

**REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF 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

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Date of submission of the Report: **1st December 2017**

Signature on Behalf of the State Party:

Responses to Decision: 40 COM 7B.83 (Istanbul, 2016)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/[40.COM/7B](#),*
2. *Recalling Decisions 35 COM 7B.7 and 38 COM 7B.94, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to strengthen its anti-poaching operations, which have reduced the number of elephants and rhinos lost to poachers, and requests the State Party to further strengthen these efforts across the wider Serengeti ecosystem;*

Response

The state party strengthened anti-poaching operations involved Joint Patrols between the park (Northern Zone) and Mara Triangle Conservancy (Kenya); park (Nyamarumbwa Rhino Project) and Masai Mara Rhino Project (Kenya); park (Eastern Zone) and Otelo Bussiness hunting Company, Loliondo Game Controlled Area and Loliondo District Council; park (Western Zone) and Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) /Maswa, Ikorongo, Grumeti, Kijereshi Game Reserves, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and Bunda Zonal Antipoaching Unit; park and Task Force (Lake Zone); the park and police (Mugumu), park and Rapid Response Team (RRT) and between the park and wildlife training institutions (Mweka Wildlife College from Moshi & Pasiansi

Ranger Training College from Mwanza). As result of joint patrols and intelligence information sharing has resulted into decline of poaching incidences.

Furthermore, efforts of combating poaching especially with wire snares, a new de-snaring project was established in April 2017 to supplement the efforts of rangers in combating poaching. Under this project, a total of 7,331 snares were removed of which 384 animals were found snared among them 100 animals were released alive between April and September 2017.

The number of Elephant and rhino lost to poachers continued to decrease from 16 elephant in 2014/15 to 8 in 2016/17 which represents 50% decrease in elephant killed while no rhino was reported poached from 2014/2015 to 2016/2017.

In order to intensify anti-poaching patrol, nine (9) more patrol vehicles were purchased from 42 in 2014/15 to 51 in 2016/17. A total of 1,028 poachers were apprehended during 2016/2017 period compared to 845 poachers in 2014/15. Furthermore, the number of fire arms confiscated decreased from 14 in 2014/15 to 9 in 2016/17. Apart from ground patrols, air surveillance has been enhanced from one (1) light aircraft 2014/15 to two (2) in 2016/17.

These site level anti-poaching efforts have recently been supplemented by National initiatives to implement paramilitary scheme. To start with, Serengeti and Ruaha National Parks have been identified to pilot the scheme. It is anticipated that, this scheme will help to strengthen anti- poaching operation within the property and across the country.

4. *Notes the completion of an aerial wildlife survey of the property, and encourages the State Party to assess, in cooperation with the State Party of Kenya, the potential cause for*

the migration of elephants from Mara into Serengeti, as suggested in the 2014 census report in order to inform future management strategies;

Response

As previously reported, the population status of elephant has significantly increased in the Serengeti Ecosystem since previous counts. The elephant counts have almost doubled since the 2009 census, with a population increase of 98%, from 3,068 to 6,087 in 2014. This is an impressive growth, and Tanzania has not experienced such a growth in an elephant population for many years. This dramatic increase is attributed to various factors, including but not limited to: migration from Maasai-Mara Reserves; improved survival rate by increasing levels of protection; and, enhanced searching effort and use of camera to improve count.

While the state party takes note of encouragement by the World Heritage Centre to cooperate with State Party of Kenya to assess the potential cause for the migration of elephants from Mara into Serengeti, as suggested in the 2014 census report in order to inform future management strategies. The state party understands that there are several publications addressing the potential cause for the migration of elephants from Mara into Serengeti. Some of these publications include: Wildlife Habitat Suitability Analysis at Serengeti National Park (SNP), Tanzania Case Study *Loxodonta* species (Sanare *et al.* 2015) and Mara ecosystem connectivity: Information on elephant population status and movements for spatial planning and conservation in Narok County (Poole *et al.* 2016). These papers highlight some of the potential causes for the migration of elephants from Mara into Serengeti as follows:

Migration of elephants from Masai-Mara into Serengeti is partly attributed by water availability in north and eastern Serengeti particularly around Bologonja

natural springs, Wogakurya, Lobo and Kuka hills that act as a water catchment area and thus frequently receive rains.

Similarly, Serengeti has a vast area with different habitat mosaic, biomass production is quite enough to support large number of wildlife roaming within Serengeti National Park. In nutrient rich habitat *Acacia species* together with *Cordia ovalis* and *Balanites aegyptiaca* contributed more than half of total browsing events signifying major influence of these plants to elephant browsing within nutrient rich Serengeti habitat in both wet and dry season. Serengeti has most notable sources of water e.g. Mara river, Grumeti and Mbalageti for supply of water throughout the year.

Other causes of the observed migration of elephants from Maasai Mara to Serengeti include: land transformation associated with land subdivision settlements and fencing of critical conservation areas and migratory corridors around Maasai Mara National Reserve and inadequate forage for elephants in the Maasai Mara (Poole *et al.* 2016).

5. *Also welcomes the completion of a first draft of the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan, and the State Party's intention to share the second draft with the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to its approval;*

Response

The Master Plan has undergone a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required by the National Environmental Management Act of 2004) and completed in 2004. The report incorporates comments on the draft final report received from various concerned parties. In accordance with Tanzanian Laws,

the process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was carried out after the issuance of the Draft Final Report in order to allow for the study to be officially recognized as a Master Plan. In its current status, the master plan has not proposed extensive National or Regional level development of transport network through Serengeti National Park.

6. *Further welcomes the reported progress towards extension of the National Park to include critical access to water and shoreline habitats on Lake Victoria's Speke Gulf, and also requests the State Party to ensure consent of and compensations for any affected communities and submit the draft proposed extension to the World Heritage Centre, for review before it is finalized;*

Response

Extensive dialogue, consultations and detailed discussions on the best modalities for accomplishing annexation have been done. Stakeholders have agreed on the ecological importance and the need to annex Speke Gulf to Serengeti National Park. Satellite images have been analyzed for social economic changes that have occurred in the area so far. Detailed discussions on the best modalities for accomplishing annexation including a legal compensation of those that will be relocated are currently in advanced stage. Furthermore, Cabinet and technical papers have been prepared and are with relevant Ministries for final scrutiny before submission to the parliament for approval.

7. *Appreciating the support provided by the Government of Germany for a major project focusing on livelihoods and a preliminary feasibility study of road transport routes to the south of the property, calls upon the international donor community to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to enable the next stages;*

Response

In order to preserve the property, the German Government offered support to state party through the so-called Serengeti Package. It includes rural development programmes in the areas of Loliondo and North West Serengeti, and support to the park management and anti-poaching activities in the property. As a third pillar of the Serengeti Package, the German Development Cooperation is financing the Feasibility study and Preliminary Design of a Serengeti Southern Bypass.

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 are 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 and a decision for the preferred Route Option is imminent.

Once the Route Option has been selected the Consultant will embark on the Feasibility Study and undertake the Preliminary Design for the chosen route. It is foreseen that the full study will be completed by the end of September 2018.

8. *Noting the limited progress made in evaluating road surfacing options for the Naabi Hill - Seronera road through the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the entire road from Loduare to Seronera to assess the impacts of the different options on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of both Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to a decision on surfacing any section of this road;*

Response

The state party has done EIA from Loduare to Golini (Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area border). However the EIA from Golini/ Naabi hills to Seronera is not yet done. The state party is currently waiting to learn from Ngorongoro road proposal and implement accordingly on lesson learnt.

9. *Acknowledges the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the States Parties of Tanzania and Kenya on the Mara River Basin, and also reiterates its request to both States Parties to develop and implement a joint management plan for the basin;*

Response

Tanzania and Kenya are committed in the developments of strategies and plans geared towards achieving sustainable management of Mara River Basin for human and ecosystem health. The achievement of these strategies is vested into the implementations by the state party through incorporating into national policies, plans and strategies. This therefore calls for the funding opportunities in the implementation of activities by both Kenya and Tanzania if the already developed documents have to yield expected results.

It is the wish of the state party to develop a joint management plan for Mara river basin. There are some anticipated challenges in order to reach the intended objectives given the status of the two protected areas. Serengeti is a National Park and has a World Heritage status while Maasai Mara is a National Reserve and does not have World Heritage status. Modalities for how best to develop a management plan are being sought through internal consultations.

10. Further notes that the EIA for the extension of the Mugumu Airport is being revised following review by the National Environmental Management Council prior to its submission to the World Heritage Centre for review before a final decision is taken;

Response

Review of the EIA has been done and EIA certificate was issued prior to its submission to World Heritage Centre. However, implementation of the proposed project was not effected due to financial constrain. Once the project is implemented, the state party will monitor implementation of the mitigation measures as addressed in the EIA to ensure that airport operations do not affect the OUV of the property.

11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above and of the 2010 mission recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018

Response

The States Party has complied with this requirement through submission of the SOC reports as directed by WHC.

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Signature on Behalf of the State Party:


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