

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

FAX: +255 22 2134292
TEL: +255 22 2126598
E-MAIL: info@natcom.go.tz



**P.O.BOX 20384
DAR ES SALAAM**
WEB-SITE: www.natcom.go.tz

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UNESCO/NC/CLT/WHC/OC/19/61

Date: 30 January 2020

Director,
World Heritage Centre,
7, place de Fontenoy,
75352 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE.

Dear Madam Rossler,

RE: SUBMISSION OF SELOUS GAME RESERVE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

The United Republic of Tanzania National Commission for UNESCO has the honour to submit the Selous Game Reserve State of Conservation Report to the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party continues to assure UNESCO of its collaboration and support in the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. Hamisi M. Malebo
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Enc.

Cc: Chief Secretary

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism,

Permanent secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Permanent Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNESCO

Conservation Commissioner – TAWA

STATE PARTY: UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

WORLD HERITAGE SITE: SELOUS GAME RESERVE

**RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY: MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
TOURISM**

**RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT: TANZANIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**



**A REPORT ON STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SELOUS GAME RESERVE WORLD
HERITAGE PROPERTY (N 199)**

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 30TH JANUARY 2020

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

Name: Dr. James Wakibara

Title: Conservation Commissioner

Address: P O Box 2658
Morogoro

City: Morogoro

Country Code: +255

Telephone: +255 (22) 286 6064

Fax Number: +255 (22) 286 6375/286 5500

Email: cc@taw.go.tz

Date of Submission of Report: 1st February, 2020



Signature on Behalf of State Party:

PROF. HAMISI M. MALEBO

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

List of Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRMDP	Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Plans
JNHPP	Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project
LWHD	List of World Heritage in Danger
SACGOT	Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SGR	Selous Game Reserve
SoC	State of Conservation
TAWA	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Children Organization
WHC	World Heritage Centre
WHL	World Heritage List

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Selous Game Reserve World Heritage Property has been faced with several challenges mostly poaching which led to inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger (LWHD) in 2014. Since then, the State Party through TAWA continued to undertake actions to halt poaching and considerable progress has been made and poaching particularly of elephant in and around the property have been controlled.

Regarding the implementation of Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) formerly, Rufiji Hydropower Project (RHPP), the State Party reiterates its prior notification to WHC during the inscription of the property into the WHL in 1982, of its intention to undertake the Project in the property and also recalls IUCN's recognition and recommendations that, the Project will result into clearance of a small portion of vegetation (about 1.8% of the entire property) and that will cause insignificant effects on the ecosystem. In accordance with the requirement of World Heritage Convention of 1972 the State Party notified WHC on the intention to start the implementation of the Project in 2016. Further, the State Party notes the observations and comments made by the WHC/IUCN independent review team on the EIA process and content for the JNHPP and commits to revise it taking into account some of the comments made by the independent review team including the need to align the EIA report with IUCN Impact Assessment note. In addition, two SEAs (SACGOT/Ministry of Agriculture, 2013 and Ministry of Water IWRMDP, 2018) had been conducted in the Rufiji Basin prior to the EIA. These SEAs established the nature of projects and activities to be undertaken within the basin and their cumulative mitigation measures. These studies identified key issues for consideration during implementation of JNHPP consequently, specific SEA was conducted for JNHPP in 2019 to address specific issues for the project and comply with national requirements. The State Party acknowledges receipt of SEAs independent review comments and commits to review and submit to WHC the revised SEA report.

On the other hand, considering the fact that all necessary information and logistical arrangement are not in place, the State Party requests the postponement of the invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property until when all necessary logistics are in place.

Regarding the implementation of Kidunda Dam Project, from the initial discussion between the State Party and UNESCO it was agreed that, the dam will be re-designed to reduce the inundated area of the property not to exceed 4 to 6 km² (from the previous 13 km²). The updated revised ESIA and hydrological model have already been submitted to WHC. The State Party seeks further discussions on this issue as it believes that already the submitted revised ESIA and hydrological model were just complementing the revised report showing the inundation of 4 to 6 km². The State Party believes that the inundation of such area of the SGR would produce insignificant effect to the OUV of the property. Further, regarding Kito-1 oil and gas project, consultation for conducting studies on hydrological regime and specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property are underway. However, so far no any exploration activities are taking place. Finally, the results of the 2018 aerial wildlife survey will be submitted to WHC as soon as they are available.

43 COM 7A.16

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

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.5, 36 COM 8B.43, 40 COM 7, 40 COM 7A.47, and 42 COM 7A.56 adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. While noting the reported reduction in poaching in the property, reiterates its utmost concern about the State Party's decision to develop the Rufiji Hydropower project (RHPP) within the property and recalls the Committee's position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, and the State Party's commitment as part of the boundary modification in 2012 not to undertake any development activities within the property without prior approval of the Committee;

Response:

The State Party reiterates its position that Selous Game Reserve was inscribed within the World Heritage List in 1982 with the prior knowledge (by then) by IUCN's Mission, of clear plans by the State Party of the United Republic of Tanzania to build the Stigler's dam. To this end, The State Party recalls IUCN's recommendation that the hydropower project "*will result into clearance of a small portion of vegetation and that will cause insignificant effects on the ecosystem*". Furthermore, IUCN cautioned that, "*but this would affect only a relatively small part of the reserve and should not be a matter of serious concern unless the reservoir draws in large numbers of settlers*". This served as an assurance to the State Party to proceed with the project although it was not possible to do so in the interim for several reasons including lack of resources that faced the former Rufiji Basin Development Authority (RUBADA) as a leading executing agency, the project was implemented at the anticipated time-frame and remained at a conceptual stage. The State Party also recalls its notification to the World Heritage Centre by letter in 2016, that was not responded to, on its intention to commence with the implementation of the hydropower project involving the Stigler's dam.

The State Party therefore wishes to express its determination to collaborate further with UNESCO to undertake this project in the most benign way in recognition of the importance of SGR as a World Heritage Site and also an

important source of hydropower for a larger national economic, environmental conservation, and livelihood agenda for the Tanzanian community. Given the keen considerations that Tanzania has invested in this Project, the State Party is of a fair view that it will balance heritage conservation, including mitigation of climate change and social-economic development of the state party.

4. *Takes note of the conclusions of the independent expert review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the RHPP that the EIA falls considerably short of acceptable standards and that it does not provide a best practice assessment of the potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*

Response:

The State Party notes the observations and comments made by the WHC/IUCN independent review team on the EIA process and content for the RHPP. While underscoring the fact that the EIA process complied with Tanzanian national standards, the State Party acknowledges and commits to undertake further revisions of the current EIA in view of comments made by the independent review team/IUCN. This includes the need to align the EIA report with IUCN Impact Assessment note. The State Party commits to submit the revised EIA in the course of the year 2020.

5. *Expresses its utmost concern about reports, confirmed by satellite image analysis, that the site clearance of 91,400 ha of vegetation, including forests, within the future dam area has started, and strongly urges the State Party to immediately halt all activities that will affect the property's OUV and will be difficult to reverse;*

Response:

As it was stated in a previous IUCN report in 1982 and our SoC report of 27th February 2019, vegetation in the area to be inundated has to be cleared to reduce risk of damaging the dam and to avoid anoxic condition. The dam is expected to cover a maximum surface area of 1,250 km² (approximately 12.5 km wide and 100km long equivalent to about 1.8% of the entire SGR). The diversity of vegetation in the SGR would not significantly change as the result of this clearance since the main vegetation type on site of clearance (Miombo woodland) is ubiquitous in the property.

Considers that the deforestation and other cumulative damage to such a large area within the property would likely lead to irreversible damage to its OUV and hence fulfill the

conditions for deletion of the property from the World Heritage List, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the Operational Guidelines;

Response:

An area to be covered by the project is only about 2.0% of the total area of Selous Game Reserve, out of which 1.8% will be inundated. The area to be inundated is not a forest but woodland dominated by scattered shrubs as also previously documented by IUCN (1982)¹ and Hoag and Ohman (2008)². The States Party is in recognizant of expert consideration that, the process is not deforestation but site clearance which will result into minor disturbances of the ecological processes and wilderness which are the two core OUV characteristics for the SGR. Some biodiversity (fauna) found in that small area will disperse elsewhere as there remains some 49,000 km² that will not be disturbed. According to Le Chatelier's Principle³ to the Developing Ecosystem, the ecosystem heals itself through re-allocation, re-establishment and adaptation of the fauna species in the neighborhood habitats. Therefore, the impact so pronounced to the OUV which is already considered by IUCN to be minor and tolerable.

6. *Also expresses its utmost concern that the State Party has started the works on the RHPP prior to the completion of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) undertaken to the highest international standards, and its review by IUCN, and without the approval of this project by the Committee in line with previous commitments made by the State Party;*

Response:

Two SEAs (SACGOT/Ministry of Agriculture, 2013 and Ministry of Water IWRMDP, 2018) had been conducted in the Rufiji Basin prior to the current SEA. These SEAs established the nature of projects and activities to be undertaken within the basin and their cumulative mitigation measures. The RHPP was identified amongst the projects that could be implemented in the basin. These studies identified key issues for consideration during implementation of such projects. Consequently, specific SEA was conducted for RHPP in 2019 to address specific issues for the project and comply with national requirements. The State Party acknowledges receipt of SEAs independent review comments and commits itself to review and submit to WHC the revised SEA report in the course of 2020.

¹ Selous Game Reserve World Heritage Nomination. IUCN Technical Review 1982

² Heather J. Hoag and Britt Ohman (2008), Turning Water into Power: Debates over the Development of Tanzania's Rufiji River Basin, *Technology and Culture* Vol. 49, No. 3, Water (Jul., 2008), pp. 624-651

³ Le Chaterier's principle asserts that a disturbance, when applied to a resting system may drive the system away from its equilibrium state, but will invoke a countervailing influence that will counteract the effect of the disturbance.

7. *Also strongly urges the State Party to invite the requested joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property without further delay to review the status of the RHPP, to verify the extent of the damage already incurred, and to assess the state of conservation of the property*

Response:

This is noted, the State Party is finalizing internal procedures for the requested invitation.

8. ***Decides** therefore to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;*

Response:

This is noted. The State party however believes that at this point in time there is no justification to apply the reinforced Monitoring Mechanism much as the state party is finalizing internal procedures for the requested invitation of the Reactive monitoring mission

9. *Referring to the Preamble of the World Heritage Convention, which considers that “deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world”, and to Article 6.3 of the Convention, urges all States Parties that support development projects related to World Heritage sites to observe best environmental practice and to include the Environmental Impact Assessment;*

Response:

This is noted.

10. *Notes with concern the submission of the updated hydrology report for the Kidunda Dam, which indicates possible inundation of the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre the revised EIA for the project;*

Response:

UNESCO would wish to note that the submerged property was re-designed and as a result reduced to 4 to 6 km² from the previous 13 km² to accommodate comments on the magnitude and perceived impacts of inundation. As it was clearly declared by the Reactive Monitoring Mission report (IUCN 2017) that “a project design for Kidunda Dam that will not inundate any part of the property at full supply level. **Should this not be possible**, then noting the greater concern for the project and to determine its acceptability in line with the World Heritage status, **develop and incorporate** into the

ESIA for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, a model of the frequency, extent and duration of the flooding regime inside the property, resulting from the proposed Kidunda Dam, and determine survival tolerance levels of woody vegetation species to duration of inundation”.

The hydrological report has explicitly analysed the trivial inundation of the reservoir at different seasons throughout the year. In addition, the state party is finalizing the revised ESIA and hydrological model reports to complement each other and presents that dam operation rules are by far enough to manage the impact of inundation. That is, the operations of the gates at different scenarios have been evaluated to estimate and manage impacts of inundation from the reservoir as the extent of the inundation depends on operation of the reservoir through the flap gates.

Summary of highest reservoir water surface elevation at different scenarios

Spillway scenario	Peak value			Total reservoir outflow (m ³ /s)	
	Elevation (m)	Volume (Mm ³)	Area in SGR (km ²)	Min	Max
Water Supply Only	73.0	5.25	0.0	24.00	24.00
Uncontrolled spillway	80.874	77.56	1.242	24.00	651.14
6 flap gates opened	81.134	84.25	1.420	24.00	611.96
4 flap gates opened	81.656	99.06	1.804	24.00	583.83
3 flap gate opened	82.060	111.88	2.127	24.00	555.84
2 flap gate opened	82.738	136.26	2.716	24.00	519.09
1 flap gate opened	84.116	198.66	4.085	24.00	450.00
Controlled spillway	85.637	291.56	5.847	24.00	3,608.98

11. *Notes that the 2016 EIA for the Kito-1 oil and gas exploration project proposed within the Kilombero Valley Ramsar site adjacent to the property will be augmented with the requested study on the hydrological regime of the Kilombero floodplain and a specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property;*

Response:

The consultation for conducting studies on hydrological regime and specific assessment of potential downstream impacts of the project on the OUV of the property are underway. However, so far no any exploration activities are taking place in the area.

12. *Requests the State Party to submit the results of the 2018 aerial wildlife survey as soon as possible, and to develop a population model to estimate the recovery of the elephant population, assuming poaching has been reduced drastically;*

Response:

Analysis of the elephant counts done in 2018 through aerial wildlife survey is in final stages and the findings will be submitted to WHC as soon as they are available.

13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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:

This is noted and the State Party will submit the State of Conservation in time.

14. *Also decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

Response:

This is noted.