

World Heritage 35 COM
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Paris, 7 July 2011

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 35th SESSION (UNESCO, 2011)

1. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199)

Decision : 35 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),

3. Reiterates its utmost concern about the weakening of the legal protection status of the property, the different development projects (Stiegler's Gorge dam, Kidunda dam and Mukuju River uranium mine and oil exploration) which are being considered, ongoing wildlife poaching and the evident deterioration in the management of the property;

4. Urges the State Party to implement the following actions in order to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value:

- a) Finalize the creation of the autonomous Wildlife Authority and reinstate the Revenue Retention Scheme,
- b) Abandon plans for the different development projects which are incompatible with the World Heritage Status of the property, in particular the Stiegler's Gorge dam, uranium mining and oil exploration inside the property, in line with its commitments under the *Convention*,
- c) Ensure that the design of the Kidunda dam will not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and avoid flooding part of the property or key wildlife areas on its boundaries,
- d) Enact specific legislation to prohibit prospecting and mining within Selous Game Reserve on the basis of its World Heritage status,
- e) Develop and implement an emergency plan to strengthen anti-poaching activities in the property in order to cope with the alarming increase in poaching,
- f) Revise and resubmit the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Mukuju River uranium mine in line with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommendations prior to granting exploitation permits;

5. Reiterates that any decision to go forward with oil exploration, mining or dam construction inside the property would constitute a clear case for inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

6. Strongly encourages the State Party to provide an appropriate protection status to the Selous-Niassa corridor as its inclusion within the property is vital to the long-term integrity of the property and the corridor is progressively fragmented;

7. Recommends that the State Party undertakes a Management Effectiveness Evaluation for Selous Game Reserve, with the assistance of IUCN, and to convene a workshop to address the implementation of the 2007/2008 mission recommendations to develop a plan to implement a full and effective set of conservation actions, and also encourages the State Party to request International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for these activities;

8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the requests set out in Paragraph 4 above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

Draft Decision: 35 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B.Add and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Acknowledges the State Party's legitimate need to ensure the well-being of its population, fight against poverty and diversify its economy while continuing to protect its natural environment under the framework of and in compliance with domestic provisions in this regard;

3. Refers the minor modification to the boundaries of the **Selous Game Reserve, United Republic of Tanzania**, to allow the State Party to complete the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and to also allow for adequate time for IUCN to complete its evaluation of the proposed boundary modification, including a mission to the property;

4. Requests IUCN to urgently undertake an advisory mission to ensure that the EIA process can be completed expeditiously and in accordance with the standards of the *World Heritage Convention*;

5. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to secure and enhance the continued effectiveness of the Selous-Niassa corridor as a key feature to maintaining the long-term integrity of the property;

6. Also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to make proposals for the inclusion into the property of additional land to the effect of further maintaining and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

7. Considers that modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties that are related to mining activities should be considered through the procedure for significant modifications of boundaries, in accordance with paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, given the potential impact of such projects on Outstanding Universal Value.