

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



**STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES
IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
JANUARY 2014**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the state of conservation of five World Heritage Sites in Tanzania. These are Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Stone Town of Zanzibar, Selous Game Reserve and Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara. State of conservation of the first three sites is presented in the context of decisions made during the 36th Session of the World Heritage Committee while the other two respond to decisions made during the 37th Session. The report is presented in five parts, each representing the state of conservation of each of the five sites.

Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, which is currently on the list of World Heritage in Danger, has made significant progress in addressing the conservation challenges it faces. With support from Development Partners, the Site has been able to effectively implement the 2004 Management Plan which saw major restoration and rehabilitation works. The Site has also instituted an effective management structure, prepared an inventory and documentation of both tangible and intangible heritage. Rigorous public awareness campaigns have been conducted and these have prevented further encroachment of the site. Apart from awareness campaigns local communities have also been trained in conservation and entrepreneurship skills to ensure that they understand the benefits of conservation and to enable them take advantage of the Tourism market. The Site has also prepared and submitted a nomination dossier to extend the site to include Kilwa Kivinje.

Through national and international consultative process the Site is currently reviewing its Management Plan which will be submitted to World Heritage Centre (WHC) / Advisory Bodies by March 2014. Land Use Plans for Kilwa Kisiwani are being prepared alongside demarcation of the boundaries of the property. Other planned activities include planting mangrove seedling over 800 acres of land to halt sea wave action.

Stone Town Heritage Site in Zanzibar has been facing several challenges in addressing conservation issues. The Site was advised to undertake Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which was done and submitted to World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for review. The two organs proposed several mitigation measures for discussion with stakeholders. This was done and several recommendations to improve the state of conservation of the site were adopted for implementation. However, the State Party expresses concern over delays by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to respond to request to approve the proposed drawing for the Mambo Msige Hotel Complex.

Despite various financial and technical challenges, the site has registered some progress in addressing issues of open spaces, condition of buildings whereby a comprehensive assessment of the same was done and findings integrated into this report. Other issues addressed include street vendors, metal grill doors, traffic congestion and streetscape features. Priority areas for intervention in addressing conservation challenges in a more comprehensive manner have been

identified. A Monitoring Mission visited the Site in late 2013 and the State Party is expecting the mission to present its report with substantive recommendations for further action.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) reports progress made in addressing the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring Mission. As a mixed heritage site the NCA was required to establish a cultural department to manage cultural heritage aspects of the site. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Antiquities Department which had the mandate to manage cultural heritage has been signed and a proposed organization structure for the department awaits the approval of the NCA Board.

The report on partial excavation of Laetoli was sent to World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for review before convening an international Technical Committee to discuss the course of action for sustainable conservation and management of Laetoli.

To maintain harmonious relations with local communities, the Site has continued to undertake several collaborative conservation projects involving inhabitants. Other measures undertaken include joint efforts with relevant stakeholders to maintain roads within the sites and a strategic invasive species control programme which has shown positive results. Furthermore, rigorous anti poaching efforts undertaken recently, have yielded positive results.

The site maintains an effective monitoring plan for safeguarding the state of conservation and it intends to comply with the direction that technical and regulatory documents for management of site be presented to Advisory bodies for review.

Serengeti National Park has continued to implement several recommendations aimed at maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site. It reports the decision by the State Party to abandon the proposed North road and to undertake a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the context of proposed Master Plan for infrastructure development in the country which would take into consideration conservation requirement of heritage properties.

The report clearly explains the State Party's initiative to combat poaching, invasive species, wild fires, human wildlife conflicts and water scarcity. This includes a financial commitment to combat poaching and promotion of alternative livelihoods for local communities through outreach programmes. Efforts to annex Speke Gulf to the site are progressing well and currently, detailed discussions are being held on modalities for accomplishing the task. Furthermore, jointly with Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the Site is exploring means of stabilizing the 186Km road going through Serengeti. A feasibility study has been commissioned to that effect and the results will be shared with World Heritage Centre. Finally, the report notes that funding base for management of the Site has been adequately prioritized and that internal consultations with relevant stakeholders on operational and financing modalities for the proposed Serengeti Eco System Forum are going on.

Selous Game Reserve has continued to undertake measures directed at strengthening the conservation status of the site after the decision to implement a minor boundary modification to allow for uranium mining.

The state of conservation report for Selous indicates that following serious poaching within the site, strategic measures have been undertaken, these include implementing a rigorous anti-poaching campaign, and facilitating the campaign by increasing the number of patrol staff, vehicles and anti poaching budget. These measures have shown positive results.

The status and the future the Stigler Gorge Project were assessed and a common understanding reached between the relevant stakeholders and the joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies mission. The State Party reiterates its commitment to comply with Operational Guidelines and its own National Environmental laws, in case it intends to undertake any development on the Site. .

Protection measures to maintain the OUV of the Site include a comprehensive project funded by the German Government, to be implemented soon. Meanwhile there has been substantive progress in the process of establishing the proposed Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA). Other measures include the constitution on an Inter- Ministerial Team of Experts to monitor mining activities and to advise the government accordingly. Furthermore, the State Party plans to conduct a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the property as soon as funds become available.

Finally, a Reactive Monitoring Mission visited the Site in December 2013 and consulted extensively will all relevant National Stakeholders.