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 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
 Ministry of Culture & Tourism
 Authority for Research & Conservation of
 Cultural Heritage



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 Ref.No 01/14-1/019
 ቀን
 Date 31 JAN 2019

Dr. Mechtild Rössler
 Director World Heritage Center
 7, Place de Fontevry
 75352 Paris 07SP

France

Subject: - Progress report to the Aksum and Lower Omo Valley World Heritage properties

Dear Dr. Mechtild,

I would like to recall the World Heritage Committee Decisions during its 42 regular session in 2018, Decision 42 COM 7B.43 Aksum and Decision 42 COM 7B.44 Lower Valley of the Omo, where the State Party is required to submit progress report on selected issues of both properties.

With regards to the Aksum world heritage property, the committee requires a progress report related to the revised management plan of the property and to show the relationship of the management plan with the Thematic Master Plan (2010) of Aksum and submit both documents to World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

In relation to the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property, the Committee raised the status of the EU funded project with the regards to the management plan and boundary delineation of the property. The Committee further requests to submit a progress report and continue to give priority for other issues related to the property.

Therefore the State Party would like to submit the progress reports of the Aksum and the Lower Omo Valley world heritage properties, enclosed to this letter for consideration by the world heritage committee. Taking this opportunity the State Party would like to thank the World Heritage Center for its continued collaboration to implement the world heritage convention (1972).



With best regards,

[Signature]
 Yonas Desta
 Director General

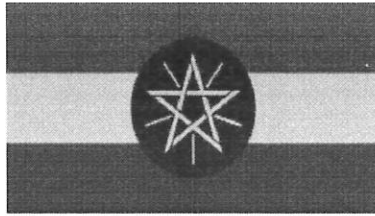
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 Please Quote Our Ref. No. When Replying

Progress report of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property



GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party (ies)) (Identification number)

LOWER VALLEY OMO (Ethiopia)

Property ID C 17

Date of Inscription: 1980

Criteria (iii) and (iv)

1. Executive Summary of the report

This progress report is submitted in response to the World Heritage Committee **Decision (42 COM 7B.44)** in its 42nd regular session (Manama, 2018). The report is therefore to update the committee on the undergoing activities in the Lower Valley of the Omo world heritage property. The report has considers the letter from the World Heritage Centre (Ref. CLT/HER^VHC/196) dated on 27 July 2018, which refers the significance of previous decisions acknowledged by the World Heritage Committee.

Therefore this progress report contains the summery of topics related the management and conservation of the Lower Valley of the Omo world heritage property. The progress report further contains updates on the management plan of the property, which is enclosed to this report for technical evaluation by the advisory bodies of World Heritage Committee.

Progress report of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property

2. Response of the State Party to the World Heritage Committee

With regards to the Lower Omo world heritage property, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to explain the status of ongoing activities related to the property. The activities include the site management plan, boundary delineation and regulation and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the property. Furthermore, the Committee raised the status of the EU funded project with regards to the management plan and boundary delineation activities of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property. The Committee has also requested to submit a progress report and to continue to make progress on other issues related to the property.

2.1 Management system of the property

2.1.1 Site Management Plan

It would be relevant to recall the report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission of UNESCO-ICOMOS took place in 13-19 April 2015. The report of the mission had provided the State Party relevant comments that should be considered in the ongoing management and conservation activities of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property.

The management plan of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property was being developed under the European Union Project, by the implementing agency, UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office. This management plan has considered every one of the comments and recommendations raised in the UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission report.

The management plan was established in close consultation with relevant stakeholders, importantly with the Sugar Corporation. The result of the plan was also acknowledged during the validation workshop, organized from 8-10 November 2018, in Adama. Therefore the final management plan document has been submitted to the Authority in 2019, which is also enclosed to this report for technical evaluation by the Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Committee.

2.1.2 Boundary delineation and legal framework

The EU Funded project has also financed the boundary delineation and legal framework of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property. The site boundary delineation and legal framework documents were also presented in the validation workshop and valuable comments were received. The draft map of the Lower Omo Valley world was produced under the European Union Project by the Ethiopian Geospatial and

Progress report of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property


Information Agency engaged by the UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office and submitted to the State Party in 2018. However the State Party is still working to establish the state cadastre of the nominated area and its buffer zone, which contains a set of GPS coordinate points marking the boundary of the property. Accordingly the State Party is working towards the creation of the cadastre system concerning the cadastre maps of the property and its implementation.

2.1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

The State Party would also like to recall the Technical Evaluation of ICOMOS on the revised Heritage Impact Assessment of the property. The Environmental Impact Assessment study that includes the revising processes of the HIA is still undergoing by local consultants engaged under the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation.

3. Signature of the Authority

Name Yonas Desta
Director General

Signature 

Date _____

