



World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING IN 4 AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DESTINATIONS



Follow-up workshop

Cape Maclear, 15-16 June 2015

Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Site



A. INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Project

PROJECT:	SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING IN 4 AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DESTINATIONS
SITES:	4 PILOT WORLD HERITAGE SITES (1) Mosi-oa-Tunya (Zambia/Zimbabwe) (2) Maloti Drakensburg (South Africa/Lesotho) (3) Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (4) Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania)
DURATION:	12 months (November 2014-October 2015)
ORGANISERS:	UNESCO World Heritage Centre, African World Heritage Fund, UNESCO Field Offices, and the Nature, Culture, and Tourism Ministries and Organizations from participating countries
FUNDING:	Government of Flanders and IRIS Foundation

1.1 The UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme

World Heritage sites are unique treasures of humanity. These natural and cultural wonders have outstanding universal value, represent our past and present, and belong to all. These sites are also important travel destinations with huge potential impact for local economic development and long-term sustainability. Travel and tourism is one of the largest industries and heritage tourism is its most rapidly growing international sector. With millions of tourists visiting World Heritage sites each year, tourism has become an important cross cutting issue and management concern at most World Heritage sites.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has developed the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme (WH+ST Programme) to catalyze positive change to protect and conserve the sites while enriching the lives of local communities and at the same time enhancing the experience of travelers. The aim is to develop heritage-based tourism that is based on the Outstanding Universal Values of the properties.

1.2 UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit

In the framework of the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme (WHSTP), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) has developed a capacity building tool for site managers (“How To” Guides) to help them manage tourism at their sites more sustainably. The toolkit consists of 10 guides.

The guides can be found at the following link: <http://unescost.cc.demo.faelix.net/how-use-guide>

These easily accessible 'How To' guides are focused on best practice approaches to sustainable economic development through tourism. The 'How To' resources offer direction and guidance to managers of World Heritage tourism destinations and other stakeholders to help identify the most suitable solutions for circumstances in their local environments and aid in developing general know-how for the management of each destination.

The series of guides have been structured as a step-by-step process for site managers.

- **Guides 1-4 establish the basic foundations for sustainable tourism.**
 - Guide 1: Understanding tourism at your destination
 - Guide 2: How to develop a strategy for progressive change
 - Guide 3: How to develop an effective governance structure
 - Guide 4: How to engage local communities and businesses
- **Guides 5-10 are tailored to more specific issues, which will have greater relevance at some sites than at others.**
 - Guide 5: How to communicate with visitors
 - Guide 6: How to manage the development of tourism infrastructure
 - Guide 7: How to develop products, experiences and services that add value
 - Guide 8: How to manage visitor movements and behaviour
 - Guide 9: How to secure funding and investment to make progressive change
 - Guide 10: How to monitor and benchmark the success of your efforts

1.3 Sustainable tourism capacity building in 4 African World Heritage destinations

Assistance to site managers and other stakeholders is essential to ensure that the How To guides are used as effectively as possible and adapted accordingly to the sites. To achieve this, the World Heritage Centre and the African World Heritage Fund are carrying out a project '**Sustainable tourism capacity building in 4 African World Heritage destinations**'. The project consists of organizing a series of practical training and workshops in four World Heritage sites in Africa.

Previous economic analysis has shown that even some of the most progressive actors in the field of sustainable tourism lack understanding and knowledge of the different models that are emerging globally. There is little knowledge transfer of good practice; and as a result surprisingly few site managers have a comprehensive understanding about the key issues, the expertise to put theory into practice, or indeed where they can learn more. This project will help site managers and other stakeholders to identify the most suitable solutions for their local circumstances and develop a sense of how to structure management of destination that is based on the heritage values of the site.

2. Objectives of the Project

The aim of the project is to help each site develop a sustainable tourism strategy using the guidance tools developed by UNESCO in order to enhance broad stakeholder engagement in

planning, development and management of sustainable tourism, and provide World Heritage stakeholders with the capacity and the tools to manage tourism efficiently, responsibly and sustainably based on the local context and needs.

3. Expected Results of the Project

Overall goal of the project:

Participating World Heritage sites in Africa plan and manage tourism more sustainably using the guidance tools to improve their effectiveness.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

1. For each site to have developed a sustainable tourism management strategy as well as a governance structure to support the implementation of the strategy that is based on the OUV of the site;
2. Participating sites are actively using the guidance tools to implement strategies addressing the core issues;
3. Participating sites have a sense on how to structure tourism management that takes a destination approach;
4. Broad stakeholder involvement in planning, development and management of sustainable tourism that follows a destination approach to heritage conservation and focuses on empowering local communities;
5. The guides are further refined and adapted to African World Heritage sites.

4. Structure of the Project

The project will take place over 12 months (November 2014-October 2015) and will be structured in 3 phases, as follows:

- (1) Initiation workshops;**
- (2) Follow-up workshops;**
- (3) Specialized workshops.**

Each site will be taken through the 3 phases and will be supported throughout the project by a team of coordinators and resource persons via workshops, discussions, distance consultations, feedback on results and monitoring. The initiation and follow-up workshop will concentrate on guides 1-4 of the toolkit to establish the basic foundation for strategy development. The initiation workshop was undertaken from the 7-9 March 2015.

5. Follow-up Workshop 15-16th June 2015

The follow-up workshop took place in Cape Maclear with the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Site from the 15-16th June 2015. The aim of the follow-up workshop was to consolidate the preparatory work; focus on developing a detailed strategy for sustainable tourism management; develop a governance structure in order to implement the strategy; and to identify practical initiatives and longer term planning on core issues. Lake Malawi National Park, a natural World Heritage Property inscribed in 1984, is located at the southern end of the great expanse of Lake Malawi. The national park is home to many hundreds of fish species, nearly all endemic.

B. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

1. Workshop programme

The two day workshop consisted of a mixture of practical and training exercises aimed at consolidating the work started in the initiation workshop and further developing the sustainable tourism strategy. The workshop took place at the Mgoza Lodge in Cape Maclear, Malawi from the 15-16th June 2015. *See appendix (a) for the programme.*

2. Workshop participants

Nine participants attended the meeting, of which only 1 was female. The coordination and resource team consisted of: Programme Specialists from the World Heritage Centre Paris; the African World Heritage Fund, and; a UNESCO sustainable tourism expert. *See appendix (b) for participant list.*

3. Proceedings- 15-16th June 2015

3.1 Session 1: Opening and introduction

The workshop opened on the 15th June with a brief welcome and introduction by all participants, all of which had participated in the first phase of the project. This was followed by a recap presentation on the sustainable tourism programme and steps of the project. The concept of destination was emphasised again. *A destination is the physical space in which a tourist spends their holiday or vacation. It includes a full range of services, products and experiences. A World Heritage site (WHS) can be a destination in itself. However, more often it is located in, or part of, a wider venue, forming the key, or one of the key, attractions of the place concerned. It is important to manage tourism at a destination scale – managing the issues simply within the boundaries of the World Heritage sites would be ineffective.*

32. The presentation also recapped the concept of sustainable tourism, the sustainable tourism toolkit and a destination management approach. The participants were introduced to the Pinterest Board 'UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism' which provides good case studies for each guide from around the world.

3.3 Session 2: Review of Progress

The proceedings and results of the initiation workshop held from 7-9th March 2015 were reviewed, in particular highlighting the key results consisting of the swot analysis, the 4 strategic objectives, the strategic actions and the action plans for each respective side (*refer to initiation workshop report for full details*). The participants presented on the progress since the initiation workshop, which was quite considerable. Consultations with more stakeholders revealed additional objectives

and actions for the strategy. The participants indicated the need for assistance in creating a vision and the need to format the strategy.

3.4 Session 3: Strategy Development

The case study of the Wadden Sea tourism strategy was presented as a template to help guide the creation of the strategy for the Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage Destination. The Wadden Sea is a transboundary World Heritage Site connecting Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. The three countries jointly created their sustainable tourism strategy. The participants agreed on using the case study to create a template for their strategy focusing on the following main points:

1. Vision
2. Introduction
3. Key statistics
4. Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Site
5. SWOT analysis
6. Strategic priorities
7. Strategic actions
8. Stakeholders
9. Governance
10. Action Planning for Strategy
11. Way forward
12. Outreach and buy in
13. Statement of collective commitment
14. Signatures

Many elements for the strategy were completed during the initiation and follow-up stages, such as the introduction, SWOT analysis, strategic priorities, strategic actions, and the list of stakeholders. The participants decided to set the plan for 20 years from 2015-2035.

3.5 The participants had drafted a background to the strategy during the follow-up phase but were lacking a clear vision for the long-term strategy of 20 years. The participants divided into two groups consisting of a mixture of tourism and heritage backgrounds. The groups developed very similar visions, each with key items. The 2 visions were synthesised to produce 1 clear vision for the destination.

3.7 World Heritage Properties are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List because they are considered to have Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). OUV refers to the outstanding values of the site that make it valuable not only to the specific country in which they are located but to mankind as a whole. Their protection and conservation is therefore important to the whole world. The outstanding universal value of a World Heritage site is not often known by heritage and tourism practitioners working around the site. The official version is often long and complicated. The participants were all provided with a copy of the OUV of Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage

Site (*see appendix c*) and divided into 2 groups. Each group reviewed the OUV and rephrased it into a short explanation that highlighted the key values. Their aim was to create a more tourist friendly version that could easily market the destination and be provided to all stakeholders in the tourism industry from hotel receptionists to taxi drivers. The 2 versions will be synthesised by the participants after the workshop. The participants identified a set of key statistics for the destination from the OUV and visitor information. The exact details are to be verified after the workshop.

- 3.6 The 4 strategic priorities and actions developed during the initiation workshop were reviewed. The participants identified clearer objectives for the 20 year strategy and further developed actions.
- 3.8 Governance of the strategy is a key issue to ensure not only ownership but also implementation of the strategy. It is generally recommended that destinations create a destination management organisation to manage and implement destination tourism strategies. The participants reiterated their decision to develop a destination management organisation to meet 4 times a year.
- 3.9 The last item of the strategy development session focused on action planning for the strategy. This item was led by the participants. This involved looking at the objectives and their actions and deciding: the time frame for each action within the 20 year strategy; who would be responsible; the stakeholders to be consulted; the success indicators, and; the resources needed. The participants tackled a few actions which involved lengthy discussions on which institutions should be responsible at various levels. There was not enough time to finish the action plan but the process was established and was clear for the participants in order take the process forward.

3.10 Session 4: Way Forward and Closing

The last step in the process involved discussing the desired outcome by the end of the project, in particular how far the participants wished to be by the third workshop in September 2015. The participants decided to draft the plan in the next few months and finalise during the third workshop. A deadline schedule was drafted and the participants confirmed that they would lead the process. The workshop was closed with words from each participant on the process of the project.

C. WORKSHOP RESULTS

1. Vision

The synthesised vision was agreed as follows:

To make Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage site the premier destination in Malawi for sustainable tourism. A vibrant and enjoyable destination for all visitors. A destination where all people living, working, investing and visiting actively participate in the conservation of its

outstanding universal value while equitably benefitting from it. A destination which sustains its unique natural resources and the local culture for present and future generations.

2. Outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site

The two descriptions of the OUV are as follows:

"Lake Malawi National Park is found on the southern end of Lake Malawi in southern Africa. It is a rift valley lake lying within the Western Rift valley. It was inscribed in 1984 as a natural World Heritage Site. It has unique natural beauty with clear fresh waters, beaches and a wide range of fish commonly known as Mbuna which are only found in Lake Malawi and nowhere else in the world. It is a place where fish are undergoing changes due to prevailing environmental conditions."

"Cape Maclear is an area of exceptional natural beauty and Natural history with sparkling waters, rolling hills and vast sandy beaches. It is located at the southern end of Africa's Great Rift Valley. The waters of the lake are filled with colourful mbuna fishes swimming between interesting rock formations. Over 350 species of Mbuna in the lake and are of great scientific interest because of the adaptive evolution that rivals the galapagos finches in importance. The Mbuna are the main reason for the creation of the Lake Malawi National park and the world heritage site. The fish and the scenic beauty combined make this an area of outstanding universal value."

3. Key statistics

- At 94 sq km, it is the smallest park in Malawi
- 10,000 visitors per year
- 12,000-15,000 people living in Cape Maclear
- 43,000 people living in the larger area (tbc)
- 350 species of mbuna fish
- Greatest diversity of fish in the world (1000 species)
- 7 sq km of aquatic zone
- One of the deepest lakes in the world
- First freshwater park in the world
- 13 pristine islands in their natural state

**statistics to be verified during follow-up after the workshop*

4. Strategic objectives

- i. Destination Governance
- ii. Protection of Outstanding Universal Value through tourism
- iii. Sustainable Community Development through tourism
- iv. Communication of Outstanding Universal Value and marketing

- v. Tourism capacity development
- vi. Resource mobilisation

5. Strategic actions

i. Destination Governance

- a) Establish a destination management organisation
- b) Create Terms of Reference for DMO
- c) Engage community on the opportunities of tourism
- d) Sensitization of stakeholders
- e) Regular review of management plan
- f) Develop proper mechanism for revenue collection
- g) Promote collaborative management with stakeholders
- h) Explain the need for and secure buy in for a spatial planning process
- i) Embed strategy in local government and traditional authority structures

ii. Protection of OUV through tourism

- a) Sensitisation of community starting with primary school and adult education with the help of MOT
- b) Alternative income generation based on tourism and caged fish farming
- c) Creation of woodlots for firewood
- d) Increase in law enforcement and in resource monitoring
- e) Sharing benefits gained from OUV with help of Masalapa and to increase revenue
- f) Control of islands through proper concession management
- g) Increase the price of line caught fish to reduce netting
- h) Increase the budget for law enforcement and monitoring

iii. Sustainable Community Development through tourism

- a) Facilitate the development of an environmental audit and a community development plan
- b) Control the expansion of village through enforcing National boundaries
- c) Waste management plan for sewerage disposal and general waste products such as chibuku bottles and plastics
- d) Zoning of industries such as tourism, bars, markets and ensure buildings such as bars are sound proof
- e) Introduce a tourism development plan consisting of Environmental Impact Assessments, building style and type and size
- f) No buildings over 2 stories
- g) No random constructions in the village, follow the community development plan
- h) Influx of people is usually family members so hard to control (no real plan). One way would be to increase tertiary education to encourage move out of Cape Maclear, set up trust

- i) Consultation with local and other stakeholders
- j) Develop and produce social economic profile
- k) Document and link up with local communities on the existing structures
- l) Initiate development projects

iv. Communication of OUV and Marketing

- a) Develop a communications strategy
- b) Develop a clear vision
- c) Develop a clear message on destination
- d) Develop 6 natural and 6 cultural activities to do in the destination (explaining how tourists would fill 3 days and 6 days)
- e) Community activities need to be part of cultural and natural activities
- f) Do's and don'ts for visitors and operators
- g) Develop website for the destination and links to as many organisations as possible and create a social media position for marketing and OUV
- h) Production of information materials ie brochures, fliers, leaflets, maps
- i) Create unified information package so as not to confuse tourists- Embed the key messages throughout the destination

v. Tourism Capacity Development

- a) Increased training of tour guides and vendors
- b) Increase tourism at quiet times of year (November through May) by at least 50%
- c) Link up with UNESCO and National Federation of Tour Guides on possibility of organizing training
- d) See possibilities of National Parks and Wildlife providing wildlife training
- e) Capacity building to different stakeholders in ecotourism

vi. Resource mobilization

- a) Connect with the UNESCO National Commission of Malawi
- b) Initiate an annual event programmes
- c) Develop fundraising proposals with partners
- d) Develop viable proposal for park entry fees at collection point

D. WAY FORWARD

Over the next few months the participants will be further developing the tourism strategy for the destination, to be finalized during the third workshop planned for September 2015. This will be developed holistically for the whole destination. The sustainable tourism toolkit will be the key tool during this phase, in particular guides 1-4, to assist in the development of the strategy. A joint action

working plan for the follow-up phase was created to guide the final development of the strategy. See below for the action plan.

Aim: To draft tourism strategy for the destination

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DEADLINE	REMARKS
• 2 groups to send OUVs to AWHF	Phillip and Allan	22 nd June 2015	•
• Workshop report distributed	AWHF	22 nd June 2015	• Finalized by end of week
• Finalize action plan for strategy	Led by Chairperson (Alex Chunga)	31 st July 2015	•
• Share objectives and actions with stakeholders	All participants	31 st July 2015	•
• Draft strategy	Led by Chairperson	31 st August	• To be shared with UNESCO and AWHF
• Final workshop in the sustainable tourism programme	UNESCO, AWHF	September 2015	Dates to be determined closer to the time

E. CONCLUSION

The workshop successfully brought together a variety of stakeholders to review and consolidate the progress and work started in the first phase of the project. Clear challenges and opportunities were highlighted and the strategic priorities and actions were reviewed to take into account the consultations with stakeholders. The participants identified that the tourism strategy should capture the need for the tourism sector to contribute to the conservation of the site. The workshop resulted in a draft strategy with a clear vision for 2035 and key marketing messages and statistics based on the outstanding universal value of the site. A governance structure was identified by the participants which will ensure the finalization and implementation of the twenty year strategy. The Lake Malawi National Park is currently updating their management plan. It was indicated that the tourism strategy should be incorporated as an annex to the management plan to ensure it is implemented.

F. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the State Party of Malawi for participating in the project, in particular the participants for their active involvement and enthusiasm in working towards a tourism vision and strategy. Further we would like to thank the Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Malawi and the Mgoza Lodge for welcoming the participants and hosting the workshop in Cape Maclear. Special acknowledgments to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the African World Heritage Fund and the UNESCO expert, Mr. James Rebanks, for providing coordination and resources for the project. Further we thank the financial contributors to this project, the Flanders Government and the IRIS Foundation for providing the much needed financial resources for the implementation of this project.



Participants during the Follow-up workshop 15-16th June 2015, Cape Maclear, Malawi

G. APPENDICES

a. Daily programme

DAY 1: Monday 15 June		
		Venue: Mgoza Lodge, Cape Maclear
SESSION 1: Opening and Introduction		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Comments</i>
09:00-09:30	-Introductory remarks	UNESCO/AWHF
09:30-10:00	-Recap on How to Guides and Sustainable Tourism programme	PD & JR
SESSION 2: Progress review		
10:00-10:30	-Review of results of initiation workshop	PM
<i>Coffee/Tea break 10:30-11:00</i>		
11:00-11:30	-Presentation by Malawi on progress	All participants
11:30-12:00	-Discussion	All participants
SESSION3: Strategy Development		
12:00-12:30	-Wadden Sea strategy- case study	JR
12:30-13:00	-Group work - Vision	All participants
<i>Lunch 13:00-14:00</i>		
14:00-15:00	-Group presentations -Discussion – refining vision	All participants
15:00-15:30	-Group work -OUV	All participants
<i>Coffee/Tea break 15:30-16:00</i>		
16:00-17:00	- Group presentations -OUV	All participants
DAY 2: Tuesday 16 June		
SESSION 3: Strategy Development continued		
09:00-10:30	-Reviewing and refining strategic objectives and actions	All participants
<i>Coffee/Tea break 10:30-11:00</i>		
11:00-12:00	-Reviewing and refining strategic objectives and actions	All participants
12:00-12:30	-Presentations on strategic objectives and actions	2 groups
12:30-13:00	-Governance -Discussion	All participants
<i>Lunch 13:00-14:00</i>		
14:00-15:30	-Strategy action planning	All participants
<i>Coffee/Tea break 15:30-16:00</i>		
15:30-16:00	-Strategy action planning cont'd	All participants
SESSION 4: Way Forward and closing		
16:00-16:30	-Discussion on way forward and third workshop	All participants
16:30-17:00	-Closing of workshop	

b. List of participants

Project: Testing the How To Guides in the Destination Management field in 4 Africa Nature sites

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Activity: Follow-up workshop

Venue: Lake Malawi World Heritage Site

Date: 15-16th June 2015

	NAME	AFFILIATION	COUNTRY	CONTACT DETAILS
Workshop participants				
1	Mr. Alex Benson Chunga	Park Manager , Lake Malawi National Park	Monkey Bay, Malawi	alexchunga70@yahoo.com
2	Mr. Dyce Allan Kamwana	Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer, Lake Malawi National Park	Monkey Bay, Malawi	kamwanadyce@gmail.com
3	Mr. McPhillip Rosary Mwithokona	Education and Extension Officer, Lake Malawi National Park	Monkey Bay, Malawi	phillipmwitho@gmail.com
4	Mr. Patrick Chinguwo	Senior Assistant Parks and Wildlife Research Officer, Lake Malawi National Park	Monkey Bay, Malawi	pchinguwo@gmail.com
5	Ms. Constance Makonokaya	District Tourism Officer, Malawi Ministry of Information and tourism, Mangochi Office	Mangochi, Malawi	makonokayacossie@yahoo.com
6	Mr. Medson Gregory John Makuru	Heritage Manager, Chongoni Rock Art WHS	Lilongwe, Malawi	medsonmakuru@yahoo.com
7	Mr. Lackson William Maliwanda	Vice Chairman of Cape Maclear Tour Guide Association	Cape Maclear, Malawi	luckysonmalawi@yahoo.com
8	Mr. Alan Abraham Joffe	Chairman of the Cape Maclear Lodge Owners Association Owner of Mgoza Lodge	Cape Maclear, Malawi	alan@mgozalodge.com
9	Mr. Franklyn Nyirenda	Staff Manager, Kayak Africa (tour operator)	Cape Maclear, Malawi	joseph@kayakafrica.com ; jurie@kayakafrica.com
Coordination and Resource team				
11	Mr. Peter Debrine	Senior Project Officer of Sustainable Tourism, UNESCO World Heritage Centre Paris	France	p.debrine@unesco.org
12	Mr. James Rebanks	UNESCO Consultant	England	james@rebanksconsulting.co.uk jamesrebanks@me.com
13	Ms. Pamela Mac Quilkan	Programme Officer African World Heritage Fund	South Africa	PamelaM4@awhf.net

c) Appendix 3

Statement of OUV

Lake Malawi National Park

Brief synthesis

Located at the southern end of the great expanse of Lake Malawi, the property is of global importance for biodiversity conservation due particularly to its fish diversity. Lying within the Western Rift Valley, Lake Malawi is one of the deepest lakes in the world. The property is an area of exceptional natural beauty with the rugged landscapes around it contrasting with the remarkably clear waters of the lake. The property is home to many hundreds of cichlid fish, nearly all of which are endemic to Lake Malawi, and are known locally as "mbuna". The mbuna fishes display a significant example of biological evolution. Due to the isolation of Lake Malawi from other water bodies, its fish have developed impressive adaptive radiation and speciation, and are an outstanding example of the ecological processes.

Criterion (vii): The property is an area of exceptional natural beauty with its islands and clear waters set against the background of the Great African Rift Valley escarpment. Habitat types vary from rocky shorelines to sandy beaches and from wooded hillsides to swamps and lagoons. Granitic hills rise steeply from lakeshore and there are a number of sandy bays.

Criterion (ix): The property is an outstanding example of biological evolution. Adaptive radiation and speciation are particularly noteworthy in the small brightly coloured rocky-shore tilapiine cichlids (rockfish), known locally as mbuna. All but five of over 350 species of mbuna are endemic to Lake Malawi and represented in the park. Lake Malawi's cichlids are considered of equal value to science as the finches of the Galapagos Islands remarked on by Charles Darwin or the honeycreepers of Hawaii.

Criterion (x): Lake Malawi is globally important for biodiversity conservation due to its outstanding diversity of its fresh water fishes. The property is considered to be a separate bio-geographical province with estimates of up to c.1000 species of fish half occurring within the property: estimated as the largest number of fish species of any lake in the world. Endemism is very high: of particular significance are the cichlid fish, of which all but 5 of over 350 species are endemic. The lake contains 30% of all known cichlids species in the world. The property is also rich in other fauna including mammals, birds and reptiles.

Integrity

The property is sufficiently large (94.1 km² of which 7km² is aquatic zone) to adequately represent the water features and processes that are of importance for long term conservation of the lake's rich biodiversity and exceptional natural beauty.

The water area within the national park protects the most important elements of the lake's biodiversity. It also protects all major underwater vegetation types and important breeding sites for the cichlids. Many other fish species of Lake Malawi are however unprotected due to the limited size of the park in

relation to the overall area of the lake. Thus, at the time of inscription the World Heritage Committee recommended that the area of the national park be extended.

The property's long term integrity largely depends on the overall conservation and management of the lake which falls under the jurisdiction of three sovereign states i.e. Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. Protection and management requirements

Lake Malawi National Park is protected under national legislation and the resources of the park are managed and controlled by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

The park has a management plan and, there is also a strategic tourism management plan for Malawi which describes the tourism development for the site. Utilisation of park resources is restricted to curb the illegal harvesting of resources.

There are five villages included within enclaves inside the property. The local population is dependent on fishing for a livelihood as the soil is poor and crop failure frequency is high. Whilst the property's terrestrial and underwater habitats are still in good condition, management planning needs to deal more effectively with the threats of rapid growth of human population and the impacts of firewood collection, fish poaching and crowded fish landing sites. Thus a key management priority is the maintenance of the lake ecosystem while taking into consideration the needs of the local community through collaborative management programmes.

The implementation of the Wildlife Policy that mandates park management to work in collaboration with local communities within and outside park boundaries and share responsibilities and benefits accruing from the management of the park is important to enable effective management to be implemented.

Potential threats from introduced fish species which could displace endemics, pollution from boats and siltation from the denuded hills, need to be minimised and require close monitoring.

Collaboration with the governments of Tanzania and Mozambique needs to be maintained and strengthened for the long term protection and management of the entire lake ecosystem, and consideration of the potential for its extension is required.