

17 Countries Detail Liberation Heritage Plan for Africa

Eleven Southern African country representatives will make strong recommendations on the protection of the remnants of liberation history and heritage on the continent. These resolutions will be taken at the Africa Liberation Workshop that will be held from 16 - 18 August 2011 at the Roodevallei Conference Centre outside Pretoria.

The Africa Liberation Workshop will bring together heritage institutions responsible for managing Liberation Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa in line with the resolutions of UNESCO's 33rd General Conference of 2005 and African Union Assembly on the African Liberation Heritage Programme. A total of 17 Countries will be attending the Africa Liberation Workshop in South Africa.

The National Heritage Council of South Africa has started working on the development of a Liberation Heritage Route which will be submitted for consideration by UNESCO as a World Heritage property. This route has some of its roots in other African countries where the struggle was fought especially in countries that hosted freedom fighters in exile. Apart from declaring an internationally recognised route, the historic value of the liberation that is slowly vanishing with the passing on of struggle veterans and development challenges, needs urgent attention. For example, some of the iconic liberation heritage sites are in private ownership with no regard for the value of the property to humanity. These are some of the challenges that the Africa Liberation Workshop will provide recommendations and make commitments.

The Workshop is coordinated by the National Heritage Council and the African World Heritage Fund with the support of the Department of Arts and Culture.

Media is invited to attend the open session from 09h00 to 12h00 on 16 August 2011 and make arrangements if all the sessions will be attended.