

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM**



**TANZANIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

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

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017**

**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:-

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism - Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority

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## List of Acronyms

EAP	Emergency Action Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
DAWASA	Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority
FZS	Frankfurt Zoological Society
GIZ	<i>Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	German Development Bank
LWHD	List of World Heritage in Danger
MEM	Ministry of Energy and Mineral
MNRT	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
MoW	Ministry of Water and Irrigation
MRP	Mkuju River Project
NEMC	National Environmental Management Council
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Authority
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PAs	Protected Areas
RUBADA	Rufiji River Basin Development Authority
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SECAD	Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development Project
SGR	Selous Game Reserve
SoC	State of Conservation
TAEC	Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission
TAWA	Tanzania Wildlife Authority
ToR	Term of Reference
UNESCO	United Nation Education, Science and Children Organization
VHF	Very High Frequency
WD	Wildlife Division
WHC	World Heritage Centre
WHS	World Heritage Site
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Selous Game Reserve (SGR) has been experienced with a series of challenges including multiple threats to the integrity of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly elephant poaching which led to inscription of the reserve in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2014. Since the inscription of SGR in the List, the State Party in collaboration with various conservation partners such as KfW, WWF and FZS has taken significant measures in restoring its OUV. The efforts include but not limited to; establishment of TAWA as autonomous body and is operational since July 2016. The authority is legally vested with the power of retaining 100% of its revenue generated from sustainable wildlife utilization as well as from other sources within its mandate. In addition, Emergency Action Plan (EAP) has been developed with the focus of halting poaching within the large Selous ecosystem and awaits approval from the higher authority. Further, Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger is in place. To ensure the output from ongoing and expected projects within the Selous ecosystem are attained, State party is ensuring a consolidation of these efforts to avoid duplication of efforts, this is expected in the SECAD project. On the other hand, the State party will ensure the EIA for In situ Leaching is conducted if the method is approved by the MANTRA company as an alternative method of Open Cast Mining (OCM). Subsequently, the Stiegler's project has not yet been allowed to commence. ESIA for Kidunda is undergoing review after receiving comments from the State party and other stakeholders of the project. On the community involvement and benefits, the State party has granted the communities with the power to managing natural resources through Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and through benefit sharing stipulated in the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009.

## Decision 40 COM 7A.47

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.43**, **37 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.95**, and **39 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party and its international partners for their efforts in addressing the poaching crisis and encourages all involved to consolidate and coordinate these efforts;

#### Response:

The State Party acknowledges the appreciation by the WHC on her joint efforts with national and international partners to curb poaching and improve the conservation status of the property. Since the inscription of SGR on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in collaboration with various stakeholders both financially and technically, the State Party has taken significant measures to halt or reverse poaching trend of wildlife species, including elephants. As a step towards consolidating further these efforts, the State Party in collaboration with FZS, WWF and KfW are working together in towards implementation of the planned SECAD project.

4. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party to establish the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), noting that further studies are ongoing to address gaps in elephant population data and to enable the establishment of a proposed timeframe for its implementation;

#### Response:

The State Party appreciates the acknowledgment from the WHC.

5. Requests the State Party to undertake an analysis of the current situation of black rhinoceros to estimate the number of rhino left in the property, to inform the response required to secure this population, and to revise the DSOCR accordingly, and also

requests the State Party to submit, by **1<sup>st</sup> December 2017** an updated proposal for the DSoCR, for adoption by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

Response:

Currently, data on the black rhino population within the Property is fragmented and by the time of this reporting, there was no clearly agreeable position on the actual Rhino population. The State party is currently engaged in close consultations and is gathering and consolidating available reports –both published and unpublished so as to bring to light the current Black Rhino population and will report the findings to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available. In the same token, the State Party will engage with its Conservation Partners (TAWIRI, FZS and WWF) to mobilize resources in view of reviving the long-term black rhino monitoring activities.

6. Urges again the State Party to develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan with the objective of halting poaching within the Larger Selous Ecosystem within 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 mission;

Response:

The State Party with the support of FZS and WWF developed the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with the objective of halting poaching in the Selous ecosystem. The plan target on short and long term actions that will lead to an improved management, strengthened anti-poaching operations, effective intelligence network, delivery of essential anti-poaching equipment, rehabilitation of priority infrastructures, and strengthening local community support.

7. Welcomes the establishment of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and its inauguration in October 2015, and also urges the State Party to ensure its timely and effective operationalization, as well as adequate and reliable resourcing;

Response:

Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority as an autonomous body is fully operational since July 2016. The authority is legally vested with the power of retaining 100% its revenue generated from sustainable wildlife utilization as well as from other sources within its mandate.

8. Also commends the States Parties of Tanzania, Mozambique and China for the formalization of agreements on the trans-boundary Niassa-Selous Ecosystem and on wildlife crime prevention, respectively, and strongly encourages all involved States Parties to report to the World Heritage Centre on the activities carried out in the framework of these agreements;

Response:

In November 2016, the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique convened a five days meeting with experts from the conservation, prosecution, police and anti-corruption sectors. The meeting discussed on the ways for implementing the agreement between the two governments on the Selous-Niassa corridor in a coordinated manner. Among other things, a draft five-year action plan for the implementation of the joint agreement was shared and validated. The State Party has so far and continues to sensitize the national and local communities on the need to support conservation of the corridor in a trans-boundary approach. It should be noted, however, that the extensive catchment area of the corridor means that substantial resources are required, and which currently exceeds the immediate capacity of the States Party. The State Party intends, therefore, to seek for extra financial support from interested partners and the donor community at large.

9. Reiterates its utmost concern about:

- a. The ongoing lack of clarity in terms of the extraction method, water monitoring and disaster preparedness as regards the Mkuju River Project (MRP),

Response:

- According to the initial Feasibility Study proposal, an Open Cast Mining (OCM) method was to be used at MRP. This approach was fully certified including an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment. However, currently the project is testing an In Situ Leaching (ISL) approach, which is considered more environmentally friendly. If proven feasible, ISL will replace MRP production.
  - Water monitoring process during the whole mining period is still planned and indeed practiced. Even in the prospecting phase, the Mining Company has all along been testing for quality of water from underground and flowing streams. Third party – government institutions, has also tested additional samples separately. So far all these tests indicate acceptable water quality levels.
  - An emergency plan is in place and several drills have been conducted to test compliance with government safety procedures and levels through the relevant government authority (OSHA). Radiation dose tests are also continuously sampled and measured separately by the Mining Company and Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission – So far all observations indicate that MRP operate on well below the safe dose limits.
- b. The ongoing Stiegler’s Gorge dam project despite a high likelihood of serious and irreversible damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

Response:

Currently, the State Party has not approved implementation of the Stiegler's Gorge project. However, the State Party has allowed Brazilian company Odebrechts to undertake EIA and this process is not yet complete.

- c. The lack of submission of a complete Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the Kidunda dam project, which seems to have been extended in its scope and therefore could have a higher impact on the integrity of the property,

Response:

The State Party is finalizing preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda Dam before submission to the WHC. The ESIA draft document was submitted to National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for scrutiny as required by law, and for issuance of the Environmental Certificate. This procedural delay has been mainly due to the incorporation of ancillary project activities in the main Project that are considered necessary namely; Ngerengere-Kidunda access road and the hydropower plant and Transmission Line from Kidunda Dam to Chalinze Power Station. The consultants are now working on the comments raised by NEMC and once completed the unified report will be shared to WHC for review.

- d. The legal possibility of mineral exploration and exploitation in the property and the overlapping mining and prospecting licenses, despite the commitment made by the State Party to not engage in any mining activity within the property, in line with the established position of the Committee that mining and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status,

Response:

The current Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 (Section 20) allows prospecting and mining of oil, gas and uranium in protected areas of the 'Game Reserves' category including the property. Until such provisions are revoked, there are no legal basis for restricting exploration and exploitation. However, administratively the State Party is taking measures to ensure no more mining permits on mining in Game Reserve are granted.

- e. The lack of reported progress in creating opportunities for local communities to participate in decision-making and benefit-sharing, including in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs);

Response:

The Tanzania Wildlife policy grants wildlife user's rights to communities that establish Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) on Village Land adjacent wildlife protected areas. Through WMAs, local communities are offered opportunities to manage natural resources



in their lands and decide on how best to use the resources within it. This include, retaining 100% resident hunting fees to the villages, decide and partner with private investors they consider suitable in these WMAs and decide in a participatory way on the overall management of the respective WMAs. Also, 25% of revenue originating from tourist hunting in the adjacent game reserves (in this case Selous Game Reserve) is returned to the Local Governments for their use. All these avenues are and have for years been used by the communities adjacent SGR to their benefits. In addition, it is a general practice to engage them whenever the General Management Plan (GMP) for SGR is being formulated or reviewed, so that their ideas get incorporated. Despite this general provision, the State Party has recently engaged a consultancy on the best mechanisms of community-based benefit sharing in the wildlife sector under the auspices of the planned REGROW project.

10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to comprehensively identify the cumulative impacts of mining, the potential Stiegler's Gorge and planned Kidunda dam projects, agriculture and associated infrastructure, such as road building, both within the property as well as in important wildlife corridors and dispersal areas that are critical for maintaining the OUV of the property, and further urges the State Party to abandon any plans for the different development projects which are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;

Response:

The State Party fully subscribes to the value and the need of undertaking the requested SEA. Nevertheless, initial considerations have shown that view of the extent, scope and hence complexity of stakeholders and hence the process (Spatially, Selous Game Reserves ecosystem commands approximately 30% of the countries area of approximately 1 million square kilometer) there is a need to further consult on how best to proceed. The required resource to undertake such work is also notably substantial and clearly exceeds the State Parties internal capacity. The State Party, therefore, appeals to the WHC and interested donor community to assist support technically and/or funding this initiative.

11. Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to evaluate progress in combating poaching, and to assess the current status and likely impacts of the proposed In Situ Leaching at the Mkuju River Uranium Mine, the Stiegler's Gorge and Kidunda dam projects, and prospecting licenses overlapping with and adjacent to the property, as well as any other development that might impact the OUV of the property;

Response:

The State Party has already invited the IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to Selous Game Reserve, scheduled to take place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

