

**DECISIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
AT ITS 36TH SESSION  
(SAINT-PETERSBURG, 2012)**

**World Heritage 36 COM**

**WHC-12/36.COM/19**

Original: English / French

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE  
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

Thirty-sixth session

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

24 June – 6 July 2012

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

**Decision : 36 COM 7B.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add,
  2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
  3. Reiterates its utmost concern about the multiple threats affecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including high levels of wildlife poaching (particularly of elephants), the evident deterioration in management, and the proposed Stiegler's Gorge and Kidunda dams which, if approved, are likely to cause serious and irreversible damage to the property's OUV;
  4. Takes note of the statement by the State Party on the protection and the conservation of the Selous Game Reserve;
  5. Considers that the approval of any dam, mining or oil exploration within the property would constitute a clear basis for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and urges the State Party to abandon plans for the different development projects which are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
  6. Notes with satisfaction that Dominion Petroleum has relinquished its oil production sharing agreement for Selous, but deems that oil exploration and exploitation remain a threat to the property and also urges the State Party to make a clear commitment to not explore for or exploit oil within the property, in line with the Committee's established position that such developments are incompatible with World Heritage status, and to enact specific legislation to prohibit prospecting, oil developments and mining within the property on the basis of its World Heritage status;
  7. Further urges the State Party to implement the remaining actions requested by the Committee in Decision **35 COM 7B.6**, in order to ensure the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, in particular:
    - a) Finalize the creation of the autonomous Wildlife Authority and reinstate the Revenue Retention Scheme,
- Decisions report – 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) page 55
- b) 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,

c) Develop and implement an emergency plan to strengthen anti-poaching activities in the property in order to cope with the alarming increase in poaching,

8. Also reiterates its encouragement that the State Party provide appropriate protection to the Selous-Niassa Corridor which is becoming progressively fragmented, and considers that its permanent protection as a buffer zone or its inclusion within the property is vital to the long-term integrity of the latter;

9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of anti-poaching measures, the reinstatement of the Revenue Retention Scheme and the creation of an autonomous Wildlife Authority, including confirmation that no permits have been issued for the various development projects within the property under consideration, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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## **EXAMINATION OF MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST NATURAL PROPERTIES**

### **Decision: 36 COM 8B.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/8B.Add and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Recalling Decisions 33 COM 7B.8, 34 COM 7B.3, 35 COM 7B.6 and 35 COM 8B.46;

3. Reiterates that the modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties that are related to mining activities have to be dealt with through the procedure for significant modifications of boundaries, in accordance with para. 165 of the *Operational Guidelines* given the potential impact of such projects on the Outstanding Universal Value;

4. Takes note and regrets that the State Party did not submit the application as a significant but as a minor boundary modification on 1 February 2011 as stated in Decision **35 COM 8B.46**;

5. Considers that through the referral process a completed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted which demonstrates that the impact of the mining project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is limited and can be mitigated;

6. Recalls in particular the commitments made by the State Party at the 35th session of the Committee 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, as well as 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. Considering the reiteration of the commitments of the State Party to the protection and conservation of the property, as stated in the letter of the State Party received on 1 July 2012, requests it to:

a) Provide additional valuable wildlife forest area to compensate for the excised area of Selous Game Reserve for inclusion into the property to the effect of further maintaining and enhancing the OUV of the property,

b) Ensure enhanced and effective protection of the Selous-Niassa corridor,

- c) Not to engage in any mining activity within the Selous Game Reserve World Heritage property after exclusion of the Mkuju River Mining site as per the decision of the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee,
  - d) Ensure that the investors contribute to the Protection Fund (provided for in the Wildlife Conservation Act N°5 of 2009),  
Decisions report – 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) page 215
  - e) Complete the process of establishing a Tanzanian Wildlife Authority by November 2013 which will ensure 100% retention scheme for the management of the Selous Game Reserve,
  - f) Not to undertake any development activities within Selous Game Reserve, and its buffer zone without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines* for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*;
8. Decides in an exceptional and unique manner to approve the proposed boundary modification of the **Selous Game Reserve, United Republic of Tanzania**;
9. Urges the State Party to ensure:
- a) That the environmental management and monitoring plan is implemented,
  - b) that economic and social needs of the local population and workers are respected and that social conditions in and around the Selous Game Reserve, in particular linked to the Mkuju River Mining site, are subject to monitoring, and
  - c) that the mining activity and processing of the uranium is carried out corresponding to state of the art international standards in adherence to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) rules governing the processing of uranium materials,
10. Further urges the State Party to submit before **1 February 2013** a proposal for the extension of the property to strengthen the integrity in the context of the greater Selous ecosystem;
11. Further reminds the State Party of its obligations to ensure that all measures to address the impact of the approved boundary modification to the property identified in the environmental impact assessment are timely and properly implemented to assure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained and effectively protected;
12. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report by **1 February 2013** on the implementation of this decision for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.