

## **Annotated History of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor**

Based on personal communications with Rudi Hahn (Feb 10, 2008), comments by Ludwig Siege and Rolf D. Baldus (February 23, 2008) and archival material accessed at the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor office February 2008.

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**1987** Peak poaching period in Tanzania; elephant populations in the Selous Game Reserve are reported to have been reduced from more than 100,000 in the 1970s down to less than approximately 30,000 in the late 1980s.

**1987-1988** At the request of the Tanzanian government (which was experiencing a widespread poaching problem), the Selous Conservation Program (SCP) is initiated as a joint program between the Wildlife Division of the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the German Government. The SCP program pioneered the community based conservation approach within Tanzania. The goals of the SCP are to strengthen and rehabilitate the management of the Selous Game Reserve, secure sustainable funding for the reserve, and to significantly reduce conflicts between SGR and the local population by promoting sustainable wildlife utilization as a vehicle for rural development in local communities. Starting, the SCP work inside and outside (bufferzones) the reserve. Original staff includes Rolf Baldus (Programme Coordinator), Gerald Bigurube (SGR Project Manager), David Kaggi (Rural Development Officer and Hubert Krischke 1989 (Community Advisor).

**1989** Operation Uhai

**1989** The African elephant is placed on CITES Appendix 1.

**1989** Tanzania Wildlife Monitoring Project undertakes an aerial wildlife census in the Selous ecosystem which included southern Tanzania and the Ruvuma river. The flying south of the reserve is done by Ian Douglas-Ham reports only seeing eight elephants on the Mozambican side of the river and 52 carcasses the south the Selous Game Reserve. He also reported flying 163 kilometers along the Ruvuma River and noted numerous fishing camps and snares but no hippos. Tracks of elephant were seen but no live elephants recorded along the river. Hamilton also reported significant cross-border activity by humans including a vibrant trade by local residents on both sides of the Ruvuma river.

**1989-1990** The SCP expands from the Selous Game Reserve to Morogoro Region including those villages which are now part of JUKUMU. Ireneus Ngwatura was at the time serving as the Regional Game Officer Ruvuma region and coordinator for southern bufferzone program of SCP (1990). There were only two other community-based conservation wildlife programs operating at that time in Tanzania: MBOMIPA (financed by DfID), and a pilot project in the Serengeti financed by the NORAD. The SCP model included the following activities: holding sensitization

and awareness raising meetings with villages, the election and training of village natural resource committees and village game scouts, completion of participatory land use plans and maps including the identification of priority conservation areas, and establishment of village wildlife quotas for each village. The proceeds from the sale of the game meat were used for both community development projects (including construction of classrooms, village government offices, purchase of milling machines etc.), as well as support for the village game scouts.

**1990-1991** GTZ expanded the SCP bufferzone program to extend to villages located in Songea District on the southern border of the Selous, and later Tunduru District. Villages were selected based on the geographical proximity of village lands to the Selous Game Reserve border. Led by Regional Game Officer I.F. Ngwatura and David Kaggi from SCP program, the concept of community managed wildlife management areas (WMAs) and the sustainable utilization of wildlife via quotas were explained.

The original focal villages included:

Songea (5): Likuyusekamaganga, Nambecha, Mchomoro, Kilamasera, Kitanda  
Tunduru (6): Rahleo, Mbungulaji, Kajima, Kindamba, Twendembele and Hulia

**1991** Nalimi Madatta hired as the District Game Officer for Songea.

**1991** Village sensitization meetings and participatory land use planning and mapping begins for SCP villages.

**1992** The UNHCR begins returning refugees back to Mozambique from the camp located outside Likuyusekamaganga.

1993 SCP receives applications from villages south of the Songea-Nachingwea main road to join the Programme and develop WMAs but cannot react positively due to financial and capacity constraints; the villages consequently start with activities of their own

**End 1993** Rolf Baldus leaves the SCP program and is replaced by Ludwig Siege.

**1994** Village land use plans and maps are completed and approved by participating villages in Tunduru and Songea Districts (see SCP village visit report Tunduru District 25-30 July 1994)

**1994** Village Land Act.

**1995** A negotiation between UNHCR and the Wildlife Division results in a transfer of the former refugee camp and secondary school to the Wildlife Division in order to establish a Selous Game reserve sector station and a community-based conservation training center (CBCTC).

**1995** *Policy and Management Plan for Tourist Hunting* is signed by the Director of Wildlife (but never subsequently implemented). The Policy was developed based on the work of the Planning and Assessment of Wildlife Management Project (PAWM) funded by USAID from 1990-1995.

**1995** Tanzania Village Land Policy passed.

**1996** Community-Based Conservation Training Center (CBCTC) starts operating and village game scouts and members of village natural resource committees from the SCP villages are sent for training.

**1996** Hubert Krischke leaves the SCP project, and Rudi Hahn arrives as his replacement.

**1996** Rudi Hahn and Ireneus Ngwatura (who had recently been promoted to Assistant Director for Wildlife) discuss what they suspected to be a wildlife corridor between the Selous and Mozambique, but they lack any hard data. “No one at that time had any on-the-ground field reconnaissance south of the Songea-Tunduru road. Much of the area had been off limits due to the war, and then the region was hammered by poachers so very little was known at that time about wildlife populations in the south.” (Hahn, R. Personal Communication 10 Feb 2008).

**1997** Hubert Krischke (who was then based in Dar as a consultant), Rudi Hahn, Ludwig Siege, David Kaggi alongside other expat wildlife experts and officers from the Wildlife Division meet in Dar es Salaam and form a task force to draft the new wildlife policy regulations promulgating community-based conservation. The SCP project is used as a prototype for the design. “What was a simple concept became eventually totally bureaucratized when the final Policy (1998) and Guidelines (2003) were issued. To this day we are still waiting for the legislation (the Act) to officially implement WMAs” (Rudi Hahn 10 February 2008). At that time the Community activities of SCP were still functioning only as a pilot project.

**1997** A taskforce meeting with the Wildlife Division takes place in Bagamoyo. It is recommended by the Wildlife Division that each village should form CBO committees separate from the village natural resource committees because the latter are part of the village government structure and should not be entrusted with the responsibilities of supervising private business operations.

**1997** The first reconnaissance trip is made to by vehicle all the way to the Ruvuma river. SCP and wildlife division staff accompanied by anti-poaching squads visited several villages including Mtelawamwahi and Lusewa are visited. Numerous snares are captured; local residents report abundant amounts of wildlife in the region, although there is evidence of heavy poaching activity. Roads are in poor condition; access is difficult. Distances between villages were noted as there was little information at this time of human settlements in the area.

**February 1998** SCP staff approach UNDP/GEF about possibility of funding for the proposed wildlife corridor.

**1998** *Wildlife Policy of Tanzania* is issued and represents a first step towards devolving the benefits and management of wildlife to local communities, with a specific emphasis on WMAs to enable local communities to benefit and manage their own natural resources. Wildlife conservation is perceived to be one of many strategies to improve local livelihoods and reduce poverty. However implementation of this policy requires that the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 12 of 1974 (WCA) is revised.

**1998** Mtelawamwahi and Msisima villages apply to be a part of the SCP program. Village leaders had heard about the program and wanted to see how they could also be involved. At that time the SCP was only working with villages bordering the Selous and had to turn down the

request. However a brief reconnaissance trip was taken by vehicle in the area later that year to assess the status of wildlife, poaching and human settlements in the area.

**1998** With funding and technical support from Frankfurt Zoological Society, GTZ, MNRT, and TAWIRI an aerial wildlife census for the Selous Game Reserve is undertaken and includes the proposed Corridor area for the first time.

**1998** An agreement is made with the Permanent Secretary MNRT, exploring the possibility of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor.

**August 1998** Rolf Baldus returns to Tanzania as a CBC advisor to the Tanzanian government and to rehabilitate the Saadani Game Reserve.

**October 1998** Niassa Game Reserve conducts an aerial wildlife census

**1998** National Mining Act is passed

**1999** InWent begins assisting in policy development and capacity building aiming at regional partnerships in Southern and Eastern Africa including Tanzania and Mozambique. To facilitate trans-boundary dialogue InWent launched the capacity building program TRANSNET: Trans-boundary and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources for Regional Integration and Rural Development in the SADC and EAC regions.

**13 February 1999** Tanzanian Local Government Law is approved with the intent to improve political, administrative and financial decentralization throughout Tanzania.

**1999** Rolf D. Baldus and Rudi Hahn negotiate with Tropical Ecology Support Programme (TOEB) of GTZ during a seminar in Vilm/Germany to co-finance a research project on elephant migration in the corridor in order to collect scientific data. After a tender in Germany the Berlin based Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research is awarded the contract.

**1999** The Land Act and Village Land Act No 4 of 1999 are passed. All land is classified as either general, village or reserved land. However the Act also legally devolves power to village level organs, particularly the Village Council to decide on land issues. Other changes include the institutionalization of participatory and transparent mechanisms in land allocation, determination of use, appropriation or access mechanisms and resolving conflicts related to land ownership and use. These changes have significant implications for utilization, access and conservation of natural resources

**1999** The SCP program approaches the Director of Wildlife Emmanuel Severre about expanding the SCP model to encompass a wildlife corridor between the Selous and Niassa Game reserves. The Director asked for further evidence of viable wildlife populations and the location of existing human settlements within the proposed Corridor.

**June 1999** An application for \$15,000 PDFFA grant is submitted to the UNDP. Proposed activities include collecting ecological data, surveying human settlements and identifying village

boundaries. The PDFA focuses exclusively on the southern villages of the proposed corridor as it assumed that all the northern villages will be supported through the SCP/GTZ program

**August 1999** A reconnaissance trip was made with Rudi Hahn (SCP), Dr. Drescher from the German Embassy, Selous sector wardens and antipoaching staff and village game scouts as well as local guides. The objective was to collect first hand information about the proposed Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor including verification of wildlife populations, poaching status, information about human activities and settlements, wild fires and infrastructure. The 10 day trip was conducted mostly on foot and covered approx. 150 kilometers from Ligunga southwards past Matapwende, Ligusenguse, past the confluence of the Sasswara and Ruvuma rivers and onwards to Msangesi river. At this time there were very few accurate maps for the region and the team used GIS coordinates to draw basic sketch maps. Based on the results from this reconnaissance trip it was concluded that there was sufficient intact habitat and low densities of human settlement to consider expanding the SCP project model to create a wildlife corridor from the Selous to the Niassa Game Reserve in Mozambique. Efforts also made in 1999 to establish contact with the Mozambican officials and with the Niassa management in order to start building cross border cooperation.

**March 2000** The SCP project initiates discussion with district officials from Tunduru and Songea Districts and the Ruvuma region to explain the WMA concept and the proposed Corridor.

**May 2000** A PDFA grant is awarded by UNDP in support of the proposed Corridor for \$13,500 over two years (the original application was for \$15,000). An expected output of the grant is an application for a medium sized project grant from the UNDP/GEF.

**May and October 2000** Wet and Dry Season Aerial Wildlife censuses conducted

**July 2000** Official research program begins to document the “Distribution and Movements of Elephants and other Wildlife in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor is launched. The team includes Heribert Hofer, Thomas B Hildebrandt, Frank Göritz, Robert hermes, Donald G. Mpanduji, Rudi Hahn, Ludwig Siege, and Rolf D Baldus. Financial assistance is provided by TOEB of GTZ, the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research Berlin, the Messerli Foundation, Switzerland, and SCP. On the ground and personnel support also provided by Songea and Tunduru Districts. The study was conducted between July 2000 and December 2002. Ten elephants were collared and their movements tracked and recorded using GPS, and their health and reproductive status assessed. In October 2002 the radio-collars were removed from the study animals. Additional on the ground fieldwork was conducted with the assistance of local villagers, village game scouts and traditional hunters to gain additional information about wildlife populations, migration patterns, poaching and human-wildlife conflict.

**2000** Mtelawamwahi and Songambe (previously known as Mchomoro 2) are added to the SCP project (Songea District). In addition, Darajambili, Namwinyu, Ndenyende, and Namakungwa are added to the SCP program in Tunduru District. Two teams are established to run the SCP program at the village level. The Tunduru DGO (Koishwa) accompanied by a District

Community Development Officer (Eberhard Halla) is made responsible for the Tunduru villages, while the Songea DGO (Madatta) and Mama Challah has responsibility for Songea. Challah is later replaced by Mr. Biseko.

**April 2001** An expert meeting (required by the PDFFA grant) is convened in Dar es Salaam to discuss the viability and objectives of establishing the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor. Participants include UNDP staff, Wildlife Division Officers, District Game Officers and SCP staff (Baldus, Hahn, Kaggi) as well as UDSM.

**June 2001** A two-day stakeholder workshop is convened in Songea with leaders from each village to explain the results of the research project and the objectives of the Corridor. Additional participants included District Officials from Tunduru and Songea, Selous Sector Warden, Anti Poaching Unit (Southern Zone) as well as a the Chief Game Warden and Officers from Niassa Game Reserve. The meeting results in each of the twelve villages submitting a village profile which included demographic information, village history, a summary of existing infrastructure and farming activities. Finally each village submitted a signed application to be a part of the proposed Corridor. After the meeting sign boards for the proposed Corridor were made and later established on the main Songea-Tunduru road in areas where spatial bottlenecks were identified to demarcate the proposed Corridor and wildlife management area boundaries. The intent of the sign is to make the WMA boundary visible, and to prevent further agricultural development in the area. The posting of the sign boards was part of the WMA land use plans for the northern villages.

**November 2001** Draft Medium Sized Brief Grant application submitted to UNDP

**2002** First official visit made by Rolf Baldus, Rudolf Hahn, David Kaggi and the two DGOs (Koishwa and Madatta) to the Niassa Game Reserve, Mozambique. They visit Mecula District headquarters and meet with Annabella Rodriguez CEO of SRDN and Chief Game Warden of Niassa Reserve at their Mbatamira headquarters.

**2002** Songea District is administratively split into two districts, creating Namtumbo District.

**July 2002** Rudi Hahn leaves Tanzania and returns to Germany

**December 2002** The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism releases official Regulations to guide the formation and establishment of WMAs. GTZ projects have collaborated with Wildlife Division and other donors for years to produce these regulations.

**2003** The Selous Conservation Program officially closes. Funds from the Community Wildlife Management (CWM program) are expected to continue supporting the northern Corridor villages until 2007. Ludwig Siege leaves Tanzania the end of 2003.

**2003** Revised land use plans and maps are developed for the villages in Tunduru and Songea Districts participating in the SCP program. LUPs are submitted to the Ministry of Land and Human Settlement in June 2003; additional clarifications (including evidence of approval by villagers in the village meeting minutes) were requested by the Ministry on December 2003.

**2003** A draft of the new Wildlife Act is produced by donors and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism The draft is re-drafted by the Wildlife Division without the participation of stakeholders and is never presented to Parliament.

**March 2003** *Reference Manual and Guidelines for the Designation and Management of Wildlife Management Areas* is published in English and Kiswahili for the 16 pilot WMAs in Tanzania. Funded by GTZ and USAID through WWF.

**2004** A study tour is arranged for the northern villages to travel to other pilot WMA sites in Tanzania.

**18 February 2004** Mbarang'andu Community Based Organization (CBO) is officially registered under the Societies Ordinance Act, 1954. The seven participating villages include: Kitanda, Nambecha, Likuyusekamaganga, Mchomoro, Kilamasera, Songambebe and Mtelawamwahi. The total area of WMAs within Mbaranag'andu is 3,052 square kilometers. David Mgala is elected as Chairman.

**6 September 2004** Nalika Community Based Organization (CBO) is officially registered under the Societies Ordinance Act, 1954. The ten participating villages include: the original six villages of Rahleo, Mbungulaji, Kajima, Kindamba, Twendembele and Hulia *plus* Darajambili, Namwinyu, Namakungwa and Ndenyende. Ally Gafi is elected as the Chairman. The total area of WMAs within Nalika is 1600 square kilometers.

**24 September 2004** MoU signed as part of the Mtwara Development Corridor between the regional government of Mtwara and the regional government of Cabo Delgado (Mozambique). The parties agree to establish working groups to oversee issues related to economics, security, trade, conservation and good governance.

**15 December 2004** Summit meeting launching the Mtwara Development Corridor signed by Presidents of Malawi, Tanzania Mozambique and Zambia

**December 2004** A pre-feasibility study is conducted with District Authorities, GTZ and the Mtwara Development Corridor in support of a joint planning for tourism development, wildlife based industries and participatory forest management along the Ruvuma river interface. This study was intended to “contribute to the understanding of the legal and institutional environment for sustainable natural resource management in Tanzania and to serves as a pre-feasibility study for the sustainable development of a trans-frontier conservation area.” Also explored was a concept for the “Eastern Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor” which was identified as a critical area along the main road from Tunduru to Masasi town.

**2005** First discussion begin with the Association for Development of Protected Areas (ADAP), a Swiss based NGO regarding the promotion of modern beekeeping in the Corridor.

**2005** Civil servants transfer from Songea to Namtumbo District

**January 2005** Official approval of UNDP/GEF support for the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor with a budget of \$1 million over four years. The project "Development and Management of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor" will extend community based natural resources management to

the southern half of the proposed Corridor. The twelve selected villages in Namtumbo and Tunduru Districts will establish Natural Resource Committees in order to establish a network of WMAs linking the Selous and Niassa Game Reserves.

The twelve focal villages of the southern Corridor include: Magazini, Amani, Likusanguse, Lusewa, Matapwede, Msisima, Ligunga, Milonji (Namtumbo) and Misyaje, Marumba, Molandi, Mbatamila (Tunduru).

**10 April-20 May 2005** German Development Bank (KfW) commissions a pre-feasibility study for the Selous Niassa Ecological Corridor conducted by Dr. Goetz Schuerholz and Ms. Brigit Bossen. The study consisted of a general assessment of the framework conditions for the planned project, the identification and definition of the target area, a general problem analysis related to the target area and the specification of the project objectives, the design and definition of proposed project interventions and project implementation, an assessment of the overall expected project impacts including macro- and micro-economic-, ecological- and socio-cultural impacts, as well as a risk analysis.

**May 2005** Official start of the UNDP/GEF project. Rudi Hahn returns from Germany and is appointed as the Technical Advisor and employee of the Namtumbo District Council (with sponsorship from Center for International Migration/CIM) and Acting Project Manager.

**July 2005** Rolf Baldus leaves Tanzania and the CWM project comes to an end.

**October 2005** The Presidents of Mozambique and Tanzania inaugurate the construction of the Unity 1 bridge over the Ruvuma River

**November 2005** Inception workshop for the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor is organized in Songea. Participants include village chairpersons and members of natural resource committees from all twenty-nine participating villages in the project as well as regional and district officials. The goals and objectives of the UNDP/GEF grant are explained. The northern villages (previously supported by SCP) were made aware of the fact that the UNDP funds would be focusing on the new villages in the south, and that the northern villages should continue to use their village wildlife quota to support conservation activities.

**17-18 November 2005** InWent sponsors a transboundary/multi stakeholder workshop for the Environment and Conservation Working Group in Mtwara. The purpose of the meeting is to further cross broder dialogue, information sharing and agree on next steps for research and activities within the Mtwara Development Corridor.

**January – February 2006** Sensitization campaign launched in the southern Corridor including a mobile film unit. The Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division (Charles Mdoe) and officers from Community Based Conservation section conducted awareness-raising about WMA establishment in the southern Corridor.

**10 February 2006** InWent organizes the First Informal Workshop of Mtwara Development Corridor in Maputo . The primary goal of the workshop was to establish a joint Working Group to mainstream conservation and development activities within the Mtwara Development Corridor

**March 2006** Socio-economic baseline study completed for the southern half of the Corridor by consultant David Th. Kaggi.

**April 2006** Environmental education programs launched in local primary and secondary schools throughout the Corridor.

**July 2006** Namtumbo District Council is officially established with a separate operating budget

**July 2006** First transboundary meeting held on the Ruvuma River. Participants include representatives from the Tanzanian and Mozambican police, Niassa and Selous Game Reserves, as well as Tanzanian and Mozambican Anti Poaching Units. The primary objectives of the meeting include exchange of information, discussing strategies to collaboratively reduce transboundary poaching and discuss future plans for increased collaboration around conservation issues (including research) between Tanzania and Mozambique.

**April-May 2006** Training sponsored by UNDP/GEF for Village Executive Officers, Village Game Scouts, Village Chairpersons and Natural Resource Committee members on Natural resource Management, Budgeting and Wildlife Legislation at CBCTC.

**July-October 2006** Training and basic equipment provided to village game scouts from all twelve villages in southern Corridor (funded by UNDP/GEF). Each village has 12 trained village game scouts.

**10 October 2006** Inauguration of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor during the Uhuru Freedom Torch Relay. Monument established between Kilamasera and Tunduru District border.

**October 2006** Decision made to introduce a reward scheme for snares, muzzle loaders and location of illegal logging camps introduced throughout the entire Corridor. The proposition was then sent to each village for endorsement. A standardized reporting format was also introduced for all village game scout patrols.

**October –March 2006** Four large operations conducted in the southern Corridor in cooperation with rangers from the SGR, Namtumbo and Tunduru districts and villages and the Anti Poaching Unit (Southern Zone) resulting in confiscation of 5000 snares and 220 muzzle loaders.

**August 2006** Aerial Wildlife Census of the Corridor completed. Results indicate a decline in the sable population, but an increase in buffalo, elephant and other wildlife in the northern half of the Corridor.

**September 2006** Ngwatura is hired as the Project Manager for the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor.

**October 2006** Association for Development of Protected Areas (ADAP) officially begins the Selous Niassa Beekeeping Support Program with \$250,000 of financial assistance from the Geneva Federation for Co-operation. The first phase concentrates exclusively on the northern half of the Corridor and specifically the seventeen villages within Nalika and Mbarang'andu CBOs. ADAP promotes alternative income generation activities through development of modern beekeeping practices in order to reduce the illegal use of natural resources and destructive forest fires. The project directly supports village beekeepers' groups, the two district councils, and the

construction of the Nalika and Mbarang'andu CBO office buildings. Dr. John Stephen is hired as the Project Manager

**19 October 2006** The first Selous Niassa Steering Committee Meeting is convened in Namtumbo. Permanent committee members include a representative from the Office of the Permanent Secretary-MNRT (Chair), the Director of Wildlife, District Commissioners and DEDs from Tunduru and Namtumbo, representatives from UNDP, Vice President's Office of Tanzania, Ministry of Finance, as well as well the chairmen from Nalika and Mbarang'andu CBOs. Motion passed to form a technical steering committee to advise the permanent committee and to invite a Member of Parliament and District Council Chairpersons as permanent members.

**November 2006** Final Vegetation Study published for the SNWC published by Drs. Urs Bloesch and Frank Mbago.

**November 2006** Fieldwork conducted for the Ecological and Socio-Ecological Survey of the Ruvuma River (176 km) for the SNWC and Niassa Reserve. The study was a partnership between Sociedade para e Gestao e Desenvolvimento da reserve do Niassa (SRN), Mocambique and the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC), Tanzania.

**December 2006** Uranium prospecting begins in the southern Selous Game Reserve and near the boundaries of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor.

**20 January 2007** InWEnt organizes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Multi-stakeholder workshop of the Environment and Conservation Working Group in Mtwara. The goal of the workshop was to "(1) enrich baseline information (2) devise processes to jointly address cross-border issues, and (3) to review the progress on the Tanzanian-Mozambican Dialogue with particular attention to the Ruvuma River.

**October 2007** JV Gauff and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania are awarded a contract to implement the Selous Niassa Wildlife Protection Corridor funded through KfW.

**22 January 2007** Official signing of KfW financial agreement with Government of Tanzania in support of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Protection Corridor.

**March 2007** Final cross-border commuter and trade route report completed. Fieldwork conducted August 2006 including an ad hoc meeting with Milepa village government on the Mozambique side.

**April 2007** Training conducted to familiarize all 12 villages in the southern Corridor with the Village Land Act No. 4 of 1999 and the implications for land, water and conservation efforts in the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor. The training was aimed at imparting knowledge and capacity building on aspects of village land administration and land use planning laws *vis a vis* conservation needs in areas bordering the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor. The training manual and three primary pieces of legislation were translated into Kiswahili and distributed to all participants. The training was conducted by Urban and Regional Planning Department, University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS). Funding provided by the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor under GTZ-IS.

**19 April 2007** The 2<sup>nd</sup> SNWC Steering committee is held in Songea.

**30 April 2007** Project Manager Ireaneus Ngwatura retires.

**June 2007** Project Manager K.A.S. Ngomello is assigned by the Wildlife Division to the SNWC

**July- October 2007** Training and basic equipment provided to village game scouts from all twelve villages in southern Corridor (funded by UNDP/GEF). Each village has 12 trained village game scouts.

**22 August 2007** 2<sup>nd</sup> transboundary meeting held between Tanzania and Mozambique at the Ruvuma River. Participants include representatives from the Tanzanian and Mozambican police, Director of the Niassa Game Reserve (Mr. Gilberto Vicente) and Selous Game Reserve Sector Warden as well as Tanzanian and Mozambican Anti Poaching Units. The primary objectives of the meeting include exchange of information, discussing strategies to collaboratively reduce transboundary poaching and discuss future plans for increased collaboration around conservation issues (including research) between Tanzania and Mozambique.

**12-14 September 2007** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Peace Parks Conference held at Glacier Waterton National Park. Two presentations made about the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor. The first by Dr. Goetz Schuerholz and the second by Catherine Picard. At the conference the book *Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution* (2007) edited by Saleem H. Ali is launched and includes a chapter on the SNWC authored by Rolf Baldus, Rudi Hahn, Christina Ellis and Sarah Dickenson DeLeon.

**14-24 October 2007** A ten-day study tour is organized for the villages in the southern half of the Corridor (Lusewa, Matapwende, Msisima, Lilonji, Linginga, Amani, Likusanguse, Magazini, Molandi, Marumba, Misyaje, Mbatamira). A total of 46 people including members of natural resource committees, village game scouts, village chairpersons, ward executive officers and councilors along with select district wildlife and natural resource staff participated in the study tour. Participants visited the following authorized associations and community based organizations: MBOMIPA, WAMI-MBIKI, Ngarambe-Tapika -now referred to as MUNGATA - and JUKUMU. Additional site visits were also made to the Selous Game Reserve (Matembwe Gate), Rufiji River Camp and the historic island of Kilwa.

**5-10 November 2007.** A six-day land use planning training was jointly facilitated by SNWC and InWent Capacity Building International Germany, and implemented by lecturers from the University of Lands, Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro. The training was attended by 81 participants, including district officials, local government leaders and natural resource committee members from 12 villages in Namtumbo and Tunduru Districts. Using a combination of lectures, focus groups and practical fieldwork, participants prepared participatory land use plans and maps, studied relevant land use laws, and discussed strategies to integrate the management of natural resources with human needs.

**12-18 November 2007** Three new CBO members are elected for the 12 villages in the southern half of the Corridor.

*Chingoli* represents the villages of Misyaje, Mbatamira, Marumba and Molandi (Tunduru) *Kisungule* includes Magazini, Amani, Likusanguse (Namtumbo) *Kimbanda* will represent the villages of Lusewa, Matepwende, Msisima, Ligunga and Milonji (Namtumbo)

**November 2007** KfW project officially starts with funding from the Federal Republic of Germany in the amount of EUR 5 million to further support the development of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Protection Corridor. The project, implemented by JV Gauff Consulting and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST), aims to initiate the economically sustainable development and conservation management of one of the most significant and widely recognized wildlife corridors in the SADC Region. Mr. Louis Nzalli is appointed as the Project Director, Mr. Wayne Lotter as the International Team Leader and Shakim Mhagama as the National Team Leader

The goals of the KfW funded project are “the conservation of biodiversity in the miombo-woodland ecosystem and the overall improvement of the livelihoods of local communities by sustainable use of natural resources to combat poverty”. The project will be based on previous experiences of GTZ, and will be designed and implemented in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility/UNDP project. Both projects will be complementary to each other. Specific activities include: (1) assisting in the establishing of additional village Wildlife Management Areas through the development of land use and management plans, (2) communication facilities and equipment of scout units, (3) support to relevant district game and land offices and (4) support to the CBCTC Likuyu Training Centre.

**December 2007** Dr. John Stephen ADAP Project Manager leaves the project.

**18-19 December 2007** KfW holds their first technical committee meeting in Songea at the RAS office

**December 2007** Two scientific papers presented at TAWIRI Conference in Arusha. *Elephant Movements and home range determinations using GPS/ARGOS and GIS* by Dr. Mpanduji and Ngomello and *Biodiversity Threats and Conservation Strategies of the SNWC* by Dr. Bloesch and R. Hahn.

**January 2008** Preliminary study of endemic mushroom species and their market potential is completed by Drs. Urs Bloesch and Frank Mbago.

**February 2008** Nalimi Madatta (Namtumbo DGO) is seconded to the WWF-Eastern Wildlife Corridor project based in Masasi for two years.

**February 2008** Eight members of the Chingoli CBO from Tunduru District attend a two-week leadership course at the Community Based Conservation Training Center (CBCTC).