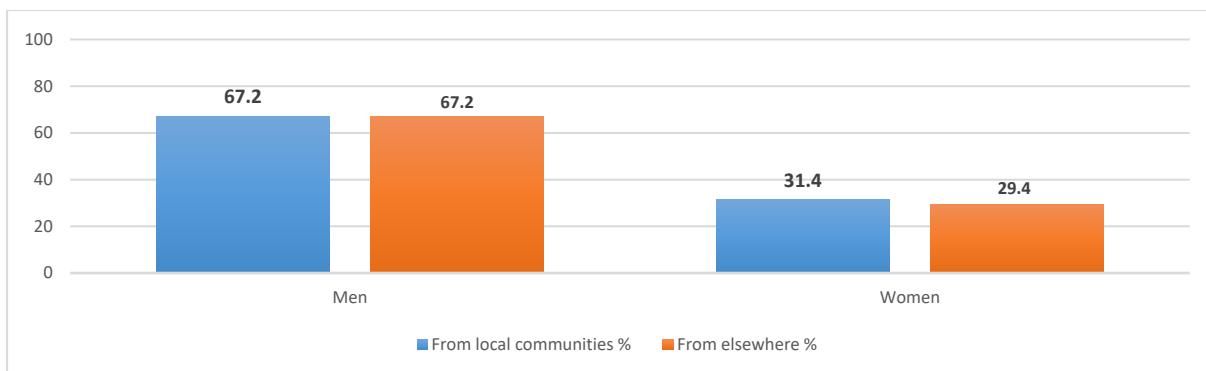
At the sub-regional levels, the highest level (45%) of female involvement in the management of World Heritage properties is reported at the sole cultural property in Central Africa (Mbanza Kongo, Vestiges of the Capital of the former Kingdom of Kongo), followed by Southern Africa at 43%.

Generally, there is a low availability of training opportunities in relevant disciplines for staff involved in the management of World Heritage properties in the Region, except in the area of conservation and administration. The World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy is the basis for all training and capacity building activities at 6 World Heritage properties; 52 properties make some use of it, while 38 properties do not apply it in any measure.



Use of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy at World Heritage properties

The availability of requisite human resources is further enhanced by the implementation, in whole or in part, of site-based capacity building programmes. There is full implementation of capacity building at 15 properties. At 43 properties, there is partial implementation of existing programmes, with some skills transfer to staff, even though external staff are responsible for most technical work. There is no capacity building plan, neither skills transfer, at 17 properties.

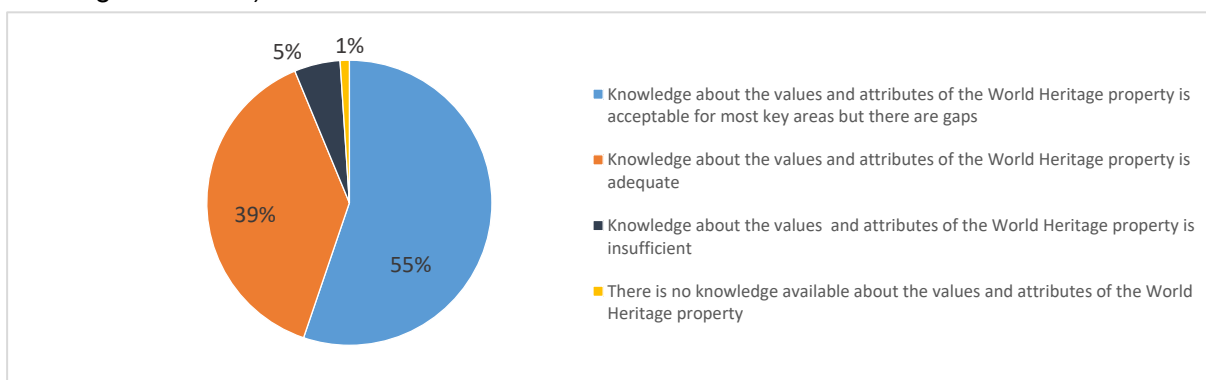


Involvement of men and women in the management of World Heritage properties in Africa region

3.7. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

There is adequate scientific or traditional knowledge of the values and attributes of most World Heritage properties to support the maintenance of OUV. The availability of this knowledge is enhanced by the existence of research programmes that target management needs and contribute to the understanding of OUV. However, at least 1 property (Manovo-Gounda St. Floris national Park, Central African Republic) reports that this knowledge does not exist.

Research programmes exist at 37 properties, although these are not necessarily directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of OUV. At 32 properties, comprehensive and effective research programmes, relevant to management needs and/or improved understanding of OUV exist. Research is carried out on an ad hoc basis at 24 properties, while there is no research programme at 3 properties (Old Towns of Djenné in Mali, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park in Central Africa Republic and Asante Traditional Buildings in Ghana).



Adequate knowledge of the values and attributes to maintain OUV

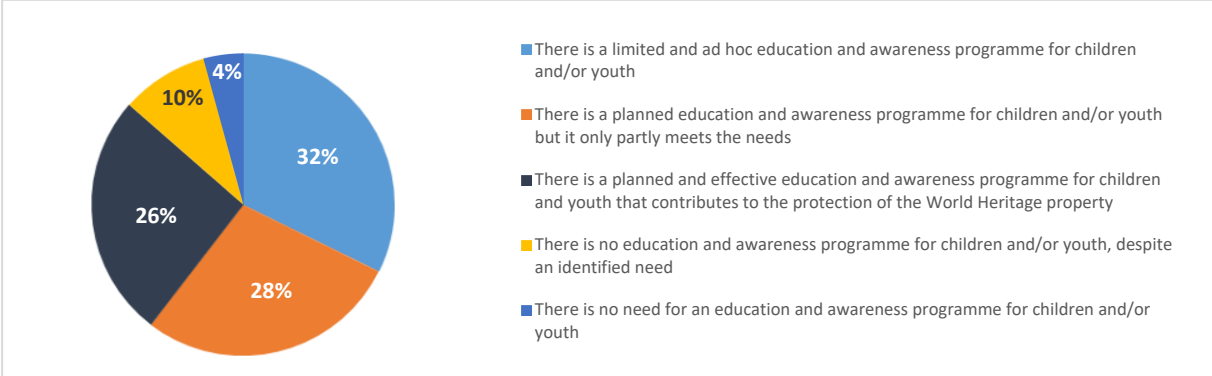
3.8. Education, Information and Awareness-Raising

There appears to be moderate levels of knowledge and understanding of the reasons for inscription of World Heritage properties by various audiences. The level of understanding is rated highest amongst several members of the public in the following order: researchers, the tourism industry (including national and international tourists), local and municipal authorities and indigenous peoples.

Various types of education and awareness programmes, targeted at children and youth, exist at 83 properties. They are either planned or ad hoc, but together contribute to better understanding of heritage and promote dialogue and intergenerational exchange. While such programmes do not exist at 9 properties, another 4 indicate that there is no need for such a

programme. In addition, children and youth, local communities and municipal authorities are the most targeted by education and awareness programmes on the properties.

Available visitor facilities at the properties are inadequate for education, information, interpretation and awareness of the OUV, with better results generally reported at natural properties and particularly for guided tours.

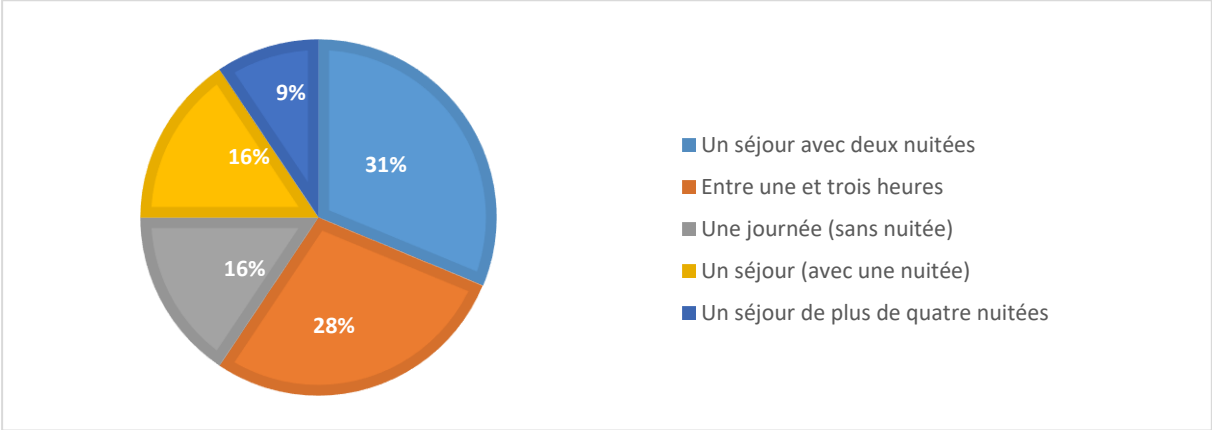


Heritage education programmes for young people for the better understanding of heritage

3.9. Visitor Management

Generally, and since the Second Cycle, the annual numbers of visitors to World Heritage properties in the Africa region has increased, with only minor fluctuations. There are no clear sub-regional patterns and closer examination indicates that some fluctuations could be due to national contexts. Visitor statistics are primarily sourced from entry tickets and registries, accommodation establishments and the tourism industry. Other sources include visitor surveys and transportation services. The visitor figures reported upon were figures up to 2019. They do not reflect any changes in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is no emerging pattern to the length of visitors' stays. Visitors stay an average of 2 overnight stays at properties: more than 4 overnight stays at 9 properties and between 1- and 3-hour day visits at 27 properties.



Average length of visit to World Heritage sites

Effective tourism management strategies exist at 73 properties and effective implementation remains a challenge at 44 of these. There is no tourism management strategy at 23 properties. Proportionally, there are more visitor management strategies at natural sites, particularly in Southern Africa.



Existence of visitor management system/plan

Across the Region, visitor use of the properties is managed at 90 properties but could be improved at 42 of these. However, visitor use is not managed at 6 properties, 1 of which (Djenne Old Town, Mali) is on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The highest proportion of effective visitor management is reported from natural sites in Western Africa (71%).

The existing tourism management at 58 properties is regularly monitored to check its effectiveness. The checks are carried out either using the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool (9 properties) or a different system (49 properties). No regular monitoring of tourism management was available at 38 properties.

Overall, tourism management is more controlled in Southern Africa (64%) and Eastern Africa (59%) compared to Western and Central Africa.

There is good cooperation between the site management and the tourism sector at 40 properties. At 50 other properties, there is either limited cooperation between those responsible for the property and the tourism industry or contact is limited to administrative or regulatory matters. At 6 properties, although the tourism industry is active in the property, there is no contact between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry.

Information on the OUV of World Heritage properties in the Region is presented and interpreted at 92 properties, though it could be improved at 64 of these. It is neither presented nor interpreted at 4 others. Further, the World Heritage emblem is available at several locations and easily visible to visitors at 38 properties but is not displayed anywhere at 10 properties. At the remaining properties, the emblem is either available at a single location or not visible even though it is displayed at multiple locations at the properties. At sub-regional level, it is widely visible in Southern Africa (68%); Eastern Africa (62%); Western Africa (59%) and Central Africa (48%) (Percentages presented here are on the basis of the average scores for each sub region, for the responses: 'In many locations and easily visible to visitors' and 'in one location and easily visible to visitors').

The primary source of tourism/visitor revenue and what predominantly contributed to the management of the World Heritage properties comes from ticket sales in the form of entry fees. Entry fees are collected at 82 properties and contribute substantially to the management of 23 of these. While entrance fees are collected at some properties, they either contribute little to the management of the property (37% of cases) or do not contribute to the management (24% of cases).



Visitor management and maintaining OUV

3.10. Monitoring

Key indicators for measuring the state of conservation have been defined at 22 properties and are for monitoring the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. At 53 properties, the defined key monitoring indicators could be better monitored and there is little or no information available on the site values to define key indicators at 6 World Heritage properties.

Various stakeholders actively participate in monitoring. They include staff at the World Heritage properties, researchers, local authorities and the tourism industry. The participation of local businesses and industries in site monitoring remains low. This trend is similar in all sub-regions except for Western Africa where, in addition to managers and researchers, local communities are reported to be actively involved in the monitoring programme.

The implementation of the recommendations, at site level, of the World Heritage Committee was reported to be in various stages of implementation by the concerned States Parties.



Percentage of implementation of relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee

3.11. Identification of Priority Management Needs

General priorities

The Third Cycle questionnaire includes a feature that enables the priority needs of the properties to be generated automatically when filling in the questionnaire. These priority needs, identified by site managers, varied from one property to another within the States Parties and in each sub-region. The priority needs are aligned along the following themes:

- Protection and management
 - Adequacy of boundaries and buffer zones to maintain OUV;
 - Adequacy of legal frameworks in terms of land use planning, buffer zone, general environment and enforcement of regulations;

- Use of the 2011 Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape for policy development and good practice in the use of the property;
- Prepare a climate change impact management guidance document issue and strategy for disaster risk reduction;
- Site Development plans and annual work plan.
- Financial and human resources
 - Adequate funding;
 - Adequacy of human resources;
 - Adequacy of training programmes.
- Scientific studies and research projects
- Monitoring

Priorities by sub-region

This section presents a summary of the priority management needs identified by site managers and grouped along sub-regional lines.

Central Africa
<i>Conservation of World Heritage properties</i>
- Stabilise historic buildings at World Heritage properties.
<i>Management of World Heritage properties</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update management plans to reflect current realities, accompanied by relevant work plans; - Create scientific committees to carry out research at the properties, while strengthening the role of management committees; - Install signage elements to delimit site boundaries and ensure good visibility of the limits of the properties; - Collaborate closely with all agencies related directly or indirectly to the property; - Develop disaster risk management plans for World Heritage properties; - Conduct impact assessments and recommend appropriate mitigation measures; - Prohibit harmful activities (such as new industrial activities; mining exploration; poaching; hunting; etc.) around World Heritage properties and set up monitoring systems; - Develop new partnerships for funding the management needs of World Heritage properties; - To develop monitoring and evaluation tools including meteorological stations and fire monitoring systems.
<i>Legal and administrative frameworks</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen existing legal frameworks and regulations for World Heritage and protected areas; - Develop land use plans and tourism strategies, as necessary, establishing territories for endogenous and sustainable development around the properties and buffer zones.
<i>Raising awareness of World Heritage</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise World Heritage awareness and sensitize stakeholders; - Involve members of surrounding communities in the management of the property.
<i>Human Resources</i>
- Reinforce capacity building activities including skills development and transfer to local communities.
<i>Local communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure benefits for local communities to contribute to improved quality of life of surrounding communities, through education and infrastructure and promoting inclusive local economic development and improved livelihoods; - Advocate for social inclusion and equity; - Contribute to the prevention of conflicts, respecting cultural diversity on the perimeter and near heritage properties; - Strengthen the involvement of women in the conservation of the property.

Eastern Africa

Management

- Conduct impact assessments for planned projects within the property and its buffer zone, in line with the principles of existing conservation plans;
- Develop disaster risk management plans for flood protection, drought preparedness;
- Initiate land conservation projects and regulation framework;
- Develop strategies to minimize and avoid resource extraction and destruction;
- Establish Steering Committees with stakeholders from various sectors particularly infrastructure development, public agencies and the general public;
- Coordinate with fire departments for rapid response in case of fire outbreak, as part of risk preparedness plan;
- Reinforce measures to protect against coastal erosion;
- Tourism: integrate and harmonize the boundaries of the World Heritage property and buffer zones into tourist maps; revise existing visitor management plans to improve the existing visitor management within the sites; set tourism policies and strategies according to local setting;
- Improve benefit sharing to ensure gender equality.

Human Resources

- Strengthen site management through the recruitment of additional staff including engineers and lawyers;
- Increase staff capacity to manage the World Heritage Property;
- Develop a capacity building programme of local staff.

Financial Resources

- Diversify funding sources for World Heritage, to supplement national funding and to avoid dependency on international tourism;
- Allocate adequate budget and initiate international and local funding campaign and initiate Local Economic Development (LED) studies.

Research

- Develop and conduct relevant research at World Heritage properties;
- Encourage universities and research centres to conduct research on management and maintenance of OUV.

Heritage awareness

- Increase the public's understanding and knowledge of World Heritage properties through research programmes and publications; educational and awareness mechanisms focused on children/youth to enhance heritage appreciation and protection;
- Establish mechanisms to improve and increase the presentation and interpretation of site through various dissemination means;
- Implement awareness creation programme at grass roots level through local medias, workshops;
- Promote World Heritage at cultural events, public and professionals dialogue.

Southern Africa

Management

- Prepare integrated Disaster and Risk Management Plans including climate change;
- Collaborate with Departments of Forestry to develop afforestation programmes;
- Design mitigation measures (such as risks from fire and dust), tailored to sites and typologies (for example, rock art and archaeological sites);
- Increase and improve monitoring of key attributes.

Heritage awareness and community involvement

- Conduct awareness campaigns on environmental conservation and hold awareness campaigns for the communities;
- Develop websites and marketing strategies for the properties;
- Organise entrepreneurship training focused on the World Heritage properties.

Human resources

- Recruit more staff to build capacity for better management of the site;
- Conduct training on sustainable use of resources and site values;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement integrated management plans with local participation; - Develop fundraising and marketing strategies to increase financial and human resources; - Design mitigation factors to prevent damage from transportation infrastructure.
<p>Visitor management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct Tourism Impact Assessment; develop effective Visitor Management Strategies in partnership with national agencies responsible for tourism; - Promote inclusive site governance for effective management of World Heritage properties through Memoranda of Understanding with institutions, provincial and local authorities.
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen site research and monitoring particularly for vegetation management to improve vegetative cover to reduce wind erosion, including use of endemic plants adapted to low water conditions; - Develop site specific research strategy, publicize and implement research findings.
<p>Legal and administrative frameworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review legal frameworks governing heritage conservation and management; - Ensure compliance with existing legislation and regulations.
<p>Community relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop agreements to minimize conflict, between various stakeholders – local communities, traditional authorities, municipalities, local government and national governments; - Unlock potential of World Heritage status for the communities in terms of sustainable development, enhancing livelihoods and the preservation of culture.

<p>Western Africa</p>
<p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update and implement site management plans/strategies; - Ensure that scientific and management committees are functional; - Treat the effect of invasive species and micro-organisms; - Develop multi-sector approach to managing World Heritage through collaboration with various departments, including the armed forces (where relevant) and civil society active in environmental sustainability and cultural heritage protection; reinforce the synergy of technical services around the site; reinforce the coordination between administrative entities; - To develop strategy, include periodic application of insecticide to building components that are vulnerable to plagues. - Develop strategies to manage drinking water supply and manage solid waste at World Heritage properties, taking into consideration surrounding communities; - Develop disaster risk management strategies and establish early warning systems, considering surrounding communities and reinforce the indicators monitoring; - Allocate necessary budget to implement the action plan for site management.
<p>Human resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen human resources for site management and develop capacity building programme; - Consider women in the site management by setting up gender units focused on sustainable development; - Develop heritage internship schemes for young graduates.
<p>Heritage awareness and community involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase community awareness and preserve traditional know-how; - Plan and implement heritage education programmes for schoolchildren and students; - Train local communities on relevant fauna and flora regulations.
<p>Legal and administrative frameworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review regulations and policies governing World Heritage properties; review legal framework to capture the dynamics of ownership, protection and management of the property.

3.12. Summary and Conclusions

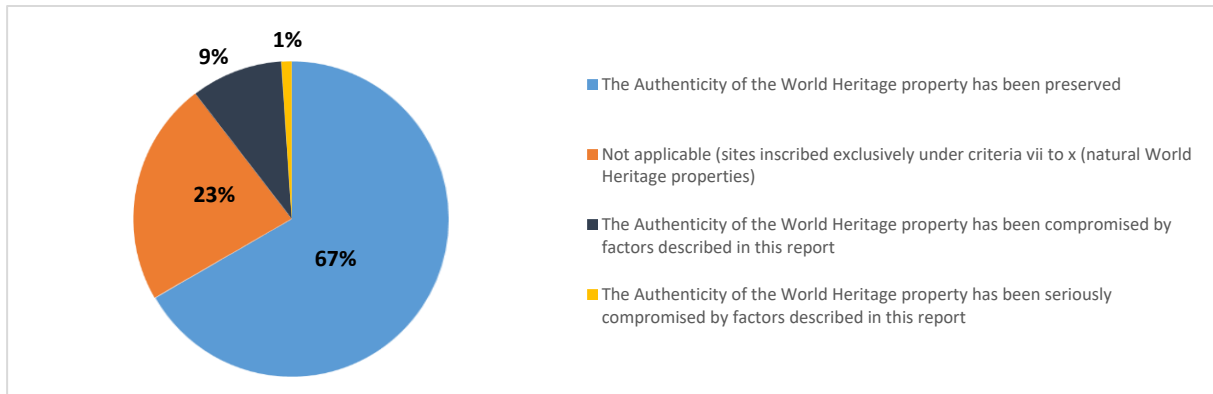
3.12.1. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

The State of Conservation of the World Heritage properties depend on the conditions of the attributes of OUV and the extent to which they have been affected by various factors, on the

protection, management and monitoring efforts to ensure the intactness of authenticity (as applicable) and integrity.

- Current state of authenticity

No World Heritage property in the Africa region has lost its authenticity. The notion of authenticity is not applicable to the 22 natural properties in the Region inscribed exclusively under criteria (vii) to (x). At 64 properties, authenticity has been fully preserved; it has been compromised at 9 properties; and seriously compromised at 1 property (Timbuktu).



- Current state of integrity

The integrity of 78 properties in the Africa region is considered as intact. However, 17 are reported as having their integrity compromised by the various factors outlined in the questionnaire. One World Heritage property – the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) – is reported to have lost its integrity.

- Current state of OUV

No World Heritage Property in the Africa region has lost its OUV. 73 of the 96 properties in the Region have fully maintained their OUV. The OUV of 20 properties have been impacted by various factors described in this report, but this situation is being addressed through effective management actions.

- Current state of other values at the properties

Other important cultural and/or natural values of the World Heritage property have also been assessed in the Third Cycle. These have been preserved at 50 properties. While they are degraded at 44 properties, the states of conservation of these properties have not been significantly impacted. At 2 properties, the degradation of these values has had an impact on their state of conservation.

3.13. Impacts of World Heritage Status

Regarding the impact of World Heritage status in relation to various topics, with a particular focus on the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (adopted in 2015), site managers report that World Heritage status generally has a good impact.

Cultural properties have a positive impact in various areas particularly in terms of recognition, conservation, research and monitoring. World Heritage status gives good visibility to cultural properties in Eastern and Western Africa.

World Heritage status has a positive impact on mixed properties, particularly in conservation, recognition, international cooperation and security.

World Heritage status has had a very good impact on natural properties particularly on conservation, legal/policy framework international cooperation and management effectiveness.

Site Category	Culture	Mixed	Nature	Total
Conservation	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.5
Research and monitoring	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.1
Management effectiveness	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.3
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.8
Recognition	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.5
Education	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.0
Infrastructure development	2.7	3.1	3.0	2.9
Funding for the property	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.1
International cooperation	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.3
Political support for conservation	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.1
Legal/Policy framework	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.3
Advocacy	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Institutional coordination	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.1
Security	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1
Gender equality	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.6
Provision of ecosystem services/ benefits to local communities	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.0
Social inclusion and equity, and improvement of opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.8
Fostering inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihood	2.6	3.1	3.1	2.9
Contributing to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around heritage properties	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.1
Other	2.3	n/a	3.2	2.7

Impact of World Heritage status at natural properties in the Africa region on a rating scale from 1 to 4 (1. negative, 2. no impact, 3. positive, 4. very positive).

3.14. Good Practice in the Implementation of the *Convention* at property level

The Third Cycle questionnaire offered the opportunity for site managers to provide examples of good practices in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation and preservation implemented at the property level. Some examples are shared in this section.

At the Dja Faunal Reserve, some established good practices are long-term monitoring of climatic parameters; enhancement of traditional knowledge; regular and collaborative monitoring of the property; participation of local residents in the management of the property; and the regular training of members of the management team.

The implementation of the *Convention* has enhanced cooperation between the States Parties of Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Congo within the framework of managing the Sangha Trinational. This has led to the establishment of a functional management and protection system and the 3 countries signing a cooperation agreement, an anti-poaching brigade and a strategic management plan. Enhanced conservation and a reinforced anti-poaching strategy at the Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) has led to an increase in the population of the endangered Kordofan giraffe from 22 in 2012 to 62 in 2020.

The State Party of Kenya has facilitated strong working relations between the National Museums of Kenya, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, the County Government of Lamu, the National Environment Management Authority, the Kenya Ports Authority and the

LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority. This has led to the establishment of the Lamu Cultural Heritage Committee to address the residual impacts from infrastructural development projects within the wider setting of the property. At the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga (Madagascar), participatory management involves local committees in the management of the property. The property is also managed in synergy with the 2003 Convention through the observation of conservation practices held by traditional custodians.

The management authority at the World Heritage property of Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles) has developed a detailed research strategy which has been endorsed by its collaborators. This has led to management decisions that are driven by science. This was achieved through sustained building capacity and integrating the science and monitoring programme fully into site operations, with a continuous feedback loop. Seychellois are often unable to visit the site due to its remoteness. This has made the site a dream destination for nationals. In order to reach out and ensure continued national support, 20 years ago the management authority began to sponsor the star prize of the national eco-school competition – the Aldabra Eco-school trip. A total of 14 trips have been organised and over 200 students and teachers have visited the property. This represents a significant investment of \$275,000 USD. In a recent survey, over 75% of all the past participants confirmed that the trip had had a positive impact and encouraged them towards a sustainable lifestyle. Several have decided to work in the environmental sector and 3 are presently working with the authority.

The Okavango Delta Management Plan is an integrated management tool that ensures that resources in the Okavango Delta are used in a sustainable manner. With increasing tourism and resource use, new challenges, such as mineral prospecting in Ngamiland, are emerging. Collaboration with the Botswana Defence Force, the Department of Wildlife Anti-poaching Unit Botswana Police and the Intelligence Services is helping in anti-poaching efforts. Local communities are also engaged through the Community Based Natural Resource Management strategy. This strategy allows communities (through Community Trusts) to manage land concessions to exploit the natural and cultural resources found in their areas. This they do either by engaging in tourism activities themselves or leasing their concessions to private business operators to operate lodges, campsites, photographic safaris, etc. Technical Advisory Committees (TAC), comprising of various government departments, assist the Community Trusts in their operations, such as in preparing funding proposals and organizing empowerment workshops/training for Trusts Boards on issues such as financial management and governance. Finally, proponents of all new developments in the delta are required to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments.

The State Party of South Africa has, extended the use of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool application for protected areas to World Heritage properties. Site managers of the 9 World Heritage properties are all members of the South African World Heritage Convention Committee and the site managers Forum that meet regularly. Robben Island has developed an Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan (IDRMP) to guide the Management Authority to continuously mitigate and respond to disaster risks. Senior managers and specialists fully participate in the preparation of the state of conservation report which is submitted annually.

In Burkina Faso, the serial World Heritage property of the Ancient Iron Metallurgy Sites of Burkina Faso are managed through a system which anticipates that an associate researcher for each site is a member of the local management committee. The researcher's role is to coordinate research and documentation activities in order to improve knowledge of the property and therefore the understanding of the OUV. The management of the World Heritage property of the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) has been strengthened by a system

of endogenous management by the local populations. This has involved the empowerment of customary chiefs, given the size of the property, in order to help the management authority better manage natural resources. The chiefs, who are rewarded in kind, monitor and protect the property and inform the competent administrative services in case of infractions.

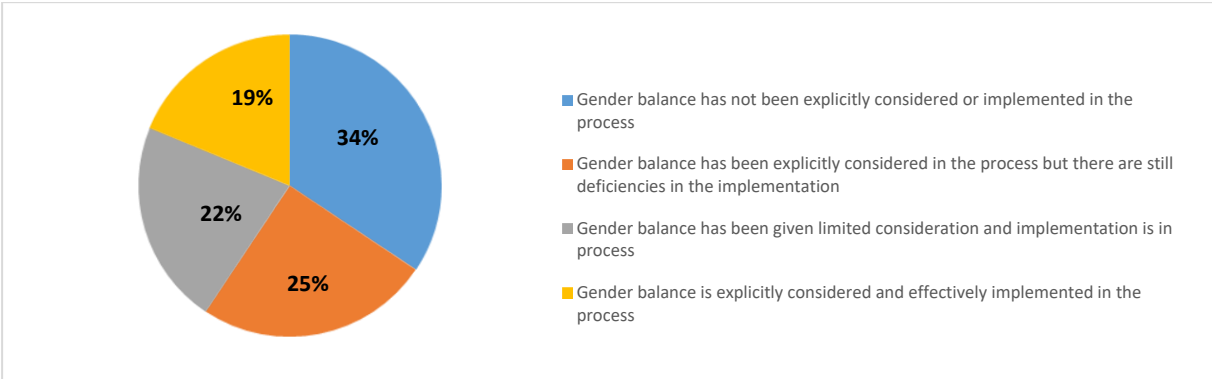
3.15. Assessment of the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting Exercise

Nearly all site managers in the Region consider that the Periodic Reporting exercise has helped them to improve their understanding of the *World Heritage Convention*. The exercise has contributed to a better understanding of the notion of OUV, particularly the concepts of integrity and authenticity.

The Periodic Reporting exercise provided an avenue for site managers to gain a better understanding of the contribution of management effectiveness to maintaining the OUV. It also contributed to an improved understanding of the importance of monitoring and reporting at the sites.

Site managers indicated that data collection to complete the questionnaire helped to strengthen communication between the various partners, particularly at the national level. Following this exercise, Authorities in charge of the properties plan to use the data from the Third Cycle questionnaire in the revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of heritage, updating management plans, fundraising, awareness raising and advocacy.

The completion of Section II of the questionnaire was largely facilitated by site managers, the national institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage, local communities and, to a lesser extent, focal points from other conventions. Gender balance was considered and effectively implemented in the process of completing the questionnaire at over two-thirds of the properties.



Gender balanced contribution and participation to filling out questionnaire

The timeline for completing the questionnaire was considered adequate by two-thirds of the site managers.

Conclusions on Section II

Generally, the World Heritage properties in the Africa region are in a good state of conservation and management. They have impacted the lives of neighbouring communities in a positive manner, despite the various factors that affect them in varying ways. However, some challenges still persist, namely a gap in human resources and financial resources, increasing impacts of natural factors as evidenced in coastal erosion, drought, invasive species, poaching and weak research. Weak research at World Heritage properties remains a cause for concern

as research outputs could inform decision-making for sustainable conservation and effective management.

Site managers have made several recommendations to overcome these challenges. Some of these recommended actions relate to establishing effective monitoring mechanisms at the properties, to increase and diversify collaboration with various partners in order to have access to various funding sources, to build capacities and enhance enforcement of existing regulations, and the development of Disaster Risk Management strategies.

4. MONITORING INDICATORS FOR THE AFRICA REGION

The World Heritage Committee agreed at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) to include Monitoring Indicators to gauge the level of effective observance by States Parties of the *Convention* and of the 1972 Recommendation as recorded in the Periodic Report.

These indicators aim to reinforce the results reporting framework (Decision **41 COM 10A**). The use of the same indicators for all world regions will feed into the proposed Global World Heritage Report at the end of the Third Cycle and inform the future implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, and provide a baseline to measure progress and improvements in the implementation of the *Convention*.

The 42 indicators are directly linked to the objectives of Periodic Reporting and are grouped into the six thematic areas of the reports: (i) State of conservation of World Heritage properties; (ii) Management; (iii) Governance; (iv) Synergies; (v) Sustainable development; and (vi) Capacity development. The thematic area in turn correspond with the specific objectives of the Periodic reporting:

1. To provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party
2. To provide an assessment as to whether the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are being maintained over time
3. To provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties
4. To provide a mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation

Thematic areas		Description of indicators	N° of indicators	Periodic Reporting Objectives
I	State of conservation of World Heritage properties	Indicators to assess temporal patterns in the status and trends of the OUV and factors affecting the property; integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage properties.	5	2 and 3
II	Management	Indicators to measure the effectiveness of site management, and adequacy of financial and human resources and budget. The effectiveness of site management is measured through the existence of management plans or management systems and the extent of their implementation. There are questions about communication with other stakeholders, and the positive and negative impacts of management and institutional factors.	7	1,2,3 and 4
III	Governance	Indicators to measure the adequacy of the legal framework for heritage protection, nature and level of involvement of key stakeholders, including the transparency of the processes involved, and the adequacy of action plans to promote heritage.	4	1,2,3 and 4
IV	Synergies	Indicators to measure the existence of synergies with other cultural and biodiversity related conventions and normative instruments and wish to ensure appropriate coordination and information-sharing between all these various instruments. This is a new theme for	5	1 and 4

		Periodic Reporting and the Third Cycle will establish the baseline for measuring the extent of these synergies in the future.		
V	Sustainable development	Indicators to measure whether the application of the <i>Convention</i> is contributing to environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security. This cycle will set the baseline to measure the extent of States Parties implementation of the 2015 World Heritage Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention	13	1,2 and 3
VI	Capacity development	Indicators to measure the existence, effectiveness of and participation in capacity building strategies and programmes	8	1 and 4

4.1. Methodology

The indicators are in many forms. The results are presented in tabular form appropriate to each question, and with brief narrative commentary. As far as possible, the narrative in this summary has been consolidated into a conclusion for each thematic area. Many questions require a simple yes or no reply but many of them offer a range of options from which the national focal point (for Section I) and the site manager (for Section II) had to choose the most appropriate.

A number of questions require separate replies for many aspects of each World Heritage property. In these cases, it has been judged necessary to only record properties as fulfilling the indicator when they have reached the required standard in all aspects, as defined for each Indicator. In future Periodic Reporting cycles each Indicator will be compared to its baseline in the current Third Cycle. Further detail will be available from the quantitative annexes attached to each report.

Each indicator is presented in tabular form, after its written description. Results presented in the form x/y indicate that x States Parties/properties out of y reporting have met the required level. When an indicator has been used in both the Second and Third Cycles, the percentage change between the two cycles is normally noted. The percentage of States Parties/properties meeting each indicator is calculated according to the number of States Parties/ properties reporting in each cycle (i.e. 15 States Parties and 59 properties in 2010, and 19 States Parties and 82 properties in 2019). The percentage difference is that between the respective percentages of States Parties/ properties meeting the Indicator in the Second and Third Cycles.

4.2. Results

The results of the Monitoring Indicators in the framework of Third Cycle for the Africa region is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/186915>.

This link is also presented in Annex III of this document.

5. CONCLUSION

The Third Periodic Reporting exercise in the Africa region was successfully completed despite the challenges encountered due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. All 46 States Parties submitted the relevant respective sections of the questionnaire for the 96 World Heritage properties in the Region.

The AWHF and its coordination team, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Field Offices and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee supported the States Parties to successfully complete the exercise. The OUV of World Heritage properties in the Region have generally been maintained even though the Region is disproportionately high represented on the List of World Heritage in Danger. States Parties have expressed concerns about the fact that some properties have remained on the List of World Heritage in Danger for over 20 years.

The main results of the exercise indicate the following priorities in various areas:

➤ **Conservation and management**

Financial and human resources

The total annual public expenditure on cultural and natural heritage in the Africa region is reported less than 1%.

During the Third Cycle, 20% of States Parties also considered the available budget for World Heritage to be adequate to meet the current conservation, protection and presentation needs in comparison to the Second Cycle where the percentage reached only 5%. Human resources for management needs are reported adequate at only 13 out of 96 properties.

Implementation of legal frameworks

Despite the wide existence of the legal frameworks on heritage protection, States Parties reported almost unanimously that the existing capacity and resources to enforce them could be strengthened. 4 States Parties (Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe) reported that there are no national legal frameworks for the identification of natural or cultural heritage.

Monitoring

Despite the increase in the percentage of properties which have a comprehensive, integrated programme for monitoring, there are still less than half of the inscribed properties (47 out of 96, or 49%) which have a monitoring programme.

Sustainable development

At 70% of the properties, the management system/plan for the World Heritage property includes a strategy with an action plan, to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived economic, sociocultural and environmental impacts, in line with the sustainable development perspectives. This could be further strengthened using different guidance for the integration of sustainable development in World Heritage conservation and management.

Factors affecting the properties

The most relevant factors affecting the properties are management and institutional factors, biological resource use/modification, social/cultural uses of heritage, local conditions affecting physical fabric and climate change and severe weather events. There are only 22 out of 96 properties which have a disaster, climate or conflict risk management plan.

➤ **Capacity development**

Capacity-building for national institutions and site managers

While States Parties have established agencies/institutions for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage properties, only 6 countries – Botswana, Cabo Verde, Congo, Madagascar, Niger and Uganda – indicated that the capacity of these

agencies/institutions is adequate. 16 States Parties in the Africa region (34.8%) have a national capacity building strategy that addresses World Heritage processes, and 60.4% of the properties (70.5% during the Second Cycle) have site-specific capacity building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property.

The top 5 capacity-building needs identified by States Parties are: i) conservation and management of World Heritage sites; ii) International Assistance requests; iii) Sustainable tourism use and management; iv) Risk preparedness and disaster risk management; v) Statutory processes: Tentative List and Nomination.

➤ **Heritage education and communication**

Heritage education programmes

37 States Parties have heritage education programmes to improve understanding of cultural and natural heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue. The educational and awareness programme exists but is limited and punctual towards children and/or young people in a total of 31 properties in Africa. This programme only partially meets the needs of the properties.

Awareness raising and involvement of women and youth

National strategies to raise awareness about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage exist and are effectively implemented by 2 States Parties – Lesotho and Senegal. While these strategies exist in 31 countries, there are some implementation weaknesses. In the management, conservation and interpretation of the World Heritage properties, there were proportionally more men (67.2%) than women (29.4%) involved.

➤ **Stakeholders engagement**

Involvement of local and indigenous communities

Compared to the Second Cycle, for the Third Cycle there is an increase in the involvement of *local communities* in the process of heritage conservation (from 72.5% to 87.0%) in nomination process and from 67.5% to 80.0% in Tentative List process).

However, there is a decrease in the involvement of *indigenous people* (from 57.5% to 43.5%) in the nomination process and from 45.0% to 41.3% in the Tentative List process and a slight decrease of the benefit of tourism shared with local communities (78.2% to 71.9%).

Inclusive economic development

Only 27 out of 96 properties have a framework for inclusive economic development, including equitable access and distribution of resources and opportunities arising from the protection of the property.

PART II - FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN AND PROCESS

6. DRAFT ACTION PLAN (2021-2027) FOR THE AFRICA REGION

6.1. Approach and elaboration

The first draft of the Action Plan for Africa has been developed on the basis of the outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reports submitted by the Africa region States Parties through the Periodic Reporting online questionnaires. It strongly takes into account the contributions gathered from a series of consultations made with different stakeholders including the World Heritage site managers, the Advisory Bodies and heritage experts from the Africa region. Furthermore, the draft has been inspired by the strategy of the AWHF and other recommendations and decisions of the World Heritage Committee with regards to Africa. In February 2021, a 3-day workshop was organised with national focal points with plenary sessions open for discussions for the results and recommendations during previous consultations by site managers and sub-regional working groups. The resulting Action Plan was then reviewed by the Periodic Reporting coordination team and the World Heritage Centre, who harmonised the actions before submitting the Plan to focal points for additional adjustments, comments and recommendations.

On the basis of the comments received, the World Heritage Centre further streamlined the Action Plan, in order to avoid any duplications and achieve a concise set of actions that could be monitored in the future. Additional details on the vision, elaboration, sub-regional actions and implementation strategy are available at this link: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/186411>

Vision

National focal points in Africa acknowledged that the Third Cycle Action Plan for Africa should work towards the vision that by 2027 all African States Parties be presented on the UNESCO World Heritage List, empowering and branding a sustainable World Heritage system in Africa.

This vision will be supported by 26 actions encompassed in 5 Strategic Objectives:

1. Strengthen the representativity and credibility of the UNESCO World Heritage List in the Africa region.
2. Improve conservation, effective management and promotion of African World Heritage.
3. Develop capacity for conservation, management and promotion of cultural and natural heritage.
4. Enhance heritage education, communication and awareness-raising of World Heritage in the Africa region.
5. Strengthen community and stakeholder engagement for effective management of World Heritage properties.

6.2. Implementation strategy

The Third Periodic Reporting Action Plan (2021 to 2027) for the Africa region is foreseen to fit into the African Union's Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want, as noted in its Aspiration 5, 'an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics'. In addition, it must integrate national development priorities to ensure relevance and improve attractiveness and capacity, in order to raise resources for implementation. This is the only way to ensure that World Heritage processes in the Region are fully integrated into COVID-19

recovery efforts, given the various competing issues. Finally, the Action Plan aims to adapt the principle of the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the *World Heritage Convention* in order to achieve the appropriate balance between the protection of the OUV of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As countries grapple with the economic challenges brought about by the pandemic, 54 African leaders have unveiled a plan to ensure that stimulus spending in Africa is used to [‘build back better’](#) after COVID-19. This plan is characterised by a ‘triple dividend’ response to building back better, anchored in: (i) reduced pandemic risk; (ii) economic recovery; and (iii) climate resilience. The recommendations of the Plan are targeted to help address vulnerabilities and ensure Africa can rebound from the COVID-19 crisis stronger, whilst being better prepared to deal with sudden issues in the future and remaining on track to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

6.3. Appropriation of the Action Plan by States Parties

The proposed Action Plan is intended as a framework for all States Parties in the Region. national focal points are invited, along with their relevant national authorities, to appropriate the Action Plan and decide which of the 26 activities/actions are relevant to them and what level of priority can be given to each action. The objectives of the Plan would only be achieved through the partnership of global, regional and local partners, actors and stakeholders. Such an approach, focused on both local communities and global stakeholders, is enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. As such, the involvement of youth and women, with a strong emphasis on intergenerational exchange, is a continuous theme of this Action Plan.

In compiling the Action Plan, national focal points were aware that some activities related to governance, funding, institutionalisation, youth and capacity building should appear in every strategy. However, there was a consensus to put specific actions to deal with these matters while keeping in mind that these activities are crosscutting for the whole plan.

Furthermore, the national focal points are invited to share the Action Plan with the site managers of World Heritage properties, who may be interested in incorporating some of the actions into their management strategies. This process should also encourage site managers to take into account the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for their respective properties; a short summary report on these results can be found on the website of the World Heritage Centre (on each property’s page, in the ‘Documents’ section). African site managers are invited to use this information in their efforts to ensure the safeguarding of their property’s OUV.

During the first step in the implementation the Action Plan, the framework Action Plan will be made available to download on the World Heritage Centre’s website (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/>). The Africa region Action Plan will be widely disseminated after its presentation and approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2021. This will involve the following actions:

- The Secretariat, the AWHF and African States Parties will ensure the dissemination of the Final Regional Report, the adopted Action Plan, as well as the related World Heritage Committee’s Decision, to stakeholders at a national level and at the African Union.
- The World Heritage Centre will publish the results of the Third Periodic Report in the Africa region in the *World Heritage Paper Series*, if the financial situation permits. States Parties are welcome to contribute financially for this purpose.

- The Secretariat, AWHF and States Parties will monitor the implementation of the regional Action Plan and present a mid-cycle assessment report to the World Heritage Committee.

6.4. Monitoring process

In order to monitor the progress accomplished with the implementation of this Action Plan across the Region, the World Heritage Centre proposes to carry out a mid-cycle review in the form of a very short and easy survey. For each action, national focal points will be able to indicate whether it has become part of their national Action Plan; should this be the case, a simple, quantifiable follow-up question will be asked in order to track the Region's progress with the implementation of the Action Plan over time. This process would avoid having to carry out a large-scale monitoring exercise.

At the suggestion of some of the national focal points, the World Heritage Centre recommends, due to the State-Party driven process, that States Parties follow-up on the implementation of the Action Plan with site managers at the national level as well as meeting with other States Parties at the sub-regional level in order to maintain the synergies developed throughout the Periodic Reporting exercise. Those meetings would be a good occasion for the focal points to exchange on their experiences, but also to reflect on their progress with the implementation of the sub-regional priorities for the period in-between the cycles of Periodic Reporting.

6.5. Framework of the Third Cycle Draft Action Plan for Africa (2021-2027)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – 1 STRENGTHEN THE REPRESENTATIVITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN THE AFRICA REGION							
Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 1.1 National inventories updated to reflect the diversity of heritage, following thematic studies and gap analysis	1. Update/develop the national heritage inventories informed by disseminated results of existing thematic studies and gap analysis (AWHF, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN).	Through capacity building, coordination of activities and financing	States Parties African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) World Heritage Centre (WHC) Advisory Bodies (ABs)	●	●	●	By 2027, at least 60% (29) of the States Parties have updated/developed national inventories based on existing thematic studies <i>Baseline: 32% (9) States Parties</i>
	2. Conduct thematic studies and gap analyses to be considered in the development of nomination in the Region contributing to a diverse portfolio of sites including Modern Heritage of Africa (MoHoA), Wetland sites and sites of Memory.	By working with ABs, training institutions and research centres	ABs AWHF States Parties WHC	●	●	●	By 2027, at least: i) 3 thematic studies are prepared and disseminated tentatively on MoHoA, Wetland sites and sites of Memory <i>Baseline: 0 (Thematic studies)</i> ii) 2 gap analyses are conducted in the Region <i>Baseline: 1 (Gap analysis)</i>

<p>ER 1.2 Tentative Lists updated or developed in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists</p>	<p>3.</p> <p>i) Develop Tentative List, for countries which do not have and</p> <p>ii) Review existing Tentative Lists, based on the assessment of potential OUV in line with AWHF, ICOMOS and IUCN gap analyses and thematic studies.</p>	<p>Through regular communication with States Parties</p> <p>Through national and regional field workshops</p>	<p>States Parties</p> <p>WHC</p> <p>AWHF</p> <p>ABs</p> <p>Training institutions/ research centres</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>By 2023, Tentative List is developed for Somalia, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>By 2027, at least 80% of States Parties have updated their Tentative Lists.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 18 States Parties (39%) updated from 2015 onwards</i></p>
<p>ER 1.3 Representativity of Africa on the UNESCO World Heritage List is improved</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>i) Encourage States Parties to request Upstream support,</p> <p>ii) Support the development of credible nomination dossiers of each of the 12 States Parties with no properties on the World Heritage List,</p> <p>iii) Assist States Parties with property already inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List to develop credible nomination dossiers in view of improving the representativity and credibility of the World Heritage List in Africa.</p>	<p>By working with States Parties, ABs, African training institutions, research centres and universities</p> <p>By strengthening mentorship for the consolidation of existing nominations (in addition to ongoing capacity building)</p>	<p>AWHF</p> <p>States Parties</p> <p>WHC</p> <p>ABs</p> <p>Training institutions/centres/ universities</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>By 2027, at least:</p> <p>i) 5 States Parties have requested and taken into consideration Upstream recommendations</p> <p>ii) one nomination dossier is developed for each of the States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List</p> <p>iii) 3 nomination dossiers are submitted for inscription on the World Heritage List every year</p> <p><i>Baseline: 35 (States Parties with at least one site inscribed)</i></p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – 2
IMPROVE CONSERVATION, EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF WORLD HERITAGE

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 2.1 Coordination and funding for World Heritage conservation enhanced	5. Develop innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms dedicated to heritage conservation and management.	Through joint mobilisation of funds with States Parties, AWHF and UNESCO	States Parties AWHF WHC	●	●	●	At least 3 States Parties developed best practices on funding for conservation and management <i>Baseline: 4 (TBC)</i>
	6. Strengthen (i) advocacy with States Parties to financially contribute to AWHF in order to deepen the engagement of the African Union Member States in supporting Agenda 2063 (Aspiration 5) (ii) collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank, and other regional institutions to support conservation, management and promotion of World Heritage properties in Africa	By working with African Union Commission and regional institutions	States Parties AWHF	●	●	●	By 2027: i) at least 50% of States Parties signed Charter for African Culture Renaissance <i>Baseline: 14/47 (29%) States Parties since 2006</i> ii) all 5 RECs have developed and approved sustainable culture and heritage-based strategy. <i>Baseline: 2 (ECOWAS and CEAC)</i>

ER 2.2 Conservation of World Heritage properties is improved through effective governance, proper documentation and information management	7. Finalise all retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUVs), including required boundary clarifications, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee	By working with ABs to develop retrospective SOUVs	States Parties ABs WHC	●			By 2025, 100% of all World Heritage properties in the Region have SOUVs <i>Baseline: 97%</i>
	8. Support the development of Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures to support States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger	By working with ABs to develop DSOCR	ABs States Parties WHC AWHF	●	●	●	By 2023, 100% of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage have DSOCR and a programme of corrective measures <i>Baseline: 3 properties</i>
	9. Assist in developing capacity on the use of digital and new technologies for the effective management of cultural and natural properties, (specifically anti-poaching monitoring for natural properties)	By supporting States Parties to develop and manage digital tools	AWHF States Parties WHC Private sector Training institutions Universities	●	●		At least 15 sites use digital and new technologies for effective monitoring of their properties <i>Baseline: TBD</i>
	10. Establish baselines based on OUV to enable assessment and regular monitoring of site management and key conservation factors	By making use of updated data from Periodic Reporting, monitoring indicators, cultural indicators and state of conservation	States Parties WHC ABs		●		By 2025, at least 20% of States Parties have developed a database with defined indicators, in their management plans and strategies <i>Baseline: TBC</i>
	11. Set up monitoring and self-evaluation systems on conservation and management effectiveness i) Annual implementation reporting by States Parties during the annual meeting ii) Annual national meeting of Focal Points and Site Managers	By developing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism	States Parties AWHF WHC ABs	●	●	●	At least 60% use monitoring and evaluation tools, submit annual report during participation in annual meeting <i>Baseline: TBC</i>

	iii) Mid-cycle monitoring survey					
	12. Integrate UNESCO World Heritage into national planning strategies and development of National Heritage Action Plans to enhance synergies among national development agencies, including through increased institutional coordination at the national level	Regular communication with States Parties to support the adoption of sustainable development perspectives	States Parties AWHF ABs WHC	●	●	● By 2027, at least 10 States Parties have established mechanism (preferably national legislation) to integrate World Heritage in the national planning <i>Baseline: TBC</i>
ER 2.3 Strategies to strengthen conservation and management practices in line with the sustainable development perspectives are developed	13. Develop: i) management plans and/or management systems in line with Operational Guidelines and World Heritage policy on sustainable development ii) guidelines for properties in urban settings in accordance with the principles of UNESCO's 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) iii) cooperation (overall) management plans for transboundary and transnational sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List iv) management strategies that recognize the links between natural and cultural heritage and the well-being of communities	Regular communication with States Parties on sustainable development perspectives.	States Parties AWHF ABs WHC	●	●	● By 2027: i) 100% of World Heritage properties in Africa have a management plan and/or a management system. <i>Baseline: 90% (86 sites as of July 2020 has a MP)</i> ii) At least 3 HUL guidelines developed <i>Baseline: 0</i> iii) At least 2 cooperation management plans are developed <i>Baseline: 0</i> iv) At least 2 projects/programmes/methods and

						strategies promoting the linkage nature/culture are developed <i>Baseline: 0</i>	
	<p>14. Develop:</p> <p>i) awareness of the sensitivity of World Heritage properties to adverse impacts of developments to avoid impact and reduce risk, strengthen the use of impact assessment tools and integrate World Heritage concerns into development and land use plans</p> <p>ii) alternative sustainable solutions on renovation using new technologies and construction material/methods</p> <p>iii) and implement Disaster/Risk preparedness plans, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation plans in accordance with the World Heritage Strategy on Disaster Risks and policy on climate change to strengthen resilience to natural hazards and climate change.</p>	By working with States Parties, Advisory Bodies and training institutions to develop relevant tools	<p>States Parties</p> <p>AWHF ABs WHC Training institutions Private sector</p>	●	●	●	<p>By 2027:</p> <p>i) 100% of States Parties are aware of the ABs' guidelines on impact assessment and at least 10 capacity building activities on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) are implemented <i>Baseline: 2 (TBC)</i></p> <p>ii) at least 1 guideline is developed <i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>iii) at least 75% of the properties have risk management plan <i>Baseline: 23% (22 properties as of July 2020)</i></p>
ER 2.4 Promote resilience at UNESCO World Heritage sites	15. Strengthen the protection of natural, cultural and mixed heritage in conflict areas and develop capacities of heritage institutions through integration into recovery programmes post-COVID-19, armed conflicts, extremism, etc.	By working with States Parties and ABs to develop Risk management tools	<p>States Parties</p> <p>WHC ABs</p>	●	●	●	<p>By 2027:</p> <p>i) at least 3 training sessions on UNESCO Conventions are organised for States Parties in conflict situations</p>

		assessment and training modules	UNESCO Field Offices ABs Training institutions				<i>Baseline: 2</i>
ER 3.2 A network of African experts for World Heritage is established and operational to promote role and responsibilities of site managers	18. Enhance sharing of experience, peer learning and transfer of knowledge, including traditional/indigenous knowledge by: i) Strengthening the Pan African network of site managers as well as capacity of heritage management institutions ii) establishing a credible and gender-sensitive database of African heritage experts, training institutions and universities	By working with site managers experts, training institutions and universities	States Parties AWHF WHC	●			By 2022, African Site Managers Network with a regular forum is established <i>Baseline: 0</i> By 2023, databases of African experts, training institutions and universities are established <i>Baseline: 2</i>
	19. Support: i) regional and sub-regional networking and capacity building, especially among Portuguese and Spanish-speaking States Parties ii) establishment of twinning programmes between World Heritage properties within and outside of Africa	By working with Field offices, States Parties and network of African site managers	UNESCO Field Offices States Parties Site managers WHC AWHF	● ● ●			By 2027, at least 2 African Sub-regional networks with a regular forum is established <i>Baseline: 0</i> By 2025, at least 2 World Heritage sites are engaged in twinning programmes/activities <i>Baseline: TBD</i>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - 4
ENHANCE HERITAGE EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING OF WORLD HERITAGE IN THE AFRICA REGION

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-2027	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 4.1 Heritage education (and role of UNESCO's chair) communication and awareness-raising to be enhanced	20. Develop collaboration between heritage institutions, universities and national education programmes (through school projects and school days on World Heritage) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) develop curriculum on World Heritage education ii) enhance inclusive exchange and immersion programmes on cultural and natural heritage in schools, institutes and universities 	By working with UNESCO's Education sector and ABs to support States Parties in their education programme	States Parties AWHF WHC ABs Private sector		●	●	By 2025, at least 2 curriculums on World Heritage education are made available <i>Baseline: 0</i> By 2025, at least 2 exchange and immersion programmes are supported <i>Baseline: 0</i>
	21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Raise awareness on World Heritage among the youth, women, and the general public to promote good practices on conservation and management ii) Develop communication materials on the World Heritage <i>Convention</i> to be translated into national /local languages and disseminated. 	By using new communication <i>technology</i> , electronic media to coordinate activities in collaboration with Field Offices, AWHF and States Parties	State Party Private sector AWHF Universities	●	●		By 2025, at least 2 examples of using new technologies in awareness-raising are available <i>Baseline:0</i> At least 5 materials on the <i>World Heritage Convention</i> are developed and translated in widely spoken languages in Africa <i>Baseline: 1</i>

ER 4.2 World Heritage in Africa is promoted at large, supporting the full and effective inclusion of communities, women and the youth	22. i) Leverage opportunities presented by national and international cultural and natural heritage commemorations to support the participation of communities, women and youth in World Heritage activities ii) the establishment of heritage education, volunteer and traineeship programmes at national heritage and site management institutions	Through collaboration between UNESCO Field Offices, AWHF and States Parties	AWHF WHC States Parties	●	●	●	By 2027, 30% of women and youth participated in promotional activities <i>Baseline: 0</i>
	23. Include, in a systematic manner, young people in capacity building activities by organising regular meetings in and around World Heritage properties	Through ICCROM's Youth. Heritage, Africa Programme, World Heritage Education programme, African World Heritage Day, Youth Forum and World Heritage Volunteers initiative	AWHF ABs (ICCROM) States Parties WHC	●	●	●	At least 3 young people (under 35 years) participating at site manager events per year <i>Baseline: 2</i>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – 5
STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2021-2023	2024-2025	2025-	Performance Indicator(s)
ER 5.1 Improve the role and involvement of local and indigenous communities and stakeholders in	24. Strengthen the conservation and management capacities of community-based organisations whilst mapping and supporting the engagement and involvement of local communities, indigenous peoples, and all relevant stakeholders	Through coordinated activities in collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices, AWHF and States Parties, training institutions and universities and by developing collaboration and synergies between the	States Parties, UNESCO Field Offices WHC AWHF	●	●	●	At least 10% of properties have a strategy to involve community-based organisation and indigenous people <i>Baseline: TBC</i>

<p>conservation and management of UNESCO World Heritage properties</p>	<p>25. Develop case studies and support pilot projects to showcase the integration and contributions of knowledge and practices, including traditional management systems</p>	<p>1972 Convention and other relevant Conventions and Programmes related to nature and culture (refer to the COMPACT approach)</p> <p>By working with training institutions and universities to develop a mobile app</p>	<p>States Parties</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Universities</p> <p>Training institutions</p>		<p>● ●</p>	<p>By 2027, at least 10% of World Heritage properties develop one pilot project</p> <p><i>Baseline: TBC</i></p>
<p>ER 5.2 Contribution to local economic growth and entrepreneurship in and around UNESCO World Heritage properties is increased</p>	<p>26. Strengthen communities and stakeholders to enable sustainable livelihoods in and around World Heritage properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Develop policies, frameworks and guidelines to support the development of sustainable businesses and tourism. ii) Diversify investment in sustainable businesses to promote heritage related small and medium size enterprises 	<p>By coordinating activities with the private sector, local communities, community-based organisations and heritage experts, site managers, UNESCO Field Offices and AWHF</p>	<p>States Parties</p> <p>Site Managers</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>UNESCO Field Office</p> <p>WHC</p> <p>AWHF</p>	<p>● ● ●</p>		<p>By 2027, at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 5 properties have business plans ii) 3 small and medium enterprises are developed <p><i>Baseline:5 (TBC)</i></p> <p><i>Baseline: TBC</i></p>

7. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 44 COM 10B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/21/44COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decisions 41 COM 10A and 43 COM 10B adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively;
3. Notes with satisfaction that all States Parties of the Africa region participated in the completion and submission of Section I (State Party level) and Section II (World Heritage property level) of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire;
4. Commends the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya for hosting sub-regional workshops for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise;
5. Thanks the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Regional Coordinator and Mentors, Advisory Bodies as well as the World Heritage Centre for their continuous support throughout the exercise; also thanks all national focal points and World Heritage site managers for their commitment and participation throughout the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise despite the challenging situation of the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the Third Cycle Regional Report in the Africa region and encourages all States Parties to widely disseminate among all relevant stakeholders in the region, and takes note of the possible publication of the Third Periodic Report in the Africa region in the World Heritage paper series, if the financial situation permits and encourages States Parties to contribute financially for this purpose;
7. Endorses the Third Cycle Regional Action Plan and its five Strategic Objectives recommended by the States Parties following the Final Regional Workshop of February 2021;
8. Encourages States Parties to appropriate the Regional Action Plan into their national, sub-regional and regional heritage strategies and requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with Advisory Bodies, and other partners, to support States Parties in its implementation;
9. Further encourages the States Parties to initiate regular meetings at regional and/or sub-regional level to ensure continuous monitoring in the implementation of the Action Plan;
10. Thanks the Governments of China, Flanders (Belgium), France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sultanate of Oman and the European Union for their contributions towards supporting the implementation of the Third Cycle Action Plan in Africa;
11. Welcomes the commitment and support of the AWHF to assist the African States Parties in the implementation of the Action Plan and calls upon African States Parties to provide financial and human resource support to the AWHF;
12. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to monitor the implementation of the Regional Action Plan in view of preparing a mid-cycle assessment report;
13. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre to prepare a progress report on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for examination at its 46th session.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section I

<http://whc.unesco.org/document/186958> (PDF)

Annex 2: Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section II

<http://whc.unesco.org/document/186959> (PDF)

Annex 3: Results of the Monitoring Indicators for Africa

<http://whc.unesco.org/document/186915> (PDF)