DRAFT DECISION

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions 31 COM 7B.3, 32 COM 7B.3, 33 COM 7B.8, 34 COM 7B.3, 35 COM 7B.6, 36 COM 8B.43, 37 COM 7B 7, 38 COM 7B.95, 39 COM 7A.14, 40 COM 7A.47, 41 COM 7A.17, 42 COM 7A.56 and 43 COM 7A.16, adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling that States Parties have the obligation under the Convention to protect and conserve the World Cultural and Natural Heritage situated on their territory, notably, to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection and conservation of such heritage,

4. Further recalling the Committee’s clear position, adopted in its Decision 40 COM 7, that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, and urges States Parties, to ensure that the impacts from dams that could affect properties located upstream or downstream within the same river basin are rigorously assessed in order to avoid impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Recalling furthermore that the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to the dramatic decline in elephant population due to poaching, and
site clearance of about 1.8% of the 5.2 million ha-the area of the property for the purpose of constructing the the tendering of large-scale logging rights within the property for the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) (formerly the Rufiji Hydropower Project),

6. Recalling moreover the commitment made by the State Party that led to the adoption of Decision 36 COM 8B.43, to not undertake any development activities in the property without the Committee’s approval, and further recalling moreover the States Party’s declared intention to construct a dam in the property at the time of its inscription on the world heritage list and assessment by IUCN technical review team, that the proposed project would have no adverse impact on the property.

7. Notes the existing Mkuju uranium mine project that was excised from Selous Game Reserve through boundary modification, and the proposed Kidunda Dam, Kito-1 oil and gas exploration projects together with other planned oil explorationing blocks that are planned outside the reserve, and urges the State Party to subject these projects to appropriate and relevant ESIA's and Social safeguards. Additional planned and existing projects such as the Mkuju uranium mine, the Kidunda Dam, the Kito-1 oil and gas exploration project, planned road projects, potential additional uranium and other mining projects for which prospection and mining licenses have been attributed inside the property as well as overlapping oil exploration blocks, which will further affect the ecological integrity of the property and the larger Selous ecosystem;

8. Deeply regrets Notes with concern that the State Party has continued with some of the project activities that may impact the integrity and OUV of the property, and Urges the State Party to put in place strong mitigation measures to manage such activities in accordance with the Operational guidelines, not halted the JNHPP inside the property, for which construction is well underway, resulting in a loss on integrity and irreversible damage to the values which underpin the Outstanding Universal Value as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List

9. Also deeply regrets that the State Party has not fulfilled its obligations defined in the Convention, in particular the obligation to protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value, as inscribed, of the World Heritage property of the Selous Game Reserve;

10. Decides to delete Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) from the World Heritage List. Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the Danger List, on the list of World Heritage in Danger.