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Project Title: Restitution of Tanzanian Ancestral Human Remains Collections at the University of Göttingen, Germany

Maximilian Felix Chami is a Cultural Heritage Specialist working at the National Museum of Tanzania as a Senior Researcher and Conservator since February 2021. At the National Museum, his duty is to ensure management, conservation, development, conducting of research activities, implementation of the UNESCO Conventions i.e 1970, 1972 and restitution of cultural heritage treasures including human remains. Previously, he worked at the UNESCO National Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania as a Culture and World Heritage Officer from November 2015 to February 2021. He was responsible for the implementation and coordination of UNESCO's national cultural heritage projects, advising the government on UNESCO-related issues concerning cultural heritage properties (i.e. Reactive Monitoring Missions, conventions, conservation and management) and strengthening the dialogue between the government and civil society.

He completed his PhD in Heritage Studies at the Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg in Germany (December 2019) under the award of German Academic Exchange (DAAD). Also, He has a BA. in Tourism and Cultural Heritage from the University of Dodoma (2012) and MA. in Heritage Management from the University of Dar es Salaam (2015) respectively. He has vast experience in Heritage Management and Planning, Conflict Management in Heritage Places, Swahili coastal Archaeology, Public Archaeology, Sacred Heritage Sites and Cultural Heritage Tourism. Lastly, he has developed a 5 years (2022-2027) General Management

Plan (GMP) for the Tendaguru Paleontological (Dinosaur) Site in Lindi Region and National Museum of Tanzania restitution plan (2022-2027) for cultural properties.

His project focuses on the restitution of the human remains collections back to the individuals and local communities in Tanzania. The project will re-assess (re-visit) the identified human remains at the University of Göttingen Collections from Tanzania based on their ethnic groups and regions taken from during the colonial time. Therefore, the project takes a bottom-up approach to explore and investigate the local communities' (i.e. elders, traditional custodians, researchers and Antiquities government officers in Tanzania) feelings, views and concerns over the restitution of the human remains collections from the University of Göttingen. In addition to that, the challenges facing the country in the process of restitution of human remains will be examined and identified in this project. Finally, the project aims at developing a model/framework/tool for the restitution of Ancestral human remains from Göttingen back to Tanzania and to the local communities in the future.