



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**AGREEMENT ON THE
COORDINATED CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF THE NIASSA-SELOUS
ECOSYSTEM**

BETWEEN

THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

AND

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" and individually a "Party";

RECOGNISING the objectives and principles laid down in the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as "CBD"), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as "CITES") and the legislation on wildlife of the Parties;

AWARE of the regional and global nature of the management, conservation and protection of biodiversity, compliance and enforcement of law, and the urgency of finding feasible ways and lasting solutions in their approach through international cooperation, as well as on the importance of joint activities between the Parties;

RECOGNISING that sustainable use is an integral part of conservation, as agreed by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

AWARE that poaching and trafficking of wild animals is a global challenge;

SHARING ideas and common responsibilities, the Parties intend to increase cooperation in the conservation and protection of biodiversity and law enforcement in compliance with CITES;

CONVINCED that cooperation between the Parties in protection and conservation of biodiversity, law enforcement, and compliance with CITES is of mutual interest and will strengthen the friendly relations between their respective countries;

RECALLING the provisions of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement which calls for cooperation in wildlife management and law enforcement amongst Member States;

HEREBY AGREE as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Coordinated Conservation and Management of the Niassa-Selous- Ecosystem

The Parties agree, jointly, to work towards coordination of the conservation and management of the shared Niassa-Selous ecosystem. That includes, among others, the Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique and the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania and the wildlife and forest reserve that connects the two to comprise the largest wildlife refuge in the region. This ecosystem holds the largest populations of elephant, hippo, buffalo, lion, African wild dog, and leopard in the world.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives

The objectives of the Coordinated Conservation and Management of the Niassa-Selous ecosystem are as follows:

- a) To promote collaboration and cooperation across borders between the Parties to facilitate the effective conservation and management of the Niassa-Selous Ecosystem, including coordination of activities to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking.
- b) To promote partnerships in the management of biological natural resources by encouraging partnerships between the Parties and other stakeholders, including the private sector, local communities and non-governmental organizations;

- c) To improve the integrity of the ecosystem and natural ecological processes, standardizing procedures for environmental management across borders and striving to remove artificial barriers that impede the natural movement of wildlife;
- d) To develop cross-border eco-tourism as a means to promote regional socio-economic development; and
- e) To establish mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of technical, legal and scientific information for the joint management of the ecosystem.

ARTICLE 3

Principles

- 1. The principles of sovereignty and the duty to be respected by the Parties in the treatment of issues covered in the present agreement are safeguarded.
- 2. The planning process for the coordinated conservation of the Niassa-Selous ecosystem will be made by joint decision of the authorized representatives of the Parties under the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 4

Bodies

The following bodies are responsible for preparing the Niassa-Selous- ecosystem management strategy:

- a) The Ministerial Committee;
- b) The Joint Management Council;
- c) The Coordination Unit.

ARTICLE 5

Ministerial Committee

- 1. The Ministerial Committee is composed of ministers appointed by the Parties and it is the body responsible for policy guidance in the management of the Niassa-Selous ecosystem, chaired on a rotating basis, and its deliberations are made by mutual agreement.
- 2. The Ministerial Committee will meet at a minimum of once a year.

ARTICLE 6

Joint Management Council

1. The Republic of Mozambique shall designate senior officials to represent the country in the Joint Management Councils on the technical discussions of the co-management of the Niassa-Selous- ecosystem. The ANAC (National Administration for Conservation Areas) General Director, the Land, Environment and Rural Development Provincial Director of Niassa, the Niassa National Reserve Warden and a Local Communities Representative will represent the country in the Joint Management Council on the technical discussions of the co-management of the Selous-Niassa ecosystem.
2. The United Republic of Tanzania shall designate senior officials to represent the country in the Joint Management Councils on the technical discussions of the co-management of the Niassa-Selous ecosystem. The TAWA (Tanzania Wildlife Authority) Director, Forest Director, Tourism Director, a Regional Commissioner, and a Local Communities Representative will comprise the National Directorate of Wildlife.
3. The Joint Management Council will meet at a minimum of two (2) times per year.

ARTICLE 7

The Coordination Unit

The implementing Coordination of this Agreement aims to create enabling conditions and preparation of the institutionalization of the coordinated conservation and management of the Niassa-Selous ecosystem is made on a rotating basis, for a period of one year, which by the present instrument the United Republic of Tanzania is hereby designated as the Coordinating Unit in the first year of work, with the following obligations:

- a) Coordinate activities for the co-management strategy of Niassa-Selous ecosystem;
- b) Ensure full representation of all relevant stakeholders in the activities of the co-management of the joint ecosystem;
- c) Prepare reports for the Ministerial Committee and the Joint Management Council;
- d) Coordinate with all parties in the identification of joint activities.
- e) To ensure co-management, the Coordination Unit will consist of the Niassa National Reserve Warden and the Selous Game Reserve Project Manager, to meet at a minimum of three times a year.

ARTICLE 8
Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably by the Parties, through consultation and negotiation.

ARTICLE 9
Amendments

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties, through an exchange of notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channels.

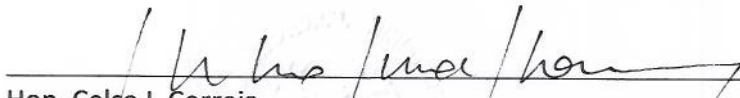
ARTICLE 10
Entry into Force

- i. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which each Party notifies the other in writing through the diplomatic channel, that their respective legal requirements have been fulfilled. The date of entry into force shall be the date of the last notification.
- ii. This Agreement shall remain into force for a period of five (5) years after which it shall be automatically extended for a further period of five (5) years unless it is terminated in terms of sub-Article 10.(iii).
- iii. This Agreement may be terminated by either Party, giving six (6) months written notice to the other Party through the diplomatic channel of its intention to terminate the Agreement.
- iv. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect any arrangement or activity that has already been made or commenced before the termination, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement in duplicate in the English and Portuguese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

SIGNED on of , 2015

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE



Hon. Celso I. Correia
Minister of Lands, Environment and Rural Development

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Hon. Lazaro S. Nyalandu
Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism