

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



STATE OF CONSERVATION

TOMBS OF BUGANDA KINGS AT KASUBI(UGANDA)

PROPERTY ID NO C1022

IN RESPONSE TO WHC: 44 COM 7A.4

1st -FEBRUARY 2022

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.56**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Acknowledges the State Party's continued engagement of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in developing instruments and approaches to safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Thanks the Governments of the Norway and Japan for their financial support to the property;
5. Welcomes the continued progress that the State Party has made in responding to previous Committee decisions, in the reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and the restoration of the Bujjabukala (gate house), as well as towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to date;
6. Expresses its solidarity with the State Party for the fire that occurred at the property on 5 May 2020, and notes with concern the damage caused to the "Enyumba za Balongo", one of the three deity houses at the property;
7. Also notes the State Party's commitment to developing development guidelines for the property's buffer zone, and recommends the State Party to engage with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in this process, guided by the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), as well as encourages the State Party to mobilize funds (through International Assistance for example) to facilitate the activity and submit the completed guidelines to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests the State Party to implement the Master Plan and amend the Kampala Physical Development Plan to align it with the property's Master Plan and buffer zone development guidelines, once the latter have been completed and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also requests the State Party to:
 1. Complete the reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and consider augmenting the surviving collection of power insignia that was recovered from the building following the fire of 2010,
 2. Submit further details for the restoration project of the Bujjabukala (gate house), for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, specifically on details that have not yet been agreed to, especially relating to the roof pitch, introduction of contemporary technologies and infrastructure in the structure,
 3. Install with urgency the firefighting infrastructure for the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and its ceremonial courtyard and buildings for which agreement has already been reached with the World

Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and also develop proposals to extend the firefighting infrastructure to include buildings beyond the court yard around the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga, and submit these proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

4. Submit final details of the development guidelines for the buffer zone along with all infrastructure upgrade projects, including transport infrastructure, planned for the buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit an update of the matrix with a timeframe and work plan for the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to review the current state of conservation and evaluate whether the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been met;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session;

Decides to retain Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Executive Summary.

This Report on the State of Conservation of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, responds to World Heritage Committee Decisions 44 COM 7A. 4. It also provides an update about the progress on the reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, the Bujjabukula, and the Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

The reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga has progressed greatly to final stage of thatching the house with the grass. Although there were some delays due to the covid 19 pandemic, the new time line has been put to July 2022.

The issues about the Gate house especially on the details that had not yet been agreed upon especially relating to the roof pitch, and introduction of

contemporary technologies and infrastructure in the gate house were eventually resolved between the parties basing on the documented evidence. The restoration of the gate house progressed to finalization.

The preparation for the fire fighting installation has progressed, a firm to install the fire fighting equipment was procured by the UNESCO regional office Nairobi and is in the processes to implement the exercise for the courtyard.

The Tombs of Buganda Kings buffer zone guidelines is an ongoing activity and is being undertaken in a consultative participatory approach of all stake holders. But due to the magnitude and finances involved, the exercise has been phased, to allow the lead institutions source for funding to facilitate the consultations. Once completed a realignment with the KCCA Development plans to protect the property and its OUVs.

RESPONSES

1. *Complete the reconstruction of the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and consider augmenting the surviving collection of power insignia that was recovered from the building following the fire of 2010,*

Response

The reconstruction of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga has progressed steadily and is now in the final stages of thatching see the pictorial evidence attached.

Anex 1 (a) Reconstruction progress

Annex 1 (b) Status of the thatching as of February 2022

2. *Submit further details for the restoration project of the Bujjabukala (gate house), for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, specifically on details that have not yet been agreed to, especially relating to the roof pitch, introduction of contemporary technologies and infrastructure in the structure,*

Response

The issues about the Gate house especially on the details that had not yet been agreed upon especially relating to the roof pitch, and introduction of contemporary technologies and infrastructure in the gate house were eventually resolved between the parties basing on the documented evidence. The restoration of the gate house progressed to finalization.

Annex ii (a) Bujjabukula Building height variation report

Annex ii (b) Bujjabukula Stabilization / restoration Project Report

3. *Install with urgency the firefighting infrastructure for the Mazibu-Azaala-Mpanga and its ceremonial courtyard and buildings for which agreement has already been reached with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and also develop proposals to extend the firefighting infrastructure to include buildings beyond the court yard around the Mazibu-*

Azaala-Mpanga, and submit these proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

Response

A company known as Gloria Ltd was procured by UNESCO Regional Office Nairobi after a rigorous competitive procurement exercise and expect the exercise will be done by July 2022 as well.

4. Submit final details of the development guidelines for the buffer zone along with all infrastructure upgrade projects, including transport infrastructure, planned for the buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

Response

The state party is in touch with the KCCA and funds are being sought to finance the consultations with the different stake holders. The Covid-19 Pandemic has further delayed all the necessary efforts, thus more time is required to achieve this activity.

10. Further requests State Party to submit an update of a timeframe and work plan for implementation of corrective measures to achieve DSOCR to World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies;

Response.

See Annex (iii) Status of the DSCOR for the Kasubi Tombs.



KASUBI ROYAL TOMBS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATUS REPORT

JANUARY- MAY, 2021

A. Main entrance works



- Peeling and soaking inner part of *enga* in water to soften them for weaving works.
- Weaving works at the second ceiling.
- Cleaning and wiping reeds.
- Piling and compacting reeds to make a reed bed.



- Making circular rings, *bizizi* for the second ceiling.
- Fixing circular rings on the second ceiling.
- Finishing works on the circular rings.

B. Verandah ceiling/ Overhang works





- Cleaning and wiping reeds.
- Piling and compacting reeds to make a reed bed.
- Making circular rings, *bizizi* for the overhang.
- Setting up scaffolds to be used in raising the circular rings.
- Fixing circular rings on the overhang.
- Finishing works on the circular rings.

JUNE- AUGUST, 2021

A. Preparation of roof to receive thatch



- Fixing minor rafters and purlins, *misambya* poles.
- Making small reed bundles and laying them below and in between *misambya* poles ready to receive thatch.

SEPTEMBER, 2021 to date

A. Thatching



- Sorting and bundling thatch.
- Sourcing the *Sserugatika*.
- Hacking floor and digging 1.5m pit to receive *Sserugatika*.



- Installation of the *Sserugatika* and related rituals.
- Fixing the three rings and related rituals.
- Laying of the first small thatch bundle ceremony.
- Thatching.

**THE
BUJJABUKULA ROYAL GRANDIOSE
ENTRANCE BUILDING**
To the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi – UNESCO World Heritage
Property in Uganda

**STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION
PROJECT**



PHOTOGRAPHIC PROGRESS REPORT

BY DMM

DECEMBER, 2021



This report illustrates the restoration process from the commencement to the current stage.



Fixing of the new-tarpulin.



One of the Site meeting for the Bujjabukula Project.



The Search for Nzzingu tree species at Kyaggwe, Mukono District.



Delivery of Misambya and Eucalyptus Poles.



Fixing of the columns at the Royal Veranda.



The Musambya rafter Preparation process on-going.



Fixing of the Battens at the front side of the building.



Fixing of the Battens.



Fixing of the Battens.



Monitoring by Remigius Kigongo (Mr.).



Monitoring by Denis Lukwago (Mr.).



Securing of the Top-Four Sacred Rings before fixing the internal Reeds-make Ceiling.



Fixing of the interior scaffolding to provide a suitable working platform whilst making the internal ceiling.



The platform structure.



Fixation of the horizontal Misambya structure to grip the internal reeds-make ceiling.



Refining of the front side before receiving the grass thatch roof and the external ceiling.



Excavation of points to fix the internal columns.



Fixing of the internal Misambya Columns.



Delivery of the reeds to the site.



Appropriate Reeds Sorted out and kept in proper storage.



Sorting out the reeds for making the ceiling and the ring skeletons.



Preparation of the reeds to make Ceiling and the ring skeletons.



The process of making the skeleton of one of the Rings.



Tightly Binding the reeds-make ring skeleton to approved standard.



Strengthening the reeds-make ring skeleton by tightly binding and hitting it.



Approved skeletons of the rings properly stored.



Fixing of the Circular ceiling grippers.



Repairing the worn-out parts of the sacred rings.



Fixing of the skeletons of the rings onto the Internal reeds-make ceiling.



Off-setting the fourth skeleton of the ring to allow an equidistant between the rings.



Properly positioning the ring skeleton.



Image of showing the Top sacred rings properly fixed onto the reeds-make ceiling at the centre point.



Rings fixed with binding wire and sisal ropes.



Sharpening of the reed before fixing it.



The sharpened reed is in the process of being fixed to make the internal ceiling.



The sharpened reed is being fixed to make the internal ceiling.



The sharpened reeds are being fixed to make the internal ceiling



The sharpened reeds are being fixed to make the internal ceiling



The skeleton of the ring is being sharpened



The sharpened skeleton of the ring is being joined to complete the ring's roundness.



The approved joined skeleton of the ring to complete the ring`s roundness is being tightly fixed.



The process for fixing the internal reeds make ceiling is still on-going



Five rings skeleton for the new approved rings have been appropriately fixed so far.



The process for fixing the sixth ring`s skeleton.



The sixth ring skeleton fixed into the approved position.



Cross checking the already firmly fixed ring skeletons.



Fixing the remaining ring skeletons to complete the required number at Mulamba`s side.



Firmly fixing the eaves overhung at Mulamba`s side.



View of the already approved firmly fixed Interior Ring Skeletons from the repaired existing Sacred rings.



View of the already approved firmly fixed Interior Ring Skeletons from the central point to the Load bearing wall.



View of the already approved firmly fixed Interior Ring Skeletons with the reeds make ceiling at the Front side entrance.



Repairing the existing damaged reeds cladding at the rear entrance of the building.



Aerial view of showing the repairing of the existing damaged reeds cladding at the rear entrance of the building.



Firmly fixed approved repaired reeds-cladding, in the foreground, with the existing reeds-cladding. in the immediate background, at the rear entrance of the building.



Positioning of the external rings before fixing the external reeds-make Ceiling at the rear side of the entrance.



Fixing of the already positioned external Rings.



Reinforcing the already fixed Rings with the Fixing of the reeds-make External ceiling.



Fixing of the External reeds-make ceiling.



View showing the Fixing of the External reeds-make ceiling.



Internal view showing the Fixing of the External reeds-make ceiling.



Fixing of the final ring onto the External reeds-make ceiling.



The image is showing the Fixing of the External reeds-make ceiling to completion.



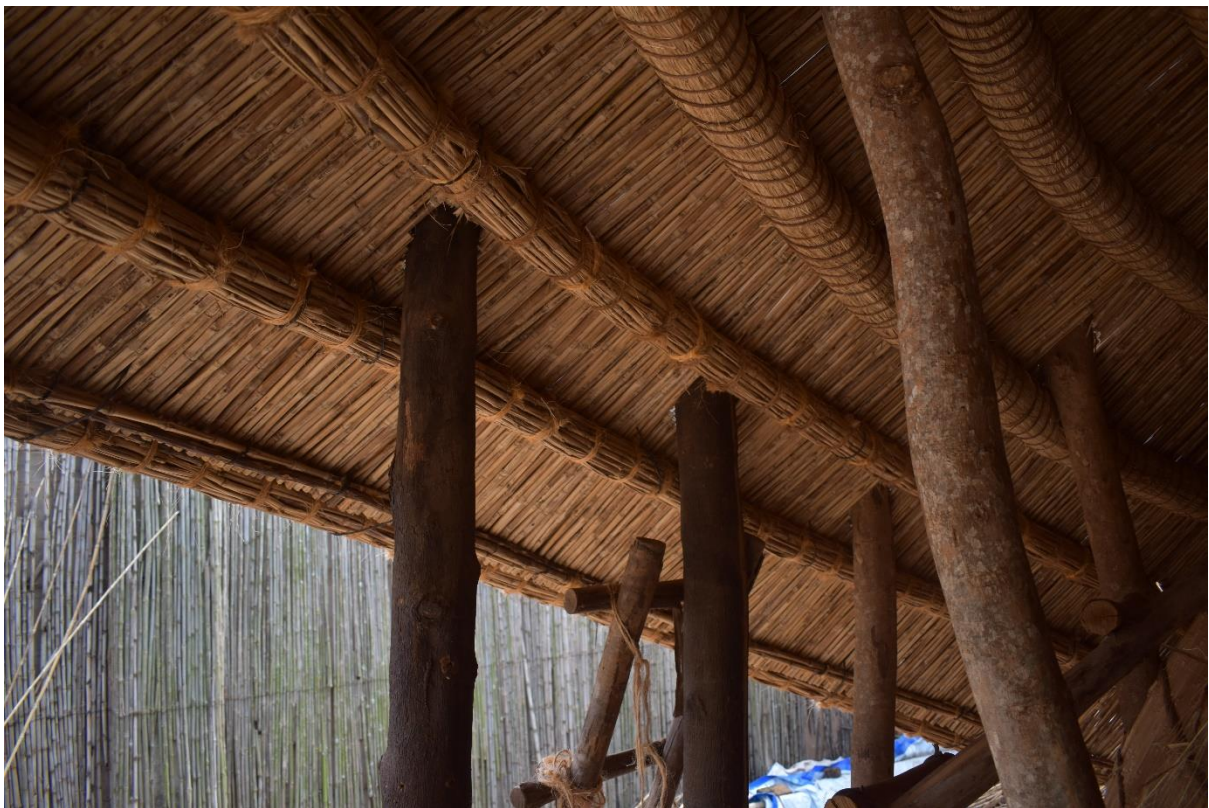
Cross-checking headroom height of the rear entrance of the building.



Trimming off of the protruding external reeds-make ceiling to the approved required length.



External appearance of the approved firmly fixed external reeds-make ceiling.



Internal appearance of the approved firmly fixed external reeds-make ceiling with the already approved fixed rings in position.



The Image showing the approved covering of the reeds-make skeleton rings with Amavuvume natural fibre.





Inspection of the executed approved restoration works by Madam Commissioner Museums and Monuments.



Fixing the roof reeds-make screen to receive the grass thatch.



Final sorting of the grass to be used for thatching.



Binding of the approved sorted grass ready for thatching.



Commencement of the thatching process with the prepared approved grass.



Tightly fixing the grass-thatch onto the battens with the sisal ropes.



Grass thatching on-going in consideration with the approved standards.



Prepared approved grass bundle carried onto the roof top to enable continuation of the grass thatch at the top of the building.



Appearance of the front side of the building with 25 percent of the entire building grass thatch.



Measuring the thickness of the grass thatch already fixed onto the roofing structure of the building.



Measuring of the grass thatch length.



Image showing how space is created in the already tightly fixed grass thatch to enable fixing of small grass bundles to appropriately cover the gaps left within the thatch.



Preparing and binding the small grass bundle.



The small grass bundle tightly tied and ready to be fixed in the already thatched grass cover.



Small approved tightly tied grass bundle being fixed in the already appropriately fixed grass roof thatch.



Small approved tightly tied grass bundle being fixed in the already appropriately fixed grass roof thatch.



The already fixed grass thatch being levelled in regard with the requirements by hitting it with a stick.



The process of fixing the Grass thatch for the entire building in progress, Mulamba side view.



Continuous process of fixing the Grass thatch for the entire building, Mulamba side view.



Continuous process of fixing the Grass thatch for the entire building, Nsiggo side view.



Thatching the Top most point of the building.



Appearance of the firmly thatched top most point of the Bujjabukula building`s roof.



Trimming of the protruding grass at the entrance to provide the required headroom.



Verification of the trimmed area at the entrance using the provided image of the building taken before any substantial roof repair to this building.



Measuring the height of the rear entrance headroom for the building.



Levelling of the trimmed part of the grass thatch.



Trimming of the protruding grass at the entrance to provide the required headroom.



Measuring of the trimmed grass thatch thickness at the rear entrance.



Exterior view showing the fixing of the entrance ring to cover the cut reeds of the internal reeds-make ceiling.



Interior view showing the fixing of the entrance ring to cover the cut reeds of the internal reeds-make ceiling.



Appearance of the finished approved entrance ring with the approved repaired reeds-make cladding and part of the rings fixed onto the external ceiling.



Detail of the already fixed approved entrance ring.



The on-going ring skeletons covered with Amavuvume as the final finish.



Appearance of the front side of the firmly thatched Bujjabukula building.



The image showing the appearance of the front side of the firmly thatched Bujjabukula building with the approved repaired reeds-make cladding and the restored Nzingu vertical natural poles.



Appearance of the front, Nssigo side view of the approved firmly thatched Bujjabukula building.



Appearance of Nssigo/Southern side view of the approved firmly thatched Bujjabukula building.



Appearance of the rear, Nssigo side view of the approved firmly thatched Bujjabukula building.

Note: The percentage of works to be executed to completion.

- 40% of the ring skeleton cladding.
- Internal reeds-make partitioning wall.
- Repair of the damaged part of the cement sand screed floor finish.
- Electrical wiring for the interior lights.