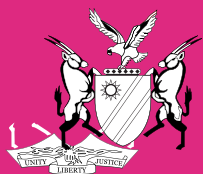# WORLD HERITAGE FUTURES LAB

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA EDITION

High-level round-table discussion "African World Heritage interpretation and digital technologies: challenges and opportunities"

25 January 2023, 09h00 – 11h00 CAT

unesco

The Next 50

ELECTRIC SOUTH

NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HTTPS HIGH-TEC H TRANSFER PLAZA SELECT

mtc

Youth. Heritage. Africa.

ICCROM

African World Heritage Fund

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

whipic
International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO

WORLD HERITAGE FUTURES LAB

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA EDITION

Africa is home to a remarkable set of cultural and natural heritage sites and living heritage elements which are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists. World Heritage in the continent plays an essential role in the lives of the communities who live in and around these sites, as they constitute a source of pride and knowledge; are a powerful driver of local economic development; and a vital resource for reconciliation and sustainable peace. In the same vein, living heritage provides communities with a sense of identity and nourishes cultural diversity and human creativity.

However, this rich and diverse heritage faces several challenges, including the impacts of climate change, pressures of urbanization, uncontrolled development, and unsustainable tourism practices. It thereby becomes more difficult for local communities to enjoy and benefit from their World Heritage while the lack of awareness and appreciation of the heritage and cultural values of these sites by visitors persists.

Digital technologies and artificial intelligence are changing the way we enjoy and experience our shared heritage. Whether it is accessing information about the important contribution of African World Heritage to sustainable development and lasting peace, transmitting the practices and knowledge linked to the conservation of these unique sites, or using data to help us monitor their conservation, it is evident that the digital revolution is re-defining the way we protect, enjoy and transmit our World Heritage to future generations.

The "World Heritage Futures Lab: Southern and Eastern Africa edition" provides an opportunity to harness digital technologies to open spaces for original voices and underrepresented narratives in the goal of deepening public knowledge and appreciation of the value of World Heritage in Southern and Eastern Africa. This initiative has been conceived as part of "The Next 50", a year-long interdisciplinary reflection on the future of World Heritage and aims to address one of the theme's main priorities: digital transformation.

Registration of participants:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcuyvqD0sG9eINHXv4Yjuxd9yPvLGLHmJ

WORLD HERITAGE FUTURES LAB

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA EDITION

Programme

09:00 OPENING CEREMONY

Moderator: **Dr Colin Stanley**, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Partnerships, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)

Namibia and African Union Anthem

- Welcome by **Dr Erold Naomab**, Vice Chancellor, NUST
- Introductory remarks by **Mr Francisco Gómez Durán**, Head of the Culture Unit, UNESCO ROSA
- Remarks by **Ms Ingrid Kopp**, Co-Director, Electric South
- Remarks by **Mr Djaffar Moussa-Elkadhum**, UNESCO Representative to Namibia

Keynote remarks by **Mr Gerard N. Vries**, Deputy Executive Director for Lifelong Learning Department, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Republic of Namibia

09:20 HIGH-LEVEL ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

"African World Heritage interpretation and digital technologies: challenges and opportunities"
Moderator: Ms Judith Ogana, Programme Specialist, UNESCO ROEA

Panellists

- **Prof. Heike Winschiers-Theophilus**, Professor in Faculty of Computing & Informatics, NUST
- **Mr Namwoong Kim**, Programme Specialist, Information Management Division, International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC)
- **Ms Agnes Shiningayamwe**, Regional Heritage Officer, National Heritage Council of Namibia
- **Dr Lovemore Mazibuko**, Acting Deputy Director of Culture, Museums of Malawi
- **Dr Susan Osireditse Keitumetse**, Chairperson, UNESCO Chairs Program, University of Botswana -Okavango Research Institute
- ICCROM Representative

11:00 TEA BREAK