

Progress Report

KENYA LAKES SYSTEM NOMINATION PROCESS



**African World
Heritage Fund**



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA
WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Nordic World Heritage Foundation
under the auspices of UNESCO

INTERIM REPORT ON THE KENYA GREAT RIFT VALLEY LAKES SYSTEM NATURAL SITES

Introduction

The Kenya Great Rift Valley Lakes Systems Natural sites comprising Lakes Bogoria, Nakuru and Elementaita have been chosen for nomination to the world heritage list. The three sites located on the floor of the Western portion of the (Gregory Rift) Great Rift Valley are all saline lakes with great biodiversity and all are Ramsar as well as Important Bird Areas (IBA). The preparation of the nomination dossier is, supported by Norwegian Funding through the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF). The preparation of the dossier started with the development of an Action Plan (see Annex 1) that was done in a participatory way through a meeting of major stakeholders. The stake holders including Kenya Wildlife Services, the Department of Culture, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Lake Baringo County Council, the National Museums of Kenya, the African World Heritage Fund, Kenya's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Bird Life International and representatives from the Democratic of Congo, Uganda and Malawi among others.

Workshop on the Kenya's Great Rift Valley Lakes Nomination Process

Background

Following the stakeholder meeting that took place on the 13th March 2009 to discuss the Kenya Rift Valley (KRV) Lake systems nomination process, it was decided convene the first stakeholders' workshop as per the KRV Nomination work plan. This was seen as a necessary first step to assemble professionals and local communities to sensitize them on the KRV project and to create goodwill. The proposed KRV nomination is to initially concentrate on the three lakes namely, Lake Elementaita, Lake Nakuru, Lake Bogoria. The said sites are solely natural sites but other properties including the cultural sites will be considered during future nominations.

Justification

The Kenyan Rift Valley is massive and diverse and it thus imperative that due to this complexity, serial national nomination be considered. The Lakes Elementaita, Nakuru and Bogoria were considered based on their geological, ecological and geographical uniqueness as well as association with habitation of migratory bird species and in particular the lesser flamingos.

The workshop was deemed necessary for the purpose of sensitizing the stakeholder community on the needs of their participation in the current exercise and future management of the properties. It is noted that an earlier nomination of the said lakes was deferred because of reasons among them; the lack of clarity of management of the Lake Elementaita. In the stakeholder

workshop, major stakeholders such as government, conservation agencies, local authorities and investors were brought together to consider the conservation of the three lakes in their strategic plans as well as to be part of the process and to assume ownership from the beginning.

Workshop objectives

- To take the stakeholders through the process of the World Heritage Listing
- To stress and elaborate on the need for conservation of the KRV lakes.
- To review the challenges facing conservation of the KRV lakes
- To chart a way of overcoming the challenges
- To assign responsibilities and tasks on the stakeholders regarding integrated conservation of the KRV lakes

Expected output

- Awareness about World Heritage Listing and the benefits thereof
- Mobilization of the stakeholder community towards participatory conservation
- Establishment of channels for sourcing the most current information on the properties to assist in developing the nomination dossier and for future follow ups

Emerging issues

Participants were made aware of challenges in conservation of heritage. It was noted that lack of community involvement in heritage management was an impediment to successful conservation. It was also made clear that there has been conflict between development and conservation, which has been due to a number of factors including population pressure in some of the sensitive protected areas. Climate change was also cited as a challenge due to unpredictable weather conditions.

Regardless of the challenges, the Lakes Elementaita, Nakuru and Bogoria were cited as part of a network that constitutes the most significant natural habitat for in-situ conservation of threatened and endangered species:

- a. Sustains 75% of the global population of the lesser flamingo making this one of the greatest ornithological spectacles on earth.
- b. Supports one of the major breeding colonies of the great white pelicans
- c. Provides a vital wintering ground for over 100 species of migratory birds and is part of the palaeartic African migratory flyway system.
- d. They are wetlands of regional and international importance.

It was further demonstrated that the three Lakes share faulted geological landscape and hydro-geological connectivity making them a unit. Further more the three lakes systems have the highest concentration of well developed, geysers in Africa.

There were paper presentations made on subjects ranging from geology and geomorphology, Birdlife, Management, Nomination processes, local stakeholder participation among many others

(see Appendix II). It noted that the papers presented directly contribute to the nomination dossier development, understanding the need for listing and subsequent responsibilities and the different roles of the various stakeholders. The meeting even went further to identify management strategies and systems to be developed and those responsible. It has made the process of nomination dossier development for the Kenyan Great Rift Valley Lake Systems much more practical and the process is now in place.

Workshop recommendations

Participants felt that there is need for another stakeholders' workshop for sensitization of other stakeholders, particularly local leaders and municipal and County Council Councillors to ensure that more of the local community are aware about the nomination and get their buy in. It was also resolved that the Kenya Wildlife Services convene a meeting for the formation of an integrated committee concerning the management of the lakes.

Annex 1

KENYA RIFT VALLEY LAKES SYSTEM PROJECT SCHEDULE

Products	Required activities	Supporting activities	Deliverables	Responsibility	Duration	Dates
Detailed status quo investigation	Desktop study assessment of all the sites on the Rift Valley Site information gathering Develop the comparative analyses	Consultation with NMK, KWS & other relevant departments and countries	Status quo report Potential sites for inscription	Dr. George Abungu, Hoseah Wanderi and Elizabeth Leitoro	90 days	Jan. – April 2009
Two Key stakeholder workshops	Appoint a workshop convener; Compile stakeholder database; Invite stakeholders; Individual countries stakeholder's workshops	Organize workshop venue & work shop logistics	Stakeholder workshop & consultative forum Consensus on sites to be listed Key stakeholder database	Consultant and NMK	8 days (4 days in May and 4 in July)	May and July 2009

Mapping of sites	<p>Defining the sites to be included in serial nomination</p> <p>Define and compile maps for each site</p> <p>Define buffer zones and areas of sensitivity</p> <p>Take relevant photographs</p>		<p>Topographic maps & plans</p> <p>Geological maps</p> <p>Vegetation maps</p> <p>Land use maps</p> <p>photographs</p>	Consultants and the country teams	24 days	June-July 2009
Management plans	<p>Develop management plans for three sites on the Rift valley</p> <p>Define the sites and boundaries</p>	<p>Documentation of sites</p> <p>Comparative studies</p> <p>Legal and administrative issues stakeholder consultation</p> <p>Define statements of significance and values</p> <p>Develop strategies protection</p>	Draft management plans for the three sites	Consultants NMK and KWS		July-August 2009
Nomination dossiers	<p>Compile the nomination files</p> <p>Edit</p> <p>Publish</p> <p>Lodge nomination with WHC</p>	<p>Compiling nomination dossier using the management plans</p> <p>Ensure maps are published</p> <p>Develop the</p>	Draft nomination dossier for three sites	Consultant KWS and NMK	60 days	Sept.-Oct. 2009

		statement of OUV evaluation				
Support activities	Purchase of equipment -2 laptops and 2 cameras		Compile preliminary reports from country teams	NMK and KWS		
Publication	Nomination dossier Management plans		Lodge documents at UNESCO-WHC		30	Nov.- Dec. 2009

September 2009

Progress made as per the work plan

(a) Time line

It is now understood that the funders (Nordic World Heritage Fund) has expressed strong opinion that the funds provided have to be used within one year and thus the work on the GRV lakes need to be completed by the end of 2009. As such, the project schedule has been revised to compress all the activities previously spread out to two years to fit into one year. In addition, a meeting held in Paris also concurred that the process be expedited by the end of the year.

(b) Protection of sites

Both the Lake Nakuru and Lake Bogoria are gazetted as National Park and National Reserve respectively. However Lake Elementaita is not gazetted and as such we raised the issues with Kenya Wildlife Service officer, Mr. Sipul in-charge of Lands & Assets affairs to fast track the gazettement process. It was learnt that effect an advert was placed on the Daily Nation of 17th December 2007 giving notice of completion of Lake Elementaita Part Development Plan). The process of gazettement the lake ought to be complete by end of July 2009.

(c) Management Plans

Both the Lake Nakuru and Lake Bogoria have updated management plans. The management plan for Lake Nakuru has a time spans from 2002-2012 while that of Lake Bogoria runs from 2007-2012. The secretariat is in possession of the copies of the two management plans. Soysambu Conservancy one of the stakeholders of Lake Elementaita have spearheaded the drafting of management plan for the lake in collaboration with other stakeholders including the KWS. The work is expected to be complete in two months time.

(d) Reference materials

We have managed to secure several internet journals with issues to do with the biodiversity of the lakes, geology, ecological connection, threats, comparison with other lakes etc.

Following a meeting held with the consultant on the 12th March 2009, it was agreed that we liaise with other organizations to get more data of the hotspots within the rift valley and other significant issues of the lakes such as bird species, bird migration, geology, drainage, sedimentation, animal densities, water salinity, comparative analysis etc. Such organizations are: Birdlife International, Fisheries Department, and KWS. We have managed to get papers and journals with information on the above issues.

(e) Reconnaissance survey

During a meeting held at the Directorate of Museums Sites and Monuments on the 13th March 2009, it was resolved that we need to carry out the reconnaissance activity to meet with the key stakeholders to inform them of the project and to have their concurrence. The activity was to be conducted jointly between the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

The following were the objectives of the reconnaissance:

- To introduce the stakeholders on the ground to the proposed project that has been revived.
- To get their concurrence on the project.
- To brief them on the ongoing work.
- To have a first hand knowledge of the condition of the proposed sites
- To understand new development around the sites.

The reconnaissance survey was conducted by the NMK in collaboration with the KWS from 23rd-27th April 2009. The mission managed to meet with the following major stakeholders;

- ❖ Senior management of the Soysambu Conservancy: Ms. Kathryn Coombs and Mr. Grahame Vetch;
- ❖ Nakuru County Council official: Mr. Geoffrey Kioko;
- ❖ Lake Nakuru National Park Deputy Senior Warden: Mr. Opiyo;
- ❖ Conservator of Forest in Charge of Mau Complex: Mr. Cosmas Ikiugu;
- ❖ Kobatek/Baringo County Council representative Mr. William Kimosop.

The team managed to agree with the above stakeholders that the NMK and KWS will be spearheading the nomination process of the three lakes and that they would cooperate in giving information needed to build a good dossier and that they would also participate in future conservation arrangements for the said lakes system.

(f) Workshop

The workshop on the Kenya Rift Valley lakes system was held in Lake Bogoria Spa Resort in Baringo in the Rift Valley province of Kenya from 4-6th May 2009. The workshop was well attend by among others: a team from government agencies including the Ministries of Tourism,

Heritage and Culture, Kenya Wildlife Service, the National Museums of Kenya, local authorities from the lakes region, investors, private conservation agencies and universities.

Objectives of the workshop

- To take the stakeholders through the process of the World Heritage Listing
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The workshop was organized in two formats namely (a) paper presentations by participants in which they either outlined specific topic on the properties or gave case studies that addressed the Rift Valley lakes systems and (b) group session that was able to identify Universal Outstanding Value of the properties as well as the management and conservation issues and possible solutions and strategies for addressing the same.

There were paper presentations on subjects ranging from geology and geomorphology, Birdlife, Management, Nomination processes, local stakeholder participation among many others (see Annex II). The papers presented directly contribute to the nomination dossier development, understanding the need for listing and subsequent responsibilities and the different roles of the various stakeholders. The meeting even went further to identify management strategies and systems to be developed and those responsible. It has made the process of nomination dossier development for the Kenyan Great Rift Valley Lake Systems much more practical and the process is now in place.

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Annex I: Work plan

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