

State Party: United Republic of Tanzania

Name of World Heritage Property: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Geographical coordinates: S3 11 13.992, E35 32 26.988

Date of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

Organization(s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism - Tanzania National Parks

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Signature on Behalf of the State Party:

PROF. HAMISI M. MALEBO

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO



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 has made further progress in implementing previous Committee Decisions and recommendations by Reactive Monitoring Missions of 2017 and 2019. It has initiated a landscape survey to upgrade the roadmap for conservation and sustainable use of the Laetoli hominid's footprint site and the whole archaeological landscape.

The State Party established experimental enclosures at site G to experiment with indoor conservation techniques with the expectation that if successful, this method will be used to preserve the hominid footprints. The State Party continues engaging local communities and stakeholders in exploring livelihood solutions for the well-being of both voluntarily relocated communities outside the NCA and those within the NCA. The State Party involved stakeholders and rightsholders at all levels in implementing the Multiple Land Use Model, including the development of the General Management Plan, the review of the model, and the way forward. The results of this engagement include the voluntary relocation of the local communities from NCA to Msomera Village and other areas of their choice.

RESPONSES TO DECISIONS

46 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 44 COM 7B.171 and 45 COM 7B.30, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively;*
3. *Also recalling the provisions of the Operational Guidelines and the previous decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee regarding human rights-based approaches that embody the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including indigenous peoples and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination, management and protection processes of World Heritage properties, as well as the relevant international norms;*

Response

Noted.

4. *Notes that the State Party's Review of the Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM) management system, undertaken in 2020 and made available only in 2024, states that maintaining a multiple land use model has "more advantages*

economically, socially, culturally, politically and internally than the one that advocates for changing NCA to other protected area category”.

Response

The State Party reiterates its stance that maintaining the Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM) Management system has more negative impacts to the property's values due to increased human population and livestock, changes in life forms, transformation in land use patterns and climate change (see, MLUM review report, 2020). This is also supported by independent scientific studies and UNESCO's concern on the degradation of the property's outstanding universal values (IUCN, 2020; Masao et al. 2015; Borges et al. 2022; Gomez, 2019). The comparative advantages of the MLUM management system indicated in the MLUM review report are subject to key conditions (Para 6.2.1) for maintaining the model with some adjustments, including a voluntary human rights-based resettlement of local communities.

5. *Considers that the continued implementation of a multiple land use model, that is developed in consultation with stakeholders and rightsholders, and ensures a clear human rights-based approach, is appropriate in principle, and further considers that it is essential that there is full engagement, including effective and adequate consultation with all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders, including those who oppose relocation, in relation to the development of the General Management Plan (GMP) and the implementation strategy going forward following the review of the MLUM;*

Response

The State Party has been involving stakeholders and rightsholders in all levels of the MLUM implementation, including development of the General Management Plan, review of the model (MLUM review report, 2020) and the way forward. The results of this engagement, include the voluntary relocation of the local communities from NCA to Msomera Village and other areas of their choice.

6. *Thanks the State Party for having invited a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission in February 2024 to advise on the review of the MLUM and the voluntary resettlement scheme, also notes that the February 2024 mission, was mandated to meet with local community representatives and that some of such meetings were facilitated by the State Party, but notes with concern that the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and mission representatives have continued receiving extensive and continuous concerns, both during and after the mission, from representatives of the local communities in the property, that they did not meet the mission team nor were they adequately consulted during the visit to the property;*

Response

The State Party invited all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders during the 2024 Advisory Mission and shared their concerns. The Advisory Mission had

sufficient time to listen to presentations by different stakeholders and rightsholders, and had time to visit and speak with representatives of the local communities from within the property and from the voluntarily relocated communities in Msomera village.

7. *Notes moreover that, although a report with the preliminary observations of the Advisory mission is currently being completed based on the February visit, further in-person and on-site engagement is required to ensure that the views and concerns of all local communities and stakeholders on the review of the MLUM and the voluntary resettlement scheme are adequately heard;*

Response

The State Party notes the advice by the World Heritage Committee.

8. *Also takes note that baseline ecological studies are reported to have been undertaken and archaeological investigations scheduled regarding the upgrading of the Loduare Gate to Golini main road through the property, and again 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 State Party submitted baseline ecological and archaeological studies on the project in previous SOC reports and hereby submits updates on the implementation of previous decisions and recommendations (Appendix I).

9. *Further takes note that resources are being mobilized to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and also reiterates its request for the State Party to ensure the timely delivery of the SEA in order to evaluate the current and future impacts of developments across all sectors in the region, including the property and the wider Serengeti ecosystem so that the findings can inform management, and submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review;*

Response

The State Party restates its recognition of the importance of conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The State Party continues to mobilise resources to carry out SEA and will submit the findings to the WHC for review when they are available.

10. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to:*
 - a) *Provide an update on the implementation of all recommendations from the 2017 and 2019 missions and previous Committee decisions based on a revised work plan;*

Response

Responded in Decision No. 8.

- b) *Provide an update on the development of integrated policies and guidelines on tourism carrying capacity and monitoring framework;*

Response

The State Party recognises the urgency of developing integrated guidelines on the property's tourism carrying capacity and monitoring framework. The State Party continues organising resources to examine the property's tourism carrying capacity and develop guidelines.

- c) *Implement the recommendation of the Serengeti Reactive Monitoring Mission on the southern bypass road to downgrade the status of the Karatu – Nyamusa road as a trunk road to a protected area road, closing it for heavy transit traffic from Arusha to Musoma and by disincentivizing other vehicle transit traffic, fully implement the 2017 mission recommendations concerning the upgrading of the Lodware Gate to Golini main road through the property 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

Responded in Decision No. 10a, also see Appendix II.

- d) *Provide an update on any plans for translocation of southern white rhino into the property and not to proceed with the introduction without addressing the concerns raised by the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfrRSG);*

Response

The State Party continues with plans for translocation of southern white rhino and will immediately provide updates on any progress made.

11. Requests furthermore the State Party to not yet implement the 2024 Laetoli Conservation and Sustainable Use Roadmap, which proposes the re-excavation of the Laetoli Footprints (site G) and the construction of an enclosure, but to:

- a) Continue to further define clearer conservation approaches for the Laetoli footprint site and for the overall archaeological landscape,

Response

The State Party continues updating the Laetoli footprints Conservation and Sustainable Use Roadmap. A landscape survey has been initiated

to study the Laetoli landscape, including ecological, archaeological and historic features. The landscape survey results will inform conservation, protection and interpretation of the ancient footprints in relation to the changing Laetoli landscape from the Plio-Pleistocene through the Anthropocene period.

- b) Engage the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the evaluation of further developed options before any decisions are made on the presentation of the footprints or the construction of a museum building at the site;

Response

An experimental enclosure has been constructed to create an environment that can facilitate further studies to determine prerequisite conditions for the development of the conservation and sustainable use roadmap. The State Party continues with the efforts to engage Advisory Bodies for further guidance.

- 12. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to examine the overall state of conservation of the property, and to address the above issues regarding adequate consideration of views and concerns of all local communities and stakeholders on the review of the MLUM and the voluntary resettlement scheme;

Response

The State Party welcomes the request by the WHC.

- 13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

Response

An updated state of conservation report is hereby submitted.

APPENDIX I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017 AND 2019 MISSIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO NGORONGORO MIXED WORLD HERITAGE SITE

No.	Recommendation(s)	Implementation Status
1.	<p style="text-align: center;">The Road Upgrade Project;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Regarding the road upgrade project, the mission recommends that;</p>	
	a) Apply a phased approach to the implementation of the road upgrade project to enable adjustments.	An implementation plan has been prepare based on a phased approach.
	b) Develop a specific action plan to ensure traffic through the property does not increase as a result of upgrading the road.	Action plan for traffic regulation will be submitted and included in the road upgrade contract. Also, budget has been allocated for maintenance of strategic roads within the property, including the road from Olpiro to Enduleni and from Empakaai to Engaruka via Kapenjiro to be used during the construction phase to allow for continuation of tourism activities.
	c) Finalize and submit the feasibility study for the southern by-pass route.	The State Party hereby submits report of the feasibility study for the southern by-pass route (Appendix III).
	d) Develop suitable environmental and archaeological management standards for the project based on a thorough review of the recommendations of ESIA and HIA before the completion of tender documents.	Responded in the SOC report 2024.
	e) Ensure NCAA has the technical and human resource capacity to monitor and enforce the required standards of environmental and archaeological management during all stages of the project.	NCAA has permanently employed professional staffs (Archaeologist, Palaeontologist, Geologist, Civil Engineers and Ecologists) who will ensure adherence to archaeological and environmental standards during the project. NCAA also will contract short-term expert during the implementation of the project.
	f) Conduct baseline archaeological and ecological surveys for areas that will be affected by the road project.	Responded in the previous SOC reports 2023 and 2024.

	g) Reconsider the possible use of asphalt concrete (with added colour) as an exceptional case to import material, consider Olduvai Museum Road separately, and consider the use of geocell in conjunction with asphalt concrete	The option was dropped during previous feasibility studies, and the ESIA concentrated on the final design of rigid pavement.
	h) Review the method of maintenance of the existing unpaved road, including enforcement of speed limit of 50km/h, inclusion of geocell reinforcement to increase longevity of the gravel surface and management of waste material.	The State Party currently uses road maintenance and guidelines by the Tanzania Rural Roads Authority (TARURA) and Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROAD) to guide the maintenance of roads within the property. In addition, NCAA's Engineering Services Department is developing a Standard Operation Manual for the maintenance of park roads.
	i) The State Party develops a framework for the road upgrade and its maintenance for principal and secondary roads throughout the property, as well as the paths in order to bring uniformity and standards on such works by January 2020	Road maintenance framework is being developed by NCAA, it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review once completed.
	j) Sensitizing the appointed contractor on the sensitivity of the property as a World Heritage site, including formally committing the contractor (through an addendum to the main contract) to undertaking intensive monitoring during construction and clear rehabilitation plans for the borrow pits.	Sensitization plan will be provided in the main contract.
2.	<p style="text-align: center;">Draft General Management Plan (GMP)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finalize the Draft GMP in consultation with stakeholders and taking into consideration the following;</p>	
	a) aligning the GMP with all existing and future sub-plans i.e. Tourism Strategy/Plan, Cultural Heritage Conservation Plan etc.	The GMP is being developed and will take into consideration all issues of tourism strategy, cultural heritage conservation and other concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee in previous decisions.
	b) Ensuring the organizational structure and capacity aligns with the needs and priorities of the GMP.	
	c) The challenges noted in implementing the previous GMP and prioritizing concerns and issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its past Decisions, which have an impact on the OUV, integrity and authenticity of the property.	

3.	<p style="text-align: center;">Sustainable Livelihood</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regarding the implementation of sustainable livelihoods, the mission recommends that the State Party;</p>	
	a) Continue to engage local communities and other stakeholders in exploring alternative livelihood solutions to its current voluntary resettlement scheme, consistent with the policies of the Convention and relevant international norms.	The NCAA involved local communities and stakeholders in exploring alternative livelihood solutions from the beginning and during implementation of the voluntary resettlement scheme.
	b) Complete the Multiple Land Use Model review exercise and share the results with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the most appropriate land use model, including in the matter of settling local communities in protected areas.	The Multiple Land Use Model review and results were submitted to the World Heritage Centre (SOC report 2024).
4.	<p style="text-align: center;">Wildlife Protection</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regarding wildlife protection, the mission recommends that the State Party;</p>	
	a) Reinforce monitoring and early detection systems, including intensifying anti-poaching awareness among local communities and stakeholders operating in the property.	The NCAA has reinforced monitoring by adopting the use of advanced technology (PAM-DAS (Earth ranger security system)). Also, awareness campaigns have been carried out to the local community.
5.	<p style="text-align: center;">Archaeological Conservation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regarding archaeological conservation, the mission recommends that the State Party;</p>	
	a) Prioritize developing a Cultural Heritage Conservation Strategy for the property, in particular the paleo-anthropological sites in the property, including providing both human and financial resources for this process. In addition, the State Party should also prioritise developing a database for all cultural heritage sites in the property.	The NCAA has developed a Cultural Heritage Conservation Plan for the property (SOC reports 2023 and 2024). Also, a database for cultural heritage sites has been developed.
6.	<p style="text-align: center;">Governance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regarding governance issues at the property, the mission recommends that the State Party;</p>	
	a) Implement an integrated approach to address the current classified approach for the property, in which nature and culture are not planned for at the same level of detail and financial commitment.	NCAA currently prioritizes conservation of both natural and cultural resources, including administrative structure and financial commitment.

	b) Review the organizational structure, including establishing an Implementation and Monitoring Department for the effective implementation of the GMP.	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit has been established and is included in the property's organization structure.
	c) Establish a Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee comprising of a representative of Department of Antiquities (DoA) and independent specialists to advise the NCAA on management of cultural heritage in the property.	Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee will be incorporated in the General Management Plan that is currently under review.
	d) Develop EIA/HIA compliance monitoring tools to be completed by project proponents and submitted to the World Heritage Centre as part of its state of conservation report to the World Heritage Committee.	EIA compliance and monitoring tool has been developed (Appendix III).
	e) Organize stakeholder awareness seminars on World Heritage in partnership with UNESCO and the National Commission of UNESCO(Tanzania).	Seminar conducted in 2021, and a mentorship program on Empowering African Heritage Professionals and Achieve Gender Equality conducted from 12-14 th December 2022, workshop on Regional World Heritage Nomination Training Course from 2 nd - 16 th December 2021 and National Workshop on World Heritage Convention in the United Republic of Tanzania from 29 th November to 1 st December 2021.
7.	Tourism Development Regarding tourism development, the mission recommends that the State Party;	
	a) Develop an Interpretation Strategy for the property with a clear vision, mission, interpretation options and models to ensure the protection of the OUV, integrity and authenticity of the property, as well as contributing to conservation efforts within it.	A strategy for Interpretation is being developed.
	b) Establish the carrying capacity for the property and develop a monitoring framework, including that of all attributes open to the public as a matter of urgency.	The State Party is organizing resources to conduct a study to establish the carrying capacity of the property and monitoring framework.
8.	Other Developments	
	a) Urgently submit further details on all existing and future	Details Submitted in 2023 and 2024 SOC reports.

	developments (both internally and investor driven) in the property.	
	b) Place a moratorium on all new developments in the property until awareness-raising programmes among stakeholders are undertaken and guidelines are enhanced through training via a well-established school of architecture on the African continent for the purposes of developing creative and innovative architectural designs promoting modernity comfort, but maintaining the connection between traditional architecture and its broader landscape.	Investors make the decision on the design of developments within the property, which is governed by ESIA. In various investor engagement meetings, investors are being encouraged to adopt African architecture.
9.	Laetoli Footprints	
	a) Adopt a Landscape approach for developing options for re-excavation, new reburial approaches, conservation and development of a potential site museum as integrated processes, including capacity building.	Responded in Decision No. 11a of the SOC report, also see Appendix IV.
10.	The mission requests the State Party to develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre, the following to complement the draft GMP;	
	a) An action plan and timeline for implementation of past Committee Decisions,	Updated action plan and implementation status is hereby submitted.
	b) A framework for stakeholder engagement that enables cross-cutting engagement on matters of mutual interest,	Submitted in the 2024 SOC report.
	c) Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms which ensure compliance with the conclusions and mitigation measures of validated impact assessment studies.	This will be developed and shared to the World Heritage Centre for review once NCAA's financial status improves.
11.	Requests moreover the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of current and planned projects in the property, including a Heritage Impact Assessment, that assesses their individual and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;	Responded in Decision No. 10 of the SOC report.