STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of the United Republic of Tanzania continues to implement the UNESCO 1972 Convention and closely follows the World Heritage Committee's decision on Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority issues.

The State Party facilitated voluntary relocation of local residents from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and up to January 2023, a total of 551 households, 3,010 people, and 15,321 livestocks have voluntarily relocated from the NCA to Msomera Village in Handeni District.

From the 23rd to the 28th of January 2023, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights conducted a Promotion Mission to the United Republic of Tanzania, specifically to seek information on and assess the human rights situation of indigenous populations and communities in Tanzania, including a review of the situation in the Loliondo Game Controlled Area and voluntary resettlement of local residents in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The mission applauds the state party's efforts to maintain people's equality through the abolition of tribalism and adequate consultation with the NCA's local communities prior to their voluntary relocation to Msomera village; the mission also applauds the state party's legislative, institutional, and budgetary measures put in place to provide equal opportunities to all Tanzanians in addressing social and economic challenges. (Appendix 9)

Droughts killed several wildlife and livestock on the property, resulting in increased human-wildlife conflict, disease transmission from wildlife to humans, and increased local resident poverty levels.

2. RESPONSE TO DECISIONS

Decision Adopted: **44 COM 7B.171**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add,**
2. **Recalling Decision** 43 COM 7B.39, **adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),**
3. **Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to combat wildlife poaching, the establishment and maintenance of a digital database for cultural and archaeological sites and attributes, continued engagement with local communities and support for alternative livelihoods, and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation unit in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) to focus on ensuring compliance of impact assessment processes;**

4. **Also welcomes the development of the work plan for the implementation of the 2017 and 2019 mission recommendations and previous Committee Decisions, but regrets that activities are only partially represented and that they lack detail on their implementation status, therefore requests the State Party to revise the work plan to include all recommendations of previous missions and keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress with implementation;**

Response

The state Party continued to implement the 2017 and 2019 mission recommendations, which included, among other things, called for studies and surveys. Unattended recommendations have been rescheduled for the fourth coming periods as the property's financial situation improves, which is dependent on tourism recovery from the COVID 19 Pandemic. The attached matrix depicts the specifics of recommendation implementation (Appendix 1)

5. **Also requests the State Party to provide information on the spread of invasive species, the status of agricultural activities in the property and on its efforts to address these threats to the property, including through stakeholder awareness-raising;**

Response

By involving third-party agencies such as media outlets and universities, the property increased coverage and stakeholder awareness meetings about the effects of agricultural activities on conservation and the spread of invasive species coupled with Aerial surveillance, such as drones, was also used on the property. There were no agricultural activities observed. The NCAA cleared about **1,705 ha** of targeted invasive plant species of *Gutenbergia cordifolia, Bidens schimperi* and *Verbena officinalis, Datura stramonium,Lippia javanica, Argemon mexcana* and *Tagetes minuta* of in crater floor.The targeted species were. (Appendix 2.)

6. **Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the feasibility study for the southern bypass route including maps of the considered route options,**

Response

The state Party reiterates its position, as stated in previous reports and communications with the WHC, that it has been informed of the completion of feasibility studies for the southern

bypass road being conducted by TANROADS, an autonomous government institution. The southern bypass road does not run through the property, but rather supplements the property's efforts to limit commercial vehicles passing through the main road of Loduare - Golini by providing alternative route to commercial vehicles that could use the mentioned main road running through the property. It should be noted that because this road passes outside the boundaries of the properties, the Property has no influence or power to request required technical documents.

7. **Notes the current suspension of the upgrading of the Lodoare Gate to Golini main road through the property and also reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement the 2017 mission recommendations concerning the road and submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the action plan to manage road use, and the results of archaeological investigations and baseline ecological and environmental data before starting the upgrading works;**

Response
The property conducted baseline ecological studies and environmental data (see attached report in appendix 3) and has scheduled archaeological investigations to be conducted jointly by contractors, supervising engineers, and a team of property experts following construction contract signing and well before actual site work during road alignment setting out. This arrangement is provided in accordance with the ESIA (previously shared reports with the WHC) and will serve as identification of archaeological deposits (if any), road re-alignment, and a sensitization/training activity for the entire road upgrade team. This will also save the property money and time by not repeating the activity before the construction contract and as a confirmation via the construction contract, both of which are paid for by the property.

8. **Notes with concern the results of the ICOMOS/ICCROM technical review concluding that the Laetoli Hominin Footprints Museum and proposed new science/education centre would impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), further requests the State Party to define clearer conservation approaches for the footprint site and for the overall archaeological landscape before any decisions are made on presentation of the footprints or a museum building, and requests furthermore that an update be provided on progress made;**

Response
The progress on the clearer conservation approaches for the footprint site and for the overall archaeological landscape is presented as attached in appendix …It should be noted that completing all elements of the referred strategy needs research, time and money. However, due to unnoticed deterioration of the footprints and a lack of active monitoring (as previously reported to WHC through scientific investigations), the state party informs WHC of its intention to open the entire footprints trail at site G for Periodic monitoring in the period between June and September 2023. The scientific approach related to this opening will be submitted to WHC for advice and participation requests from other experts, including ABs.

9. **Requests moreover the State Party to ensure the General Management Plan (GMP) for the property is finalized in consultation with, and with the free prior and informed consent as appropriate of local stakeholders and rightsholders, and also reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft GMP for review by the Advisory Bodies, including:**

a) **A Cultural Heritage Conservation Strategy, in particular for the palaeo-anthropological sites, including providing human and financial resources for this process,**

b) **Reconsideration of the current compartmentalized approach to the governance of the property to ensure that the natural and cultural attributes of the property will be managed, protected and presented in an integrated approach, with a framework for stakeholder engagement,**

c) **An Interpretation Strategy for the property with a clear vision to ensure the protection of the OUV, integrity and authenticity of the property and that contributes to conservation activity,**

d) **Integrated policies and guidelines on tourism carrying capacity,**

e) **Specific monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with the conclusions and mitigation measures of validated impact assessment studies,**

f) **Mechanisms for traffic monitoring, including regulation of speed and driving behaviour,**

g) **The proposed Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM) Review;**

Response

The property submits for review and advise the following documents:

a. Management zone planning as interim document to GMP (Appendix 5)

b. Draft cultural Heritage Conservation Strategy (Appendix 6)

c. Interpretation Strategy for the property with a clear vision to ensure the protection of the OUV, integrity and authenticity of the property and that contributes to conservation activity, guidelines on tourism carrying capacity have been included in the attached draft Property destination plan (appendix 7)

d. Report of the Multiple Land Use Review Model, Voluntary resettlement scheme and its progress. (Appendix 8)

e. Cultural Heritage Conservation strategy (Appendix 11)

A compartmentalized approach to property governance is being implemented gradually to ensure that the property's natural and cultural attributes are protected, and the property has established and included a department of cultural heritage in its organizational structure and service plans. This has facilitated the deployment of human and financial resources to cultural heritage, as well as the development of integrated strategies, policies and plans for the governance of nature and cultural heritage.

Specific monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the conclusions and mitigation measures of validated impact assessment studies, MZP and all other property activities through Property’s Monitoring and Evaluation Unit.

10. **<u>Reiterates its concern</u> over the continued conflicts with the communities living in the property, including the challenges resulting from the significant increase in the number of people residing in the property since its inscription, and considers that there is the need for an equitably governed consultative process to identify long term sustainable interdisciplinary solutions to address these issues, with participation of**

all rightsholders and stakeholders, consistent with international norms and the policies of the Convention;

Response
The state party initiated a consultatively conducted study that, among other solutions, identified voluntary resettlements as a viable option. See attached report for Multiple Land Use Review Model and voluntary resettlement scheme progress (Appendix 8)

11. **Recommends that the State Party invite an Advisory mission by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to the property to consider, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and rightsholders, the proposed review of the MLUM, as well as the voluntary resettlement scheme, and the zonation of the property, and consider whether the current approaches are sufficient to address these crucial issues and to provide advice on the way forward;**

Response
The state party considers it necessary and will invite the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to the property once the financial situation has stabilized.

12. **Also recalling that the 2019 mission noted concerns for the cumulative and gradual intensification of threats to the OUV of the property, further reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate the current and future impacts of developments across all sectors in the region, including the property and the Serengeti ecosystem so that the findings can inform management, and submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;**

Response
The property is recovering from tourism losses caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, which has greatly reduced its capacity to undertake necessary conservation activities such as protection, and will begin SEA once finances are stable. All future development, however, will be subject to ESIA, that will be immediately submitted to WHC for review and advice.

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 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 46th session.

The state Party hereby submit and updated report on the state of conservation of the NCA and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.