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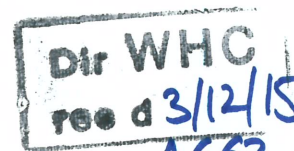
The Chairperson  
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Dear Sir/Madam,

**LAKE MALAWI NATIONAL PARK WORLD HERITAGE SITE:  
MALAWI'S RESPONSE TO THE 38<sup>TH</sup> DOHA SESSION DECISION**

At its 37th session, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Malawi to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Site (Decision **37 COM 7B.5**). As such a team was sent in with the objective of reviewing the state of conservation of the property, in particular the potential impacts of oil exploration on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Lake Malawi, as well as other potential threats and concerns related to the integrity of the property.

Based on the mission report, the Committee at its 38<sup>th</sup> Doha Session requested Malawi to cancel the oil exploration permit which overlaps with the property and to work on the issues raised in the report and provide a response by 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 (Decision **38 COM 7B.92**).



Malawi remains committed to heritage conservation issues hence from the time the decision was made available to her, proper processes were started to work on it. The Department of Culture, as the country secretariat, facilitated a number of meetings with all stakeholders with the aim of informing them of the decision and soliciting their views and support to properly respond to the issues.

Consequently, a twofold approach was adopted in addressing the recommendations of the session. First on the issue of oil exploration, a joint ministerial committee was put in place to develop and submit a Cabinet Paper advising Cabinet on the decision of the World Heritage Committee. The ministerial committee comprises; the Ministry of Energy, Mining and Environmental Affairs which regulates and grants oil concessions, facilitates Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and controls National Parks and Wildlife reserves; Ministry of Information and Tourism which regulates tourism developments and promotes tourism; Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation which controls and manages fishing activities on Lake Malawi; and the Ministry of Sports and Culture which leads the committee.

You may wish to know that the issue of oil exploration started under a different government before the new government came in May 2014. Owing to the complexity of the issue at hand, the new Government needs time to assess the issue and the consequences of its decision. Second, the recommendations of the mission party such as working closely with communities in the village enclaves and around the periphery of the

property, are being addressed through the revision of the property's Management Plan. I am pleased to inform you, Sir, that the Plan is at an advanced stage.

In this regard Sir, I request your office to give us some more time to adequately respond to the recommendations of the 38<sup>th</sup> Doha Session. Malawi, as a State Party to the World Heritage Committee, is committed to the preservation of all her heritage resources and attaches her utmost interest in conserving resources of global significance.



Sam T. K. Madula

**Secretary for Sports and Culture**