

Travel Grant for Early Career Researchers and Managers of African World Heritage Sites to Attend the 17th Pan African Archaeological Congress

26-31 July 2026, Maputo, Mozambique

<https://panaf2026moz.com/>

The African World Heritage Fund

Established in 2006 by the African Union and UNESCO, the Africa World Heritage Fund (AWHF, <https://awhf.net/>) is Africa's leading intergovernmental body for protecting the continent's cultural and natural World Heritage. As a UNESCO Category II Centre since 2010, it remains the only institution in Africa solely mandated to advance the World Heritage Convention while supporting African countries in realising AU Agenda 2063 and UNESCO's priorities. Through capacity-building, strategic funding, and flagship initiatives such as the Moses Mapesa Research and Education Grants for master's and doctoral students, AWHF has strengthened heritage conservation across the continent and helped shape a new generation of African heritage leaders.

Travel Grant for Early Career Researchers and Managers of African World Heritage

As part of the celebrations marking the 20th Anniversary of the AWHF, to be commemorated throughout 2026, the Fund, in collaboration with the Pan African Archaeological Association (<https://www.panafprehistory.org/en/>), is pleased to offer support to up to ten (10) early career researchers and managers of World Heritage Sites in Africa to attend the 17th Pan African Archaeological Congress. The Congress will be held at the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique, from 26 to 31 July 2026. This opportunity is intended to uplift and inspire the next generation of African heritage professionals by enabling their participation in a landmark continental gathering of knowledge, dialogue, and collaboration. The grant will provide modest support towards travel, accommodation, and registration costs. Successful applicants will, however, be expected to cover additional related expenses, including visa fees, local transport, meals, and travel insurance.

Requirements

- Be an early career researcher specializing either in Natural or Cultural World Heritage Sites in Africa
- Be a national of any African country and engaged in the protection of African World Heritage Sites.
- Have an abstract that have been accepted for podium presentation at the Congress
- Be readily available to travel to Maputo, Mozambique and attend the 17th Pan African Archaeological Congress, 26-31 July 2026.

In case you meet the above qualifications, prepare the following and submit a complete document in 1 file to panaf2026moz@gmail.com with a copy to Elgidius Ichumbaki (ichumbaki@udsm.ac.tz) and Precious Mothiba (PreciousM@dbsa.org):

1. A one-page cover letter outlining the applicant's motivation for attending the 17th PAA Congress.
2. A copy of the submitted abstract together with proof of acceptance to attend the 17th PAA Congress and deliver a podium presentation. Preference will be given to applicants presenting papers in the field of World Heritage.
3. A recommendation letter from a senior researcher or institutional supervisor based at a university or research institution in Africa, confirming the applicant's active involvement in the research, management, and conservation of World Heritage Sites.
4. A curriculum vitae highlighting the applicant's academic background, achievements, and potential, not exceeding two pages.
5. A detailed budget itemising the requested costs for travel, accommodation, and registration.

The deadline for submission of the complete application package is **15 May 2026**. Please note that submission of an application does not guarantee the award of support.