



United Nations  
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Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**Culture Sector**  
Division for Heritage

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Dear Madam, Sir,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 9 June last, which refers to the threat of large-scale dams affecting the state of conservation of six World Heritage properties in Africa, namely Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon, Lake Turkana National Parks in Kenya, Lower Valley of the Omo in Ethiopia, Niokolo-Koba National Park in Senegal as well as Selous Game Reserve and Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

In recent years, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee have been closely following developments regarding the proposed construction of the hydropower dams in the vicinity of these properties. The most recent public statement regarding one of these properties was issued on 22 February last (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1785>). As you rightly point out, the World Heritage Committee has also adopted a position regarding major dam projects that could impact World Heritage properties (Decision **40 COM 7**, Istanbul/Paris 2016).

These matters will be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee during its 42nd session in Manama Bahrein from 24 June to 4 July 2018, when it examines the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties. The conservation reports prepared by the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies, the provisional timetable and other relevant information, including the live streaming of the session, are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/42com/>.

I am pleased that an increasing number of civil society organisations are participating and have their voice heard during the plenary debates at the Committee session.

Thanking you for your support and interest in the World Heritage Convention, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

  
Mechthild Rössler  
Director  
World Heritage Centre