

## THE SERENGETI

By THE SECRETARY, THE FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Readers are invited to refer to *Oryx*, III, 6, "What of the Serengeti?" and to Professor Pearsall's Serengeti Report in *Oryx*, IV, 4.

In June and July, 1957, soon after Professor Pearsall's report was published, the Tanganyika Government held a Committee of Inquiry on the Serengeti. Professor Pearsall was flown to Arusha to give evidence and was the most important witness at the Inquiry; indeed the Committee's recommendations published in November, 1957, were to a great extent based on his survey.

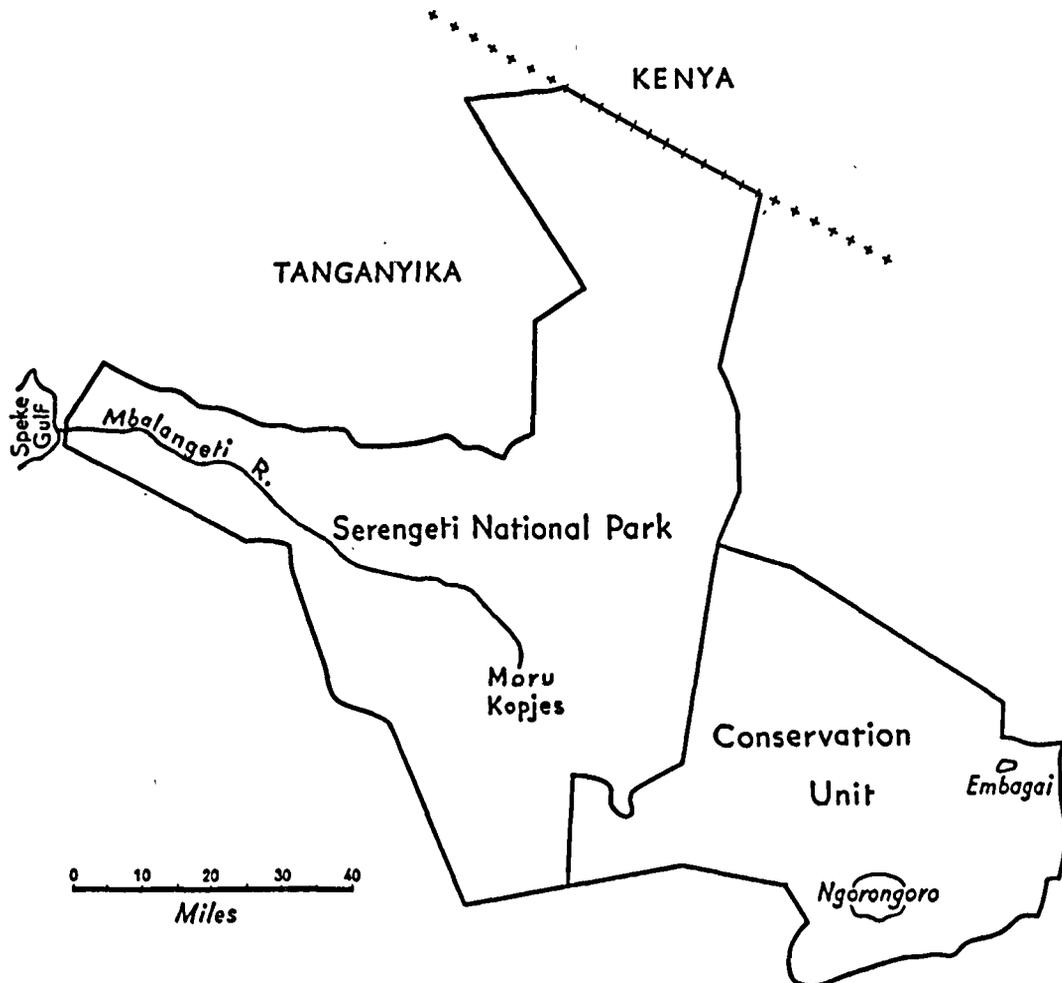
The Committee recommended doubling the width of the western end of the old Serengeti National Park so that wild life could have protected watering along the Mbalangeti river during the dry season, also a large extension south-westwards from the Moru Kopjes area, country vital to the migration of the animals, and an extension of 2,000 square miles northwards from the Central Plains, so that the Park should meet the very important Mara area in Kenya. The Park itself should be limited to these new boundaries, but in the eastern Crater Highlands a Conservation Unit would be formed with the object of conserving water supplies, and forest and pasture for the benefit of man; within this Unit the Ngorongoro and Embagai craters should be designated Nature Sanctuaries.

In April, 1958, the Tanganyika Government issued a White Paper giving its proposals for the Serengeti. In the main, these follow the Committee's recommendations, in fact they increase the area of the Conservation Unit by extending it westwards from the Crater areas to join the National Park. But there are two disturbing points. First the Ngorongoro and Embagai Craters are not to become Nature Sanctuaries, though the White Paper says that these two areas would be the special concern of the team responsible for the administration of the Conservation Unit; second it says that the Tanganyika Government is unlikely to have funds available for the development of the Conservation Unit, unless it receives outside help.

The attitude of our Society to the new Serengeti proposals was made publicly known in a letter from our President and other prominent people, published in *The Times* on 2nd September, 1958. We welcome the new Serengeti National Park. We consider that the establishment of the new Conservation Unit

is a responsibility of Government which cannot be delegated and we suggest substantial assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund towards its formation. We believe that the Ngorongoro Crater with its wild life can, as a tourist attraction, form an important element in the economic resources of Tanganyika.

Not only our Society and the wild life societies of Tanganyika



and Kenya are interested in the Serengeti, for the Serengeti question has now been anxiously discussed in Nature Conservation circles throughout the world and the full implementation of the National Park and the Conservation Unit is universally expected. When the National Park and Conservation Unit are fully implemented, and when they include the practical realization that the preservation of the wild life in the Unit, especially in the Craters, is a human interest, then an outstanding example of proper land use and a signal triumph for Government administration will have been achieved.