

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION -- IUCN SUMMARY

403: KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK (TANZANIA)

Summary prepared by IUCN (April 1987) based on the original nomination submitted by Tanzania. This original and all documents presented in support of this nomination will be available for consultation at the meetings of the Bureau and the Committee.

1. LOCATION:

The national park and forest reserve occupy the upper part of Mount Kilimanjaro adjacent to the Kenyan border just north of Moshi. The national park comprises the whole of the mountain above the tree line and six forest corridors which stretch down through the montane forest belt. The whole complex lies at 2°50'-3°20'S, 37°00'-37°35'E.

2. JURIDICAL DATA:

Mount Kilimanjaro and the surrounding forests were declared a game reserve by the German colonial government in the early part of this century, and gazetted as a forest reserve in 1921. Part of the area was reclassified as a national park in 1973. Total size of the park is 75,575 ha.

3. IDENTIFICATION:

Kilimanjaro is a volcanic massif (last showing signs of major activity in the Pleistocene) which is not only the highest mountain in Africa, rising 4877m above the surrounding plains to 5895m, but also one of the largest volcanoes in the world, covering an area of some 388,500ha. There are three main volcanic peaks of varying ages lying on an east-south-east axis, and a number of smaller parasitic cones. The major vegetation types represented on Mount Kilimanjaro are montane forest, moorland, upland moor, alpine bogs, and alpine desert, although not all of the montane forest zone is currently within the national park. Mammal species include duiker, reedbuck, eland, buffalo and some elephant. The forest zone contains several notable bird species including Abbot's starling. There is also an endemic subspecies of butterfly.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION:

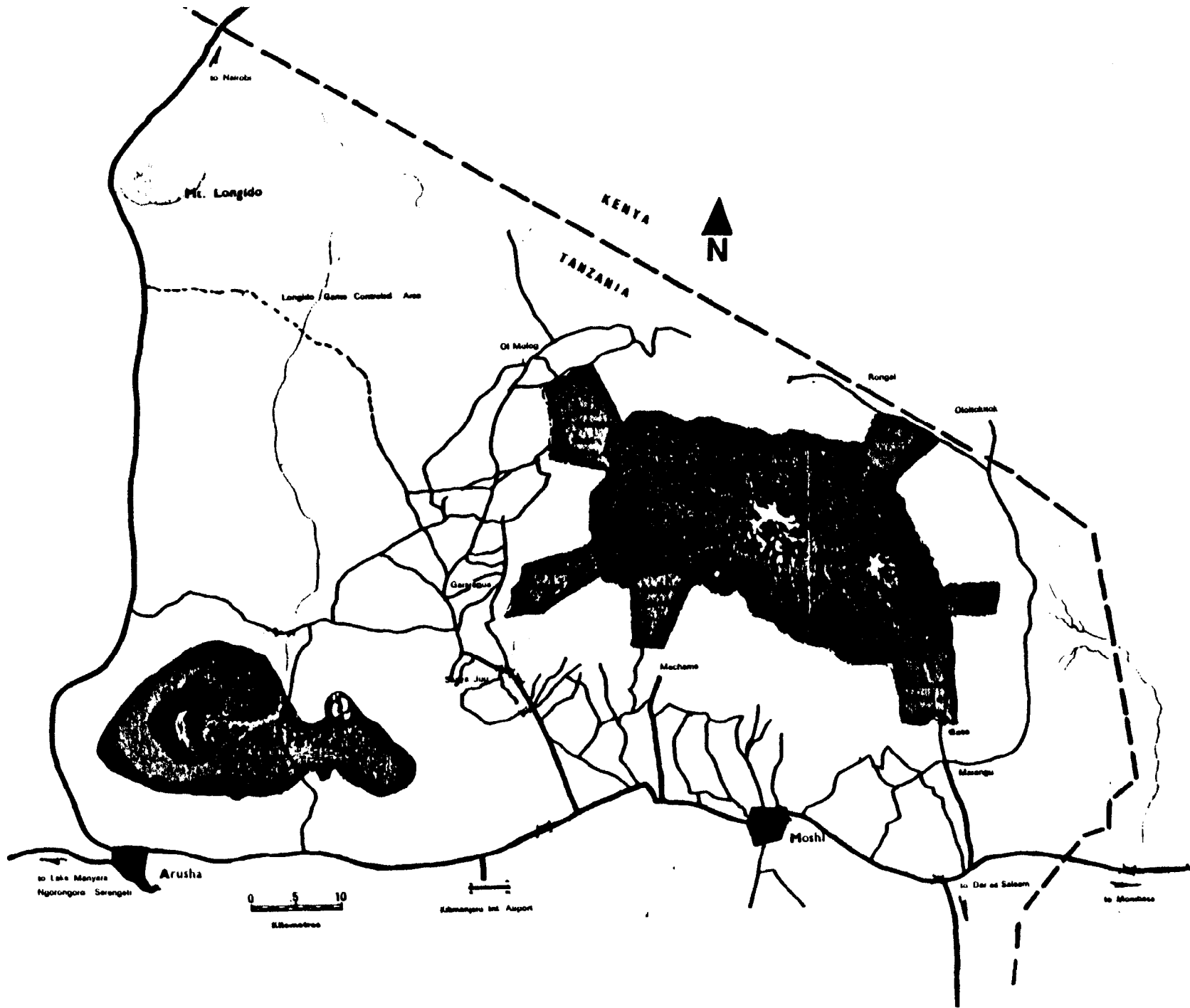
Protection is total within the park, and access is restricted to trails. There is a management plan for the mountain, but this is now more than ten years old, and does not include the forest reserve. Most difficulties are encountered in the management and protection of the montane forest, with illegal hunting, honey gathering, felling, fuel wood collection, grassburning and incursions by domestic livestock, particularly in the south-west. Both honey gathering and grass burning result in outbreaks of uncontrolled fires every year, particularly during the dry season.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

Kilimanjaro National Park nomination, as presented by the Government of Tanzania provides the following justification for designation as a World Heritage property:

a) Natural property

- (iii) Superlative natural phenomena, exceptional natural beauty. As the largest single free-standing mountain mass in the world, Mount Kilimanjaro's snow-capped summit stands almost 5km above the surrounding plains.
- (iv) Habitat of Rare and Endangered Species. The park supports a variety of rare and endemic plants and animal species.



- 74 -

to Lake Manyara
Ngorongoro Serengeti

Arusha

0 5 10
Kilometres

to Mwanjo Int. Airport

Moshi

to Dar es Salaam

to Mombasa

Mt. Longido

Longido Game Controlled Area

Ol Malog

Gushikuu

Saka Juyu

Mocheni

Rongai

Oloshuka

Goro

Mwanjo

to Nairobi

KENYA

TANZANIA



WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION -- IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

403 MT. KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK (TANZANIA)

1. DOCUMENTATION:

- (i) IUCN Data sheet
- (ii) Consultations: A. Mswaga, O. Ndosu, Hugh Lamprey, W. Lusigi, Alan Rodgers, R. Weyerhaeuser, J. Kundaali, G. Child.
- (iii) Site Visits: 1982-1983.

2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

Mt. Kilimanjaro is one of the isolated mountain blocks of Africa that can be likened to an archipelago of "islands" of montane vegetation separated by a "sea" of lowland forest and savanna. Throughout this archipelago 79 protected areas have been established. Five of these are World Heritage sites: Simen Mts., Virunga, Kahuzi-Biega, Mt. Nimba, and Ngorongoro (part). Kilimanjaro's unique feature among these is that it is the highest point in Africa and has the greatest elevation range of any African protected area (over 4,000m.) except Virunga.

The most directly comparable areas are Mt. Kenya National Park and the Virunga/Ruwenzori complex. All are glaciated equatorial mountains in East Africa. Virunga is on the World Heritage list and the proposed Ruwenzori national park, which forms about one-quarter of the range, may be eventually nominated when Uganda adheres to the Convention. All three groups have a different physiography with Virunga and Mt. Kenya being rugged and steep while Kilimanjaro is a more symmetric cone. Kilimanjaro has the greatest extent of alpine desert (high latitude tundra) of the three. Many species are shared among the three mountains but Kilimanjaro is drier and floristically less rich (for example, one species of giant lobellia compared to three on Mt. Kenya and four on Ruwenzori). The Ruwenzori/Virunga area is not volcanic so has not lost species to volcanism as Kilimanjaro has. Also the Ruwenzori/Virunga is adjacent to the centre of forest endemism in east Zaire so adjacent plant communities are exceptionally rich in species of plants and vertebrates. The Bale Mt. National Park in Ethiopia, though more distant, is also significantly richer in terms of both flora and fauna than Kilimanjaro.

Kilimanjaro's main distinguishing feature then, is its height, its physical form and its place in the historical exploration and "image" of Africa.

3. INTEGRITY

Current management of the national park is judged to be inadequate and in need of reinforcement. There is insufficient policing and management resources to control incursions by poachers and agriculturalists who take animals and forest products illegally. There is an increasing incidence of uncontrolled wildfires which has caused excessive disturbance in the heath and grassland zones. Tourism intensity is high along the Marangu ascent route and brings with it problems of litter control and facility maintenance.

The main pressure on Kilimanjaro is being experienced on the Forest Reserve which surrounds and acts as a buffer zone to the national park. The park's wildlife (elephant, buffalo, antelopes) use this forest seasonally and are heavily poached. Nominally controlled logging continues in the Forest Reserve and despite its high watershed values it is incrementally losing its natural vegetative cover. The nomination notes that the Government has agreed that the natural forest surrounding the Park will be included but this has not been confirmed.

Corrective actions needed to better protect and manage Kilimanjaro are:

- preparation of a management plan for the park
- inclusion of a greater extent of montane forest within the boundaries of the park
- strengthening of the ranger force including strategic siting of additional guard posts and provision of improved equipment
- education and extension programme and better integration of the park with the surrounding rural population
- institution of a research and monitoring programme.

4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reviewers noted that the nomination submitted was sketchy and inaccurate. It was thus necessary for IUCN to prepare a new nomination dossier for the site. The question of whether the Forest Reserve should be included is still an open one.

5. EVALUATION

In addition to being the highest point in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro is one of the best known mountains in the world. It is also the largest single-standing mountain in the world; its great weight causes a measurable depression in the surrounding landscape. The park itself makes up the upper half of the mountain and though its boundaries include six corridors into the forest zone its boundaries need to be extended to encompass more forest habitat. IUCN/WWF are currently supporting a survey by Tanzania National Parks to examine possible additions of land from the Forest Dept. A significant effort will have to be undertaken to improve overall management of the site.

Kilimanjaro's floral and faunal resources are important but are not seen as unique or as outstanding as other equatorial mountains. Nevertheless, Kilimanjaro is a superlative natural feature, its snow-capped peak standing almost 5km from the surrounding plains. It thus meets criterion (iii) of the World Heritage Convention.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Kilimanjaro National Park should be added to the World Heritage List along with a strong recommendation to the Government of Tanzania that:

- 1) plans for extension of the park boundary to include more of the montane forest are clarified, and
- 2) a greater effort in strengthening management of the park needs to be undertaken.

