

# Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)

## Report on State of Conservation, 2021

And

## Implementation of Decision 44 COM 7A.47 of the World Heritage Committee

### 1. Executive Summary of the report

Kenya has continued to implement the Lake Turkana National Parks Management Plan 2018-2028 despite the huge drop in tourism revenues occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial resources have continued to be allocated for operations and maintenance costs. These were USD \$ 90,500; 103,500 and 42,500 in the financial years 2019-2020; 2020-2021 and the current financial year to date respectively. Further, staff members engaged in conservation activities on the property have been increased.

The Lake Turkana National Parks were profoundly affected by the rising lake levels in the Kenyan portion of the Great Rift Valley; a report that is also hereby attached.

[http://www.environment.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MENR\\_Scoping\\_Report\\_Latest-5-07-21.pdf](http://www.environment.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MENR_Scoping_Report_Latest-5-07-21.pdf)

The activities carried out include joint multi-agency operations to prevent the herders and livestock incursions into the Parks, and holding peace meetings to reduce the inter-ethnic conflicts.

The State party of Kenya is fundraising in order to get resources to implement the Desired State of Conservation (DSCOR.) Discussions on opportunities for funding from the Norwegian government are at an advanced stage to support this activity.

The efforts to engage the State party of Ethiopia on the issues affecting the Omo River –Lake Turkana Basins and other upstream processes have not borne fruit.

Hereby is the link to the ESIA of the proposed Lamu-Lokichar pipeline.

[https://www.tulloil.com/application/files/7315/9307/2709/Kenya\\_ESIA\\_2020.pdf](https://www.tulloil.com/application/files/7315/9307/2709/Kenya_ESIA_2020.pdf)

# **Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee Decision- Decision 44 COM 7A.47: Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.3, 39 COM 7B.4, 40 COM 7B.80, 42 COM 7B.92** and **43 COM 7A.12** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledging the State Party's continued efforts to implement the 2018-2028 Management Plan, requests the State Party to allocate adequate resources to protect the property, to bring the three component parts under one integrated management unit and to develop an operational plan and monitoring and evaluation system focused on the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

**Kenya has continued to implement the Lake Turkana National Parks Management Plan and has been allocating resources for operations and maintenance costs. The activities include security operations both on the land (Sibiloi NP) and on Lake Turkana Island parks. The three properties are under the command of the Warden Sibiloi with the Regional Director based in Marsabit offering oversight. The resources allocated are as follows for the operations and maintenance budgets. The budgetary allocation for the financial year 2019-2020 was approximately USD \$ 90, 500, the financial year 2020-2021 USD \$ 103,400, and the current financial year July 2021 to March 2022 is approximately Ksh 5M (\$ 42,500). This is money allocated for operations and maintenance and excludes payroll costs. The money was allocated despite the COVID -19 pandemic challenges.**

4. Reiterates its deep regrets about the continued lack of a consolidated response by the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to the Committee's past decisions, and also requests the State Party of Ethiopia to provide an urgent update on all planned and current development projects in the Turkana Basin, and submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

**Efforts to engage the State Party of Ethiopia on the issues under this part of the Decision have not borne fruit**

5. Expresses its concern about the long-standing threat of poaching and encroachment leading to steep decline and local extinctions of wildlife populations that represent the values for which the property was inscribed under Criterion (x), considers that this represents an ascertained danger to the property in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and **decides to add this issue to the justification for the continued inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger**;

**The State Party through an established Inter-Ministerial Committee on Omo River-Lake Turkana Basin and its Development has developed a strategy for implementation to address the challenges affecting the management of the property including the declining wildlife species and wildlife populations**

**The State Party of Kenya through its wildlife agency has tried to maintain the budgetary allocation to the three properties despite the ravages of the COVID -19 pandemic that affected the revenue base of the agency. Further, the staff numbers have been increased as well as periodic multi-agency operations to control the livestock incursion and herders into the park have been carried out.**

**One operation was carried out in February 2021. Further, livestock and temporary settlements were removed from the property (Sibiloi NP) in the period from July to September 2021. Several Peace meetings have been held; two in February and one in July 2021**

6. Deeply regrets that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts of the multiple developments in the Lake Turkana Basin on the OUV of the affected properties continues to be delayed due to lack of an agreement between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia on its funding, and strongly urges the two States Parties to immediately conduct the SEA without any further delay for its findings to be examined by the Committee at its 45th session;

**The State Party's Inter-Ministerial Committee on Omo River-Lake Turkana Basin and its Development is developing a strategy to address the issue**

7. Further requests the State Party to finalise the proposed set of corrective measures and a Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) in consultation with the State Party of Ethiopia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, for examination by the Committee at its 45th session;

**Kenya is mobilizing resources internally and externally towards implementing the DSOCR. A request for funding under the Proposal: Support the development and implementation of Corrective measures and a DSCOR of the Lake Turkana National Parks from the list of world heritage in Danger has been submitted for the consideration of the Norwegian Government funding.**

8. Invites the State Party to consider redesigning the property's boundaries to include a larger portion of the lake; and to give consideration, in line with Decision **CONF 208 VIII.A**, to resubmitting a cultural nomination of important fossil sites for human evolution outside the property that were nominated in 1997 but deferred by the Committee to allow revision of boundaries;

**The established Inter-Ministerial Committee on Omo River-Lake Turkana Basin and its Development, of the State Party is holistically reviewing the concerns on the property**

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2020 mission, which build upon earlier mission recommendations, in particular to:
  1. Develop a site-specific Biodiversity Action Plan to restore wildlife populations in the property to the time of inscription of the property,
  2. Conduct a comprehensive scientific study to assess the current impacts of grazing and develop a viable grazing pressure reduction strategy based on grazing capacities to address encroachment,
  3. Establish a long-term monitoring system for the collection and analysis of hydrological and limnological data in Lake Turkana to assess the ecological changes to the lake system and the related impact on the OUV of the property,
  4. Develop a national overarching Master Plan for development in and adjacent to Lake Turkana to avoid any negative impacts on the lake system and OUV of the property,
  5. Create buffer zone to the property, possibly covering the whole lake and other critical terrestrial areas with complementary legal and/or customary restrictions on its use and development;

**Lake Turkana is part of the lakes that had been affected by the rising lake levels in the Great Rift Valley hence the scoping report has a chapter on Lake Turkana. Key interventions for Lake Turkana include Community Sensitization fora, Hydrology Monitoring of the (Lake Levels, groundwater, and Surface runoff), Supporting fisheries, Securing and Protecting riparian Lands, Peace Committees, A link to the report is hereby attached.**

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10. Requests moreover the State Party to complete, as soon as possible, the work on the revision of the SEA for the Lamu Port-Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPSSET), taking into account both individual and cumulative impacts that the project and all of its sub-projects may have on the OUV of the property, as well as on Lamu Old Town World Heritage property, and that no further components of LAPSSET be implemented before the SEA is completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
  
11. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Kenya to submit the ESIA for the Lamu-Lokichar Crude Oil pipeline, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before taking any decision that may be difficult to reverse;

**The link to the Lamu-Lokichar Oil pipeline ESIA is hereby attached.**

[https://www.tulloil.com/application/files/7315/9307/2709/Kenya\\_ESIA\\_2020.pdf](https://www.tulloil.com/application/files/7315/9307/2709/Kenya_ESIA_2020.pdf)

12. Requests in addition the State Party of Kenya to convene as soon as possible, a workshop with participation from the State Party of Ethiopia, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to discuss the cumulative impacts of developments in the Lake Turkana Basin on the property's OUV, and to finalise the DSOCR;

**The established Inter-Ministerial Committee on Omo River-Lake Turkana Basin and its Development, of the State Party is holistically reviewing the concerns on the property including bilateral engagements with the State Party of Ethiopia on same**

13. 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;

**Also decides to retain Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Kenya agrees with this Decision and commits to implement the requested actions aimed at reversing the threats to the site and the placement of the site on the list of World Heritage in Danger

14. Signature of the Authority



**BRIG.(RTD.) JOHN M. WAWERU  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**24 March 2022**