



Rolf D. Baldus and Mzee Saidi Toboke

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, an economist, born in 1949, was a university staff member, a family company manager and an international consultant before he became a ministerial ghost writer and later personal assistant to the Minister for Development Cooperation in Bonn. After working at the wildlife desk of the European Union in Brussels, he was German manager of the Selous Conservation Programme in Tanzania from 1987 to the end of 1993. Back in Germany he was put in charge of the Development Policy Section in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office until returning to Tanzania in 1998 at the invitation of the Wildlife Division. As Government Advisor for Community Based Natural Resources Management, Rolf was involved in developing the new Wildlife Policy and in revising the Wildlife Act. He also assisted in creating the new Saadani National Park and the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in southern Tanzania. Since October 2005 he has once again been attached to the Ministry in Bonn. He is the author of many publications and books on development policy and conservation and also serves as President of the Tropical Game Commission of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).

The authors include: Atanas G., Baldus R.D., Bigurube G., Bonham R., Hahn R., Kibonde, B., Kuhnert, W., McCarthy J., Meier B., Ngwatura I.N., Nicholson B., Pitra C., Rodgers W.A., Rohwer R., Schramm D., Selous G.M.B., Shand M., Siege L., Stronach N., Tarimo E.



"It is fitting that F.C. Selous is buried at Beho Beho where he fell. I am sure he would greatly approve the work of the authors of this book ..."

Commander G.M.B. Selous OBE, VRD, JP Royal Naval Reserve

Rolf Baldus and his co-authors, as prime and committed witnesses, have presented us with a fascinating story of the history, ecology and circumstances of the world's biggest game reserve, the Selous. I extend my respect to the people of Tanzania and to the many wardens, game rangers and villagers who devoted their energy and passion towards making the Selous' success possible. And a compliment to Rolf Baldus and his 'crew' not only for their own conservation work in the Selous, but also for this book."

Dieter Schramm
President of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

"The unique teamwork of 20 authors shows the Selous from inside. This is the definitive book on the Reserve."

African Indaba, South Africa

"An outstanding anthology – comprehensive and truly enjoyable."

Jagen Weltweit (Worldwide Hunting), Germany



ROWLAND WARD



ROWLAND WARD

Wild Heart of Africa

Rolf D. Baldus

Wild Heart of Africa

THE SELOUS GAME RESERVE IN TANZANIA

Rolf D. Baldus

EDITOR



The original Selous Game Reserve was established in 1896, named after the world famous hunter Frederick Courtney Selous in the 1920s, subsequently expanded and today measures some 50,000 km². It is both the oldest and largest reserve in Africa and, at last, someone has written a comprehensive book about this fabulous place. And not just anyone but a group of 20 passionate people who together served the Selous in different capacities for a combined total of over 100 years.

For anyone who has been to the Selous, who wants to go there or is simply interested in Africa, its wild, untamed areas and game, this is an important book. It is scientifically based and caters for the serious student of the Selous and of conservation and at the same time offers entertaining reading. Rolf D. Baldus, the editor, was the German manager of the Selous Conservation Programme from 1987 to 1993 and served the Selous again from 1998 to 2005. He has assembled a team of expert contributors who not only know the Selous intimately but also have a good idea of what the future holds for this iconic Reserve at a time when, unfortunately, in Africa today, many similar such protected areas are in stormy waters. The Selous too has gone through periods of deep crisis when its existence was at stake and the book describes in open words these years, the causes, remedies taken and the necessary conservation policies of the future. Possible future scenarios are spelt out in a thought provoking way.

This is the first complete book that has ever been written on the Selous Game Reserve and has set a standard by which any book on a protected area in Africa will be measured in the future.

It is complemented by 450 excellent colour photographs and superb paintings by Bodo Meier and Wilhelm Kuhnert. This is a complete account of the Selous, its past, present and future and the people and wildlife that have made it what it is today.

Cover painting by Bodo Meier