

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION

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In reply please quote Ref. No:

03 January, 2020

UNESCO/NC/CLT/WHC/OC/19/53

Director,
World Heritage Centre,
7, Place de Fontenoy,
75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

**RE: STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR RUINS OF KILWA KISIWANI
AND RUINS OF SONGO MNARA WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Please receive a copy of the State of Conservation (SoC) report for ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and ruins of Songo Mnara for your action and reference.

The State Party continues to assure UNESCO its collaboration in implementing the 1972 Culture Convention.

I remain,

Prof. Hamisi M. Malebo
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Copy:
Chief Secretary,
State House,
1 Barack Obama Drive,
P.O. Box 9120,
114000 DAR ES SALAAM.

Permanent Secretary,
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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**REPORT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION ON THE RUINS OF KILWA KISIWANI AND
RUINS OF SONGO MNARA WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Name of World Heritage Property: **Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara**

World Heritage Site: United Republic of Tanzania (C 144)

Date of inscription on the World Heritage List: **1981**

Organization (s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report:

Organization name: **Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority.**

Name: **Dr. James V. Wakibara**

Title: **Conservation Commissioner**

Address: **P.O. Box 2658**

City: **Morogoro-Tanzania**

Telephone: **+255262321566**

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Date of submission of the Report: **31st December, 2019**

Hamisi M. Malebo

Signature on Behalf of the State Party:

PROF. HAMISI M. MALEBO

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

This report is a result of the Decision 42 COM 7B.50 of the World Heritage Committee. It agrees with the advice given by the World Heritage Centre in the completion of the Integrated Management plan and its implementation so as to maintain the integrity and authenticity of the property as we also requested International Assistant for the cycle 2019 so as to rescue the monuments which located closely to the oceans by running a program of planting mangrove seedling to reduce wave action to the monuments along the ocean.

The State of Conservation shows the plan of implementing and finalizing land use plan for the property and sustainable tourism development. As for the land use plan, the plan is in first draft and we wish to submit the final draft as soon as it is completed and approved. In order to implement those recommendations given by World Heritage Center to the State Party, we requested financial assistance from different International community in order to implement those Mission.

Lastly, The State of Conservation shows that the State party intends to improve visitor's facilities to the property including construction of Jetty in Songo Mnara and improving jetty in Kilwa Kisiwani, construction of tourists information centre at Kilwa Kisiwani, recreation centers and other facilities.

STATE OF CONSERVATION IN THE RESPONSE FROM STATE PARTY TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE BASED ON DECISION 42 COM 7B.50

Decision 3

Welcomes the completion of the Integrated Management Plan (2016 – 2019) and the beginning of its Implementation, bearing in mind that the State Party might wish to consider a longer implementation timeframe for future planning exercises;

Response:

The State Party notes and thanks the Committee for its recommendations and Committed to review the integrated management Plan for longer implementation timeframe to accommodate the current site management systems.

Decision 4

Requests the State Party to finalize work on the overall Land use Plan for the Property and develop a separate, more detailed sustainable Tourism Development Plan taking into account carrying capacity and other conservation factors in addition to improving visitor experience, for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

Response:

The State Party is intending to review an Integrated Management Plan (2016-2019). The reviewed Integrated Management Plan will accommodate details of Land use Plan and tourism development plan and the document will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by 2021.

Decision 5

Also requests the State Party to continue with the Implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission;

Response:

The State Party consider implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission which proposed under decision **37 COM 7A.22** on improving the state of conservation of the property. The State Party has entrusted the stewardship to Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) as Honorary Warden as per the Antiquities Act Cap 333 (Revised edition 2002). The rationale of this decision is to improve the state of the conservation of the Property by dealing with significant conservation and management challenges including the development of land use plan, Sustainable tourism development plan, review of Integrated Management Plan and improvement of access and security to the property.

Decision 6

Encourages the State Party to continue work on the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone of the property as well as accompanying regulatory framework, and if necessary, to submit a new International Assistance request as part of the 2019 cycle;

Response:

The State Party acknowledges significance of the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone and their regulatory framework of the property. Establishment of the boundaries and

buffer zones will be included in the Land use plan envisaged to be accomplished by 2021. The established land use plan will be accompanied by well regulatory framework for legal compliance as advised by the World Heritage committee.

Decision 7

Also encourages the State Party to continue with work both on the conservation of monuments at the site and the work on strengthening the sea barriers with the aim of slowing erosion, and further requests that plans for this work, along with an update of work already carried out, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

Response:

The State Party implemented a project christened “Strengthening Coastal sea wall on the Gereza Fort in Kilwa Kisiwani Property (Contract N° 4500275867)” The project implementation involved two phases; the construction of the protective sea wall (riprap wall) and the strengthening of the lower base of the NE Portuguese fort. The project was completed and both the Narrative Report and financial statement were submitted to World Heritage Centre.

The Project was based on the study done by Samaki Consultant (2012) who concluded that the impacts of these sea erosive agents could lead to causing fractures in the façade of the NE Portuguese tower; rapid damage will develop and would ultimately cause the collapse of the tower and the disappearance of all the northern part of the Gereza fort. It was with these findings the proposal was developed and submitted to UNESCO/WHC for financial support with a budget of US\$ 25,900.

The overall objectives of the project was to protect the Gereza fort Monument against the impact of sea tidal waves; and to finalize several corrective actions, those were still in the planning stages and rendered the property to frequent tidal waves action. The following were the main activities of the project;

Strengthening of the Lower Base of the NE Portuguese Fort The conservation measures undertaken over the monument was aiming at stopping that frequent and severe erosion forces that were directly impacting the base of Gereza fort. The extension wall was made strong and effective, by building a foundation of about 1metre deep and then followed by the erection of its

external. The semi-circle outer wall is about 2 meters constructed by using dead coral stones and then the open space between the semi circle wall, is filled in with continental hard stones collected from Kilwa Masoko quarries.

Construction of Protective Sea wall: The project entailed the construction of a protective sea wall. The sea wall starts few metres west of the Malindi Mosque and Cemetery down to Gereza Fort . A gabion structure and protected by a sheet piling sea wall was initially proposed to be installed. However, during the consultation meeting with the local community it was agreed that only stone sea wall should be used to erect it. The changes were agreed mutually due to the fact that the place is also used by local to anchor their water vessels, and will result in the vessel owners to anchor them on the wire and this would cause the wall to disintegrate easily and it was also agree in terms of the authenticity of material that will be used to backfill the raised ground level with the Gereza main door.

The erection of stone riprap wall involved the excavation of trench that was filled in with stone and then stabilized with lime mortar. The constructed wall has been filled in with an embankment to create a new raised ground level in front of the Gereza main doorway and then the portion of backfilled area has been planted with soil binding grass species.

The State Party acknowledges with thank the financial support from World Heritage Centre as the Fort foundation that was being submerged by high tide is now free from direct contact to tidal waves and the area that was vulnerable to sea wave erosion has been protected.

State Party acknowledges that the threats from tidal waves at Kisiwani are still prevalent and there is need to extend the same assistance to complete the remaining works at Gereza Fort (on the Western Side of the sea margin from the fort) , Malindi Seafront , Husuni Kubwa na Makutani. The works to control or eliminated the sea waves action at Kisiwani remains huge and the State Party plans to use its limited internal sources to conduct minor conservation works to protect the Outstanding Universal Value on the Property. Moreover, collective international efforts through International Assistance are needed to eliminate treats from tidal waves to the monuments located closely to the ocean.

Decision 8

Notes the intention to build new visitor facilities and jetties and improve existing tourism infrastructure, and requests furthermore that any plans be submitted to the World Heritage

Centre before plans are finalized and implementation begins, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

Response:

State Party intends to improve tourist's facilities and amenities such as construction of Jetty at Songo Mnara, construction of recreational centers, extending and improving the jetty at Kilwa Kisiwani and other visitor's facilities so as to ensure visitors experience and enhancement at the site as it was stated in the currently Integrated Management Plan (IMP pg 45). And hereby submit plans to to WHC for review (see attachment)

Decision 9

Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, 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 44th session in 2020.

Response:

The State Party agreed and submits the State of Conservation on 20 December 2019.