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Ministry of Civic Education, Culture
and Community Development
Private Bag 384
Lilongwe 3
MALAWI

23rd February, 2017.

The Director
World Heritage Centre
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE

Dear Sir,

**REPORT ON PROGRESS ON THE CONSERVATION OF LAKE
MALAWI NATIONAL PARK WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
BASED ON 2014 UNESCO/IUCN JOINT REACTIVE MONITORING
MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

In response to recommendations made by the joint UNESCO/IUCN mission which took place from 31st March to 4th April 2014 as regards the reviewing of the state of conservation of the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage property, in particular the potential impacts of oil exploration on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the State Party of Malawi is reporting on the progress made so far. Refer to the enclosed report.

The report was prepared by a team of experts composed of technical officers from the Departments of Culture, Energy, Mining, Fisheries, and National Parks & Wildlife. The team met several times to discuss the joint mission's report in view of the need to provide technical inputs to guide the decision on the matter of the World Heritage Property (WHP). These meetings led to the implementation of the recommendations made by your Joint Monitoring Mission as per the attached report.

You will notice that the recommendations by the Joint Monitoring Mission have not yet been completely implemented. I would like to inform you that stakeholders are still consulting on how better further implementation of the Joint Monitoring Mission recommendations would be made and the final report will be submitted to WHC by 1st December 2017 as per requirement.

As our technical team continues to engage stakeholders on the issues raised in Joint Monitoring Mission report, there are some issues which have come to our attention which need further clarification from WHC. While Malawi as a State Party fully understands the operational guidelines of the convention in line with oil/gas exploration and exploitation and fully agrees and wishes to implement all the recommendations made by the Joint Monitoring Mission, it has come to our notice that we need guidance and clarification from WHC in terms of methods of oil and gas exploration. In the course of our consultations, we have been told that methods of exploration have evolved due to scientific and technological advances.

I am told the new oil and gas exploration methods include Airborne Full Tensor Gradiometer (FTG) and Vessel Based 2D Seismic which are based on

Airborne Gravity and Magnetic Technology (Aeromag) and Seismic Reflections, respectively. These are said to be environmental friendly and can be used to explore oil and gas without disturbing the environment. Should there be reservoirs enough for exploitation, extraction might be done outside the property. As such, the technical team wishes to be guided by WHC if this could still be an issue.

We look forward to your guidance on this issue. Malawi as a State Party renews its commitment to the conservation statutes of Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage property.

Yours sincerely,



Esmie T. Kainja, PhD

**SECRETARY FOR CIVIC EDUCATION, CULTURE AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

MALAWI PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAKE MALAWI NATIONAL PARK WORLD HERITAGE SITE

NAME: LAKE MALAWI NATIONAL PARK, STATE PARTY: MALAWI, ID NO: N289

Malawi in response to a request by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th Session invited a monitoring mission to review the site of conservation of the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage property, in particular the potential impacts of oil exploration on its Outstanding Universal Values (OUV). The joint UNESCO/IUCN Mission took place from 31st March to 4th April, 2014.

The objective of the monitoring mission was to review the state of conservation of the Property in particular the potential impacts of oil exploration on the OUV of Lake MALAWI, as well as other potential threats and concerns related to the integrity of the property.

With reference to **Decision 38Com 7B.92**, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Malawi to implement all the recommendations of the 2014 joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission as outlined below:

- a) Demarcate the boundary of the outer limits of the aquatic zone of the property with floating buoys,
- b) Deploy patrol boats, other equipment and personnel to ensure enforcement of fishing restrictions and other measures aimed at protecting the OUV of the property,
- c) Design and implement an effective monitoring protocol to provide a basis for assessing changes in fish diversity and populations, other fauna, water quality and management parameters that could be used in adapting management interventions for better protection of the property's OUV,
- d) Closely engage with communities in the village enclaves and in the periphery of the property to develop suitable resource management programmes,
- e) Promote low-impact eco-tourism ventures that comply with appropriate environmental and social impact standards;
- f) Revise the 2007-2011 management plan for the property, provide an electronic and three printed copies for review by the World Heritage Center and IUN as soon as it is available and to ensure that the revised management plan includes

provisions for the implementation of the above mentioned mission recommendations.

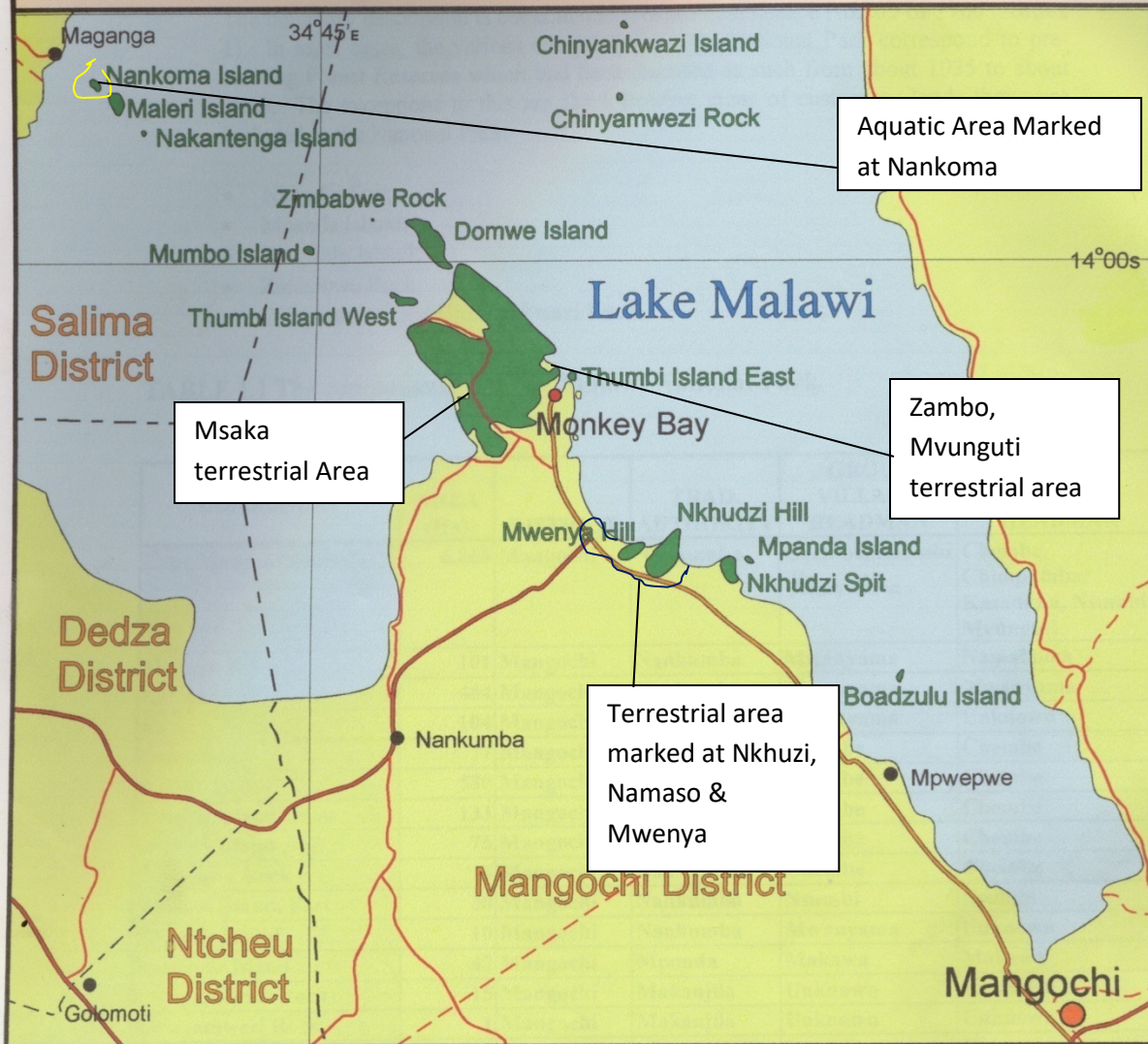
Presented is the Malawi progress report on the implementation of the reactive monitoring mission recommendations for Lake Malawi National Park **Decision 40 COM 7B.81**

a) Response to Demarcation of the boundary of the outer limits of the aquatic zone of the property with floating buoys.

First, the needs assessment exercise was undertaken in terms of the materials that are required to properly mark both aquatic and terrestrial boundaries. The marking of the 100m aquatic zone around the islands is under way starting with Northern Islands where Nankoma Island has been completely marked with aquatic floating buoys. Marking exercise is continuing with other islands but at a slow pace due to limited funding as it is being wholly financed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife financial resources. The equipment involved in the activity is very expensive, and is not locally available. For example each floating buoy costs about US\$64 with ropes of 20m at a cost of about US\$4 per meter for each rope, and one island requires about 20 floating buoys. There are a total of 13 Islands to be marked, and the total estimated cost is US\$15,000. It is planned that the aquatic floating buoys exercise will be completed by June 2018.

Terrestrial marking of Park boundary has been nearly completed. Marking was completed in Msaka, Nkhuzi, Namaso, Namakoma areas with Mvunguti area remaining to be completed. Boundary marking exercise involved Survey Department and local communities in enclave villages and the peripheral villages. Map is given below showing the areas that have been marked.

Figure 1.1 - Location and Components of the Lake Malawi National Park
Scale 1:250,000



Legend

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ● District Capital | — District Road (Gravel) |
| • Town | - - - TA Boundary |
| • Village | - - - District Boundary |
| — National Road (Surfaced) | ● National Park |

- b) Response to deploying patrol boats, other equipment and personnel to ensure enforcement of fishing restrictions and other measures aimed at protecting the OUV of the property paragraph.

In order to enhance patrol effort and effectiveness the following equipment have been put in place:

- i) **Patrol Boats**

A speed boat for patrols has been donated by a conservation group of Mareli islands spearheaded by Blue Zebra lodge one of the concessionaires of Lake Malawi National Park (Mareli Conservation Trust) to enhance aquatic patrols on the northern part of the park .

One wooden boat and two rubber boat were repaired using the park management financial resources. With these two boats the park has managed to increase patrol coverage on the southern aquatic parts of the property except Chinyankhwazi and Chinyamwezi islands, eastern islands which cannot be reached with the old boats due to unstable and raffle condition on the lake.



A rubber boat for aquatic patrols and monitoring

- ii) **Vehicles**

Two vehicles have been maintained for deployment of law enforcement teams on terrestrial patrols.

iii) Recruitment of Field staff

Five Park Rangers were recruited and received three additional staff from Liwonde National Park which has increased the number of patrol men with a resultant increase in patrol effort and arrests.

iv) Patrol equipment

10 Life Jackets and 5 Tents were procured for field officers.

v) Staff Housing

Department of National Parks and Wildlife constructed 6 standard houses for field staff at Maganga Camp in Salima.

vi) Comparative Patrol Performance and Effort (2014-2016)

In view of the above initiatives from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, a comparative analysis of patrol effort is assessed over the three year period as indicated below.

Table 1: Monthly total arrests, confiscations & illegal activities for the Park – July 2013 to June 2014

Months	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Arrest	47	0	8	19	11	2	25	15	8	14	7	14	170
Confiscation	4	16	18	11	4	4	4	2	2	3	5	13	86
Illegal activity	117	60	129	141	81	36	66	67	56	50	52	34	889

Table 2: Monthly total arrests, confiscations & illegal activities for the Park – 2014 to 2015

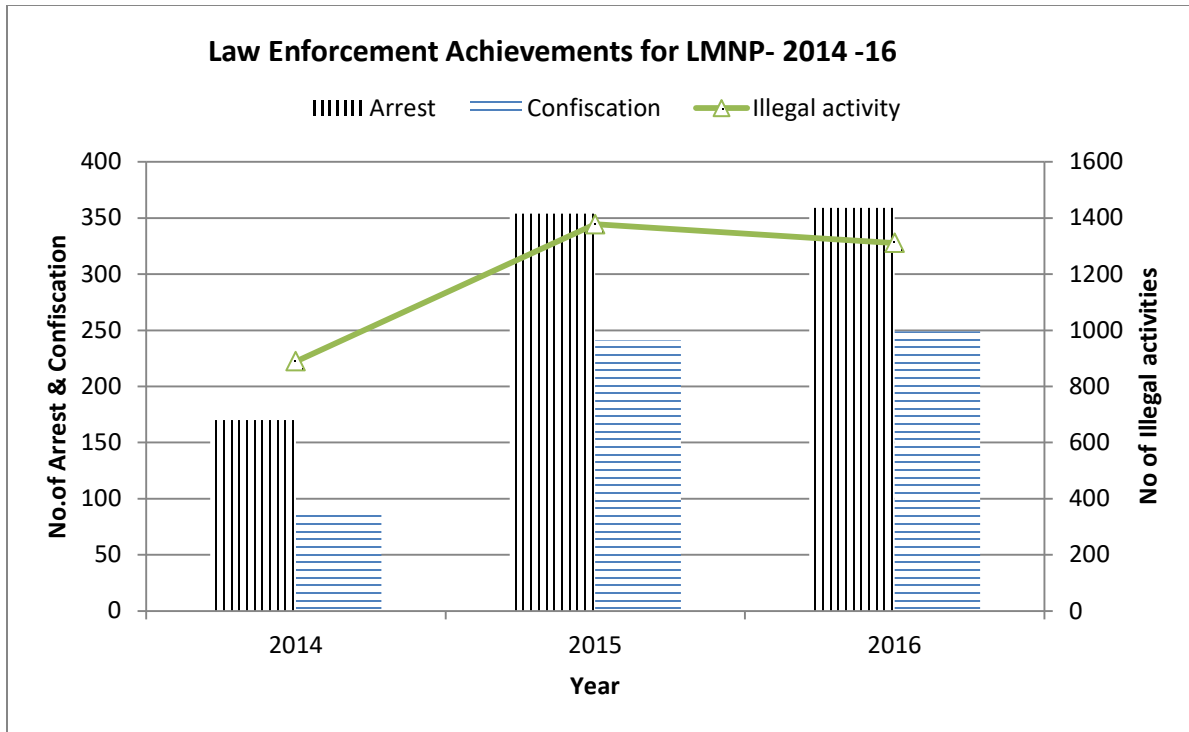
Months	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Arrest	30	42	50	37	72	0	22	22	32	4	22	21	354
Confiscation	11	42	10	12	46	0	8	20	82	1	8	1	241
Illegal activity	93	430	103	83	253	0	91	104	81	31	55	54	1378

Table 3: Monthly total arrests, confiscations & illegal activities for the Park – 2015 to 2016

Months	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Arrest	45	36	46	39	64	5	13	41	21	6	19	24	359
Confiscation	24	52	6	14	37	3	6	22	70	4	10	3	251
Illegal activity	123	326	127	80	248	8	89	99	75	31	43	62	1311

Note: Financial Year runs from July to June

Graphically the comparative analysis is presented in the figure below.



- c) Response to Design and implement an effective monitoring protocol to provide a basis for assessing changes in fish diversity and populations, other fauna, water quality and management parameters that could be used in adapting management interventions for better protection of the property’s OUV;**

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife jointly with the Department of Fisheries has developed a draft fish monitoring protocol (see attached). What remains is to finalize and operationalize the protocol since there are financial implications attached to this.

- d) Response to Closely engage with communities in the village enclaves and in the periphery of the property to develop suitable resource management programmes**

The DNPW is working with the communities by promoting collaborative management to improve people’s livelihood and gain support in wildlife conservation and management. DNPW facilitated the establishment and development of the local community umbrella association for the park which is known as Mangochi Salima Lake Park Association (MASALAPA) now legally registered to facilitate revenue sharing and community based natural resource management (Copy of Registration Certificate attached as Appendix 1). As from August 2015, the park is sharing 25% of the park entry and concession fees with the communities.

The communities have implemented a number of projects such as:

- (i) construction of temporary learning shelter for school children at Kasankha enclave village;
- (ii) a footpath bridge at TA Maganga; and
- (iii) two blocks of latrines on the beaches of Nsumbi Village to promote sanitation and reduce diseases. A total amount of US\$10,200 was allocated to the communities around the National Park through an umbrella body association.



A footpath Kacherenje bridge in Salima TA Maganga, GVH Mgawi before maintenance

The Kacherenje Bridge in Salima Traditional Authority Maganga, Group Village Headman Mgawi received a grant from the Mangochi Salima Lake Park Association amounting to about US\$900 for maintenance. Kacherenje stream near Lake Malawi has been a problem for the people in the area, including DNPW staff at Maganga camp, especially during rainy season. People and livestock such as cattle, goats have been attacked by crocodiles in the area when crossing. There have been efforts by communities to have this bridge maintained, which was last done some three years ago. The bridge was completely worn out.



Serious men soon after pulling down the old bridge

The Community umbrella association with guidance from Lake Malawi National Park Management team on 11th January 2016 went to Maganga to provide some funds for the rehabilitation works, after receiving a request from the concerned community. The bridge was maintained easing the movement of the communities as depicted below.



A footpath new Kachelenje Bridge constructed with funds from revenue sharing between DNPW and Communities collected from Lake Malawi National Park.

The natural resource use program where communities are allowed to harvest certain natural resources such as thatch grass has also been re-organized by installing a permit system to ensure control as well as monitoring of the resource use areas. Communities are given specific areas where to collect resources as well as days of the week in which they can collect resources. A sample permit in vernacular language is attached as Appendix (I) that is issued to local communities before they go out into the Park to collect thatch grass and dead wood.



Rangers weighing dead wood for quota setting

Furthermore, the fully fledged Wildlife Extension and Environmental Education section has stepped up collaboration and outreach programs in communities around the National Park.



A community extension meeting in one of the villages on promotion of understanding of conservation of LMNP



A meeting with Traditional Leaders

e) **Response to Promote low-impact ecotourism ventures that comply with appropriate environmental and social impact standards**

i) **Ecotourism Concession Management**

The park is also conducting follow ups with Lodge owners within Cape Maclear and Boadzulu islands who have a concession with Government to make sure they remit revenue from their tourists who use the park for recreation. This will increase the revenue base of which 50% goes back to the park's management activities.

ii) **Sustainable Tourism Capacity Building and Development of Tourism Strategy for the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Destination**

In the framework of the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme (WHSTP), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) has developed a capacity building tool for site managers ("How To" Guides) to help them manage tourism at their sites more sustainably. These 'How To' guides are focused on best practice approaches to sustainable economic development through tourism, offering direction and guidance to managers of World Heritage tourism destinations and other stakeholders to help identify the most suitable solutions for circumstances in their local environments and aid in developing general know-how for the management of each destination.

The aim of the project is to help each site develop a sustainable tourism strategy using the guidance tools developed by UNESCO in order to enhance broad stakeholder engagement in planning, development and management of sustainable tourism, and provide World Heritage stakeholders with the capacity and the tools to manage tourism efficiently, responsibly and sustainably based on the local context and needs.

A draft Tourism Strategy has been developed for the destination and what remains is to engage stakeholders for the support and endorsement.



Participants to Sustainable Tourism Workshop for Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Site

- f) **Revise the 2007-2011 management plan for the property, provide an electronic and three printed copies for review by the World Heritage Center and IUN as soon as it is available and to ensure that the revised management plan includes provisions for the implementation of the above mentioned mission recommendations.**

The review and updating of the management plan process started being undertaken by a Task force which was set up by the Department. The assessment of the draft revised plan to align it with the IUCN Resource Manual guideline was conducted, and what remains is to conduct wider stakeholders' consultation. It has been planned to complete the management plan by June 2018. Furthermore, an application for additional resources for the property from UNESCO has been made jointly with the Focal Point, Malawi National Commission for UNESCO, Department of National Parks, and Sustainable Development Institute NGO to bridge the financial gap.

APPENDIX 1: COPY OF THE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE FOR THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF LAKE MALAWI NATIONAL PARK



FORM C

TR/INC: 6492

THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATION RULES

(CAP. 5:03)

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that THE *REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF* MANGOCHI SALIMA LAKE PARK ASSOCIATION (MASALAPA)

Is this day incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act and that the device affixed hereto on the common seal is approved.

GIVEN under my hand at LILONGWE

This 08 day of April two thousand and Fifteen.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Samuel Batson Tembenu".

SAMUEL BATSON TEMBENU
Minister of Justice & Constitutional Affairs

R.G.20754/IM/5.2005

APPENDIX II: PERMIT FOR COLLECTION OF ALLOWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE PARK

CHILOLEZO CHOTENGERA ZACHILENGEDWE MUNKHALANGO YA LAKE MALAWI NATIONAL PARK



A. Zizindikiro za gulu

Nambala ya chilolezo/...../ Dzina la VNRCGVH

Dzina la opereka chilolezoTsiku lotengera Tsiku lobwezera

Mtsogoleri wa guluUdindoNambala ya anthu pachilolezochi.....

B. Maina a anthu ndi zachilengedwe zobvomezeka

Maina a athu ndi zachilengedwe zobvomezeka kutenga (Udzu oforera / nkhuni) ndi zida zobvomezeka

No	Dzina	Bambo/ mayi	Zaka	Zachileng edwe	Kuchuluka kwa zinthu zotengedwa	Malo	Chida chogwiritsira ntchito
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

C. Nyama ndi zachilengedwe zina komanso zobvuta zomwe zaonedwa

Nyama ndi zachilengedwe zina komanso zobvuta zomwe zaonedwa(zooneka ndimaso / zizindikiro)

No	Tsiku	Ntundu wa nyama				Zobvuta zomwe zaonedwa			
		Dzina	No	Malo	Ndemanga	Zobvuta	Malo	No	Zomwe mwachita

D. Chenjezo : *Dziwani kuti kulowa munkhalango ndikufuna kwanu. Aliyense ophwanyana malamulo azalandidwa motsatira malamulo abungwe la zankhalango ndi nyama zakutchire.*

E. *Siginecha ya opereka : Udindo :*

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