Community Conservation Banks (COCOBAs) have been established with FZS’s support to help alleviate poverty through a community savings and banking loans model. Villagers who take advantage of the programme generate income by creating conservation-friendly micro-businesses, such as beekeeping & honey production, chicken farming and tree planting.

COCOBAs provide an alternative economic opportunity to villagers who may otherwise turn to illegal hunting or other environmentally harmful activities. FZS supports conservation-friendly micro-businesses and facilitates the marketing and business development for COCOBA members across several districts surrounding Serengeti National Park.

Together, we can work to conserve biological diversity while supporting sustainable human livelihoods.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION BANKS

PO BOX 14935, Arusha, Tanzania
info@fzs.org or +255 (0) 732 985 768
www.fzs.org

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FZS assists in establishing two WMAs (Makao and Ikona) in the Serengeti Ecosystem and is now working to promote good governance and empower WMAs to sustainably manage and equitably benefit from their own natural resources.

FZS has supported the construction of the Ikoma Visitor’s Centre, new entry gates and game-viewing circuits. Continued support will help provide increased revenue for the WMAs and improved management.

FZS is implementing research programmes in villages across the Serengeti Ecosystem to better understand the relationships between poverty, human health, disaster management and environmental sustainability.

Examples of ongoing studies include focus on health and female economic empowerment, reducing dependency on natural resources through microcredit initiatives and the role of information dissemination on individual decision-making.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Tanzania have been designated to encourage direct community benefits from tourism and hunting while creating a buffer zone between national parks and village areas.

Local communities are often marginalised from the decision-making process in natural resource management and receive an inequitable share of ecosystem services and benefits. By protecting the wildlife and sustainably managing the environment on their WMA, communities will attract conservation/tourism activities and investors on their land. Income from conservation will empower communities and build strong incentives for communities to protect their wildlife and natural resources in the longterm.

FZS primarily focuses on the Ngorongoro District and Serengeti District, strengthening sustainable ecosystem management with local communities and monitoring project outcomes to ensure both socio-economic and ecological progress is made.

Various activities underway include land-use planning, forest conservation, strengthening Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), alternative income opportunities and improvement of social and economic village infrastructure.

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is an internationally operating organisation working to conserve wildlife and ecosystems, by focusing on protected areas and outstanding wild places.

Communities living within the Serengeti Ecosystem are a fundamental component to the success of the area’s conservation. FZS is empowering communities through a variety of awareness, outreach and income-boosting activities that simultaneously promote the conservation of wildlife and natural resources.

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