



Ref: NMK/UN/2/1

1st February 2018

Dr. Mechtild Rossler,
Director of World Heritage Centre,
UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris CEDEX 07
FRANCE

Dear Dr. Rossler,

**RE: SOC REPORT FOR 41 COM 7B.69 LAMU OLD TOWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE
(KENYA) (1055)**

Kindly receive the State of Conservation report for the Lamu Old Town World Heritage Property. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the State Party of Kenya, to thank the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the sustained support in the conservation of heritage in Kenya. I appreciate the excellent organisation, financing and leadership of the Advisory Mission on the Lamu WHS that was conducted from 24th -26th January 2018.

I look forward to continued collaborations with the World Heritage Centre.

Yours sincerely,

Mzalendo N. Kibunjia *PhD, EBS*

Director General

Lamu Old Town World Heritage Site (KENYA) (1055)

Executive Summary

In order to enhance the preservation of heritage sites within the precincts of the LAPSSET corridor the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) initiated an official discourse with the LAPSSET authority on how best to collaborate. The NMK and the LAPSSET Authority have established a technical team to articulate the principles of an MOU that will pave way for future collaborations between the two agencies.

The NMK submitted a SEA to the WHC in March 2017 which the World Heritage Committee recommended for review between the State Party and the Advisory Bodies in its decision 41 COM.7B.69. As a way of implementing the decision, the State Party have since July 2017 continually engaged the World Heritage Centre about the revision of the LAPSSET SEA report. The engagement culminated into an invitation of a UNESCO WHC Advisory Mission from the 24th-26th January that was conducted in Nairobi.

During the Advisory Mission, the LAPSSET Authority reiterated that no projects will be implemented within the Lamu Archipelago. The revision of the SEA will be undertaken once the State Party has received recommendations of the UNESCO WHC advisory mission.

In addition, a feasibility study for the LAPSSET project is being actualized through subject plans focusing on the relevant sectors. The two plans relating to the urban and infrastructural developments within the Lamu County have been requested from the relevant authorities and will be shared as soon as received

Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 41COM 78.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions 39 COM 78.40 and 40 COM 78.12, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Authority and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) according to which NMK should provide heritage advisory services to the LAPSSET project;

The National Museums of Kenya and the LAPSSET Authority have set up a technical working team to finalize the principles of the MOU and complete the document for adoption by the two agencies.

4. Notes that the 2011 Feasibility Study and Master Plan for the LAPSSET project are complete as well as the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) carried out in 2014 and continues to encourage the State Party to exclude the Lamu Archipelago from any LAPSSET developments, and acknowledges that whilst the LAPSSET project is ongoing, the details of the LAPSSET project be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and no later than 1 December 2017;

During the Advisory Mission of January 2018, the LAPSSET Authority reiterated that no projects will be implemented within the Lamu Archipelago. The draft SEA was presented during the mission and critiqued by the participants in attendance. The need to include the Lamu HIA report as an annex to the SEA document among other recommendations was made clear during the mission and before the SEA consultants and the LAPSSET Authority. The revised SEA will therefore be done in consideration of the 41st WHC decision. The NMK shall ensure that the revised SEA report incorporates the detailed recommendations from the UNESCO WHC advisory mission once it receives the report.

The detailed development plans for the LAPSSET project and in particular the Lamu Metropolis, Lamu Port and associated infrastructure components have been broken down into subject plans. The master plan for the Lamu Metropolis has been developed by Atkins Consultants and have taken into account and improved on a concept for the development of the metropolis earlier prepared by the County Government of Lamu through Pleng Consultants). There is also the Integrated Transport Infrastructure master plan supported by EU which is ongoing. The two documents will be forwarded to the WHC once officially received.

5. Reiterates its concern that the LAPSSET project will significantly increase the development pressures for the entire region, including the Lamu Archipelago, and that

consideration must be given to all potential impacts on the World Heritage property caused by such pressures;

The potential threat to the conservation of culture and other heritage is acknowledged by the State Party which in recognition of this and through the LAPSSET Authority ordered for the LAPSSET SEA study on the entire corridor from Lamu to the border with Ethiopia and South Sudan. The concern is already captured in the draft LAPSSET SEA report of 2017. The report analyses three major impacts namely economic, environmental and socio-capital impacts. An issue-based mitigation strategy has been presented in the draft SEA report.

In connection this, the Lamu World Heritage Site, the latest development plan for the Lamu Port and Lamu Metropolis investment framework plan, the major LAPSSET components including urban development and associated infrastructure have been concentrated on the mainland and the islands left as special conservation areas. Moreover the urban investment plan that has been revised has vastly reduced the footprint of the proposed special economic zone and urban areas. It has emphasized on the preserving the existing fragile eco-systems/area and even introduced buffer zones to contain the future expansion of the urban areas. An official copy of the revised LAPSSET Planning and Investment Framework will be submitted as soon as possible.

6. Notes the late submission of the above-mentioned Strategic and Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LAPSSET project to the World Heritage Centre, but urges the State Party to revise it, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and submit this revised SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies no later than 1 December 2017

The State Party of Kenya through the NMK had submitted a SEA to the WHC in May 2017 which was the earliest date that it could have submitted as the document had not been finalized by the consultant prior to that date. The World Heritage Committee recommended for review between the State Party and the Advisory Bodies in its decision 41 COM.7B.69. As a way of the implementing the decision, the State Party have since July 2017 continually engaged the World Heritage Centre on the revision of the LAPSSET SEA report. The engagement culminated into an invitation of a UNESCO WHC Advisory Mission from the 24th-26th January that was conducted in Nairobi. The Advisory Mission could not have happened prior to the 1st December 2017 as would have been expected as there were security concerns in Kenya during that period and which affected execution of the mission by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The revision of the SEA will be subjected to the recommendations of the UNESCO WHC advisory mission and will be submitted in due course.

7. Notes with concern that an HIA for the already completed Manda Airport upgrade has not been undertaken, although requested by the Committee, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake such an HIA as soon as possible in order to identify any adverse impacts on the property and ways to mitigate these impacts, and to submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

The issue of HIA for the Manda Airport needs clarification. The rehabilitation of Manda Airport was not a construction of a new facility and did not warrant a HIA. The State Party of Kenya encourages the advisory mission to organize for a site visit to the airport as the details will only be fully appreciated through an actual site visit. Meanwhile the NMK will in due course provide more details to the initial report on the airport submitted in 2016 SOC as agreed during the advisory mission.

8. Requests that the revised Management Plan, including the new chapter covering the LAPSSET development project, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and no later than 1 December 2017;

The management plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and was part of the documents being reviewed in the Advisory Mission. The NMK shall incorporate the recommendations of the advisory Mission in a revised management plan.

9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to clarify the current scope of the LAPSSET project in relation to its actual and potential impacts on the Lamu Old Town property, to examine work already carried out for the LAPSSET project and on the Manda airport developments, and to examine the overall state of conservation of the Lamu Old Town property;

As per the request, the State Party of Kenya extended an invitation to the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM to Lamu in 2017 but due to the security concerns already mentioned, the Mission delayed to 2018 and was held in Nairobi rather than in Lamu. However the State Party is of the view that the Advisory Mission needs to visit Lamu for a clearer appreciation of the LAPSSET project.

10. Acknowledges the submission of a draft SEA report and urges the State Party to continue enhancing the mitigation measures to address the identified negative impacts of the project in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*

Kenya commits itself to do all that is required to ensure that the Lamu World Heritage Property is sustainably managed for the benefit of humanity.

11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 **February 2018**, 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.