

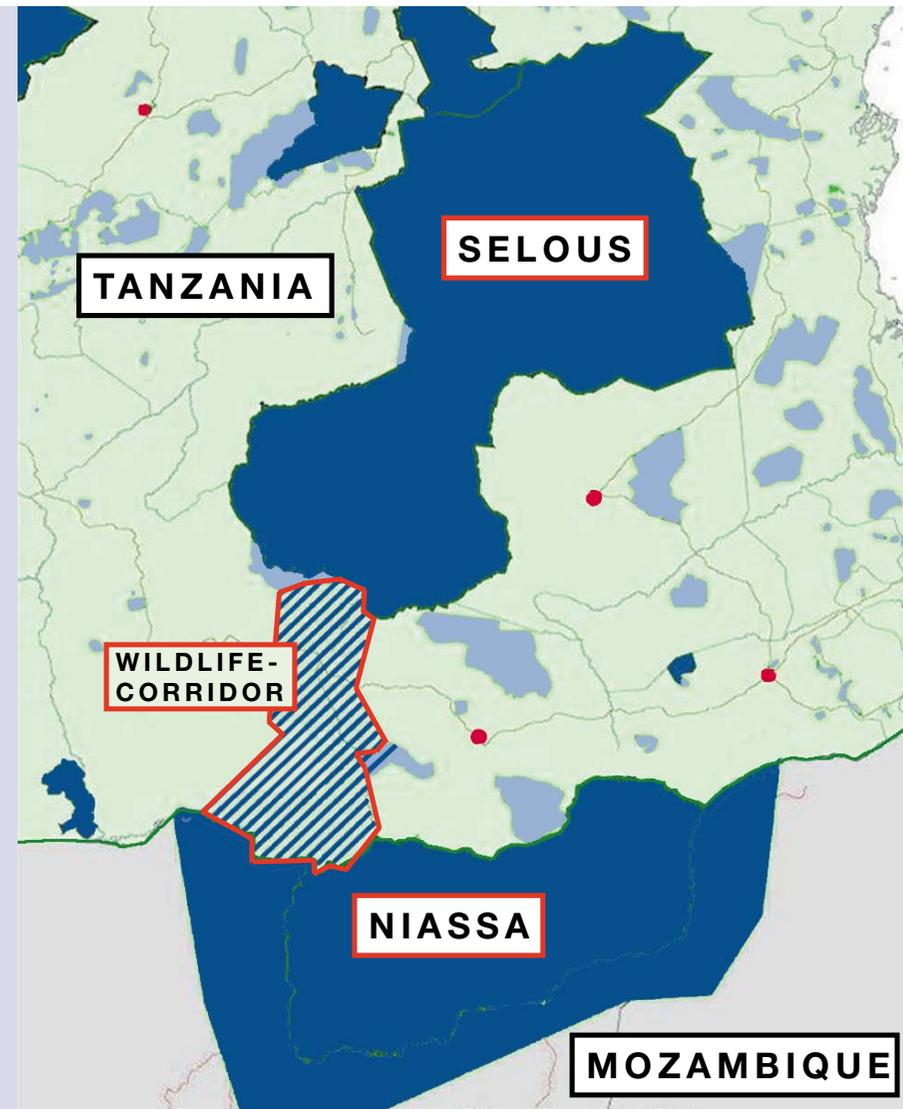


Since 1987 the Federal Republic of Germany has supported the United Republic of Tanzania in the protection and sustainable use of wildlife. Natural resources conservation is one of three focal areas of development cooperation.

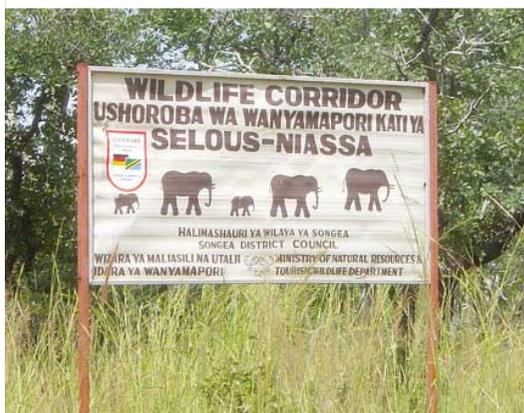
Main joint projects: Community Based Natural Resources Management; Wildlife Policy Advisory Services; Selous Conservation Programme; Saadani National Park; Katavi-Rukwa Conservation and Development Programme; Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor

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*Towards Transboundary Conservation  
The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in  
Southern Tanzania*



## ***Strengthening the Selous Game Reserve***

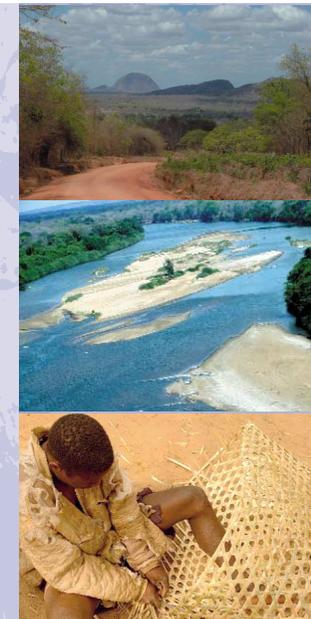
With an area of around 48,000 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 6% of Tanzania's land surface, the World Heritage Site Selous Game Reserve is the largest single protected area in Africa. It is also the oldest, dating back to 1896. Its major value lies in the fact that it is a huge wilderness area - the size of Switzerland - with no human encroachment and little interference. The reserve contains populations of elephants, buffaloes, antelopes, wild dogs and lions of continental significance. Through decades of protection, natural processes have been allowed to continue unhindered and indeed many parts of the reserve nowadays contain more wildlife than a century ago.

However, during the 1980s the rapid increase in poaching for ivory and rhino horn led to a serious decline of elephants and rhinos and threatened the reserve's survival. In partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany, the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania, rehabilitated the reserve through the joint Selous Conservation Programme, which ran from 1987 until 2003, and turned it into a self-financing conservation area.

## ***Creating Wildlife Management Areas***

Conservation efforts did not end at the reserve's boundaries. For the integration of local communities and the establishment of support-zones outside the reserve a specific Tanzanian concept was developed and applied. Community-based natural resources management and in particular village Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are the major components. In a participative process of land-use planning, local communities designate areas in which they conserve and manage wildlife and other natural resources. Revenues accrue to them. Thus WMA contribute not only to conservation but equally importantly to development and poverty alleviation in the rural areas. WMA are a core element of the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (1998).

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) supports the Wildlife Division in the establishment of WMA south of the Selous Game Reserve. There, in cooperation with local and district authorities, villages are registering two WMA with a total area of approximately 4,500 km<sup>2</sup>.





## *A Good Neighbour - Niassa Game Reserve*

The Niassa Game Reserve in neighbouring Mozambique is the largest conservation area in the country, covering 42,000 km<sup>2</sup>. It contains the greatest concentration of wildlife in Mozambique. The Ruvuma river forms the northern boundary of the Niassa Reserve and the border with Tanzania. The reserve consists of a core area of 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a support zone comprising an additional 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

In contrast to the Selous there are a number of villages inside the protected area. This poses both a challenge and an opportunity to its management. The Niassa Reserve is managed through a public-private partnership, Sociedade para a Gestao e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa, with its current major donor and technical partner Fauna & Flora International.

## *Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor*

The Selous-Niassa miombo woodland ecosystem as a whole is one of the largest trans-boundary ecosystems in Africa, covering 150,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and extends across southern Tanzania into neighbouring Mozambique. The many habitats, including forests, wooded grasslands, open savannahs, granite kopjes, seasonal and permanent wetlands and rivers support a wide biodiversity which is globally significant. The core conservation areas for its continued existence are:

- the Selous Game Reserve
- the Niassa Game Reserve
- forest reserves

Together these areas constitute the world's largest elephant range. The corridor is central to this range. The corridor is sparsely settled by small farmers who have lived side by side with the wildlife since time immemorial. The task ahead will be to find a balance between their development needs and the conservation of nature. The long term existence of the corridor will be in their hands.

However, there are severe threats to its continued existence which could block this important link. These include uncontrolled conversion of land for agricultural use, destructive agricultural practices, unsustainable and illegal use of natural resources, cross-border poaching, bush meat trade, illegal logging, destruction of forests and uncontrolled bushfires.







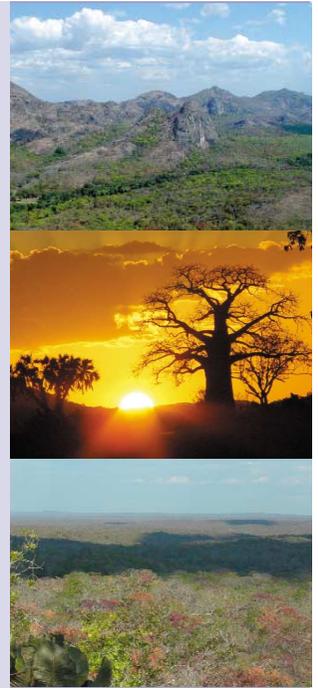


## *Corridor Research Project - Laying the Foundations*

The Tanzanian conservation authorities, the District administrations and a number of communities agree in principle that there is need for better conservation of the corridor. Following this important agreement, a research project was carried out from 2000 to 2003 by a partnership of Tanzanian and German research institutions. The major scientific input came from the Berlin based Institute of Zoo Biology and Wildlife Research. The objective of the project was to develop a sound scientific foundation for the planned conservation activities.

A combination of state-of-the-art technology such as satellite tracking of elephants, combined with local indigenous knowledge, proved that the planned wildlife corridor provides a significant biological landscape linkage that is important to the integrity of the greater ecosystem.

Key results like ecosystem description and identification of migration routes, wildlife population sizes and human-wildlife conflict areas will assist the long-term conservation of the corridor.



## *Advisory Services to the Districts*

Since early 2005 a technical advisor has been working in the corridor as an integrated expert employed by the District Authorities. He was placed by the German Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM). The integrated expert supports the Namtumbo and Tunduru Districts of Ruvuma-Region and their communities in the sustainable management and utilisation of their natural resources and the establishment of WMA.

## *GTZ – InWent Dialogue*

The Natural Resources and Biodiversity Division of InWent (Capacity Building International, Germany) focuses on resources policy, ecosystem management and regional cooperation. Since 1998 InWent has been 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 has launched the capacity building programme TRANSNET: Trans-boundary and sustainable management of natural resources for regional integration and rural development in the SADC and EAC regions.



## *The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor Project*

The Government of Tanzania initiated the conservation of the corridor in 2005 with support from the Global Environment Facility/UNDP. The project "Development and Management of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor" will extend community-based natural resources management from the southern support-zone of the Selous towards the border with Mozambique. Villages in Namtumbo and Tunduru Districts will be able to establish a network of WMA linking the Selous and Niassa Game Reserves. Benefits from sustainable natural resources management will enhance the livelihood security of rural poor and enhance the long-term conservation of the corridor. "GTZ-International Services" is implementing this cooperation project of the Wildlife Division and UNDP.

In late 2004 the District Authorities, GTZ and the "Mtwara Development Corridor" conducted a joint planning study for tourism development, wildlife-based industries and participatory forest management along the Ruvuma river Interface. With increasing dialogue and cross-border cooperation this region could develop into one of the world's largest trans-frontier conservation areas, contributing to the protection of the environment and its wildlife, poverty reduction and peace.

## *New Partnerships for Future Cooperation*

The Federal Republic of Germany will make available substantial funds to further support the development of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor. The funds will be channelled through the German Development Bank KfW.

The project aims to initiate the economically sustainable development and conservation management of one of the most significant, widely recognized wildlife corridors in the SADC Region. The goals are the conservation of biodiversity in the miombo woodland ecosystem and the overall improvement of the livelihoods within local communities through the sustainable use of natural resources to combat poverty. The project will be based on previous GTZ experiences and designed and implemented in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility/UNDP project. Both projects will complement each other.

Financing operations shall be, inter alia, directed towards

- establishing additional village Wildlife Management Areas through development of land use and management plans, communication facilities and equipment of game scouts
- support to relevant district game and land offices
- investment support to the Community-based Conservation Training Centre Likuyu

