

SERENGETI NATURAL WONDER UNDER SERIOUS THREAT



The Tanzanian Serengeti National Park features one of the most fascinating natural events every year - the greatest migration of zebra and wildebeest in the world. Not for long, though - local government is getting ready to build a road through the northern part of the reserve which will inevitably jeopardize all animal movement.

Serengeti National Park in Tanzania attracts 90,000 tourists every year, most of whom come to witness the unrivalled spectacle of the greatest animal migration in the world. Some 1.5 million zebra and wildebeest move north, alongside with gazelle and packs of predators. Once the wet season finishes, between April and June, the animals migrate closer to the wet feeding grounds along the river Mara.

However, **in 2005 the government announced it would build a 33-mile long road, which will create a crucial link between the east coast ports**, Tanzania's biggest city Dar es Salaam and Lake Victoria. It is a crucial link; nevertheless, such road will inevitably put an end to the migration.

Many organizations have already spoken against the planned construction - which is scheduled to start in 2012. **Members of the UNESCO, World Conservation Society, and Zoological Society of London strongly appeal to the Tanzanian government to reconsider.** Many believe that leading the road through the south of the park, rather than north will not only be cheaper to build but would also be of use to more people and the migration would not be threatened.

It is yet unclear whether these appeals will have any impact on the government decision making; however, **it is very obvious that building a road in the north will cause a significant disruption to the life of millions of animals living in Tanzania.**

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