

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

Wildlife Division



**REPORT ON STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SELOUS GAME RESERVE WORLD
HERITAGE PROPERTY (N199)**

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 5th February, 2016

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State Party: United Republic of Tanzania

Name of World Heritage Property: Selous Game Reserve (N199 bis)

Geographical Co-ordinates: 7°20' to 10°30' S and 36°00' to 38°40'E

Date of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1982

Organization responsible for the preparation of the report:-

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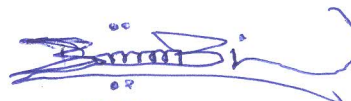
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Date of Submission of Report: 5th February, 2016

Signature on Behalf of State Party:



SECRETARY GENERAL
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION

List of Acronyms

EIA	- Environmental Impact Assessment
MRP	- Mkuju River Project
IUCN	- World Conservation Union
NEMC	- National Environmental Management Council
OUV	- Outstanding Universal Value
TRA	- Tanzania Revenue Authority
FZS	- Frankfurt Zoological Society
TAWIRI	- Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute
UNESCO	- United Nation Education, Science and Children Organization
WD	- Wildlife Division
WHC	- World Heritage Centre
WHS	- World Heritage Site
WMA	- Wildlife Management Area
WWF	- World Wide Fund for Nature
KfW	- German Development Bank
TAWA	- Tanzania Wildlife Authority
SADEC	- Southern African Development Community
MATT	- Multi-Agency Task force Team
UNDP	- United Nations Development Programme
ICCF	- International Conservation Caucus Foundation
SoC	- State of Conservation
GIZ	- <i>Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>

Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.95, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the clear commitment of the State Party to refrain from any form of mining within the property, and not to undertake any activities that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its surrounding areas without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee;

Response:

The State Party has not yet issued any permits to undertake any form of mining in the property and promises to adhere to the World Heritage Committee operational guidelines regarding to activities that may impact the OUV's of the property. Although the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 (Section 20) allows for prospecting and mining of three minerals namely oil, gas and uranium in Game Reserves, this should be done after fulfilling the requirements of the Environmental Management Act No 20 of 2004.

4. **Notes with appreciation the on-going efforts by the State Party to address the poaching crisis in the property, and the various forms of support granted to Tanzania on the part of bi-lateral cooperation in particular Germany, the U.S., NGOs and the private sector;**

Response:

The State Party acknowledges the appreciation by the WHC with regard to the ongoing efforts by the State Party at mobilizing support from various local and international sources for strengthening conservation of the Property. To this end, the State Party would like to thank all those who have so far extended their assistance in various forms in this regard. The State Party wishes to inform the WHC additional support extended so far from our donor partners by way of addressing poaching within Selous Game Reserve as follows;

- Through Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development Project (SECAD), the Germany Government has funded 8.0 million € and pledged an additional 10 Million €;

- The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have committed 400,000 € each;
 - In order to intensify aerial patrol surveillance, FZS and GIZ have donated two light aircrafts, one is already conducting daily patrols and the other is expected to the property in February, 2016;
 - The State Party has also acquired a loan from the World Bank for *Resilient Natural Resource Management for Growth Project*. The Project will assist the State Party to address rural poverty, which has been persistent in and around the country's protected areas. Among other things, the project will embark on the strengthening and protection of the resource base by assisting to halt poaching and improving the livelihood of the communities living adjacent to protected areas including Selous Game Reserve; and
 - The People's Republic of China donated several equipment and heavy plant for facilitating patrols and infrastructure development worth US\$ 1.3 million to the State Party. Some of the equipment that was donated to Selous includes 1 excavator, 4 all-terrain motor bike, 10 mountaineering jackets, 9 interphones, 2 telescopes, 4 night vision and 3 infrared goggles.
5. **Reiterates its concern about the continued pressure from poaching in the property and its impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to strengthen law enforcement, and to implement a site specific anti-poaching strategy and a comprehensive emergency action plan with the objective of halting poaching within the "Larger Selous Ecosystem" in 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and Decision 38 COM 7B.95;**

Response:

Further to the details given in the report sent by the State Party to the WHC in 2014 regarding UNESCO-IUCN 2013 Reactive Monitoring Mission to Selous Game Reserve and State of Conservation report responding to Decision 38 COM 7B.95, the State Party would like to update on the of efforts undertaken so far by way of combating poaching in and around Selous Game Reserve as follows:

- Between July 2014 and November 2015, a total of 173,902 patrol man-days were conducted involving routine and special operations in and around

the property whereby 366 poachers were arrested and scores of weapons and trophies impounded. However, compared to previous years, elephant poaching incidences have dropped in 2015. This is revealed by aerial elephant census conducted in October 2014 to the entire Selous-Mikumi Ecosystem which estimated 15,217 elephants. This estimate shows stability of elephant population in the Selous-Mikumi Ecosystem by comparing with previous census results conducted in 2013;

- In supporting anti-poaching campaign, in the financial year from July, 2014 to June, 2015 the Government of Tanzania recruited and deployed 3,198 wildlife wardens in all protected areas countrywide. For instance, in Selous Game Reserve a total of 277 wildlife wardens were recruited which is an increase of 38%;
- In the effort to increase the number of public prosecutors and accelerating the rate of cases in the court, an inter-agency law enforcement symposium on wildlife crimes and the role of judiciary in sustainable wildlife conservation were convened in December 2015. This symposium involved 46 officers from Magistrates, Prosecutors, Wildlife and Police in the two regions surrounding Selous Game Reserve
- Wildlife security cross-border collaboration conference between Tanzania and Kenya was held in August 2015. This conference had an objective of fostering collaboration in tackling illegal trafficking of wildlife products and cooperation in joint trans-frontier operations;
- In May 2015, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Mozambique signed an agreement of the *Coordinated Conservation and Management of the Niassa-Selous Ecosystem*. This is a historic pact to coordinate conservation management and anti-poaching efforts in the Selous-Niassa ecosystem and wildlife corridor, which is home to one of the world's largest population of wildlife. This agreement represents one of the most significant cross-border conservation initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa; and
- Establishment of Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) in order to improve the resource base hence efficiency and effectiveness in managing wildlife resources in Selous and other wildlife protected areas. TAWA was officially inaugurated by H.E the President of United Republic of Tanzania in October 2015. Among others, TAWA is expected to undertake more robust law enforcement activities so as to curb illegal off take of wildlife resources.

6. **Requests the State Party to continue to take decisive actions at national level to address criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking and to improve controls in the ports used by the traffickers, and calls upon the States Parties which are transit and destination countries for ivory and rhino horn, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in ivory and other illegal wildlife products, in particular through the implementation of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);**

Response:

The State Party has made and continues to take decisive actions in combating poaching. Progress made so far includes;

- Formation of a National Multi-Agency Task force Team (MATT) in 2015 on intelligence and investigation incorporating the Ministry of Home Affairs, Wildlife Sector, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Finance (TRA), Ministry of Defense and Security, Ministry of Energy and Minerals and State Security. Together with other responsibilities, the task force is dealing with illegal trafficking of wildlife products;
- Approved National Anti-poaching Strategy (2014), East African Community and Southern African Development Community (SADEC), of which Tanzania is a member, are also finalizing their own Anti-poaching Strategies;
- In 2015 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism signed an MoU with African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to strain and use Sniffer dogs for inspection of ivory and other wildlife products at exit and entry points (airports, harbors, bus terminals, warehouses);
- Formation of a National Task Force on Intelligence and Investigation (In cooperation with Tanzania Police Force, Wildlife sector, State security and State Attorney);
- There have been several cross-border meetings between the State Party and the State Parties of Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, and Malawi. These meetings have variably facilitated a regional sharing of information on intelligence crime networking, enforcement operations, and crime investigations and allowed planning for joint operations;

- In November 2014, the Government of Tanzania in collaboration with UNDP and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) hosted a regional summit on stopping wildlife crime and advance wildlife conservation in the eastern African region. The Summit deliberated on actions that the region would take to stop illegal trade in wildlife and better manage migratory wildlife and shared ecosystems. Among key successes of the Summit was the adoption of the *Arusha Declaration on Regional Conservation and Combating Wildlife/Environment Crime*. Tanzania was able to attract development partners committed to providing financial and physical resources support for fighting poaching;
 - In the effort to combat illegal wildlife trade from the source country to destination, the United Republic of Tanzania and Peoples Republic of China signed bilateral cooperation on wildlife crime prevention in July 2015. This is in accordance to CITES convention where it encourages countries to cooperate in fighting against illegal wildlife trade; and
 - In June 2014 the Government undertook an aerial elephant census in major ecosystems across the country. This was done jointly with (TAWIRI), Vulcan (USA), and FZS (Germany). Specifically in Selous-Mikumi ecosystem, elephant population revealed an estimate of 15,217 which is high compared to the previous estimate by 16.3%. This indicates that elephant population is stable, since last census.
- 7. Regrets the slow progress by the State Party in the establishment of a buffer zone and potentially strategic additions to the property, although this was a key commitment made by the State Party at the time of the approval of the boundary modification**

Response:

The State Party provided a response in a previous SoC Report as required in decision 37COM 7B.7 specifically, section 7 of the decision on the efforts made to annex land and create a buffer zone in the Selous Game Reserve. Currently various stakeholders of different levels are being consulted and engaged in order to acquire additional land from the western part of Selous Game Reserve for annexation.

- 8. Notes that the Mkuju River mining project has not yet started production, however, also urges the State Party to ensure disaster preparedness and independent water monitoring prior to active mining, to provide a detailed description on the planned mining project, including details on the mining**

design, the extraction and processing methods and the measures foreseen to minimize contamination risks as well as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the case of consideration of in-situ Leaching (ISL);

Response:

The State Party fully realizes the need to conduct baseline studies on water resources in the area with a view to subsequently monitor water resources pollution as a result of mining activities - should the project commence. In this context, as a preparatory measure, a national Inter-ministerial Team of multi-disciplinary experts has been appointed with a key duty of monitoring the operations of the MRP. The team comprises of experts in areas of *inter alia*, radiation physics, biodiversity, mining, water resources, sociology and occupational health and safety. The States Party will also explore a mechanism for monitoring by external experts. Initially mining was planned to employ an open cast mining technology but the investors have since proposed a change to *In-situ* leaching. However, the State Party has not approved this method so far. With reference to disaster preparedness, detailed information was provided in the approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for Mkuju River Project (ESIA) report which was shared with WHC. Both ground and surface water monitoring has been undertaken at MRP to obtain baseline information and facilitate subsequent monitoring.

- 9. Reiterates its request to clarify the status of planning and decision-making of the Stiegler's Gorge Project as was requested in Decision 38 COM 7B.95;**

Response:

The State Party has nominated a Brazilian company known as Odebrecht to be the sole company to develop Hydropower plant at Stiegel's Gorge. The company has already appointed a local consultant known as *Arms on Environment* based in Dares Salaam. The company is now seeking for an international consultant that will cooperate with local consultant in conducting Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as per requirements of the Environmental Management Act No 20 of 2004 and WHC operational guidelines. The work will commence soon by incorporating key stakeholders and final report will be submitted to UNESCO in due time.

- 10. Also notes that the submitted Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda dam project does not address the comments provided in neither the report of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission nor the relevant Committee decisions, and does not elaborate on the impacts on the property's**

OUV, therefore also reiterates its request to complete the ESIA including a chapter on the impact of the proposed activity on the OUV of the property in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

Response:

The State Party has finalized preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Kidunda Dam. The comments raised by UNESCO have been clarified in the document as well as preparing the checklist matrix for quick references. The delay in responding to the comments was due to the fact that some ancillary project activities cropped up in the cause of the ESIA preparation named a) Ngerengere - Kidunda access road and the b) Hydropower plant and Transmission Line from Kidunda Dam to Chalinze Power Station. The two projects had to be included in the ESIA study before final submission. The two subprojects were revealed to be necessary for the DAM project for the Dam to be accessed and maximize its potential output value. The final documents are with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for final processing of the Environmental Certificate after incorporating key stakeholders concerns. The three ESIA's report and the Unified document which account mainly for a cumulative impact will be availed to UNESCO once approved by NEMC in the near future. The three ESIA's have critically assessed the direct and indirect impacts as well as cumulative impacts and recommended mitigations for each. The State Party has shown commitment to collaborate with all stakeholders in implementing the recommendations.

- 11. Further urges the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit a proposal for the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);**

Response:

The State Party is working on all the recommendations of the 2013 WHC Reactive Monitoring Mission so as to improve conservation status of the property and also is working on Desired State of Conservation Report which will be shared with the World Heritage Centre by early April, 2016.