



**STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT, THE RUINS OF
KILWA KISIWANI AND RUINS OF SONGO MNARA,
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.**

**(In compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational
Guidelines*)**

**Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)
(C144)**

1. Executive Summary of the report

The report shows that the Property was inscribed in the List of World Heritage on Danger in 2004, as the site was threatened by deterioration and decay of structure that were leading to the total collapse of the historical and archaeological structure for which the property was inscribed. Through immense efforts by the State Party, in collaboration with international stakeholders, the site regained its desirable state of conservation that warranted it be removed in the list in 2014 at its 38th committee's meeting in Doha.

The SoC explains further that the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and the Advisory bodies (UNESCO and ICOMOS) identified some corrective measures that were in planning stages and rendering the site vulnerable and urged the state Party to implement the following measures; to finalize the process of establishing the boundaries of the property, of the buffer zones and their regular, finalization and update the Management Plan, formulation of the drafts sustainable tourism Development Plan and elaborate the land use plan and the State Party was requested to maintain and reinforce the management structure and secure resources for its adequate and efficient functioning.

The report shows that the draft LUP for Songo Mnara is in place. The Property's area has been identified and will be demarcated by using stone beacons after the approval by the village council meeting that will be held in Songo Mnara, in December 2015. However, there is not yet a LUP for Kilwa Kisiwani due to the change of its status from being a village to a suburb (kitongoji) of Kilwa Masoko Township. However, the State Party proposes for the development of either General Management Plan or Interim Land Use Plan. The state Party acknowledges its commitment to ensure all the recommendation and requirements for a world heritage property is adhered to. It also agrees with the Advisory Bodies that with the absence of the plans the site is not vulnerable to destruction.

On the other hand the review of MP has not been completed and the State Party is committed to submit it to the WHC by 15th December 2015, together with the English version of the Songo Mnara LUP and By-laws after their translation from Swahili.

Lastly, the State Party has received funding from UNESCO/WHC for strengthening the coastal Sea Wall on the Gereza Fort in Kilwa Kisiwani. This work will enable the structure to be away from destructive wave action. And also there is no any construction going on the Property that will threaten the property integrity.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

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

Response: The Property was inscribed on the World heritage List in 1981 under criteria (iii), but it was inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger in 2004 as the site was threatened by the deterioration and decay that were leading to the collapse of the historical and archaeological structures for which the property was inscribed. The factors that were affecting the Property are as follows a) Lack of the approved boundaries for the property and buffer zones linked to the land use plans and appropriate protection; b) Deterioration of the architectural fabric, C) sea wave erosion; d) theft of stones from ruins for use as building material f) lack of functioning local consultative committee; g) lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans. Owing to the State party's efforts in collaboration with international communities to implement the corrective measures suggested by WHC, the desirable state of conservation was attained that justified the Property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, at the 38th session (Doha, 2014).

However, the World Heritage Committee noted that several actions were still in planning stages and rendering the property vulnerable and urged the state part to implement the following measures;

- a) **Finalize the Process of establishing the boundaries , of the property of the buffer zones and their regulatory measures**

Response: As mentioned in the previous reports (SoC 2015), the process of establishing the boundaries and the buffer zones was successfully done in Songo Mnara, when the land use Plan (LUP) was being prepared. The size of the heritage sites has been determined as 48.7 hectares (LUP Swahili version p 47). Also for the proposed Songo Mnara (LUP see appendix 1) an area marked with a red arrow on the North Western side is the Property area. Both land use Plan and by-laws are currently being translated into English from Swahili language. The final village General meeting will be convened in the beginning of December 2015 to get the final approval of the village council and this will allow the demarcated areas to be marked with stone beacons. In the meantime, the two documents will be submitted to UNESCO-WHC before December 15th based on the financial Contract Activity that was signed between WHC and the State Party (the Action Plan of the work is attached with this report).

On the other hand, in local government administrative system, Kilwa Kisiwani status was changed from a village to a suburb (Kitongoji) of Kilwa Masoko Township Authority. Meanwhile, the subsidiary legislation of 1981, made under section 25, of the Antiquities Protected Objects and Monuments Rules of 1980, protects all ruins in the islands, which implies the whole island is protected by the law due to the sensitivity of the area. This means that all the monuments found in Kilwa Kisiwani are legally protected, although only the major outstanding structures were listed in the World Heritage List this includes; Husuni ruins, Malindi and Gereza, and Western Monuments that includes the

mosques, makutani area and burial grounds. By considering the nature of the island and the way monuments are distributed in the Island, it is the view of the State Party and Kilwa Kisiwani being a hamlet of Kilwa Masoko Township Authority, a General Management Plan or Master Plan should be pursued. And, the regulatory measures that suit these management tools would be developed in collaboration with the Kilwa District Administrative Authorities. This means also that the buffer will be the Indian Ocean surrounding the island.

b) Finalize and updated Management Plan, formulation of drafts sustainable Tourism Development Plan and elaboration of the Land use Plans for Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara

Response: The management Plan is currently under review. The delay has been caused by the funding problems the state party was facing. The state Party appreciates the financial assistance from UNESCO-WHC. The state Party honours the contract and will submit the updated MP before December 15th, 2015.

However, the Formulation of a Draft Sustainable Tourism Development Plan was received as a recommendation made by the Committee (Decision 38COM 7A.27) as well as the recommended from Advisory Bodies - ICOMOS Technical Review Report (2014). As it has been mentioned in the SOC 2015, the tourism plan will be implemented through the EU project christened ‘Promoting Heritage sites in Kilwa to strengthen Social and Economic Development’ is being implemented since October 2014. The Project has already developed a comprehensive inventory of all heritages in the District both natural and cultural, the world heritage sites and others documented in one catalogue called ‘Karibu Kilwa’ which means welcome to Kilwa. The catalogue is currently available online. The State Party believes that the development of the plan for the world heritage site for the time being could lead to duplication of efforts. Therefore, it should be undertaken comprehensively with other sites. However, the State Party will keenly ensure that the world heritage site has all relevant and important tools for tourism management in the Property.

As it has been mentioned in the response (a) above and Land Use Plan Map see appendix (1) the Swahili version map attached with this report, the LUP for Songo Mnara is in place pending an approval of the Village Authorities.

On the other hand, although the Socio economic survey was conducted in Kilwa Kisiwani, as a precondition for developing a land use plan; the plan is not yet in place. This is due to the change of administrative status of the Kilwa Kisiwani, to become a part of Kilwa Masoko Township environs from the village status, and therefore the LUP is no longer the requirement according to the existing land management legislations. And the State Party proposes therefore, for the reason that the island is protected under the Antiquities Act, a General Management Plan (GMP) or Interim Land Use Plan should be developed instead of a LUP. The State Party is committed to work closely with other stakeholders both the local and international to fundraise for this important activity.

Based on aforementioned report the State Party will continue to respect and uphold the recommendations by WHC, technical and advisory committee such as the UNESCO/ICOMOS missions and recommendations and the proposal for minor boundary modifications, in accordance to Paragraphs 163-165 of the operational guidelines. The State Party will work hard to sollicit more funds to accomplish all the requirements that will put Kilwa Kisiwani on safer grounds by establishing the required land management plans. The State Party insists further that in absence of the documents in both Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara there are no immediate threats and great concerns to the integrity or authenticity of the attributes, architecture, and archaeological remains of the Property (UNESCO/ICOMOS Report 2013).

Finally, the State Party would like to recognise the financial and technical support to develop and accomplish the Songo Mnara Land use Plan successfully, this includes; Funding from United States of America, through Ambassadors Funds for Cultural Preservation managed by World Monument Fund, UNESCO – World Heritage Centre for financial support to complete, translate, and produced LUP and By-laws for Songo Mnara as well as support to technical staff to finalize the MP for the Property, Kilwa District Council for technical support, and Songo Mnara Village Authorities for their support and involvement to the prepare the documents.

c) Maintain and reinforce the Management structure and secure resources for its adequate and efficient functioning.

Response: Since 2014 the State has maintained the same staff and recruited one new officer. As mentioned in the state of conservation report of 2015, the state part hired a building for the office, this aims to provide staff with a well conducive builing for efficient working. The State Party will use the advantage of the existing pool of volunteers to feel some of the existing gaps and financial constraints. And, before the end of this year, the State Party is planning to hire more assistant conservators and some of them will be dispatched to Kilwa.

- 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.

Response: The timeframe for implementing the remaining corrective has never been put in place after the site have been removed in the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party proposes another five years more to complete the remaining less than 30% of of all ruins that have not been preserved particularly Husuni Ndogo, some places at Husuni Kubwa and the Control of sea wave erosion is a huge work that needs more international support both financial and technical.

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

Response: The Property is currently in a desirable state of conservation that warranted it to be removed in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, through assistance from the local and international community, the State Party will work hard to ensure that the Property's state of conservation remains in the desirable status. For the implementation corrective measures appendix 2 shows clearly.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

Strengthening the coastal Sea wall on the Gereza for in Kilwa kisiwani

The State Party has secured funding from UNESCO-WHC to carry out this work at the Gereza Fort. The proposal was designed in the beginning of 2014 to complement restoration activities that were carried out few years ago by Funding from World Monument Fund and US Ambassadors fund for Cultural Preservation. It was submitted as an emergence project but couldn't meet the conditions for that category. However, it received a positive support from UNESCO/ WHC about the acceptance of the project.

This project is a result of the fessibility study of the coastal environment made by Samaki Consultants Limited for the project in 2012: *"Of the four sites vulnerable the marine erosional influences and likely to be further impacted by rises in sea level, the priority site for intervention is the Gereza area. There erosional forces are most severe and have the greatest potential to cause lasting and visible damage"*.

The study identified further the degradation of the Gereza Fort will have very negative impacts on the entire site, especially as this is the 'arrival' port for the visitors to Kilwa Kisiwani Island. The work around the Gereza area has the following three main objectives;

- a) Reduce or eliminate the destructive NE wave action from reaching important monument, including Malindi Beach;
- b) Reduce or eliminate tidal immersion of portions of the Gereza that may slowly dissolve;
- c) Reduce scouring tidal currents that also increase wave impacts

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.

There is no plan to construct any structure at the site, except the on going activity of building a toilet at German Rest House in Kilwa Kisiwani.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

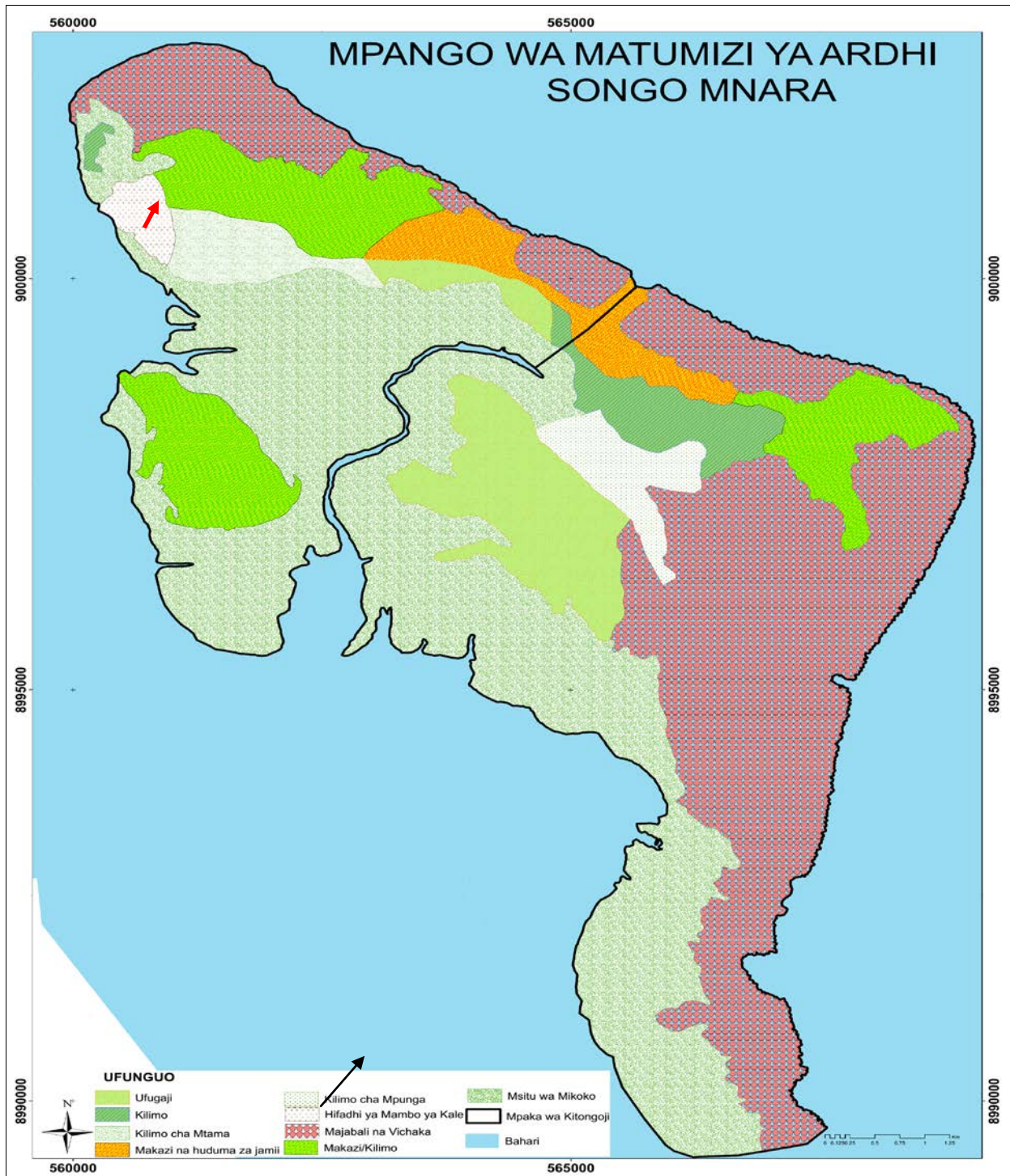
Response: The State Party poses no restriction for public access to its State of Conservation Report.

6. Signature of the Authority
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Map : SWAHILI MAP OF THE PROPOSED LAND USE PLAN (2013-2023)



Appendix 2 Recommended Documents for the Property and Implementation Status

S/N	Document	Requested/Recommended	Status/recommendation
1.0	Land Use Plan	MP 2004, WHC recommendations	A draft LUP for SM available in Swahili version and being translated to

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			Kiswahili , multi-sectoral consultations highly required Deadline- December, 15 2015
2.0	Management Plan	ICOMOS Report 2008, 2013 WHC	Will be available by December 15, 2015, continuous process,
2.1	Appendices for MP		
a.	Sustainable Tourism Development Plan	ICOMOS Report 2013 WHC 38 th session, required before February 2013	Not yet developed and Tourism Plan will be develop as part of the EU fund project under implementation for the whole District of Kilwa by 2016. This is perceived as holistic approach for the District.
b	Disaster Risk Management Plan	ICOMOS/WHC Report 2013	Not yet in Place, and will be developed once the inventory of heritage resources is completed through the EU project which is being implemented .
c	Communication Plan	ICOMOS Technical Report , (Charenton-le-Pont) 2014	Draft Communication Plan in Place. The Property has already an Administrative structure whose implementation has been delayed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Staffing level ii. Capacity building to the Kilwa Kisiwani staff who have been studying iii. Inadequate office accommodation now are completed iv. Draft Plan will be

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

			completed by Feb 2015 Submission Date: 15 December 2015
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