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World Heritage Convention

45COM

AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

Agenda Item	7B
Draft Decision	45 COM 7B.10
Submitted by the Delegation of....	South Africa
Co-author(s) (if any)	Ethiopia
Date of submission	26 th August 2023

TEXT

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.7, 38 COM 7B.7 and 44 COM 7B.177 adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the continued cooperation between the two States Parties in strengthening the joint management of the transboundary property, and the continued efforts to undertake monitoring and control of invasive alien plant species;
4. Notes again with increasing concern the inevitable negative impacts of the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property due to seasonal inundation rising of water levels and partial disappearance of some swash in a a significant portion of the gorges within the property, and requests the States Parties to implement the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to revise the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context to assess alternative project designs that will not impact the OUV, to undertake a to undertake a comprehensive geomorphological and/or geological ecological assessment of the gorge environment ecosystem that takes into account the correct property boundaries, and resubmit the revised

To be submitted to the Rapporteur at: wh-rapporteur@unesco.org

ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before making any decisions that may be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Reiterates its concern over the increasing pressure from tourism infrastructure within and around the property, exacerbated by the absence of strategic planning and also requests the States Parties to prioritise the review and update of the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) to ensure necessary safeguards and thresholds are incorporated to mitigate against developmental pressures~~produce a blueprint for infrastructure development in and around the property that forensures~~ the protection of the property's OUV~~. The States Parties are further requested to adhere to ensure that impact assessments are undertaken and to not approve any further developments until the blueprint is finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, together with an impact assessment for each proposed project in accordance with~~ the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that is difficult to reverse~~;~~;
6. ~~Regrets~~Notes with utmost concern that the construction of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel has ~~concluded~~continued despite the Committee's request to halt further activities and urgently requests the State Party of Zambia to implement mitigatory measures integral to the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to suspend construction and operation of the Resort Hotel until it complies with all the legal conditions of approval issued by the Zambian Environmental Management Authority and contained in the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP), the ESIA has been revised in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and a comprehensive Environmental and Social Management Plan has been developed and submitted together with impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre;
7. Further requests the States Parties to submit a request for a boundary modification in accordance with the Operational Guidelines to set the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, aligned with past Committee Decisions and the property's Statement of OUV and including details of the internal zonation system and its rationale to protect the property and its OUV;
8. Notes that the first phase of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the cumulative development and environmental pressure on the property has been undertaken, requests furthermore the States Parties to seek early inputs and technical guidance from IUCN in undertaking the second phase of the SEA and encourage the States Parties to submit an International Assistance request to that effect;
9. Reiterates its request to the States Parties to summarize how the findings of the analysis undertaken on the water flow, rainfall and upstream activity has informed management, and the measures subsequently taken to ensure water abstraction from the Zambezi River continues to be adapted in the face of climate change;
10. Requests moreover the States Parties to implement all other recommendations from the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, including to:
 - a) Ensure that tourism infrastructure development within the property and its buffer zone is consistent with the aim to enhance the protection of the OUV of the property and in line with the Joint Integrated Management Plan,
 - ~~b) Develop a blueprint for infrastructure development in and around the property,~~

eb) Harmonize the roles and responsibilities of the National Heritage Conservation Commission and the Department of national Parks and Wildlife for the management of the property in Zambia;

11 Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 in 2024.