

Preface

This book is one of the International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) book series, which deals for the first time, exclusively with *The Management of Cultural World Heritage Sites and Development in Africa*. The book is the result of a resolute and highly successful effort to bring together academics and practitioners from across the globe to explore various issues concerning the management of cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa. Most of the contributors have worked or they carry out research in Africa as archaeologists, anthropologists, or managers of cultural World Heritage Sites. The volume is a platform from which their wealth of experiences and know-how is explored in view of determining the extent to which the sites have been or are managed in relation to development in the continent. The management of World Heritage Sites in Africa and in particular, cultural World Heritage Sites has always been considered to lag behind modern international standards and best practices when compared with other regions of the world such as Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. For this reason, the contents of the book form the basis of ongoing discussions on *The Management of Cultural World Heritage Sites and Development in Africa*.

Cultural World Heritage Sites are a component of heritage, and heritage is a set of values fashioned by people. These values include norms and beliefs as well as material and technological aspects, where in most cases, especially in Africa, nature and culture cannot be separated. The values of heritage thus include the physical and intangible elements, which are of equal significance for the authenticity and integrity of the heritage. Viewed from this angle, there are many heritages, the contents and meanings of which change through time and across space. In Africa, cultural World Heritage Sites, therefore, consist of different types of properties, which relate to a variety of settings and they include not only important monuments and historic areas but also, by and large, the built environment. However, the notion of cultural World Heritage Sites can be understood in a much broader sense than this. Given that there are a variety of cultural World Heritage Sites, specific protection, management, and development approaches may vary considerably according to the context and values that each site may have as is demonstrated in the chapters of this book.

Although this volume does not cover all cultural World Heritage Sites, countries, or regions in Africa, it has endeavored to explore, in their widest sense, management issues of these sites and development in the continent. Therefore, the

sites, countries, and management issues that are examined and given as examples in this book are only a representative sample or a subset of the broad issues, which concerns the administration of cultural World Heritage Sites and development in the continent.

The book is structured around major themes based on selected topical issues and on the current view that the management of World Heritage Sites and development in Africa should be complementary rather than conflictual. The prevailing view is that if properly supported and managed, cultural World Heritage Sites can propel development in many African countries, predominantly through cultural heritage tourism-related pursuits. Tourism not only increases foreign exchange income but also creates employment opportunities for the many local communities subsisting close to cultural World Heritage Sites. While it can bring development at the sites, tourism can in turn cause land degradation, pollution, spread of diseases, and conflicts among the local communities and administrative organizations if it is not properly managed.

Throughout this book, these themes all play central roles, acclimatizing themselves to different contexts as they arise. But as one reads through this volume, it becomes clear that there are various areas of overlap such that some of the sections can fit with satisfaction in more than one chapter of the book. This is not intentional by the authors nor is it a result of deliberate control by the editor, but it demonstrates the similarities and interconnectedness of the management issues of cultural World Heritage Sites and development in many African countries. When editing this book, a decision was therefore made not to superficially regard various research and managements issues as if they are disconnected. In fact, the overlapping nature of the chapters is considered to be one of the unique attributes of this volume.

To set the tone of the book, the first chapter by Janette Deacon is a synopsis of the protracted history of the nomination of cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa, from the commencement of the World Heritage Convention in 1972 to its 40th anniversary in 2012. In her review, Deacon argues that initially, the nomination and management of cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa was strongly influenced by European values, a subject that is also raised and dealt with at some length by Colin Breen in [Chap. 7](#). This is in part because the notion of World Heritage Sites was first developed and matured in Europe before it was taken to other parts of the world. However, the Eurocentric approach of nominating sites on the World Heritage List (WHL) has since been modified in order to accommodate more sites on the List, especially in regions of the world where there are few sites such as Africa and Asia. While the figures and percentages discussed by Deacon in her chapter show a general increase in World Heritage Sites in Africa on the WHL partly as a result of the overhaul of the nomination criteria, nomination of cultural heritage sites to the List has not kept pace when compared with other parts of the globe, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

The underrepresentation of heritage sites on the WHL and the need to assist African States Parties to the 1972 World Heritage Convention to nominate more and to properly manage their World Heritage Sites has led to the establishment

in 2006, of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF). Since its inception, the AWHF has successfully managed to set up an endowment fund and to carry out various programs in several African countries to help nominate and manage World Heritage Sites in much of the continent. Details about the establishment of the AWHF and some of its various programs of nomination and conservation of World Heritage Sites in Africa are broadly explored by Herman Kiriama in [Chap. 2](#). However, even though the AWHF has largely succeeded in achieving some of its objectives as argued in this chapter by Kiriama, it is still faced with challenges of balancing the requirements of World Heritage Sites in all African countries. Kiriama concludes this chapter by advocating for the need for more African countries to make considerable contributions to the AWHF even if they have weak economies. This would make it possible for the AWHF to successfully implement its objectives and in turn lead to development in the continent.

In [Chap. 3](#), Douglas Comer explores the wish by ICAHM to help African States Parties nominate cultural heritage sites that have potential as World Heritage Sites through the African Initiative Program. The Program was launched at the joint Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies (Panaf)/Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) conference in November 2010 at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. In this chapter, Comer discusses a number of issues, including the lack of a credible and well-balanced WHL, as one of the major reasons why ICAHM wishes to help African countries nominate cultural heritage sites onto the List. Arguing for this desire, Comer cites a number of cultural heritage sites in Africa that have the potential to be successfully nominated on the WHL. But efforts by ICAHM to help nominate African cultural heritage sites onto the WHL are up till now faced by a number of challenges such that this aspiration is yet to be realized.

The State Party's primary responsibility to the World Heritage Convention is to nominate and maintain the values for which cultural heritage sites are inscribed on the WHL. In [Chap. 4](#), Makuvaza and Chiwaura explore why some African countries do or do not support the nomination and management of cultural World Heritage Sites. In their wide ranging investigation of the issues concerned, they discuss several reasons why many African governments fail to support the nomination and management of cultural World Heritage Sites in their countries. These reasons range from lack of funding to lack of understanding by some African governments that proper management of these sites can actually impel development in their countries. As argued by Makuvaza and Chiwaura in this chapter, and by the majority of the authors in this book, lack of funding appears to be one of the most troublesome issues that inhibit many African countries, which desire to nominate and manage their cultural World Heritage Sites properly. However, further enquiry of the issues by Makuvaza and Chiwaura showed that identity and nation building as well as development and promotion of tourism are some of the important reasons why some African governments support the nomination and management of cultural World Heritage Sites in their countries.

In Africa, many communities that live close to cultural World Heritage Sites have no idea as to what this actually means. Decades earlier, many of these

communities were pushed to marginal areas by the colonial administrators when some of the cultural World Heritage Sites were initially established as protected and conservation areas. However, most communities are neither involved in the proclamation of cultural World Heritage Sites nor is it made clear to them how they could benefit from these sites. In [Chap. 5](#), Sinamai argues that although the management of cultural World Heritage Sites is often associated with infrastructural development such as the construction of roads, hotels, and lodges and connection of water pipes to hotels through villages, not many communities living close to cultural World Heritage Sites benefit from these developments. With risks that are often associated with tourism at sites such as Great Zimbabwe still not explained properly to the local communities, many of them are exposed to dangers that are connected with tourism while trying to eke out a living from the industry. In contrast however, other local communities that understand what cultural World Heritage Sites mean to them have in fact actually taken advantage of tourism to uplift their lives as is the case in the sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests in Kenya.

The thought of sustainable use of World Heritage Sites was directly influenced by debates from the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, where the vital role of local communities in the protection of biodiversity through sustainable use was recognized. It was only in 2005 when a clause was incorporated in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, which reflected discussions in the World Heritage community and in the sessions of the World Heritage Committee. As a consequence of this development, the need for local people to sustainably benefit from protected areas such as cultural World Heritage Sites has now filtered through World Heritage management discourses. In [Chap. 6](#), Ibrahima Thiaw discusses the management of cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa and their contribution to sustainable development in the continent. Citing examples of the Island of Gorée and Fort James in the Gambia, and the Forts and Castles of Ghana in West Africa, Thiaw contends that although local communities have to be allowed to benefit from these sites, without proper control, sustainable use of these sites can be very complicated as the communities cause conflicts, degradation, pollution, and deliberate destruction of the sites. Although there are various problems associated with the management of cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa as Thiaw argues, these problems should not camouflage the ability of the sites to drive development in the continent.

In [Chap. 7](#), Colin Breen examines the opportunities World Heritage Sites across Africa play in the construction and preservation of cultures against the pressures these sites face from a variety of anthropogenic and natural processes of change. In this chapter, Breen briefly traces the proclamation history of cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa, arguing that their proclamation was strongly influenced by European values, which placed emphasis on their physical aspects. Breen further explores the threats and pressures that these sites face in Africa and he contends that as a result of these threats, the social fabric of communities is torn apart and there is an abandonment of traditional management systems. Breen blames both the anthropogenic and natural processes of change, as the ones which make it difficult to construct and preserve African cultures. However, although this is the case, Breen argues that there

is light at the end of the tunnel as successive conservation projects' initiatives at Ilha de Mozambique, for example, focused more on the promotion of intangible cultural heritage, which include stories, songs, and dance.

The management of cultural World Heritage Sites and their contribution to the economic empowerment of the local communities living near them is examined by Charles Musiba in the last chapter. He begins his chapter by giving an example of the development of a flagship Maropeng visitor complex in South Africa for the fossil hominid sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, and Kromdraai. Examining the successes of the Maropeng project, Musiba showed and argued that the project is now benefiting local communities through direct and indirect employment as it has become a tourist visitor attraction near Johannesburg, Tshwane, and Ekurhuleni. Having recognized the achievements of the Maropeng project, plans have now also been tabled in Tanzania to develop the paleoanthropological sites of Laetoli and Olduvai Gorge, which are located in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. In this chapter, Charles discusses several developmental projects at these two World Heritage Sites and he contends that when completed, the project would benefit the local communities living near the sites. However, while the planned development of Tanzania's cradle of humankind is noble, it remains to be seen if it will be able to contribute to the economic empowerment of the local communities in a manner similar to the Maropeng project in South Africa.

It is clear from the various chapters that the management of cultural World Heritage Sites issues is inextricably intertwined and cannot be separated, and that the wide spectrum of perspectives presented in this book combine to make an important contribution to a new aspect of a continuing discussion.

The editor is sincerely grateful to all friends and colleagues who responded to the call to contribute chapters for this book. During the course of the editing, the contributors enthusiastically agreed to make significant changes to their original chapters. The editor is also indebted to many people who contributed in various ways to the project. In particular, Prof. Ian Lilley tirelessly reviewed all the chapters and made useful suggestions on how the manuscript could be improved while Dr. Douglas Comer took trouble to have the text successfully printed. Grateful appreciation is also conveyed to the series co-editors, namely Dr. Douglas Comer, Prof. Helaine Silverman, and Willem J. H. Willems who accepted to have this book published as one of the ICAHM book series. Lastly, the editor would like to sincerely thank the Faculty of the Built Environment and its members of staff at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo for providing space and time to coordinate and edit this book. The interest indicated and encouragement expressed by the university and in particular, the faculty, to carry out research is openly acknowledged in this preamble.

The Management Of Cultural World Heritage Sites and
Development In Africa

History, nomination processes and representation on
the World Heritage List

Makuvaza, S. (Ed.)

2014, XVIII, 106 p. 11 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-0481-5