

JOINT REPORT

ON

KENYA-ETHIOPIA BILATERAL TALKS HELD FROM 25TH TO 30TH JANUARY 2015 IN ADDIS
ABABA

IMPACT OF GIBE III AND KURAZ SUGAR IRRIGATION SCHEME ON LAKE TURKANA
NATIONAL PARKS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Executive summary

This is a joint Ethiopia–Kenya updated report as requested by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) under Decision 38 Com 7B.90. The two State Parties have taken note of the decisions of the WHC and the need for retaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site.

The main goal of the mission was to investigate the impact of the Gibe III Dam Project and Kuraz Sugar Irrigation Scheme on the OUV of the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site and to prepare a report to the World Heritage Centre for consideration at its 39th Session. The delegation of Kenya comprised: Mr. Wenslas S.A. Ong'ayo, Director, Ministry of Sports, Culture And The Arts, (Head of Delegation) Mr. Hoseah Wanderi, Scientist, National Museums of Kenya, Dr. James Gichiah Njogu, Head, Conventions and Research Authorization, Kenya Wildlife Service, Dr. Mzalendo N. Kibunja, Scientist, Nairobi National Museum, Dr. Purity Kiura, Director Museums Sites and Monuments, National Museums of Kenya and Mr. Daniel K. Kottut, Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation of Ethiopia comprised: Mr. Yonas Desta, Director General, Ethiopian Heritages Authority, (Head of delegation), Mr. Mulugeta Zewdie, Chief of Cabinet for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Rewords Ylima, Desk Officer for Kenya, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two teams also met with Engineer Azeb Asnaqe, head of Ethiopian Electric Power and Gibe III Project Manager. The combined team also met with officials of the Sugar Corporation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, led by Mr. Kiros Desta, Deputy Director General.

The key observation of the team is that, at the moment, there is no adverse impact from either project on the OUV of the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site. However, it was also noted that impounding of the dam water has just started, retaining 15.6% of the water; while only 6,000 hectares of land are being irrigated for sugar cultivation. In view of this, the team has recommended to immediately undertake a Joint Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) and Hydrological studies and also to establish a Joint Expert Panel within the existing Joint Ministerial Commission, to develop mitigation measures where necessary, to ensure potential negative impacts on the OUV of the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage Site will be avoided. It was also agreed that the Ethiopian counterparts visit Lake Turkana by June 2015 in order to observe the potential impacts arising from natural and man-made activities. In light of this mutual understanding and good neighbourliness, both parties agreed to continue engaging in this matter.

This report notes the results of the bilateral discussions, with tabulated issues of concern and corresponding recommendations.

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