

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

On the Impact of Industrial Development on Lamu World Heritage Site

World Heritage sites are of Outstanding Universal Value to humanity. Old Town Lamu is one such site – and it is currently facing compounding threats. The first is the Lamu Port - South Sudan - Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSSET) Corridor which includes a new port in Lamu, an oil pipeline and depot, an industrial park and transport hub including an international airport, rail and highways, and a metropolis and resort city. The second threat is a proposed 1050MW coal plant in Kwasasi, 20km from Lamu Old Town.

In 2014, the World Heritage Committee expressed “deep concern about the likely negative impact of the LAPSSSET corridor and the new Lamu Port and Metropolis Development Project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property...” (Bakker, 2014. p. 201 “ANNEX 5 DECISION 37 COM 7B.40”). The resulting Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was insufficient and we are unable to locate any mitigation plans addressing the World Heritage Committee’s concerns. Thus the baseline threats to Old Town Lamu are significant.

The proposed coal plant exponentially increases the negative impacts to the site. The plant will devastate the built environment, natural environment, and the cultural heritage of Lamu Island.

The proposal of the most destructive type of power generation plant – coal – will cause irreparable damage to the heritage site at Lamu. It is critical to the future of the site, the livelihood of the ind-igenous community, and the perpetuation of the culture that the World Heritage Committee helps the coalitions of local associations and NGOs to protect their home and this significant historical treasure.

We call on the World Heritage Committee to:

1. Call on the State Party to meet its commitment to protect Lamu Old Town from avoidable industrial threats;
2. Request the State Party to reject the proposed coal power plant and, instead, ask the Kenyan government to utilize existing renewable energy potential to meet Kenya and the region’s need for electricity;
3. Request the State Party to complete a sufficient Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the LAPSSSET project and explain, in detail, the mitigation measures for each of the 32 berths of the port, the oil pipeline, the international airport, and the resort cities;
4. Request a monitoring mission for the site;
5. Place Old Town Lamu on the List of World Heritage In Danger.

Krakow, 1 July 2017