

State Party: Kenya

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**STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT
FOR THE UNESCO / WORLD HERITAGE
COMMITTEE**

For:

**LAMU OLD TOWN
WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Lamu, January 2015

State of Conservation Report

Lamu Old Town (Kenya)(c1055)

Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's decision - WHC- 14/38.COM/7B.Add, paragraph by paragraph

3. Strongly regrets that the Lamu Port - South Sudan - Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Development Authority project was not halted, and reiterates its request to the State Party to halt all work on the LAPSSET development project until the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report has been finalized and its results discussed by the World Heritage Committee;

In November 2014 a High Court judge at the Malindi Land and Environment court issued an order following a petition by 146 land owners who have petitioned the court to force the Government to compensate them before construction of the proposed port. The High Court judge stopped the Ministry of Lands from interfering with the petitioners' parcels of land. Following this developments, the project is on hold as the scheduled presidential launch has also been postponed until the pending issues are resolved. The NMK will take advantage of this postponement to fast track all the pending issues in regards to the HIA and the mitigation measures.

4.Takes note of the delay in the finalization of the HIA, and urges the State Party to complete the report and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;

The National Museums of Kenya has reviewed the HIA report prepared in 2014 through the support of the UNSECO WHC in a meeting held at the Fort Jesus World Heritage site in October 2014 and attended by among others the Director General National Museums of Kenya, The Director Site and Monuments National Museums of Kenya, The NMK - WHC focal contact, THE LAMU WH Site Management Team and leading heritage experts from the NMK. The reviewed HIA document and recommendations of the review team have been presented to the board of the National Museums of Kenya for adoption. The HIA document and recommendations have also been submitted to the Kenya Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts.

5. Also takes note of the progress made on the development of a new chapter of the management plan covering the LAPSSET development project, requests that it integrates the results of the HIA, and that the finalized version be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon it is completed;

The management chapter on the LAPSSET project has been drafted and was presented to the NMK meeting on the review of the Lamu HIA for comments. The draft chapter will be discussed in detail in a scheduled WHC UNESCO reactive mission meeting to be held in Nairobi on the 9-10th February 2015. The chapter will be incorporated into the management plan once comments have been received from the UNESCO WHC reactive mission and approved by the management of the NMK in consultation with the cabinet secretary in charge of national heritage

6. Also requests the State Party to encourage the involvement of the local community in the development and implementation of the planning and mitigation mechanisms that will be developed to offset the impacts of the LAPSSET project;

The NMK acknowledges the importance of stakeholder involvement and has ensured that all the stakeholders are included in the decision making process as evidenced with the high level of community participation witnessed during the preparation of the Lamu HIA report. In a demonstration of the commitment to stakeholder participation, The Director General NMK has committed to provide transport and accommodation for at least 15 community representatives to travel to Nairobi from Lamu on the 9th – 11th of February 2015 to meet the WHC reactive mission team that will not be able to travel to Lamu owing to security concerns

7. Also reiterates its request made at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions that the State Party furnish maps clearly showing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and further requests that any extensions to the buffer zone be submitted to the World Heritage Committee as a minor boundary modification as soon as they are completed and approved at the State Party level;

The issue of the official site boundaries of the Lamu WH site and the proposed extensions were discussed extensively and resolved by the NMK LAMU HIA

report review meeting held in October 2014 in Mombasa. The NMK surveyor was deployed to Lamu in December 2014 to map out the new boundaries. Hardcopies of the official site boundaries and the reviewed buffer zone boundaries have been sent via post to the WHC for perusal and approval.

8.Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to discuss the results of the HIA and their implementation with the State Party and local stakeholders, to examine the work already undertaken for the LAPSSET development project, and to examine the state of conservation of the property

The Kenyan Cabinet Secretary in charge of cultural heritage has officially invited the UNESCO WHC, ICCROM and ICOMOS through the Kenyan delegation to UNESCO to undertake a reactive mission to the site via letter reference No. MSCA/44/7/Vol 1 dated 12.12.2014 The UNESCO WHC has accepted the invitation and officially confirmed that a team will be sent to Nairobi from the 9th -11th February 2015. Unfortunately the reactive mission will not be able to Lamu owing to security concerns on the advice of the UN body in charge for security and safety of UN staff in Nairobi. The team will however hold meetings in Nairobi with relevant high ranking Kenya government officials and hold consultative meeting with stakeholders and community representatives from Lamu.

The UNESCO WHC has already submitted the official acknowledgment and Terms of Reference (TORS) for the mission to the Kenya.