

STATE PARTY: UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

WORLD HERITAGE SITE: SELOUS GAME RESERVE

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY: MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND TOURISM

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT: TANZANIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



**A REPORT ON STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SELOUS GAME RESERVE
WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY (N 199)**

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 1st December 2022

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 December, 2020

Signature on Behalf of State Party:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Selous Game Reserve (SGR) was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1982 under criteria (ix) and (x). In 2014, it was put on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to a drastic decline in elephant population. In 2016, the State party embarked on the construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (JNHPP) within the property. Such a decision was considered by the World Heritage Committee through its Decision **42 COM 7A.56** as an added justification for its danger listing.

The State Party has since embarked on implementing a range of corrective interventions against the twin circumstances that justified SGR danger listing. Strong anti-poaching measures have been undertaken, which have seen no single poaching-related elephant carcass encountered within the property since 2018. Elephant population has also grown up at an impressive 15.4% overall or 3.1% annual rate, respectively, over a span of five consecutive years since 2014. The most recent elephant census concluded in October 2022 and is expected to furnish updates on elephant population dynamics.

The implementation of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) is ongoing. The State party submits to continue to undertake, in its best intentions and capacity, all the environmental safeguards against any immediate or potential impacts as identified in the ESIA for this project. Ten (10) separate scientific studies have also been commissioned to address information gaps hence complement to any impact management. The State party considers that this project will ultimately sustainably address the twin and urgent conservation and developmental needs of her especially the most underprivileged rural populace. Preservation of the OUV for the property, therefore, remains a topmost priority. In this regard, therefore, the State party seeks to acknowledge the support of, and continue collaborating with the World Heritage Centre and the other supporting partners.

All the other major development projects (Mkuju uranium mine, Kito-1 oil and gas exploration and oil exploration blocks outside the reserve) previously planned remain dormant as there is no immediate intentions for their implementation. There is renewed interest, however, for the construction of Kidunda dam outside the boundary of the property. An updated ESIA for this planned project has just been completed and is thus submitted together with this report for review.

Finally, there has been some adjustments related to the administration and management of the property. Sixty two percent (62%) of the property is now upgraded to a 'National Park' status while the rest (38%) remains a 'Game Reserve' as before. This is a step in the right direction as it apparently strengthens the protection and management of the property. However, on the ground, the daily administration of the property is now under two management regimes. Nevertheless, this has neither altered the boundary configuration of the property nor its total area. The state party, intends to submit a new name for the property so as to reflect on these changes.