

Safeguarding Africa's Cultural and Natural Heritage for Development

Kariuki Muigua

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Table of Contents

Abstract..... 3

1.0 Introduction 3

2.0 Safeguarding Africa's Cultural and Natural Heritage: Promises and Pitfalls 5

3.0 Way Forward 12

4.0 Conclusion 15

References 16

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Abstract

This paper critically examines the need to safeguard Africa's cultural and natural heritage. The paper posits that Africa is endowed with cultural and natural heritage which is crucial in unlocking Sustainable Development in the continent. It critically discusses the efficacy of the initiatives embraced towards safeguarding Africa's cultural and natural heritage. The paper also highlights some of the challenges hindering effective conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Africa. Further, it proposes measures towards safeguarding Africa's cultural and natural heritage for development.

1.0 Introduction

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) defines World Heritage as the designation for places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy¹. The *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*² defines World Heritage to entail cultural and natural heritage. Cultural heritage includes monuments; architectural works; archeological sites; inscriptions, cave dwellings and buildings that are of outstanding value from the point of view of history, art and science³. Natural heritage on the other hand includes natural features consisting of physical and biological formations;

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¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'What is World Heritage?' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/faq/19> (Accessed on 01/04/2024)

² United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' available at <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf> (Accessed on 01/04/2024)

³ Ibid

geological and physiographical formations and natural sites of outstanding value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty⁴.

Protection of World Heritage is necessary for development⁵. It has been noted that safeguarding World's heritage can be a driver for Sustainable Development⁶. Conserving World Heritage can ensure effective use and management of cultural and natural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations⁷. It has been argued that cultural and natural heritage has the ability to strengthen a sense of community by consolidating its relationship to a place and can boost local, national, and regional economies through sustainable tourism practices⁸. In addition, cultural and heritage can foster cultural resilience, which can reduce disaster risk and support social cohesion⁹. Therefore, in an increasingly globalized and fragmented world, protecting heritage is a vital component in achieving Sustainable Development across all sectors¹⁰.

This paper critically examines the need to safeguard Africa's cultural and natural heritage. The paper posits that Africa is endowed with cultural and natural heritage which is crucial in unlocking Sustainable Development in the continent. It critically discusses the efficacy of the initiatives embraced towards safeguarding Africa's cultural and natural heritage. The paper also highlights some of the challenges hindering effective conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Africa. Further, it proposes measures towards safeguarding Africa's cultural and natural heritage for development.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'What is World Heritage?' Op Cit

⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver for Sustainable Development' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1295/> (Accessed on 01/04/2024)

⁷ Taruvinga. P., 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development, and Africa' Available at <https://oxfordre.com/anthropology/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.001.0001/acrefore-9780190854584-e-240> (Accessed on 01/04/2024)

⁸ Island Innovation., 'SDG 11: What Safeguarding Natural and Cultural Heritage Means for Island Communities' Available at <https://islandinnovation.co/articles/sdg-11-what-safeguarding-natural-and-cultural-heritage-means-for-island-communities/> (Accessed on 01/04/2024)

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

2.0 Safeguarding Africa's Cultural and Natural Heritage: Promises and Pitfalls

Africa boasts a remarkable variety of natural and cultural wealth that constitutes the very essence of African cultural identity¹¹. It has been noted that the entirety of African people's cherished arts, customs, festivals, sacred or worship sites, norms, values, ideologies, dress and dress-patterns, traditional monuments and architectures, which are cherished and conserved for their historical, political, educational, recreational and religious significance among others represents cultural heritage in Africa¹². In Africa, there are many aspects as language, traditions, historical survivals, art work, archive and artefacts collections, cultural settings and cultural landscapes transmitted from generation to generation representing rich cultural heritage¹³.

The continent has some of the most outstanding natural and cultural heritage sites that offer a variety of options for socio-economic growth, including tourism and infrastructure development¹⁴. According to UNESCO, Africa currently has 98 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including 54 cultural properties, 39 natural properties and 5 mixed properties¹⁵. Some of the major most iconic World Heritage sites in Africa include the Victoria Falls in Zambia/Zimbabwe, Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, the Cradle of Humankind in South Africa, and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Tanzania¹⁶. Kenya also has key World Heritage sites including Lamu Old Town, Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest, Fort Jesus, and the Lake System in the Great Rift Valley¹⁷.

¹¹ South African Research and Documentation Centre., 'Safeguarding African Heritage for Sustainable Development' Available at <https://www.sardc.net/en/southern-african-news-features/safeguarding-african-heritage-for-sustainable-development/> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

¹² Koiki-Owoyele. A., Alabi. A., & Egbunu. A., 'Safeguarding Africa's Cultural Heritage through Digital Preservation' Available at <https://www.jaistonline.org/13vol1/9.pdf> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Africa' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

The need to safeguard cultural and natural heritage is enshrined under the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁸. Under this Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable¹⁹. Among the targets under SDG 11 is strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage²⁰. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the essential role of cultural and natural heritage as enablers of development²¹. According to UNESCO, culture is fundamental to achieving the SDGs, since truly sustainable, human-centred development is impossible without culture²². For example, culture provides a sense of identity and meaning, makes communities more resilient and cities more sustainable²³. Further, cultural heritage can play a critical role in reducing poverty by creating jobs and nurturing well-being²⁴. In addition, the protection of exceptional natural heritage properties cherished by people all over the world including great natural sceneries and landmark monuments can be considered as an intrinsic contribution to human wellbeing²⁵. Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, preserving natural resources, including outstanding sites containing some of the richest combinations of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, is fundamental in achieving environmental sustainability²⁶. Safeguarding cultural and natural heritage is therefore crucial in the quest towards Sustainable Development.

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Culture and the 2030 Agenda' Available at https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/info_sheet_2030_agenda.pdf (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'World Heritage and Sustainable Development' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

²⁶ Ibid

The *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*²⁷ also sets out the need to safeguard World Heritage. The Convention notes that both cultural and natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions²⁸. It further acknowledges that most countries are facing challenges with regard to conserving World Heritage including insufficient economic, scientific, and technological resources²⁹. The Convention urges the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value³⁰. Under the Convention, states have a duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage³¹. States are required to undertake several measures towards conserving cultural and natural heritage including adopting a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes³²; setting up within their territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage³³; developing scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make states capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten their cultural or natural heritage³⁴; taking appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage³⁵; and establishing national or regional

²⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' Op Cit

²⁸ Ibid, Preamble

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid, article 4

³² Ibid, article 5

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field³⁶.

The Convention also sets up the World Heritage Committee which is responsible establishing, keeping up to date and publishing, under the title of 'World Heritage List', a list of properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage which it considers as having outstanding universal value³⁷. The World Heritage Committee is also required to establish, keep up to date and publish, whenever circumstances shall so require, under the title of 'List of World Heritage in Danger', a list of the property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage as is threatened by serious and specific dangers, such as the threat of disappearance caused by accelerated deterioration, large-scale public or private projects or rapid urban or tourist development projects; destruction caused by changes in the use or ownership of the land among others³⁸.

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is important in safeguarding World Heritage. It provides the criteria for inscribing and keeping sites on the World Heritage List in order to enhance their conservation³⁹. It also establishes a Fund for the protection of the World's cultural and natural heritage⁴⁰. It is necessary to implement this Convention in order to enhance conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

At a continental level, Africa Union's *Agenda 2063*⁴¹ seeks to safeguard Africa's cultural and natural heritage. Aspiration 5 under Agenda 2063 envisages an Africa with a strong

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid, article 11 (2)

³⁸ Ibid, article 11 (4)

³⁹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' Op Cit

⁴⁰ Ibid. article 15

⁴¹ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics⁴². This aspiration seeks to inculcate the spirit of Pan Africanism; tap into Africa's rich heritage and culture to ensure that the creative arts are major contributors to Africa's growth and transformation; and restore and preserve Africa's cultural heritage⁴³. Further, under Agenda 2063, Africa will be based on inclusive growth and Sustainable Development to enable the continent reclaim its natural heritage, build prosperous societies, and reduce vulnerability to climate change⁴⁴. It is therefore necessary to actualize Agenda 2063 in order to enhance preservation of Africa's cultural heritage including languages, customs, foods, traditions; and natural heritage including natural world heritage sites⁴⁵.

The *African Union Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property and Heritage*⁴⁶ is a continental instrument which aims to assist African countries in developing national legislation or revising and strengthening their current national legislations on the protection of cultural property and heritage⁴⁷. The Model Law recognizes the importance of the protection of cultural diversity and the promotion of cultural pluralism through safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural property and heritage⁴⁸. It requires all cultural property and heritage in Africa to be protected against any form of violation, including trafficking and illicit transactions; theft; damage, destruction or disfiguration caused either intentionally, or negligently; unauthorised export or commercial or non-commercial transactions involving cultural property and heritage; and any form of treatment or disposal of cultural property and heritage deemed to be intentionally, or negligently offensive of any cultural, religious, non-religious, ethnic and spiritual traditions of its place of origin among other illegal activities⁴⁹. The Model Law also

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ African Union., 'African Union Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property and Heritage' Available at <https://au.int/es/node/40132> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

requires states to establish national bodies for the conservation of cultural property and heritage⁵⁰. It also urges states to embrace community forums towards conserving cultural property and heritage⁵¹. Embracing this Model Law can enhance efforts towards safeguarding cultural property and heritage in Africa.

At a national level, the *Constitution of Kenya*⁵² requires the state to promote all forms of national and cultural expression through literature, the arts, traditional celebrations, science, communication, information, mass media, publications, libraries and other cultural heritage⁵³. Protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Kenya is also envisaged under the *National Museums and Heritage Act*⁵⁴. The Act seeks to enhance the identification, protection, conservation and transmission of the cultural and natural heritage of Kenya⁵⁵. It establishes the National Museums of Kenya which is mandated to serve as national repositories for matters of scientific, cultural, technological and human interest⁵⁶; serve as places where research and dissemination of knowledge in all fields of scientific, cultural, technological and human interest may be undertaken⁵⁷; identify, protect, conserve and transmit the cultural and natural heritage of Kenya⁵⁸; and promote cultural resources in the context of social and economic development⁵⁹. The Act further mandates the Cabinet Secretary for the time being responsible for the National Museums to declare protected areas in order to enhance the protection of natural heritage in Kenya⁶⁰. It also places a duty on National Museums to protect and maintain monuments in Kenya⁶¹.

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Government Printer, Nairobi

⁵³ Ibid, article 11 (2)

⁵⁴ National Museums and Heritage Act, Cap 216, Government Printer, Nairobi

⁵⁵ Ibid, Preamble

⁵⁶ Ibid, S 3

⁵⁷ Ibid, S 4

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid, S 25

⁶¹ Ibid, S 43

It has been noted that Africa has gradually embraced the World Heritage concept, which advocates for the protection of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value⁶². Many countries have strengthened national efforts in preserving heritage on the continent by establishing laws and institutions mandated with safeguarding cultural and national heritage⁶³. It has been observed that the number of World Heritage sites inscribed from Africa is gradually increasing demonstrating the importance of cultural and natural heritage in Africa⁶⁴. However, cultural and natural heritage in Africa has not been sufficiently harnessed for development⁶⁵. It has been noted that the conservation of world heritage in Africa is threatened by certain factors including modernization and urban growth⁶⁶. Further, cultural and natural heritage is threatened by traditional causes of decay and emerging social and economic conditions including developments and construction⁶⁷. According to UNESCO, African heritage sites face challenges related to erratic development, armed conflicts and terrorism, uncontrolled movements of populations, poaching, weak management and climate change⁶⁸. UNESCO further notes that intentional destruction, looting and loss of heritage, including World Heritage sites, have become hallmarks of civil conflicts in some parts of Africa⁶⁹. In addition, displaced populations as a result of conflicts and wars, especially in the central part of Africa, seek refuge in protected areas and inadvertently negatively impact World Heritage sites in these areas⁷⁰. It is therefore necessary to safeguard Africa's cultural and natural heritage for development.

⁶² Taruvinga. P., 'World Heritage in Africa' Available at <https://courier.unesco.org/en/articles/world-heritage-africa> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ashrafi. B et al., 'Heritage Impact Assessment, Beyond an Assessment Tool: A comparative analysis of urban development impact on visual integrity in four UNESCO World Heritage Properties' *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 47 (2021) 199-207

⁶⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' Op Cit

⁶⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver for Sustainable Development' Op Cit

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

3.0 Way Forward

It is necessary to embrace community engagement and the role of Indigenous peoples for effective conservation of World Heritage in Africa⁷¹. Indigenous communities in Africa have been at the heart of conservation efforts in relation to cultural and natural heritage for many centuries⁷². They have ensured that cultural heritage such as oral traditions, customs, language, and practices have been transferred from one generation to another⁷³. UNESCO correctly observes that World Heritage sites are often located within land managed by indigenous peoples whose land use, knowledge and cultural and spiritual values and practices are related to heritage⁷⁴. It is therefore necessary to recognize Indigenous peoples as stewards of a significant part of the world's biological, cultural and linguistic diversity⁷⁵. Ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in conservation efforts and embracing traditional and indigenous knowledge can strengthen efforts towards safeguarding cultural and natural heritage⁷⁶.

Further, it is imperative to embrace the concept of Heritage Impact Assessment for effective conservation of natural heritage in Africa⁷⁷. The idea of Heritage Impact Assessment has emerged in order to identify and evaluate the impacts of human activities on world heritage towards striking a balance between the conservation of world heritage and promoting economic and social development⁷⁸. It involves the requirement to

⁷¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/series/40/#:~:text=The%20inclusion%20of%20communities%20as,link%20c%20onservation%20and%20sustainable%20development>. (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., ' World Heritage and Indigenous Peoples' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/496/#:~:text=As%20the%20UNESCO%20policy%20on,practices%20are%20related%20to%20heritage>. (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁷⁵ Ibid

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Muigua. K., 'Exploring Heritage Impact Assessment in Kenya' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Exploring-Heritage-Impact-Assessment-in-Kenya.pdf> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁷⁸ Ashrafi. B et al., 'Heritage Impact Assessment, Beyond an Assessment Tool: A comparative analysis of urban development impact on visual integrity in four UNESCO World Heritage Properties' Op Cit

undertake Environmental Impact Assessment at the project level or more strategic level in order to assist decision makers in identifying and preventing approval of developments that may destroy cultural and natural heritage⁷⁹. This concept is vital in safeguarding World Heritage during development projects⁸⁰. It explores the damage or benefits that may accrue on cultural and natural heritage as a result of human activities such as economic development and proposes appropriate mitigation measures⁸¹. According to UNESCO, Heritage Impact Assessment is key in evaluating potential impacts development including urbanisation, tourism infrastructures, dams, roads, power plants and other major interventions on world heritage, and finding appropriate mitigation measures and alternative options⁸². It is therefore necessary to embrace Heritage Impact Assessment in Africa in order to safeguard world heritage for development.

In addition, there is need to embrace digital preservation of cultural heritage⁸³. It has been noted that since cultural heritage resources are irreplaceable, their protection is critical⁸⁴. However, cultural heritage in Africa is susceptible to loss since it is usually transmitted from one generation to another in form of oral traditions⁸⁵. Digital preservation has therefore become a popular method for safeguarding cultural heritage resources in recent

⁷⁹ Pereira Roders. A & Van Oers. R., 'Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments: Learning from its application on World Heritage site management' *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development* Vol. 2 No. 2, 2012

⁸⁰ Ibid

⁸¹ Ibid

⁸² United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁸³ Masenya. T., 'Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Digital Innovative Approach Towards Sustainable Development of South African Rural Communities' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349905031_Digital_Preservation_of_Cultural_Heritage_Digital_Innovative_Approach_Towards_Sustainable_Development_of_South_African_Rural_Communities (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁸⁴ Ibid

⁸⁵ Ibid

years⁸⁶. It is vital in ensuring sustainability and preventing the risk of the cultural heritage being lost forever⁸⁷. It is therefore necessary to harness the power of technology in order to safeguard Africa's cultural heritage. Digital preservation not only safeguards Africa's cultural heritage for future generations but also provides a platform to showcase Africa's cultural legacy to the global audience⁸⁸.

Finally, there is need to embrace sustainable tourism in order to safeguard natural heritage in Africa⁸⁹. Tourism can be a threat to conservation of World Heritage⁹⁰. Poorly managed and uncontrolled tourism has been identified as a threat to the long-term sustainability of natural heritage⁹¹. It can result in degradation of world heritage sites⁹². Natural and cultural heritage, diversities and living cultures are major tourism attractions⁹³. Excessive or poorly managed tourism and tourism-related development however can threaten their physical nature, integrity and significant characteristics⁹⁴. In addition, the ecological setting, culture and lifestyles of host communities may also be degraded as a result of unsustainable tourism practices⁹⁵. It is thus crucial to foster sustainable tourism in order to safeguard cultural and natural heritage in Africa. This can be achieved by embracing green tourism activities such as eco-tourism, and creating visitor awareness of responsible behaviour in communities and the environment⁹⁶.

⁸⁶ Hossain. N., 'Digital Heritage Preservation' Available at https://projects.cs.uct.ac.za/honsproj/cgi-bin/view/2015/hossain_mthimkulu_petersen.zip/threearch_petersen_mthimkulu_hossain/HTML/assets/Noosrat_downloads/LiteratureReview.pdf (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁸⁷ Ibid

⁸⁸ Ibid

⁸⁹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/review/71/> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁹⁰ Ibid

⁹¹ Ibid

⁹² Ibid

⁹³ Our World Heritage., 'Tourism and its Impacts on Conservation' Available at <https://www.ourworldheritage.org/2021debate-theme/tourism#:~:text=Tourism%20is%20often%20perceived%20as,its%20economic%20and%20social%20viability>. (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

⁹⁴ Ibid

⁹⁵ Ibid

⁹⁶ Muigua. K., 'Fostering Sustainable Tourism in Kenya' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Fostering-Sustainable-Tourism-in-Kenya.pdf> (Accessed on 02/04/2024)

The foregoing measures among others are key in safeguarding Africa's cultural and natural heritage.

4.0 Conclusion

Africa is a continent that is rich in cultural and natural heritage. The outstanding natural and cultural heritage sites in Africa offer a variety of options for socio-economic growth, including tourism and infrastructure development⁹⁷. However, the conservation of world heritage in Africa is threatened by certain factors including modernization and urban growth⁹⁸. Some of the key challenges hindering effective conservation of cultural and natural heritage in Africa include erratic development, armed conflicts and terrorism, uncontrolled movements of populations, poaching, weak management and climate change⁹⁹. It is necessary to safeguard Africa's cultural and natural heritage for development. This can be realized through embracing community engagement and the role of Indigenous peoples for effective conservation of World Heritage in Africa¹⁰⁰; fostering Heritage Impact Assessment¹⁰¹; promoting digital preservation of cultural heritage¹⁰²; and enhancing sustainable tourism¹⁰³. Safeguarding Africa's cultural and natural heritage for development is a goal that must be realized.

⁹⁷ Koiki-Owoyele. A., Alabi. A., & Egbunu. A., 'Safeguarding Africa's Cultural Heritage through Digital Preservation'

⁹⁸ Ashrafi. B et al., 'Heritage Impact Assessment, Beyond an Assessment Tool: A comparative analysis of urban development impact on visual integrity in four UNESCO World Heritage Properties' Op Cit

⁹⁹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver for Sustainable Development' Op Cit

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage' Op Cit

¹⁰¹ Muigua. K., 'Exploring Heritage Impact Assessment in Kenya' Op Cit

¹⁰² Masenya. T., 'Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Digital Innovative Approach Towards Sustainable Development of South African Rural Communities' Op Cit

¹⁰³ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism' Op Cit

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United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Africa' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/>

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United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation., 'Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage' Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/series/40/#:~:text=The%20inclusion%20of%20communities%20as,link%20conservation%20and%20sustainable%20development>

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