



Press Release by Frankfurt Zoological Society

April 22nd 2024

Nyerere - Selous – Mikumi Ecosystem Aerial Wildlife Survey Of Large Mammals and Human Activities in Nyerere – Selous Mikumi 2022 - Results Announced

Arusha, Tanzania, 22nd April - Honourable Angellah Kairuki (MP), the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, announced the results of the Nyerere - Selous – Mikumi Ecosystem Aerial Wildlife Census.

The aerial wildlife census was led by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in October/November 2022. The census team deployed 4 light aircraft flown by experienced pilots at an average height of only 103 m above ground level. Trained observers recorded all animals observed on transects whilst the front seat observer assisted with navigation and data recording. The census surveyed a total of 101,537 km², and flew a total distance of 20,274 km, equivalent to flying Dodoma to Berlin almost 3 times.

The 2022 survey results estimate the 2022 Nyerere - Selous – Mikumi Ecosystem elephant population to be 20,006 ± 1,793 (se). This result indicates a continued modest recovery of the elephant population from 13,084 (±1816) in 2013, 15,217 (±1800) in 2014, 15,501 (±1819) in 2018 to 20,006 (±1793) in 2022.

The positive upward trend of elephant population estimates is encouraging, but conservation efforts must be sustained to continue the recovery of the population near the pre-poaching crisis population.

“We are pleased to report that compared to the previous census (2018), the current census revealed most species to have remained stable. The stabilizing of the elephant population numbers combined with very few incidences of fresh elephant carcasses indicate that poaching continues to be under control” said the Director General of TAWIRI, Dr. Eblate Ernest Mjingo.

“Frankfurt Zoological Society is pleased to have supported a fourth consecutive wildlife census for the Nyerere - Selous – Mikumi. The 2022 aerial wildlife census was conducted with financial support through the Selous Ecosystem Conservation Development Program (SECAD). The SECAD program is funded through KfW on behalf of the German Government and is implemented by the Ministry of Natural



Resources and Tourism (MNRT) through the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) in cooperation with Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and GOPA-INFRA” said FZS Country Director, Dr. Ezekiel Dembe.

The full report “Aerial Wildlife Survey of Large Animals and Human Activities in Nyerere-Selous-Mikumi Ecosystem, Dry Season 2022” is available at www.tawiri.co.tz, <https://www.tawiri.or.tz/reports/>.

More information

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism: <https://www.maliasili.go.tz>

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute: <http://tawiri.or.tz>

Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority: <http://www.tawa.go.tz>

FZS Selous Conservation Project: <https://fzs.org/selous/>

UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199>

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TOURISM



KfW



The survey is funded by Germany's KfW Development Bank through the SECAD Program, a collaboration between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute and Frankfurt Zoological Society.

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About Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute

The Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute is a government institution under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism responsible for conducting and coordinating wildlife research in Tanzania. <http://tawiri.or.tz>

About Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority

The Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority is mandated to implement the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and subsequent regulations to ensure that wildlife resources available outside TANAPA and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) are properly conserved. www.tawa.go.tz/en/

About Frankfurt Zoological Society

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is an internationally operating conservation organization based in Frankfurt, Germany, committed to protecting the natural diversity of species in important ecosystems across the globe – in partnership with and for people.

FZS first assisted the Selous Game Reserve management with the donation of an aircraft, support for anti-poaching efforts and infrastructure development in the 1980s to address increased threats from poaching, and continues its assistance to key protected area and biodiversity management priorities of the reserve-funded by the German Government. <https://fzs.org/en/>

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