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'PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete on Tuesday nullified an application by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for assistance in protecting the country's East Arc Mountains, including Udzungwa, saying it was unwarranted.

"We cannot ask for UNESCO's permission in everything we do. There are things that we can decide ourselves," the president stressed when he visited the ministry headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

He directed withdrawal of the application and that the matter should be referred to the government for appropriate decision. Ministries should reduce dependence on foreign authorities for decisions that can be made locally, he said.'