

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



STATE OF CONSERVATION

TOMBS OF BUGANDA KINGS AT KASUBI(UGANDA)

PROPERTY ID NO C1022

IN RESPONSE TO WHC 41 COM 7A.31

28TH-FEBRUARY 2018

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION

Decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, Poland, 2017)

Decision: 41 COM 7A. 31. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

The World Heritage Committee notes ,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.8, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress that has been made in installing the roof rings as part of the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, even though progress has been slower than anticipated;
4. Also welcomes the efforts made by the State Party for instituting training programmes for younger artisans and further encourages these efforts, while noting that high priority should be given to resolving cash flow problems that have impacted adversely on the workers;
5. Further welcomes the initial work undertaken on the Master Plan and encourages the State Party to continue this work, with guidance from the Advisory Bodies as a matter of high priority in the light of the urgent need to define, justify and coordinate the various development activities at the property, which currently remain separate and lack detail, and requests the State Party to halt all new development projects (except the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga) until the Master Plan has been finalized and approved;
6. Expresses its concern that risk management arrangements, encompassing fire-fighting equipment, fire management practices and security and other measures necessary to reduce risks, have still not been fully developed; urges the State Party to undertake this work as soon as possible as part of the finalization of the Management Plan, ensuring that solutions (especially in regard to lighting and other visible elements) respect the traditional aspects of the property; and hopes that the Japanese extra budgetary project will be able to restart shortly in order to provide all necessary conditions for the success of the implementation of these activities;

7. Notes that the ICOMOS technical review recommends modifications to the fire prevention system to reduce risk and increase effectiveness, and also requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, revised plans that address these recommendations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Also notes the progress made on the revised Management Plan, and further requests the State Party to update the organizational structure to take into account the Buganda Heritage Board as site manager, the existence of other committees related to the management of the property and any other changes that have been made to the structure, and to include a Tourism Management Plan;

9. In the light of a clearer understanding of when the main reconstruction work is to be completed, recommends that revised time frames be suggested by the State Party for the completion of other corrective measures relating to the completion and implementation of the Management Plan, the development of the Master Plan and the development and implementation of a Risk Management Strategy;

10. Requests furthermore 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

1.0 Executive Summary.

This Progress Report on the State of Conservation of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, responds to World Heritage Committee Decisions 41COM 7A.31. It also provides an update about the progress on the reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga plus other urgent conservation issues by the State Party to World Heritage property.

Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi's presents special challenges and therefore attracted demands for special infrastructure and services to support its unique character and functions. This gives the basis for the need to prepare a detailed Master plan to guide such developments around the property such that its functions and significance are preserved and maintained.

The State Party of Uganda began the preparation of the Master plan early 2017 with guidance from the UNESCO advisory bodies of ICOMOS/ICCROM. The Kasubi Master Plan 2018/2028 is developed with a vision to appropriately support conservation works at Kasubi

Royal Tombs, and in a spirit of togetherness and unity with all the stake holders at the property. It identifies and prioritizes action plans that will guide implementation to achieve the protection of the OUVs of Kasubi Royal Tombs within a period of 10 years.

A draft risk management plan has under discussed between the State party and the Advisory bodies to UNESCO. All concerns raised by the experts have been taken care of and are integrated in the overall master plan action plan, yet to be approved by the different stake holders and UNESCO. Modifications have been made in the risk management plan for to ensure effectiveness. As soon as the JFIT Extra Budgetary Project.) restarts, implementations will be undertaken.

An improvement in the efficiency and management of the Kasubi Tombs has been observed after Buganda Kingdom appointed a new board *Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board* to manage the heritage site alongside the Traditional Managers. Secondly the National Technical Committee set up to oversee the reconstruction process, is set assume the roles of an advisory committee beyond the construction period. Joint meetings of the site have greatly harmonised the roles of each entity concerning the site.

The timeline for the reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga was updated with clear benchmarks basing on the assumption that fire fighting component will commence as soon as JFIT(Japanese Funds In Trust) are released (July 2018) to enable implementation of the fire component as the thatching progresses at Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, with the view of completion of the project by December 2019, the Time line is still achievable.

RESPONSES

5. Further welcomes the initial work undertaken on the Master Plan and encourages the State Party to continue this work, with guidance from the Advisory Bodies as a matter of high priority in the light of the urgent need to define, justify and coordinate the various development activities at the property, which currently remain separate and lack detail, and requests the State Party to halt all new development projects (except the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga) until the Master Plan has been finalized and approved;

Response;

The state Party of Uganda began the preparation of the Master plan in early 2017 with guidance from the UNESCO Advisory bodies ICOMOS/ICCROM. The Kasubi Master Plan 2018/2028 is developed

with a vision to appropriately support conservation works at Kasubi Royal Tombs reconstruction works and in a spirit of togetherness by a taskforce of the State Party of Uganda, Buganda Kingdom administration (Traditional owners of the property), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), the Tomb custodians, Kasubi neighbourhood community, the general public and the advisory team of UNESCO – ICOMOS ICCROM and Makerere University Researchers. The major goal is to support the conservation of Kasubi World Heritage Property to ensure it retain its OUVs to meets the needs of the past, present and the future generations.

The Draft Master Plan presents a summary of key issues that needs to be addressed in the various specific plans of reconstruction, restoration and recovery plan, disaster and risk management plan, tourism and education plan, needs of custodians and physical development plan of the site. It also identifies and prioritizes action areas/plans that will guide implementation to achieve the protection of the OUVs of Kasubi Royal Tombs within a period of 10 years.

All new developments on the site were halted as requested by WHC. Only the approved works on the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga are on going.

6. Expresses its concern that risk management arrangements, encompassing fire-fighting equipment, fire management practices and security and other measures necessary to reduce risks, have still not been fully developed; urges the State Party to undertake this work as soon as possible as part of the finalization of the Management Plan, ensuring that solutions (especially in regard to lighting and other visible elements) respect the traditional aspects of the property; and hopes that the Japanese extra budgetary project will be able to restart shortly in order to provide all necessary conditions for the success of the implementation of these activities;

Response;

A draft Risk Management Plan has been discussed between the State Party and the Advisory bodies to UNESCO. All concerns raised by them have been taken care of and are integrated in the overall master plan action plan which is yet to be approved by the different stake holders and UNESCO.

The JFIT (Japanese Extra Budgetary Project) is hoped to resume in July 2018 for a period of two years. Once all approvals have been attained , the Risk Management arrangements encompassing the fire-fighting

equipment, fire management practices, security and other measures necessary will restart.

7. Notes that the ICOMOS technical review recommends modifications to the fire prevention system to reduce risk and increase effectiveness, and also requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, revised plans that address these recommendations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

Response:

Modifications have been considered to include the fire fighting trucks that will be stationed at the current park site with a provision of a second underground tank and small fire station. This will support the wider underground laid fixture in prompt management of the fire at the site. Preparation of construction plans and design proposal for the disaster prevention system construction is complete and only awaits the approvals of the master plan and the restart of the JFIT(Japanese Funds) Project.

8. Also notes the progress made on the revised Management Plan, and further requests the State Party to update the organizational structure to take into account the Buganda Heritage Board as site manager, the existence of other committees related to the management of the property and any other changes that have been made to the structure, and to include a Tourism Management Plan;

Response

An improvement in the efficiency and management of the Kasubi Tombs has been observed after Buganda Kingdom appointed a new board *Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board* to manage the heritage site alongside the Traditional Managers. Secondly the National Technical Committee set up to oversee the reconstruction process, is set assume the roles of an advisory committee beyond the construction period. Joint meetings of the site have greatly harmonised the roles of each entity concerning the site.

An organ gram of the new structure for management, disaster management plan and tourism management has been inserted in the revised management plan of the Kasubi Tombs and the roles of the two entry committees highlighted;

National Advisory committee

The roles are limited to supervisory and advisory and coordination activities only. It is responsible for:

- Ensuring legal protection of the national heritage site
- Monitoring the Kasubi site action plans and distributing the monitoring reports.
- Carrying out impact assessments whenever a new project is proposed
- Periodic monitoring reports to UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Ensuring that the site values are maintained
- Providing technical advice to the custodians and to the Buganda Minister of Royal tombs, Heritage and Tourism through the Advisory committee
- Sourcing expertise and national or international assistance when needed
- Help with the production of education materials (booklets, articles...)
- Strengthening the coordination and communication between the different stake holders.

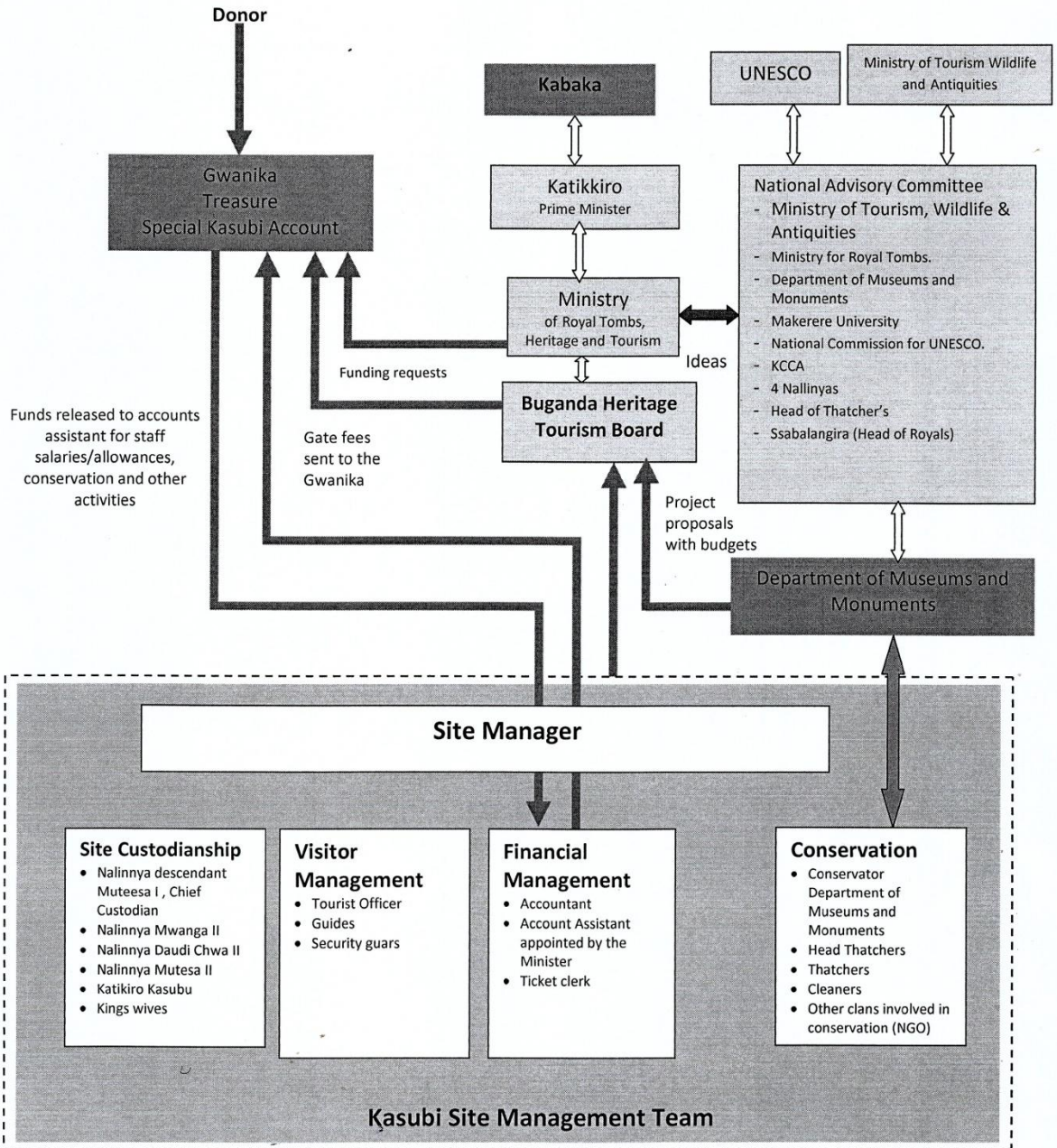
Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board.

Ensuring the an upgrade management of the site in close harmony with the traditional Custodians. to identify and recruit Manager, Guides, Cashiers, Cleaners, Souvenir shop attendant.

- Coordinating activities within the boundaries of the site
- Settling internal conflicts
- Ensuring the welfare of the custodians, and just remuneration.
- Ensuring traditional norms /customs are performed and respected
- Ensuring the integrity and authenticity of the site such is maintained
- Ensuring the health and maintenance of the site
- Ensuring collection, safe custody & disbursement of funds.

The most current organ gram of the management plan is as follows.

Kasubi Tombs Organizational Chart



9. In the light of a clearer understanding of when the main reconstruction work is to be completed, recommends that revised time frames be suggested by the State Party for the completion of other corrective measures relating to the completion and implementation of the Management Plan, the development of the Master Plan and the development and implementation of a Risk Management Strategy

Response;

The timeline for the reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga was updated with clear defined benchmarks basing on the assumption that fire fighting component will commence as soon as JFIT(Japanese Funds) are released(July 2018) for the project, to enable implementation of the fire component as the thatching progresses at Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, with the view of completion of the project by December 2019, the Time line is still achievable.

3.0 OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY

3.1 UP DATE OF PREVIOUS ISSUES.

This section of the report provides an update of issues identified in previous responses to Decision adopted by World Heritage Committee

3.1.1) Progress, Re-Construction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga

The reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga has progressed with the construction of the decorative ceiling, this is done in sections to avoid blocking the whole volume with scaffolding poles.

It is the artisans' job to install the interior decorative ceiling, as similar materials and techniques are used with thatching work. Reed used for production of thatch rings and fittings on ceiling is the main material necessary for decorative ceiling.

Reeds are made into a thatch ring, a bundle with reeds tied in 10cm

diameter. These thatch rings are concentrically arranged on the lower part of the ceiling and suspended on a roof rafter. Thatch rings are the framework of the ceiling, tied neatly and firmly with palm leaf fibers (enjulu) and sisal hems (bugoogwa). Palm fibers and sisal hems are used as binding materials. The Ceiling is dome-shaped, designed in correspondence to the roof style.

As the artisans progress away from the centre the rings become thicker and longer and heavier, making the process more complex and needs careful performance. Otherwise works covered on the ceiling is about 65%.

Pictures taken from varying angles.



3.1.2. Bujjabukula

Bujjabukula is the oldest and most authentic architectural elements of the site, the house is deteriorating very first, threatened by rot and deformation, everyone is concerned and our wish that works on the restoration of the house commence simultaneously as we progress with MAM.



Front View



Side view



Back View