



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Ref: 16/5/7**

**Enquiries: Thumeka Ntloko**

**Tel: +2712 399 9531 Email: [tntloko@environment.gov.za](mailto:tntloko@environment.gov.za)**

**[www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)**

**Ms Mechtild Rössler**  
**Director: UNESCO World Heritage Centre**  
**7, palace de Fontenoy**  
**75352 Paris 07 SP**  
**FRANCE**

**E-mail: [k.Monteil@unesco.com](mailto:k.Monteil@unesco.com)**

**Dear Ms Rössler**

### **SUBMISSION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE (1099 REV)**

The World Heritage Committee through **Decision 40 COM 7B.19** requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 01 December 2017, State of Conservation report detailing progress by the State Party in addressing the requests and recommendations of the Committee and to ensure the effective and efficient management of the world heritage property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session in 2018.

We hereby attach the State of Conservation report for the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site for examination by the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee.

In case you need more information or clarity on the above mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact the Director: World Heritage Management, Ms Thumeka Ntloko on Tel: 012 399 9531 or email [tntloko@environment.gov.za](mailto:tntloko@environment.gov.za)

**SUBMISSION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL  
LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE (N1162)**

Yours Sincerely



**Ms Nosipho Ngcaba**

**Director General**

**Department of Environmental Affairs**

**Letter signed by: Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi**

**Designation: Deputy Director-General: Biodiversity and Conservation**

**Date:**

30/11/2017.

**STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WORLD  
HERITAGE SITE  
(C 915 BIS)**



**SOUTH AFRICA**

**BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Compiled in collaboration with the South African National Parks**

**December 2017**

## **IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY**

**Name of Property:** Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site

**Identification Number:** 1099 REV

**State Party:** South Africa

**Management Authority:** South African National Parks

**State and Province:** South Africa, Limpopo

**Criteria:** (ii) (iii) (iv) and (v)

### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is the State Party of South Africa's response to Decision 40 COM 7B.19 of the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party acknowledges the recall of decisions 36 COM 7B.48, 37 COM 7B.43 and 38 COM 8B.48 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36<sup>th</sup> at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively. The State Party hereby puts it on record that the above decisions have been fully complied with.

Confirmation is given that the State Party's heritage authorities, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and the South African National Parks (SANParks) continue to monitor implementation of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) recommendations regarding the De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd, Venetia Mine's Underground Expansion project. These includes water extraction infrastructure's visual impact, water extraction and its impact on the riverine forest.

It is worth noting that as outlined in the HIA, the De Beers Venetia Mine Underground Expansion project did not require additional water extraction infrastructure in the property. Therefore, there is no new impact or concerns regarding the visual integrity of the property.

The State Party is of the opinion that all concerns about the State of Conservation of the property as raised by the World Heritage Committee and addressed by the State Party in the last decade have now been fully resolved.

### **2. RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

Decision 40 COM 7B.19 of the World Heritage Committee requested a response from the State Party on the following discussion points (Annexure A):

**2.1 Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.48, 37 COM 7B.43 and 38 COM 8B.48, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively**

The State Party is pleased to state that the decisions mentioned above have been fully complied with and that there are no emerging issues requiring further State of Conservation reporting in relation to the above.

**2.2 To continue monitoring the mine activities regarding the Venetia underground project and water usage.**

- The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) continues to monitor compliance with the recommendations of the HIA. It is critical to note that no additional water extraction infrastructure was constructed within the property.
- SANParks works closely with De Beers Consolidated Mines and the Department of Water and Sanitation in monitoring water usage.
- De Beers have installed electronic water loggers in various boreholes to monitor water levels, compare with historic data, and establish trends to evaluate.
- Monthly meetings are convened with Venetia Wellfields to assist in ensuring that conservation best practices are followed at all times within the Protected Area.
- De Beers Consolidated Mines is continuously monitoring the effect of water extraction on the riverine forest, and data is shared with the SANParks and the Department of Water and Sanitation for scrutiny and comment.

**2.3 To submit by 01 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned requests.**

- Note this State of Conservation report.

**3. Other current conservation issues which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).**

-There are no other conservation issues to report.

**4. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, new constructions within the protected area envisaged.**

The State Party submits that there are no planned major restorations or constructions with the potential to impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

**5. Public access to the State of Conservation report**

The State Party has no objection against the uploading of the State of Conservation report on the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System, thereby providing public access towards the report.

**6. Signature of the Authority**



**Culture Sector**  
**Division for Heritage**

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للغربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

H. E. Mr Rapulane Sydney Molekane  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of South Africa in  
France  
Permanent Delegate of South Africa  
Ambassade de l'Afrique du Sud  
59, Quai d'Orsay  
75343 PARIS Cedex 07

Ref.: CLT/HER/WHC/RSA/16/243/EM

29 July 2016

Dear Ambassador,

As you are aware, at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016), the World Heritage Committee examined the state of conservation of the following World Heritage property: **Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (South Africa) (C 1099bis)**.

You will find attached in Annex I, the Committee Decision **40 COM 7B.19**, concerning this property. In this Decision, the Committee requested your State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of its recommendations by **1 December 2017**, for consideration at its 42nd session in 2018.

I would also like to recall that at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the Committee adopted a specific format for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties. The compulsory format is included as Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines* and attached to this letter for ease of reference. It should be submitted in one of the working languages of the *Convention*, English or French (Decision **39 COM 7**). Please therefore use this format for the submission of the report on the aforementioned property.

Furthermore, I would like to call upon your authorities to do their utmost to comply with the above-mentioned statutory deadline for the submission of the report in order to ensure the best time available for dialogue between your authorities, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the issues at stake before the next report to the Committee is produced.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued cooperation and support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Mechtild Rössler**  
Director of the World Heritage Centre  
and Secretary to the World Heritage Committee

cc: National Commission of South Africa for UNESCO  
UNESCO Office in Harare  
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
IUCN  
ICOMOS

## ANNEX II

### Format for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties (Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines)

#### Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

1. Executive Summary of the report

*[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]*

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

*[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]*

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Please also provide detailed information on the following:

a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

*[Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]*

If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified

b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.

c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value [Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

*[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].*

6. Signature of the Authority



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE  
SITE (C 1099bis)**



**SOUTH AFRICA**

**BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Compiled in collaboration with the South African National Parks**

**08 March 2018**

## MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE STATE OF CONSERVATION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This document serves as an illustration of how the State Party with the help of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and various stakeholders has responded to the Committee decisions since 2010 when issues of potential negative impact to the property were first raised due to the granting of a mining license to Coal of Africa Limited (CoAL) for the Vele Colliery.

The issues raised by the Committee through various decisions have been attended to or clarified leading to the improved State of Conservation of the property.

Currently the property faces no threats from mining. The two existing mines (Vele Colliery and De Beers Venetia) have no significant negative impact on the property. The various sites that carry the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are well maintained and monitored. It is on the basis of the work done in response to the Committee's decisions, and the improved measures implemented within and around the property that the State Party is satisfied that there are no further reasons for the property to be part of the State of Conservation monitoring agenda of the Committee. A new Integrated Management Plan is being developed in 2018 and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once completed.

### *Summary of the World Heritage Committee Decisions since 2010*

#### **Decision 34 COM 7B.52**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add,
2. Takes note of the detailed information provided by the State Party in the state of conservation report of the property;
3. Expresses concern at the granting of a mining license for coal 5 km from the boundary of the property, in a highly sensitive area adjacent to the Limpopo river and in the proposed buffer zone that was submitted at the time of the inscription, and which is fundamentally linked to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in terms of both cultural and natural attributes;

**State Party Comment: This matter was subsequently clarified. It is now common cause that this was a misunderstanding as the mining right area was never proposed as a buffer zone. Decision 38 COM 8B.48 below is confirmation of the successful resolution of this matter.**

4. Calls upon the State Party to take appropriate measures to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List is not adversely affected by the proposed mining

and further urges the State Party to ensure that these measures are in line with the recommendations of the Technical Workshop on World Heritage and Mining adopted at the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee that was held in Cairns, Australia in 2000;

**State Party Comment: This was adhered to. The buffer between the mine and the property in the area that was initially not included serves to protect the property from further mining encroachment. An Offset Agreement between the mining company and the State Party has enabled the enhancement of the OUV through improved interpretation and conservation measures (outlined in the rehabilitation and stabilization report).**

5. Notes that sections of the property are subject to a land claim and requests the State Party to clarify what implications this might have for the management of the property as well as to clarify the exact delimitation of the buffer zone;

**State Party Comment: This issue was also clarified. The position still stands that land under conservation cannot change use after transfer to new owners as a result of land claim settlement. The State Party remains the Management Authority on behalf of new owners. This was a Cabinet Decision.**

6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies reactive monitoring mission to consider the implications of the proposed mining on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and the establishment of an effective buffer zone for the property;

**State Party Comment: A joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property between 15 and 19 November 2010, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010).**

7. Urges the State Party to halt the mining project until the joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies mission has assessed the mining impact, and to submit as soon as possible details on the status of the mining license, the status of the appeal, the position of the State Party and fuller details of ancillary projects;

**State Party Comment: Although the mining project was not halted immediately as advised at the time, the Vele Colliery currently does not have any potential significant impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site. A Vele Colliery Environmental Management Committee (EMC), an oversight committee established to monitor environmental performance during the construction, operational, decommissioning and rehabilitation phases of the Vele Colliery made up of various experts continues to monitor the mining and has been meeting twice a year ever since. The EMC is required to address compliance**

**with legislative and ecological parameters respectively that specifically relate to heritage and biodiversity within the Vele Colliery development site and in addition, to the Biodiversity Offset Programme as per the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA), South African National Parks (SANParks) and Coal of Africa (Pty) Ltd (CoAL) and any future related projects and plans and the specified Heritage Project.**

8. **Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2011 an updated report on the state of conservation of the property including details of the status of the mining license for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.**

**State Party Comment: The State Party submitted the State of Conservation report on 1 February 2011.**

## Decision: 35 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),
3. Reiterates its concern at the potential adverse impact of the approved mining site on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Recalls its position on mining and World Heritage and the policy statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM);
5. Notes that the State Party has halted mining operations at the mining site 7 km from the property boundary to ensure full compliance with national legislation while a further heritage impact assessment is carried out;
6. Also notes that the State Party has acknowledged that there was no sufficient consultation of all relevant stakeholders during the process of issuing the mining license;
7. Acknowledges the State Party's commitment to supplement the Environmental Impact Assessment that was undertaken for the mining application with the Heritage Impact Assessment and further notes that the State Party has already developed the Terms of Reference for this additional work using the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties and that the Terms of Reference had already been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by ICOMOS;

**State Party Comment: The additional Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was submitted on 25 November 2011.**

8. Expresses its concern that the buffer zone and the proposed greater Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), as was envisaged at the time of inscription to protect the property within South Africa, have not yet been completed as a result of the slow pace of land acquisition, thus continuing to leave the area east of the property unprotected;

**State Party Comment: This matter was successfully clarified and resolved culminating in Decision: 38 COM 8B.48. The South African National Parks together with the Department of Environmental Affairs initiated a process to review the buffer zone for Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site (MCLWHS) so that the delineated area is in sync with the purpose identified for the area. Progress in this regard was provided as part of the State of Conservation Report submitted to UNESCO In March 2012.**

9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, in order to assess the progress made in implementing the 2010 mission's recommendations, in particular the additional Heritage Impact Assessment and issues related to clarifying the boundaries of the property's buffer zone and the overall state of conservation of the property;

**State Party Comment: This matter was successfully resolved. A Reactive Monitoring mission took place on 15 -20 January 2012.**

10. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to continue halting the mining operations until the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission has taken place and assessed the results of the requested Heritage Impact Assessment;

11. Calls upon the Director-General of UNESCO, in consultation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, in the event of the mission concluding that the heritage impact assessment indicates that the proposed mining would not threaten irreversibly the property's Outstanding Universal Value, to consult with the State Party, in line with the provision of Decision **35 COM 7.2**, paragraph 6, on any urgent mitigation measures and monitoring programmes that might be requested before mining operations were to commence;

12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, including any negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value identified within the Heritage Impact Assessment by the mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

**State Party Comment: On 11 May 2012, the State Party submitted a State of Conservation report that includes a response to the mission's recommendations.**

## Decision 36 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.44, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Regrets that mining activities were re-started before the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was able to consider the Heritage Impact Assessment on site;

**State Party Comment: This issue was resolved**

4. Requests the State Party to submit the relevant documents to clarify the delineation of the property and of its buffer zone;

**State Party Comment: The revised buffer zone was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session and the WHC through Decision 38 COM 8B.48 approved the revised buffer zone.**

5. Also requests the State Party to ensure that any mining activities do not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

**State Party Comment: The Heritage Impact Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and is continuously monitored by the Environmental Management Committee. The OUV has not been negatively impacted and would not be impacted by the mine.**

6. Also urges the State Party to ensure that measures are taken as soon as possible to protect, conserve and consolidate the archaeological evidence on the property and particularly at the Leopard's Kopje (K2) site, which the mission reported to be seriously deteriorated;

**State Party Comment: The State Party carried out rehabilitation and stabilization of the major sites within the property. A report was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The Management Authority continues to monitor the sites and no further deterioration has occurred.**

7. Further requests the State Party to submit a copy of the Integrated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, by 1 February 2013;

**State Party Comment: The State Party submitted a draft Integrated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre on 29 January 2013. The State Party is in the process of revising the 2013 Integrated Management Plan and once completed and approved, it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.**

8. Requests finally the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2013, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

**State Party Comment: The State Party submitted the State of Conservation report on 29 January 2013. This report addressed the requests of the World Heritage Committee at its last session in relation to the impact of open-cast coal mining, the drafting of the management plan, protection, conservation and consolidation of archaeological sites and the clarification of the boundary and the buffer zone. It also reported on progress with the Trans-Frontier Conservation Area and on the proposed underground expansion of the De Beers Venetia Mine in the buffer zone.**



## Decision 37 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 36 COM 7B.48, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Acknowledges that archaeological advice will be provided to oversee the mitigation measures associated with the impact of open-cast coal mining on archaeological sites associated with the Mapungubwe Kingdom;
4. Notes the progress made in establishing a buffer zone for the property that will cover land to the east of the boundary, and progress with the establishment of the Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA);
5. Urges the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification for a buffer zone that clarifies the policies for protecting the property with respect to mining in the buffer zone and in relation to "off-set benefits";

**State Party Comment: The revised buffer zone was presented to the WHC at its 38th session and the WHC through Decision 38 COM 8B.48 approved the revised buffer zone. Management of the buffer zone is done in terms of applicable legislation.**

6. Also notes the production of the detailed and comprehensive Management Plan, requests the State Party to provide copies of the final approved plan to the World Heritage Centre and also urges the State Party to implement the plan with immediate effect;

**State Party Comment: The approved Integrated Management Plan (IMP) was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 7 May 2013. It is currently being successfully implemented. The IMP will be reviewed in 2018 and a copy submitted to the World Heritage Centre once approved. The South African National Parks submits an annual report on the implementation of the IMP to the Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs in accordance with Section 42 of the World Heritage Convention Act, 1999 (Act 49 of 1999).**

7. Takes note of the proposed underground expansion of the De Beers Venetia Mine in the buffer zone and also requests the State Party to provide further details to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies on the infrastructure arrangements associated with this expansion, in particular for transport and water supplies, and to provide appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments before any irreversible commitments are made;

**State Party Comment: De Beers Venetia mine has not increased the mining foot print as it is a vertical underground expansion. The mine has also not increased water extraction as the**

**underground project requires less water than the previous open cast. A Heritage Impact Assessment for the De Beers Venetia Underground Project and Consolidation of Existing Operations was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party confirms that the De Beers Venetia Mine falls outside the UNESCO approved buffer zone.**

8. **Commends** the State Party for not authorizing mining projects in World Heritage properties;
9. **Requests moreover** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**State Party Comment: The State Party submitted a State of Conservation report on 3 February 2016, which presented progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions.**

## Decision 38 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Notes the confirmation by the State Party that mining activity is legally prohibited in protected areas, including in World Heritage properties;
3. Approves the proposed buffer zone of **Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape, South Africa**;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Environmental Management Framework for the proposed buffer zone as soon as it has been finalised including land uses and approved regulatory tools;

**State Party Comment: An Environmental Management Framework for the site was developed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 April 2016.**

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information about the 'off-setting' in relation to the Vele Colliery, as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee.

**State Party Comment: This was done. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Department of Environmental Affairs, South African National Parks (SANParks) and Coal of Africa Limited (CoAL) was signed on 01 September 2011 and relates to the implementation of the Section 24G conditions with regards to the development and implementation of the biodiversity offsets programmes and implementation plans to be agreed upon. The Biodiversity Offsets Agreement (BOA) was signed on 08 October 2014, and the primary purpose of the agreement is to oversee the implementation of the Agreement which was a condition of the Environmental Authorisation. In addition, to strengthen co-operation between the three (3) parties towards the conservation and sustainable development of the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site (MCLWHS). A Project Steering committee (PSC), comprising of representatives from each party was in line with the BOA established on 23 June 2015. The Parties meet quarterly and report annually to the Minister of Environmental Affairs on progress regarding the implementation of the BOA. A copy of the BOA and Implementation Schedule was attached to the State of Conservation report submitted to the WHC in February 2016.**

## Decision 40 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.48**, **37 COM 7B.43** and **38 COM 8B.48**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively;
3. Commends the State Party for the development of the Environmental Management Framework and measures adopted to control the processing of existing mining rights and to prohibit further prospecting licenses in the new buffer zone;
4. Notes that the proposed extension of the Venetia Diamond mine from open pit to underground operation will require additional infrastructure within the footprint of the existing mine, that impact assessments have indicated that the change of process should reduce the environmental impacts of the mine, and that the water infrastructure arrangements within the property will be mitigated, and requests the State Party to continue regular monitoring of the mine activities;

**State Party Comment: The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) as the competent authority for Heritage Impact Assessments continues to monitor the findings of the HIA and there are no negative impacts on the OUV. It should be noted that De Beers Venetia Mine falls outside the current buffer zone approved by the World Heritage Committee.**

5. Acknowledges that key parts of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) are being implemented, and also acknowledges that the State Party has clarified that there are no proposals for a projected power station and a coal/gas field north of the Soutpansberg as mentioned in the IMP;

**State Party Comment: The situation remains.**

6. Also notes that some work has been undertaken on stabilizing the K2 archaeological site, and further notes that, on 11 July 2016, the State Party has submitted to the World Heritage Centre new material on progress with the development of the conservation plans for all the archaeological sites and a programme to address the serious deterioration reported by the 2012 mission, in line with Decision **36 COM 7B.48** and that this material will be reviewed by ICOMOS;

**State Party Comment: Rehabilitation was done and the Site Specific Management Plans for the major sites continue to be implemented and monitored. No further deterioration has occurred. On 11 July 2016, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre new material on progress with the development of the conservation plans for all the archaeological sites and a programme to address the serious deterioration reported by the 2012 mission, in line with Decision 36 COM 7B.48**

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

**State Party Comment: The State of Conservation report was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 30 November 2017.**

**SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY**

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08/03/2018  
I. NTLOKO

