

# REPUBLIC OF KENYA



## MINISTRY OF SPORTS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

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*When replying, please quote:*

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Director  
World Heritage Centre  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris 07 SP  
**FRANCE**

Dear Dr. Kishore,

### **RE: PROGRESS REPORT OF THE LAKE TURKANA WORLD HERITAGE SITE/GIBE III PROJECT**

I send my warm greetings to you and colleagues here from Kenya. Please find attached, a brief progress report as requested by the World Heritage Committee meeting held in Cambodia document 37COM 7B.4, regarding the above issue.

I assure you that Kenya is committed to conserving the Site for future posterity.

Yours

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hassan Wario Arero'.

Dr. Hassan Wario Arero (PhD)  
**CABINET SECRETARY**

## **Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site**

### **Progress report on the conservation status**

This is a brief report of the progress made in regard to bilateral negotiations between Ethiopia and Kenya in respect to the Gibe III Dam construction project as recommended by the World Heritage Committee meeting held in Cambodia in June 2013 as contained in the recommendation 37COM 7B.4.

Kenya revived engagements with their Ethiopian counterparts on the 30th of January 2014 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in a delegation led by the Cabinet Secretary of Sports, Culture and the Arts, the Honourable Hassan Wario (PhD). The negotiations with the Ethiopian authorities were headed by the Director General, Dr. Yonas Desta of the Authority for Research & Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH). In the meeting, it was noted that other negotiations had been made in 2013 between other state organs of the two State Parties.

The negotiations were for the sole purpose of designing a road map for future negotiations regarding how the two State Parties will address this issue on bilateral basis. It also established how the SEA will be done to understand the cumulative impacts of all developments impacting on the Lake Turkana basin. The SEA will identify appropriate mitigation measures and ensure that the water level in Lake Turkana despite the seasonal variations will be maintained at a level sufficient to maintain the OUV of the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site.

As a result of the meeting, the following time lines were agreed upon as the way forward to the state of conservation report:

1. The meeting was informed that there are documents available with the Ethiopian State Party regarding the project that will need to be shared between the State Parties before any meaningful negotiations can be made. It was agreed that Ethiopia will share the documented information with Kenya
2. After the documents have been studied, the emerging issues and concerns will be teased out and escalated to be the next platform of discussions in a bilateral meeting, proposed to be held in May 2014, that will also include a site visit to the Gibe III.
3. The meeting, it is hoped, will help the two state parties in reaching joint conclusions regarding how the conservation report will be developed. At this meeting, the experts to be engaged will also be identified and must include expertise in environmental, cultural and infrastructural issues. The report developed will capture the interventions that will be taken by both State Parties.
4. The state of conservation report will be ready before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015.

Below is the agreed timelines for the bilateral engagements

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Results</b>
February –April 2014	Sharing and studying of available documents	Teasing of concerns and communication of the concerns between the two state parties
May	Meeting Site visits to Gibe III	Articulation of the emerging issues and concerns Production of document outlining the course of action and agreements on a joint conservation study. Engagement of study consultants
June	Doha WHC meeting	Presentation of progress report
July-December 2014	Consultants' study and presentation of results to the two State Parties	Draft conservation report
January 2015	Review of the report by the two State Parties	Finalized conservation report
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Dispatch of the report to UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Final state of conservation report submitted

We are committed to ensuring that Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site is conserved for posterity.