



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF  
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS  
BY THE STATES PARTIES**



**GOVERNMENT  
OF ETHIOPIA**

**(In compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)**

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

**LOWER VALLEY OMO (Ethiopia)**

**Property ID (C17)**

**Date of Inscription: 1980**

**Criteria (iii) and (iv)**

**1. Executive Summary of the report**

*[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]*

This State of Conservation report is submitted in response to the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.4) adopted, at its 44<sup>th</sup> extended session (Fuzhou in China, online meeting), in 2021. The report has also considers the letter (Ref.:CLT/WHC/AFR/185) from the World Heritage Centre dated on 11 August 2021, which refers to previous decisions approved by the World Heritage Committee.

Therefore the State Party of Ethiopia is submitting this State of Conservation report that contains the summery of topics and the status of ongoing activities related to the world heritage property. These activities include the boundary delineation of the world heritage property, Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Community Consultation process to ensure the sustainability of the KSDP, updates on the Heritage Impact Assessment that considers the new ancillary developments and their impact on the OUV of the property, and initiatives towards the joint development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the potential impacts of the KSDP and its development activities on the Lake Turkana Basin. Accordingly, this State of Conservation report has been submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 45<sup>th</sup> session, in 2023.

## **2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee**

The World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Ethiopia to give details on the status of ongoing activities related to the property. These activities include the boundary delineation of the property, Environmental Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Community consultation process to ensure the sustainability of the KSDP project, updates on the Heritage Impact Assessment that considers the new ancillary developments and their impact on the OUV of the property, efforts *on the joint development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential impacts of the KSDP and its development activities on the Lake Turkana Basin*. The World Heritage Committee has also requested the State Party to submit a State of Conservation Report that addresses Decision (44 COM 7.B) adopted on the world heritage property.

### **2.1 Paragraph 5: Boundary delineation status that has been developed as part of the EU-Funded project.**

The location map of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property has been developed, as part of the EU funded project, in collaboration with the then Ethiopian Geo-special Agency and has been validated by the relevant federal and regional stakeholders. The location map, attached to this report, was developed by the Ethiopian Geo-spatial and Information Agency engaged by the UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office and the State Party is now submitting the attached map for review by the World Heritage Center (See also Annex\_1). However the State Party is still working to establish the state cadaster of the nominated area and its buffer zone, to mark the boundary of the property, for the creation of the cadaster system concerning the digital maps of the property for its implementation thereof.

### **2.2 Paragraph 6: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) & Community consultation process that has been followed.**

The Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP) is one of the initiatives of the FDRE Sugar Corporation, as part of the First Growth and Transformation Plan (2010 to 2015), to improve the country's economy and achieve the main goals of the program. To ensure the sustainability of the project, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and other feasibility studies were conducted along with the revision of the main feasibility study documents. The study has been conducted using the guidelines of FDRE Commission of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change and that of the World Bank. The result of the ESIA review persuaded that the implementation of the project is more advantageous in terms of the socio-economic developments of the project, as a whole than that of the expected occurrences of ecological and social adverse impacts caused by the project. Therefore, the proposed mitigation measures are expected to minimize the adverse impacts and the project is feasible from environmental

resources and socio economy aspects. The stakeholders and public consultations process was also designed to identify the potential impacts of the project, either negative or positive or both, and prioritize the remedial measures for the identified impacts. As a result, the public/stakeholders' consultations processes have confirmed that the positive impacts of the project are outweighing as compared to the negative impacts and the project was acknowledged with full consent of the local community/stakeholders' in the project area and at the national level. For further information, please see annex\_2)

**2.3 Paragraph 7: Updates on augmentation of the HIA on the new ancillary developments and their impact on the OUV of the property.**

The State Party of Ethiopia was requested, by the World Heritage Committee, to augment the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) taking into account the new ancillary developments and their impact on the OUV of the property. Accordingly, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Committee the updated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Lower Valley of the Omo in 2017. This Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was conducted taking into consideration the property as well as the proposed ancillary development activities of the Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP). In this regard, the proposed ancillary development activities including housing and feeder roads constructions were being conducted within the sufficient distance from the Lower Valley of Omo world heritage property. However the HIA will be further augmented using the outcome of the detailed boundary delineation of the property.

**2.4 Paragraph 9: Steps on the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential impacts of the KSDP and its development activities on the Lake Turkana Basin.**

In accordance with the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7B.4) concerning the Lower valley of Omo Valley world heritage property, the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya were requested to undertake a joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA study was required to evaluate the potential impacts of the Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP) and its development activities on the Lake Turkana National Park world heritage property. However, the SEA study of the Lake Turkana Basin was not feasible due to the varying nature of the two properties, located in two different countries on account of having different OUV and selection criterions, under which the properties were inscribed on the World Heritage List. Nevertheless, the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia have established a Joint Technical Experts Panel during the joint meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13-15 September 2017. This meeting launched the Joint Technical Experts Panel (JTEP) members representing the two countries. Afterward, the Joint Technical Experts Panel (JTEP) has developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultancy services to conduct the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) study on the Lake Turkana Basin. The meeting has also produced the Terms of

Reference (ToR) for the Joint Technical Experts Panel. As a follow up to this efforts, the State Party of Ethiopia has sent a Note Verbal Ref. No.1-4/20/5/18 dated on February 06, 2018 and another Note Verbal Ref.1-4/20/6/18 dated on 27 March 2018 to the State Party of Kenya to initiate the hiring of a consultant that would undertake the SEA study as per the agreed upon Request for Proposal, signed on 15 September 2017.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

No other development activities in the heritage area are identified by the State Party.

4. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is most willing to give public access to this State of Conservation Report.

5. Signature of the Authority

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Ababaw Ayalew*  
*Director General*

6. **ANNEXES**

Annex\_1: General map of the Lower Omo Valley world heritage property

Annex\_2: ESIA Review, Study and Validation for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project

Annex\_3: Annexure Documents on Public Consultation and Photos

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# Palaeontological Site Map of Lower Omo Valley

