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UNESCO/NC/CLT/WHC/OB/19/11

Date 28/2/2019

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

**RE: STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR SELOUS GAMES RESERVE**

Please receive a copy of the State of Conservation (SoC) report for Selous Game Reserve for your action and reference. Together with this SoC report, find Emergence Action Plan and Kidunda Hydrological Regime reports which inform efforts of the State Party in protection of the Outstanding Values of the property.

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

I remain,

  
Hamisi M. Malebo *PhD, FASI, FRSC*  
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**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: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**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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Date of Submission of Report: 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019



Signature on Behalf of State Party:

HAMISI M. MALEBO *PhD, FASI, FRSC*

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



## List of Acronyms

EAP	Emergency Action Plan
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FZS	Frankfurt Zoological Society
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LWHD	List of World Heritage in Danger
MNRT	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
MRP	Mkuju River Project
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PAs	Protected Areas
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
UNESCO	United Nation Education, Science and Children Organization
WHC	World Heritage Centre
WHS	World Heritage Site
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Selous Game Reserve has been faced with several challenges mostly poaching which led to inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2014. Since then, the State Party continued to undertake measures to halt poaching and considerable progress has been made largely through State Party initiatives and through the implementation of Emergency Action Plan in support of Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) program. Reduced poaching trends will be confirmed by aerial census, which uses Systematic Reconnaissance Flight (SRF) following technique described by Norton-Griffith. The aerial census conducted in October 2018 will provide data required for updating and finalizing Desired State of Conservation for Removal. Regarding Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor, although the five-year Action Plan to protect the corridor has not been approved, to ensure protection of the corridor, key actions are being implemented under the separate SECAD program in 36 villages in the corridor. On the other hand, the State Party has established two units for rhino monitoring and protection in the property since August 2017. Furthermore, the State Party has developed a National Rhino Management Plan (2019 - 2023), which considered the protection of rhino in the property. After the population status is established, the action plan for long-term survival of the species in the property will be developed following National Management Plan. The State Party is currently implementing an industrial development strategy that has triggered the need for expansion of power generation in the country. This has forced the State Party to carry out Rufiji Hydropower Project in order to meet the desired power generation target and industrial development. The project is however implemented in line with Operational guideline of the WHC, which includes preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment with a specific chapter addressing impacts on Outstanding Universal Value. Also, the State Party has commissioned a consultant to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) since January 2019 to add up information on the impacts of Rufiji Hydropower Project (RHPP) in the large Rufiji Basin. Considering 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 will be in place. The revised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda Dam was conducted and the report was submitted to WHC. In addition, a study on the flooding regime was conducted in 2017. The ESIA for the Kito - 1 well was conducted in the entire Kilombero Game Controlled Area in May 2016. Nevertheless, consultation for conducting studies on hydrological regime and specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property are underway. In line with that, the Mkuju Uranium Mining activities have been deferred until further notice and incase the mining resume and method changed in the future, a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be conducted. Finally, the State Party under SECAD program is in the final preparatory stages of revising the property's General Management Plan.

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

**The World Heritage Committee,**

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A,**
- 2. Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.5, 36 COM 8B.43, 40 COM 7, 40 COM 7A.47 and 41 COM 7A.17, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,**
- 3. Expresses its grave concern about the State Party's decision to develop the Stiegler's Gorge hydropower project, and in particular the tendering of logging rights for 143,638 ha within the property, considers that the resulting large-scale deforestation represents a clear potential danger to the property in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and decides to add this issue to the justification for the continued inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

**Response:**

- i. The proposed impoundment of the Rufiji River at Stiegler's Gorge was planned during the late 1970's. However, due to financial constraint, which was facing the former Rufiji Basin Development Authority (RUBADA) as a leading executing agency, the project did not make progress at the anticipated pace and had remained at a conceptual stage.
- ii. The State Party in accordance to paragraph 172 of the Operational Guideline informed the WHC the intention to develop the Rufiji Hydropower Project. Also, it is notable that, in the course of the nomination process, the IUCN experts evaluated the integrity of the reserve and noted that there were plans to harness the flood waters of the Rufiji River with a dam to be constructed at Stiegler's gorge; 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<sup>1</sup>. Considering the sheer size of the property, the IUCN experts also anticipated that it could absorb all but the most severe pressures on its resources.
- iii. Initially, the proposed reservoir was designed to cover approximately 1,250 km<sup>2</sup> at high-regulated water level, and 550 km<sup>2</sup> at low regulated water level<sup>2</sup>. This figure led to tendering of about 143,638 ha of tree from the project area, which was about 2.5% of the entire Selous Game Reserve. However, the project has been redesigned and the area to be cleared has been decreased to

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<sup>1</sup> Selous Game Reserve World Heritage Nomination. IUCN Technical Review 1982

<sup>2</sup> Norconsult (1972) Stiegler's gorge hydropower utilization: preliminary report. Oslo, Norway

91,400 ha, which is approximately 1.8% of the reserve covering 5,000,000 ha as per submitted ESIA to WHC<sup>3</sup>. On the same, it is important for the WHC to note that, the area to be inundated need to be cleared from all forms of vegetation to reduce risk of damaging the dam, allowing life in the dam and at the same time benefiting from the wood product to be cleared. The clearing of the inundated area has been considered in the ESIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) developed and submitted to WHC for review.

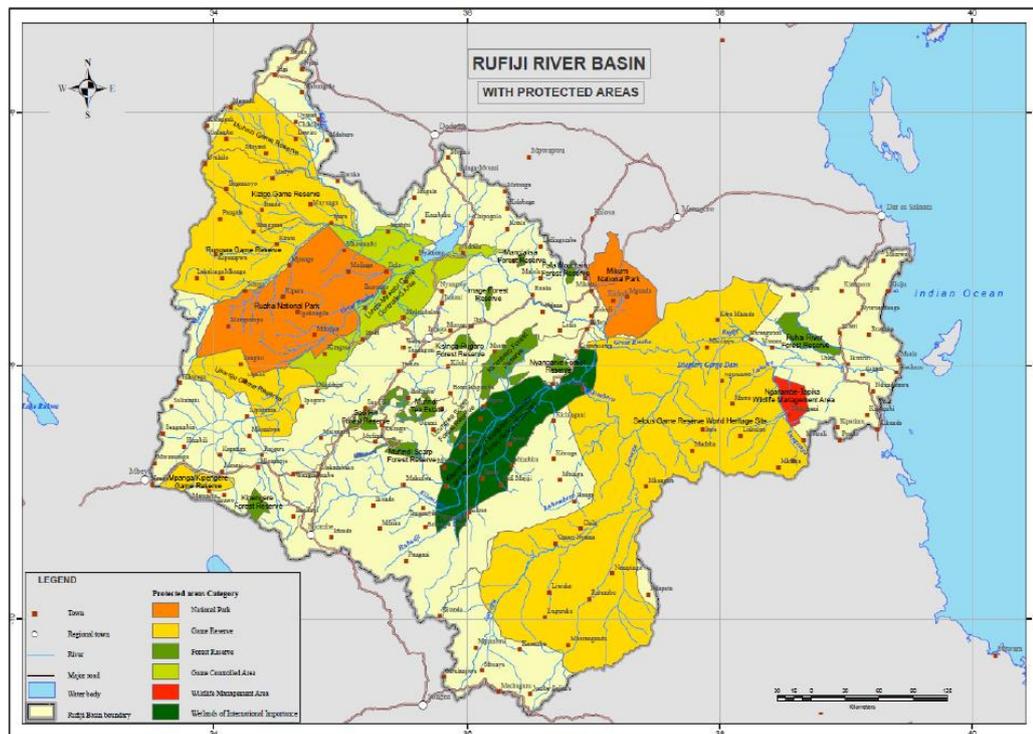


Figure 1. Protected Areas within Rufiji River Basin<sup>4</sup>

iv. Tanzania’s energy balance in both urban and rural areas is dominated by biomass-based fuels particularly fuel-wood (charcoal and firewood), which are the main source of environmental degradation. In attempt to address the power shortage in the grid system, the Government of Tanzania (URT) has decided to embark on the development of Rufiji Hydropower Project (RHPP) at Stiegler’s gorge in SGR. The project is the only large scale project that can provide over 2000 MW within a relatively short time scale, with an ability to provide high head and large storage volume at very low investment per unit storage. It can aid Tanzania’s electrification through its provision of abundant power that is crucially cheap and therefore more affordable to the low - income, unconnected majority of citizens while supporting industrialization reducing pressure on the natural resources and ensuring protection of natural

<sup>3</sup> Updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for 2100MW Power Generation from the Rufiji Hydropower Project in Selous Game Reserve Pwani and Morogoro regions, Tanzania (October 2018)

<sup>4</sup> United Republic of Tanzania (2017). Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Integrated Water Resources Management and Development (IWRMD) Plan for the Rufiji Basin.



4. Also recalling 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, as well as the commitment made by the State Party when the boundary modification was approved in 2012 not to undertake any development activities within Selous Game Reserve and its buffer zone without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee, reiterates its requests to the State Party to fully assess the cumulative impacts of the Stiegler's gorge hydropower project on the property and its wider landscape through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), undertaken to the highest international standards, and to consider alternative options to meet its power generation needs;

**Response:**

- i. The State Party is aware of its 2012 commitment to WHC in St. Petersburg<sup>7</sup>, "not to undertake any development activities within the property and its buffer zone" in line with the previous government priorities. However, the State Party is implementing the National Energy Policy of 2015, which emphasizes putting in place an affordable, predictable and sustainable power supply to stimulate industrial development in the Country<sup>8</sup>. The Policy is in line with the Second Five Year Development Plan (FYDP II 2015/16 to 2020/2021), which the State Party is aiming to build a base for transforming Tanzania to semi-industrialized nation by 2025<sup>9</sup>. The envisaged industrial development has triggered the need for expansion of power generation capacity up to 5,000 MW by year 2025 and reaching at least 10,000 MW by 2030. Nevertheless, as of to date, this capacity is very far reached standing at approximately 1,450 MW, mainly sourced from natural gas, hydropower and lesser extent from thermal (liquid fuel). Overall, the implementation of this project is in line with the Constitution of Tanzania Article 9(i) and 27<sup>10</sup>, and The Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, 2017<sup>11</sup>, which compels for the use of the country's natural resources for the development of the People and Nation and in particular, eradication of poverty, ignorance and diseases.
- ii. In attempt to address this gap, the State Party has been forced to carry out Rufiji Hydropower project (Stigler's hydropower project). The project is however implemented in line with World Heritage Sites and Sustainable Development

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<sup>7</sup> Decisions Adopted by the World Heritage Committee at Its 36th Session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012)

<sup>8</sup> Tanzania Energy Policy (2015)

<sup>9</sup> National Five-Year Development Plan 2016/17 - 2020/21. "Nurturing Industrialization for Economic Transformation and Human Development"

<sup>10</sup> The Constitution of Tanzania of 1977

<sup>11</sup> The Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, 2017

Policy<sup>12</sup>, which includes preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) with a specific chapter (Chapter 7) addressing impacts on Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) of the property<sup>13</sup> which the State Party consider to be reasonable for the Rufiji Hydropower Project (RHPP). It is under this premise the State Party decided to proceed with the RHPP.

iii. Noting the importance of additional information on the impacts, which might occur at landscape level, the State Party has also commissioned a consultant to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the entire landscape. The task has commenced since 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and it will fully assess the cumulative impacts of the Rufiji hydropower project on the property and its wider landscape as requested. The report will be shared for review by WHC once available.

5. **Urges the State Party to ensure that the planned logging and all other activities related to the Stiegler's gorge hydropower project, which will affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and will be difficult to reverse, do not proceed prior to the completion of the SEA and its review by IUCN, and requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the status of the project, assess the state of conservation of the property and to assist the State Party in finalizing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);**

**Response:**

- i. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is mandatory in Tanzania for mega projects including hydropower projects as per Environmental Management Act, Part Seven of 2004<sup>14</sup>. Nevertheless, considering the current energy pressure to attain industrial economy and the investment in terms of resources and time required to conduct SEA, it was found to mismatch the pace that the RHPP is being implemented. Nonetheless, the State Party has conducted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project on the grounds explained in 4(i&ii) above and was shared to WHC for comments<sup>15</sup>. The ESIA has given a green flag to the project to commence, and all activities/components of the RHPP were taken onboard and mitigation

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<sup>12</sup> Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the *World Heritage Convention* 2015

<sup>13</sup> Updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for 2100MW Power Generation from the Rufiji Hydropower Project in Selous Game Reserve Pwani and Morogoro regions, Tanzania (October 2018)

<sup>14</sup> The Environmental Management Act of Tanzania (2004)

<sup>15</sup> Updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for 2100MW Power Generation from the Rufiji Hydropower Project in Selous Game Reserve Pwani and Morogoro regions, Tanzania (October 2018)

measure proposed and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan (ESMP) were prepared<sup>16</sup>. As explained in 4(iii) above, once SEA is available, it will be shared with WHC for review as requested. To add on that, specialist studies on the biodiversity of the area were conducted and formed the basis for the Rufiji hydro project ESIA.

- ii. Draft Desired State of Conservation for Removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSoCR) has been prepared. However, during the 2017 Reactive monitoring mission (RMM) to the property in February 2017 and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the WHC in 2017<sup>17</sup> in Krakow - Poland, a consultative meeting between State Party delegates and IUCN experts agreed on the use of census data in establishing baseline information for elephant population recovery in the DSoCR. Currently, the information required for revising and finalizing the DSoCR from census conducted in October 2018 is not yet in place. Once these data are in place, revision and finalization of DSoCR will take place. In addition, the State Party is in the process of consulting all relevant stakeholders to be met by Reactive monitoring mission to confirm dates and timing as per decision 42. Considering the circumstances, the State Party will invite the mission as soon as all logistical and information requirements are in place .
- iii. **Welcomes the launch of the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) project, funded by the German Development Bank, and its contribution to the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP), and also urges the State Party to ensure that the EAP is fully carried out and to report on progress made;**

**Response:**

- i. The State Party acknowledges the appreciation by the WHC on the launching of Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) project.
- ii. The State Party in collaboration with other conservation partners under SECAD project is continuing to implement Emergency Action Plan (EAP) (Annex 1) in the pace that the State Party deem reasonable. Major achievements so far for EAP include; significant reduction of poaching in the property; for example in 2013/14, 131 elephant carcasses related to poaching were encountered in the reserve, while in 2017/18, only 5 elephant carcasses were encountered in the entire property. These achievements resulted from

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<sup>16</sup> Updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for 2100MW Power Generation from the Rufiji Hydropower Project in Selous Game Reserve Pwani and Morogoro regions, Tanzania (October 2018)

<sup>17</sup> Decisions adopted during the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2017)

intensified intelligence led patrols (aerial, ground and aquatic). The intensification of patrols include procurement of more than 16 vehicles for carrying out patrols; installation of phase one communication system within the property and provision of modern patrol gears. Also, the aerial surveillance has been resumed and intensified with an average of 35 hours each month; capacitating staffs in different endeavors for example, patrols techniques, prosecution, intelligence, investigation, rhino monitoring, elephant demography technique and driving and vehicle maintenance (Annex 1). Though the achievements are notable, TAWA still face a number of challenges particularly funds to adequately finance the implementation of EAP. With this report, please find the attached detailed progress report for the implementation of the EAP for review by WHC.

- 6. Noting that the efforts to improve law enforcement in the property appear to have reduced poaching, also requests the State Party to provide details on the data collection and to confirm these positive trends through an aerial census of the elephant population;**

**Response:**

- i. The State Party acknowledges the appreciation by the WHC on the efforts made to reduce poaching and improves the conservation status of the property. Since the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party has taken considerable measures to reduce poaching.
- ii. Aerial census uses Systematic Reconnaissance Flight (SRF) following technique described by Norton-Griffith<sup>18</sup>. Transects are drawn covering all critical areas of the ecosystem and are flown in east - west directions (Figure 1). Aircrafts are flown at a target height of 350 feet above ground and a target speed of 180 kilometers per hour. Transects are spaced 5 and 10 km based on (i) core area, and (ii) Level of human activities (mostly outside PA). Animals are counted within a strip width of 150m on either side of the aircraft (300m wide per transect). On the other hand, population estimates are calculated using Jolly's Method 2 of Unequal Sized Units<sup>19</sup> and change in population size are determined using d-test<sup>20, 21</sup>.
- iii. The aerial censuses are used to monitor trends in populations of large animals. However, reduced poaching in the property does not guarantee a

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<sup>18</sup> Norton-Griffiths (1978) *Counting Animals*. Nairobi, African Wildlife Foundation

<sup>19</sup> Jolly, G. M. (1969): "Sampling methods for aerial census of wildlife populations." *East African Agriculture and Forestry Journal* 34: 46-49.

<sup>20</sup> Cochran, W. G. (1954). "The combination of estimates from different experiments." *Biometrics* 10: 101-129.

<sup>21</sup> TAWIRI (2013) *Aerial Census of Large Animals in the Selous -Mikumi Ecosystem Dry Season, 2013 Population Status of African Elephant*

positive trend (increasing) of elephant. Other factors such as migration, or stable population might apply in these trends (increasing or decreasing).

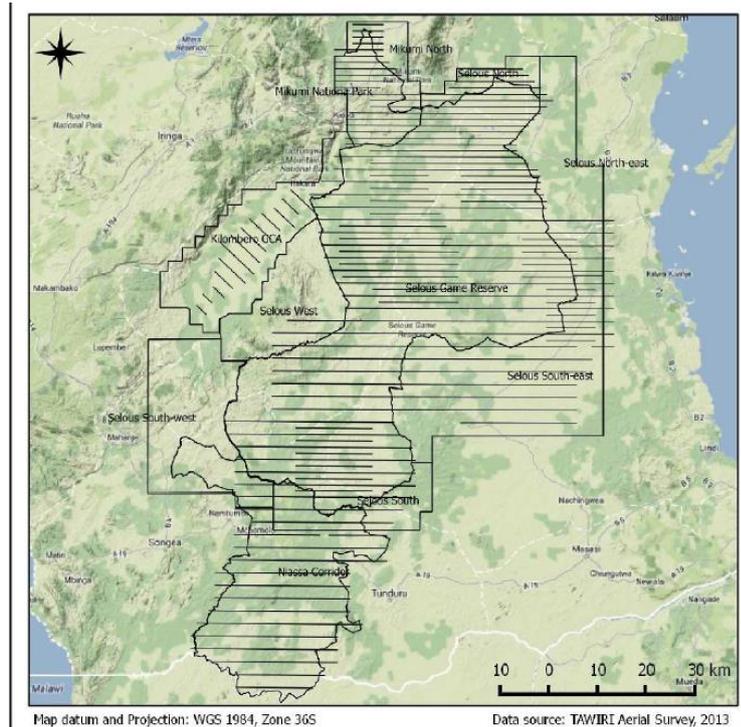


Figure 1. Planned transect for the 2013 dry season Selous-Mikumi ecosystem aerial survey

7. Also noting the indications that black rhinos are still present in the property, further requests the State Party to collect more data to evaluate the size and viability of the population, and to develop a strategy to ensure the long-term survival of the species;

**Response:**

- i. The State Party has already established two units since August 2017 for rhino protection and monitoring as an effort to collect more data of the species in the property in collaboration with Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS). The units are capacitated to effectively and efficiently protect and monitor rhinos and ensure their recovery. In line with this, it is worth mentioning that, during the large animals aerial census carried out in the property's ecosystem in October 2018, one rhino was spotted in Liwale around Madaba area. Responding to this, a special rhino monitoring team was deployed to ensure protection and monitoring of the species in the area.
- ii. Final Draft of National Rhino Management Plan (2019 - 2023) review is in the final stage after being shared with the African Rhino Specialist Group for comments. Its launching is expected by March 2019. The plan has considered

the protection of rhino in the Selous Game. Therefore, after rhino population status and range has been established within the property; the State Party in close collaboration with IUCN rhino experts, TAWIRI and other stakeholders, will develop a strategy for their long-term survival.

- 8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, details of the elephant demographic survey and its methodology, including information on the selection of the surveyed elephant groups, comparisons with other demographic studies and classification of males and females;**

**Response:**

The study was conducted in four administrative sectors of Selous Game Reserve, which are Matambwe, Kingupira, Likuyu sekamaganga and Kalulu within the Selous Game Reserve. The study area was selected based on observed elephant density during the 2014 aerial census of large animals in the Selous-Mikumi Ecosystem.

Elephant sightings were collected through opportunistic sampling across the Game Reserve and Portrait photos and identification notes were taken. These data were checked later to ensure that no double counting had occurred. For each elephant sighting, group type, sex, age and size were recorded. Elephant age class assignment were based on shoulder height, body and head shape, back length and size of the tusks and put to one of the following age classes; 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-39 and 40+. Elephant generally occur in three types of groups i.e. i) all male groups also known as 'bull group' ii) cow/calf groups and iii) mixed groups i.e. cows, calves and adult male. A group of elephant was defined as any number of elephants of any age or sex moving together in a coordinated manner with no single member or sub-group at a distance greater than the diameter of the main body of the group. Cow/calf groups defined as any group containing one or more adult females. Males over 10 years old were not included in the group size.

Data collected from the sampled groups of elephants within the study area included date, time, location, habitat type, estimated age of each member of the group, sex and group type. Descriptive statistics were used to summaries the data collected and established demography profiles. A total of 421 elephants were counted with 25% being calves under five years. The dependent to adult female ratio being is 0.86, which is less than that of 2009 (1.05) survey. Breeding adult ratio (Males >20 and female >10), 0.085, which means every 12 breeding females there is one breeding male.

- 9. Requests moreover the State Party to finalize the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) based on currently available data on elephants and the advice provided by the 2017 mission, and to submit it the World Heritage Centre for the Committee's adoption;**

**Response:**

During the 2017 Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property in February 2017 and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the WHC in 2017<sup>22</sup> in Krakow - Poland, a consultative meeting between State Party delegates and IUCN experts agreed on the use of census data in establishing baseline information for elephant population recovery in the DSoCR. While, elephant demographic data conducted in Selous Game Reserve will only be used to enrich the census data and not forming part of the baseline information for elephant recovery. In that regard, large animals aerial census within the Selous ecosystem was conducted in October 2018. Data from this census will therefore provide data required for updating and finalizing DSoCR. Once the DSoCR is finalized it will be shared to WHC for review and adoption.

- 10. Notes with concern that the five-year Action Plan to protect the Selous-Niassa corridor is still not approved, lacks funding and has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and further urges the State Party to take action to secure this important ecological corridor, and continue to report on progress made;**

**Response:**

The five-year Action Plan to protect the Selous-Niassa wildlife corridor is not yet approved and therefore no funds have been committed specifically to this action plan. Though, the plan is not yet approved, key actions are being implemented under the separate SECAD Programme in two district (Tunduru and Namtumbo) and 36 villages, which surround the corridor. Five (5) new Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) (Kimbanda, Nalika, Kisungule, Mbarang'andu and Chingoli) have been established in this corridor as an effort to ensue its protection. To guarantee their existence, several activities are currently undertaken by WWF including capacitating the Village Game Scouts (VGS) for example; 131 have been trained on anti-poaching techniques and data collection through Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in order to increase their skills and competence to participate effectively in anti-poaching operations and data collection; equip WMA's with communication tools in order to allow quick interventions of SGR rapid response teams in and around the corridor; facilitate joint law enforcement with SGR

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<sup>22</sup> Decisions adopted during the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2017)

and zonal anti-poaching unit within the corridors and conducting sensitization and awareness campaigns in all districts, villages and hamlet around the corridor.

**11. Urges furthermore the State Party to submit as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre the revised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda dam, including a model for the flooding regime, as well the ESIA for the Kito-1 oil and gas prospection project, including a study on the hydrological regime of the Kilombero floodplain and a specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property;**

**Response:**

- i. The revised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda Dam was conducted and the report was submitted to WHC. In addition, a study on the flooding regime was conducted in 2017 and is attached to this report as annex 2 for review by WHC.
- ii. Swala oil and gas (Tanzania) Plc. is the proponent of the Kito -1 oil and gas exploration project. The area to be used for exploration is 2,500m<sup>2</sup> with a buffer of 100m<sup>2</sup>. Proposed oil/gas Exploration Drilling for Kito - 1 is located in Kilosa - Kilombero exploration license block within Kilombero Game Controlled Area (KGCA) at Ipera Asilia Village in Njiwa Ward, Malinyi District in Morogoro Region. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kito - 1 well was conducted in the entire KGCA in May 2016 and gave a green flag to the exploration exercise.
- iii. In ensuring that the ESIA is comprehensive, a Puku (*Kobus vardonii*) – a rare animal species - Conservation Management Plan was developed as an annex to this ESIA. In addition, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Swala oil and gas (Tanzania) Plc. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2018 to ensure adherence of the proponent to Wildlife Conservation (prospecting, exploration of mining and oil production in game reserves) Regulation of 2017, and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the Kito - 1 ESIA. Also, TAWA granted permission to Swala oil and gas (Tanzania) Plc. to enter and conduct exploration in the area in December 2018. In addition, to ensure full control and monitoring of activities in the project TAWA will be responsible in providing security throughout exploration exercise.
- iv. The consultation with Swala oil and gas (Tanzania) Plc. for conducting the studies on hydrological regime and specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property are underway.

**12. Whilst noting the suspension of the Mkuju River Uranium Mining project, also reiterates its request to the State Party to conduct a full new ESIA and submit it to the World Heritage Centre if the design of the project is altered and In Situ Leaching technology (ISL) is applied;**

**Response:**

Currently, the Mkuju Uranium Mining activities have been deferred until further notice. However, the State Party reiterates its commitment to WHC that, if the In-situ leaching (ISL) technology is proved feasible as an alternative to open pit, a full new ESIA will be conducted and submitted to WHC for review.

**13. Requests moreover the State Party to submit the new General Management Plan of the property as soon as it is available, as well as detailed information on the ecological importance of the area in the Mbarika mountains, which is proposed to be included within the property, in accordance with Decision 36 COM 8B.43;**

**Response:**

- i. A five-year strategic plan for Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) has been developed and under implementation since 2018/19 financial year. The Strategic Plan was the key document for guiding the development of General Management Plan (GMP) and ensures that the GMP of the property is aligned with TAWA Strategic Plan. The ToR for the development of the GMP has been prepared and circulated to the interested firms for consultancy. The revised GMP will be shared to WHC as soon as it is available.
- ii. The State Party is fully aware of Decision 36 COM 8B.43 on the area to be added to the property as a result of minor boundary modification in 2012. Previously, the proposed area was Undendeule forest, which is adjacent to Mkuju project area in Namtumbo District. However, due to several challenges the area was changed to be Mbarika Mountains. Currently, consultations to annex this area and later on to conduct the said study are being conducted.

**14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 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 43rd session in 2019;**

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