

DEFINITION OF PRIORITIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN AFRICA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

Although the African continent has a remarkable cultural and natural wealth, it remains under-represented on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Of the 1121 sites on the List to date, Africa has 137 sites i.e. 12.22% of total World Heritage properties. In addition, 41.50% of the 53 sites on the World Heritage List in Danger are in Africa.

Eleven of the 53 African States that are party to the World Heritage Convention do not yet have World Heritage sites. Apart from South Africa with 10 World Heritage sites, Morocco and Ethiopia (hosting 9 each), most African countries have one or two World Heritage sites.

These findings can be explained mainly by the weakness of the nomination dossiers submitted, the lack of adequate resources and the shortcomings observed in the definitions of priorities on the Tentative Lists. Consideration has been made to improve the preparation of applications for the inclusion of African sites on the World Heritage List.

2. Justification

Established in South Africa in 2006, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) is tasked with supporting African Member States of UNESCO and the African Union in the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The Fund provides technical and financial support to ensure the conservation and protection of Africa's World Heritage. The Fund also supports actions to promote listing of African cultural and natural heritage properties on the World Heritage List.

The AWHF works with strategic partners such as the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the African Union, the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention, the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and the African Heritage School-EPA. A programme to support the development of World Heritage nomination dossiers is being implemented as part of the grant agreement between AWHF and EPA (from August 2019 to September 2020). ***One of the components of this programme is the completion of a thematic study on the upstream gaps of African properties on the World Heritage List.***

In the last few years, various studies have been conducted and provided a credible basis for selecting the nomination projects that benefit from the support program. These studies also present an overview of national tentative lists and broader knowledge of the properties that could be proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List. The studies include, among others:

- African Natural Heritage: possible priorities for the World Heritage List (June 2011), carried out jointly by IUCN and AWHF;
- African Cultural Heritage: possible priorities for the World Heritage List (February 2012), initiated by AWHF;

- Report on the Identification of properties with potential Outstanding Universal Value and likely to be proposed for World Heritage nomination (2016), initiated by AWHF and coordinated by EPA and CHDA.

3. Objectives

Based on (a) studies previously carried out by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, b) the list of African properties on the World Heritage List and (c) the national tentative lists, this study aims to:

- Identify the thematic and regional gaps in the World Heritage List in Africa;
- Propose a list of priority nomination projects that may be supported in the upstream support programmes to be implemented over the next 6 years (2021-2026) in Africa.

4. Expected result

The final version of the Gap Analysis Report for Cultural and Natural Sites on the African continent will be submitted in accordance with the deadline set and in view of publication.

5. Implementation

- The consultant's mission will last 45 days;
- The consultant will have to consider the national priorities of the States Parties and the shortcomings identified in the various reference studies;
- Any other activities not defined in this contract will be discussed between the consultants and EPA, agreed upon and implemented accordingly;
- A weekly monitoring meeting will be held with the EPA on drafts produced by the consultant.

6. Profile of the consultants

Two consultants will be recruited to conduct the study, namely a nature expert and a culture expert. Consultants must have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the field of World Heritage in Africa.

The application file will comprise the following: a motivation letter and a CV with references related to their practical experience in World Heritage. The application dossier will be sent latest on 15 April 2020 to studygap2020@gmail.com.

Applicants will be informed of the results of this call for applications within three weeks of the closing of the appeal.