

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION

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In reply please quote Ref. No:

03 January, 2020

UNESCO/NC/CLT/WHC/OC/19/54

Director,
World Heritage Centre,
7, Place de Fontenoy,
75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

**RE: STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK
WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Please receive a copy of the State of Conservation (SoC) report for Serengeti National Park for your action and reference.

The State Party continues to assure UNESCO its collaboration in implementing the 1972 Culture Convention.

I remain,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Malebo'.

Prof. Hamisi M. Malebo
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Copy:
Chief Secretary,
State House,
1 Barack Obama Drive,
P.O. Box 9120,
114000 DAR ES SALAAM.

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism,
Building No.10,
P.O. Box 10,
DODOMA.

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology,
Kilimani Street,
Askari Road,
P.O. Box 1351,
40472 DODOMA.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

PROGRESS REPORT FOR SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK (N.156)

Name of World Heritage Property: **Serengeti National Park**

Geographical coordinates: **Long. 34° - 35°15' E, Lat. 1° 15' - 3° 20' S**

Date of inscription on the World Heritage List: **30.10.1981**

Organization(s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report:

Organization name: Tanzania National Parks

Name: **Allan H. Kijazi**

Title: **Conservation Commissioner**

Address: **P. O. Box 3134**

City: **Arusha - Tanzania**

Telephone: **+255 27 250 3471/250 1930**

Telefax: **+255 27 250 8216**

Email: cc@tanzaniaparks.go.tz

Web: www.tanzaniaparks.go.tz

Date of submission of the Report: **31st December 2019**



Signature on Behalf of the State Party:

PROF. HAMISI M. MALEBO

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**



Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

Decision: **42 COM 7B.96**,

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC/18/42.COM/7B**,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.94** and **40 COM 7B.83** adopted at its **35th (UNESCO, 2011)**, **38th (Doha, 2014)** and **40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016)**, respectively,
3. Commends the State Party on its anti-poaching efforts, contributing to further reduced elephant poaching and maintaining zero poaching of rhinos in the property;

Response

The State Party thanks the Committee for appreciation on the efforts done to control poaching in the property. The State Party will continue to effectively enforce conservation laws and maintain zero poaching of rhinos and reduced elephant poaching.

- 4. Notes with utmost concern that a series of dams have been proposed upstream of the property in Kenya, which could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Serengeti National Park and Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage properties, and requests the State Party of Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre, without delay, all available preliminary and full Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to the World Heritage Centre for review;**

Response

The State party appreciates the observation and concern of the World Heritage Centre on the potential impacts that the proposed dams will have on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Serengeti National Park. The State Party also appreciates continuous follow up of World Heritage Centre and is committed to provide all necessary support to resolve this issue.

Currently through relevant ministries there are plans to establish joint Water Management Plan between Tanzania and Kenya on water resources use in the Mara River Basin. The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for Kenya has been completed through the support of the Dutch Embassy in Kenya. WAP preparation for the Tanzania side is ongoing under the support of water resources partners in the Mara basin - the Sustainable Water Partnership (SWP) and World Wide Funds for Nature (WWF Tanzania). Once completed; the two state parties will harmonize their plans to develop one Joint Water Allocation Plan for the Mara River Basin.

Furthermore, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) through GIZ funding is supporting Tanzania to develop Environmental Flow Assessment for the lower Mara river basin; Kenya completed the EFlow in 2012 under USAID funding. EFlow will complement the WAP by setting water requirements for biodiversity. In

implementation of the Joint Water Allocation Plan, the two state parties will avoid conflict of uses and mitigate detrimental effects to OUV of the Serengeti National Park and Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage properties.

5. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Tanzania and Kenya to develop and implement a joint management plan for the Mara River basin to sustainably manage water resources, and also requests the State Party of Tanzania to inform the World Heritage Centre on the status of updating the 2006-2016 General Management Plan;

Response

Management of the Mara River Basin is stipulated on articles of the MoU between Tanzania and Kenya that was signed on September 2015. Article 2 - sets out the objectives of the MoU. Article 3 - Sets the scope of interventions, Article 4 - sets out the Governance Structure Joint Management Committee Joint Steering Committee (JSC), Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) and Article 9 - gives mandate to LVBC to oversee the implementation of MoU.

It is through this MoU a 3rd Joint Technical Committee meeting of experts was held on April 5th -6th, 2018 in Kisumu, Kenya to take consideration on the concerns raised by UNESCO on the proposed Dams in the Mara River Basin. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat made presentation on feasibility studies that were conducted by The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) on the proposed dams in the Mara River Basin. The 3rd Joint Technical Committee made the following observations:-

- i. The East Africa Community (EAC) guideline for the Environmental Impact Assessment for shared resources in East Africa is not officially approved for implementation by parties.*
- ii. The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) to get all the necessary documentation for cooperation*
 - 1. Protocol on Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin (2003)*
 - 2. Lake Victoria Basin Strategic Plan (2016-2021)*
 - 3. The Mara River Basin MoU-Tanzania & Kenya*
 - 4. The Trans-boundary Mara River Basin Strategic Environmental Assessment and share with parties before the next JSC.*

With reference to the status of updating the 2006-2016 General Management Plan; The State Party would like to inform that the Management Plan (2014-2024) have been reviewed and endorsed by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA's) Board of Trustees meeting held in June 2017.

6. Appreciates that the State Party is undertaking a feasibility study and a preliminary design for two options for the Serengeti Southern Bypass route, and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review as soon as available:

- a. The Route Option Selection Report and the feasibility study and**

preliminary design, including a map of the proposed alignments, upon completion by the end of September 2018,

Response

Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) through a grant from the German Bilateral Financial Cooperation, provided through the German Development Bank KfW, has tasked the Consultant in January 2017 to assist in the Route Option Selection process and subsequently undertake the Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design for the chosen option.

There are two Route Options that were the subject of the study (the “Lake Eyasi Route” and the “Mbulu Route”), one of which has already been taken up for Feasibility Study and Detailed Design (Lake Eyasi Route).

At this time, the Consultant has undertaken desk-studies and field investigations to collect socio-economic, environmental, social and technical data in support of the Route Option Selection. The draft Route Option Selection Report has been submitted to TANROADS and decision for the preferred Route Option has been taken.

In general, the following activities have been completed; Material investigation, Hydrology and structure assessment and Topographic survey and amendment of Scoping Report & Terms of Reference (ToR). Similarly, the following activities are ongoing; Geometrical design – Structural design, Earth works design, Hydrologic design and Social baseline data collection.

b. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan;

Response

The State Party note the importance of conducting SEA as required by the National Environmental Management Act of 2004 for the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan prior to approval.

In February 2013, The State Party completed a Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan supported by the Government of Japan with technical assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This Master Plan, prepared under the auspices of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, highlights the transport and trade systems developments envisioned for the country for the period 2013-2030. With regard to transport infrastructure, the Master Plan covers roads, ports (border, inland and sea), railways, pipelines, and aviation. Rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required by the National Environmental Management Act of 2004 was undertaken and completed and approved on 10 February, 2014. Basing on that, there is no major immediate plans (at least by year 2030) for infrastructure development within Serengeti National Park.

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to reaffirm its commitments to maintain the northern road traversing the property as a gravel road under Tanzania

National Parks (TANAPA) management and reserved mainly for tourism and administrative purposes (Decision 35 COM 7B.7) and to abandon the construction of the proposed northern highway (Decision 38 COM 7B.94);

Response

The stretch of the northern road traversing through the Serengeti National Park from Tabora B to Klein's gate in the property will remain under the management of Tanzania National Parks and will be maintained as a gravel road.

- 8. Considers that the Belabela Lodge proposed within the 'low-use zone' of the property close to a wildebeest migration route could pose a potential threat to the property's OUV, and requests moreover the State Party to undertake an EIA of the proposed lodge, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review;**

Response

With respect to Belabela Lodge, the EIA has been undertaken in incorporating a chapter on IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment and shared to UNESCO in February 2019.

- 9. Welcomes the proposal to include the ecologically important Speke Gulf into the property, which would require a request for boundary modification in line with the appropriate provisions in the Operational Guidelines, and encourages the State Party to ensure compensation for affected communities that were legally residing in the proposed area, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed;**

Response

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism have finalized and submitted the concept and Cabinet papers for Inter-ministerial Technical Committee and Cabinet meeting for approval. Once approval has been done, comments and inputs will consolidate all views and concerns. Thereafter, the Parliament Resolution will be developed for submission to the Parliament for approval. Finally, boundary modification will be done in line with the appropriate provisions in the Operational Guidelines, and compensation for affected communities will be done accordingly.

- 10. Notes that based on the submitted EIA the proposed upgrade of the Mugumu airport has been significantly downsized from the initial plans to construct an international airport, also considers that it will no longer pose a significant threat to the property's OUV, but requests in addition the State Party to monitor and mitigate any potential indirect impacts should the project move forward;**

Response

The proponent of the project is mobilizing funding for implementation of the project with the EIA Certificate issued for downgraded option from the initial proposed International airport to domestic airstrip. The State Party will monitor and mitigate any potential indirect impacts as the project resume.

- 11. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission (RMM) to the property, which should also meet with representatives of the State Party of Kenya, to assess threats posed by the dams proposed upstream of the property in Kenya, and any other developments that may impact the property's OUV;**

Response

Consultation between State Parties will be done once RMM visiting dates are confirmed. The State Party has received request from UNESCO-World Heritage Centre for invitation of RMM, once all necessary arrangement have been completed and Terms of Reference shared and agreed among state parties involved, RMM will be invited.

- 12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, a progress report and, by 1 December 2019, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.**

Response

The State Party has complied with this requirement through submission of the progress report as directed by WHC.