

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

**REPORT ON STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SELOUS GAME RESERVE WORLD
HERITAGE PROPERTY (N199)**

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 1st February, 2018

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: 1st February, 2018

Signature on Behalf of State Party:




List of Acronyms

DSOCR	Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GR	Game Reserve
GMP	General Management Plan
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRP	Mkuju River Project
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISL	Insitu Leaching
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
UNESCO	United Nation Education, Science and Children Organization
WHC	World Heritage Centre
WHS	World Heritage Site
TAWA	Tanzania Wildlife Authority
SECAD	Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development
SGR	Selous Game Reserve
SoC	State of Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Selous Game Reserve, the World Heritage property was inscribed in the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2014 due to increased threats to its OUV particularly rampant poaching of elephants. Since then, the State Party in collaboration with conservation partners has taken deliberate efforts to counter poaching in the property. Some of these efforts include; development and implementation of EAP, implementation of SECAD project which focuses on the effective protection and management of SGR and its buffer zone and preparation of DSOCR that identifies indicators for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in danger. Further, the State Party has collaborated with Mozambique and China to develop draft action plan to protect Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor and to curb local and international wildlife crime respectively.

The State Party has recently made a firm decision towards industrial transformation, which has increased energy demand for the country. Given the currently available electric power generation options, it has been imperative to re-consider Stiegler's Gorge as a major power source. As such, the State Party has decided to develop the Stiegler's Gorge power source to its full potential to fill in the widened gap in power supply and demands. On the other hand, the State Party has conducted the special study on flooding regime for Kidunda dam and it will be incorporated in the ESIA as advised by the 2017 Reactive Monitoring Mission and shared to WHC as soon as it is available.

Further, due to low uranium prices in the world market, MANTRA has been granted a permission of two years to suspend the project waiting for the price to rise, thus no activity is taking place in the area. Concerning Kito-1 oil and gas project; the drill testing work has not been able to commence in 2017 as planned because the Environmental Impact Assessment was not been approved. However, once the project is allowed to proceed, a comprehensive EIA study which will include a hydrological regime of the flood plain will be conducted. Finally, the strategic plan to mitigate impact of livestock in and around the property will be included in the GMP of the property, which is under review.

Decision: 41 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party and its international partners for their on-going efforts to address poaching, and requests the State Party to submit the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) project plan to the World Heritage Centre and to report on progress of its implementation;

Response

The State Party acknowledges the appreciation by the WHC on her joint efforts with national and international partners to curb poaching. SECAD project was officially launched on 17th June 2017. The implementation of this program is meant to supplement the efforts of the Tanzanian government to effectively conserve the property and its wider ecosystem and to address threats to its status as a natural World Heritage Site. The project plan is still under development for the coming five years, however, for the first two years the EAP (enclosed) will guide the implementation and the 2017 SECAD implementation progress report is enclosed.

4. Welcoming the development of a draft Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the Emergency Action Plan, also requests the State Party to submit the revised DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it is available, and to ensure adequate resources are available for the implementation of the Action Plan, and to report on progress made;

Response

During the 41st Session of the WHC meeting a consultative meeting between State Party delegates and IUCN agreed on the use of census data as baseline

information for elephant population recovery in the DSOCR and demographic studies will only enrich the census data. Once the baseline information is in place the DSOCR will be reviewed and shared. Funds from SECAD program will be used to implement the EAP.

5. *Notes with appreciation the development of a draft Action Plan by the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to strengthen their collaboration to protect the Selous-Niassa corridor, and further requests the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to submit the Action Plan to the World Heritage Centre and to report on progress of its implementation;*

Response

In May, 2017 law enforcement experts from Tanzania and Mozambique held a trans boarder meeting in Ruvuma in which they discussed the Action Plan for approval, the need to strengthen collaboration in fighting criminals committing offences in one state and take a refuge in another country, protection of the Selous - Niassa corridor and general security issues touching the parties. Once the Plan is approved, it will be shared with important stakeholders including the WHC. Currently WWF, through SECAD funds are working to ensure corridors (Niassa included) in the Selous ecosystem are protected

However, it should be noted that, the extensive catchment area of the corridor means substantial resources are required, and which currently exceeds the immediate capacity of the States Party. In this regard, the State Parties appeals to all interested partners to join hands with parties financially and technically to fully implement the Plan.

6. *Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Tanzania and China to report on the activities carried out in the framework of their agreement to prevent wildlife crime;*

Response

The Government of the Peoples' Republic of China has allocated some US\$ 5,300,000.00 as Technical Assistance to Tanzania under the "Demonstration Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Conservation and Management Project" as part of the implementation of the MoU. The project focuses on enhancement of capacity building for Game Reserves and Anti-poaching Units in the country with emphasis on effective law enforcement by improving infrastructure, use of technology, awareness and training. However, the detailed activities to be implemented by these funds are yet to be completed. The

implementation of this project will complement anti poaching efforts both at local and international levels.

7. *Considering the high likelihood of serious and irreversible damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property resulting from the Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower project, and noting the inclusion of the project in the updated 2016 national Power System Master Plan, strongly urges the State Party to conduct a comprehensive ESIA/HIA for this project before deciding to proceed with the construction of the project and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and requests the State Party to consider alternative options to the Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower project;*

Response

The Stiegler's Gorge dam is among the strategic projects that the government considers that will address the issue of electricity shortage in the country. It is important to take note that Selous Game Reserve was inscribed in the world heritage Sites list in the presence of the Stiegler's Gorge Development project plans.

The State Party is quite aware that the property can only be sustainably managed if it generates national wealth and improves livelihood of her people. It is important to note that the State Party as one among developing countries faces increased demand of power particularly at the moment when the government is seriously undertaking transformation towards industrialization.

To meet the demand, the State Party is striving to deploy cost effective alternative sources of power has determined that Stiegler's gorge dam development project as a reliable source of power will enable her people especially communities residing adjacent to the property to engage in development projects and alleviate poverty.

Further, the State Party would also like to assure the World Heritage Committee that it will be kept abreast of the developments on this project for its necessary intervention so as to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) of the property.

8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to fully implement all of the recommendations of the 2017 mission, in particular:*
 1. *To consider a project design of the Kidunda Dam that will not inundate any part of the property at full supply level, to include a model for the flooding regime in*

the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,

Response

The State Party conducted a special study on the flooding regime of the proposed Kidunda dam of which it will be incorporated in the ESIA. The ESIA will be shared as soon as it is available.

- 2. To develop an ESIA for the In Situ Leaching (ISL) method and any other method selected at the Mkuju River Project (MRP), should the project proceed to this stage,*

Response

MANTRA has been granted a two years suspension of the project on the ground that uranium prices in the world market has dropped significantly that they cannot afford to start the mining.

- 3. To propose an additional valuable wildlife forest area as an extension of the property as requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 8B.43**;*

Response

The State Party made commitment to add a valuable piece of land to the property as originally requested by WHC in Decision **36 COM 8B.43**. As it was reported in previous SoC report a land from Mbarika Mountains in Ulanga District in the western part of the property is in the process of annexation to the property. Currently, TAWA is still consulting and engaging various stakeholders of different levels for proper annexation.

- 9. Notes with concern the Kito-1 oil and gas prospecting concession located in the Kilombero Valley Floodplain Ramsar site, where drilling is expected to start in the third quarter of 2017, which may impact on the OUV of the property, and also urges the State Party to not permit drilling to proceed until a specialist study on the hydrological regime of the floodplain and a comprehensive EIA informed by the specialist study, have been undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

Response

The State Party recognizes the likely threats of Kito 1 oil and gas drilling in Kilombero Valley Floodplain Ramsar site might have on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property.

The drilling test work has not been able to commence in 2017 as planned because the Environmental Impact Assessment has not been approved. The testing results will determine the decision on the way forward of the Kito 1 oil and gas drilling project in the Valley. Therefore, for the project to commence a comprehensive EIA study which will include a hydrological regime of the flood plain and a wider stakeholder consultation will be conducted.

10. *Notes the emerging threat posed by increasing and intensifying livestock grazing inside the property, and requests moreover the State Party to rapidly develop, as part of the overall management framework, a strategic plan and interventions to secure a sustainable solution to mitigate the impacts of livestock grazing on the OUV of the property;*

Response

The State Party acknowledges the request by WHC on the development of strategic plan to mitigate impact of livestock in the property. The plan will be included in the GMP of the property, which is under review.

11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
12. *Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

SECAD PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017

In the period between January to December 2017, some of the activities undertaken are as follows:-

1. Law enforcement;

1.1 Aerial and ground patrols and results

- a. A total of 2,059 ground patrols equals to 92,795 patrol person days were conducted (Long patrols 985, Short patrols 980 and Joint patrols 94).
- b. 216 aerial patrols, 454 hours 5 mins. were conducted covering 24,219.76 kms in the Selous Ecosystem.
- c. 399 poachers and 4,692 cattle were apprehended out of which 28 cattle were confiscated and the remaining returned to owners.
- d. 106 cases were filled in courts, 58 concluded by 12 cases sentenced a total of 544 months in jail, 32 cases fined and 14 cases acquitted.
- e. Poaching significantly reduced compared to the previous years, (in particular 2012/13 with more than 100 carcasses) as only 5 elephant carcasses resulting from poaching were recorded in 2017.

1.2 Patrol gears and other facilities

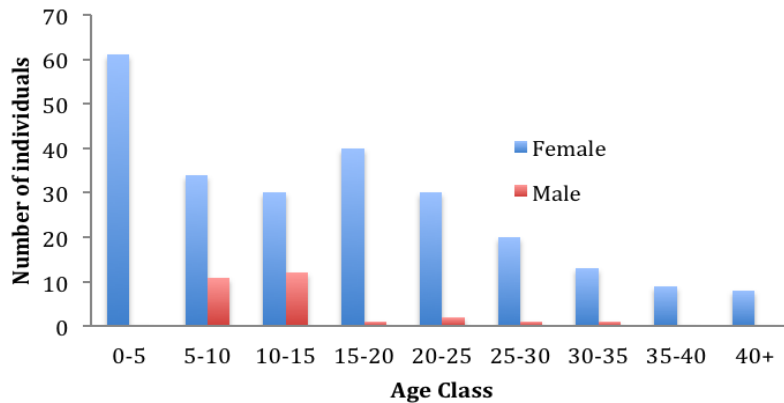
- a. Six (6) Patrol vehicles (Toyota Land Cruisers) were received and deployed in the field (1 to Miguruwe, 2 to Kalulu, 2 to Ilonga and 1 to Seka) enabling increased patrol coverage in these sectors.
- b. Phase one Radio communication systems installation in Selous (2 DVHF communication towers, Operation room) completed pending backpack radios for ground patrol squads. Sectors covered are Matambwe, Kingupira, Msolwa, Ilonga and Miguruwe.
- c. The installation in the remaining sectors (Kalulu, Likuyu Seka and part of Liwale) will be undertaken in the second phase.

2. Ecological monitoring tasks carried out

a. Elephant demographic study

In November 2017 a demographic survey were undertaken in the Selous game reserve, where a total o 37 elephant groups were counted with a total of 273 individuals. Elephant bulls counted were 28 individuals and in the cow-calf groups a total of 245 individuals were identified and counted. The demography survey that covered the Southern Selous, shows that Bulls covered 10% of the population and 90% of the sampled population were in the cow-calf groups. The cow-calf group indicated the highest proportional (25%) of individuals of age 0-5 years.

Selous Elephant demography 2017



b. Rhino monitoring

Rhino monitoring in Selous has been “on and off” for quite sometimes until July 2017 when the monitoring project started again in Matambwe and Liwale. TAWIRI is leading the project with a workforce from TAWA together with WWF. Actual Field tracking of individual rhino started in September 2017 up to date.



The initial survey indicated that rhino are still present in the Selous GR even though we are yet to know the exact number. The tracking teams encountered rhino spoor/track four times during the search and camera traps were installed in all areas where track were seen. None of the camera have captured rhino image to date; but there are several other wildlife animal species images including elephants. Our hypothesis is that the survival of the rhino in Selous has something to do with avoidance of human presence.

As rhino detect the presence of human, change their movement strategies thus why even the camera have not captured a rhino image. Second hypothesis is that the numbers of black rhino are very small that reduces the change of encounter as we consider the size of Selous.

Currently we are reviewing the output versus the best strategy that will increase the chance of encounter including increasing camera traps in thick forest.

c. Elephant collaring

Elephant collaring program has been initiated in Selous Game Reserve to determine elephant seasonal movement (local and regional), determine stress levels following recent heavy poaching and assess availability of corridors in the

Selous ecosystem. Five elephants were collared at Matambwe in December 2017, the target is to collar a total of sixty (60) elephants in the entire Selous ecosystem.

d. Large mammals aerial census

The Large Mammal Aerial census was initiated but had to be postponed due to excessive canopy cover, the activity is rescheduled for 2018.

3. SECAD and EAP Launch

The Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) Program was officially launched in June, 2017. The launching ceremony went together with the inauguration of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Selous and now it is being implemented.

5. SECAD Plans in SGR

The plans include:-

- a. To continue combating poaching pursuant to the National Strategy to combat poaching and illegal Wildlife trade and TAWA Strategic Plan of 2014,
- b. To undertake the SGR 2005 - 2015 General Management Plan review.
- c. To ensure SGR is financially Self Sustained by improving revenue generation activities especially tourism.
- d. To complete the elephant demographic study so as to determine population changes as one of key indicators for removal from the danger list.
- e. To determine the remaining size of rhino population including its vitality,
- f. To determine population size of ungulates identified under criteria x of the statement of OUV.