A FUTURE FOR WILDERNESS

THE FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY – HANDS-ON CONSERVATION SINCE 1958

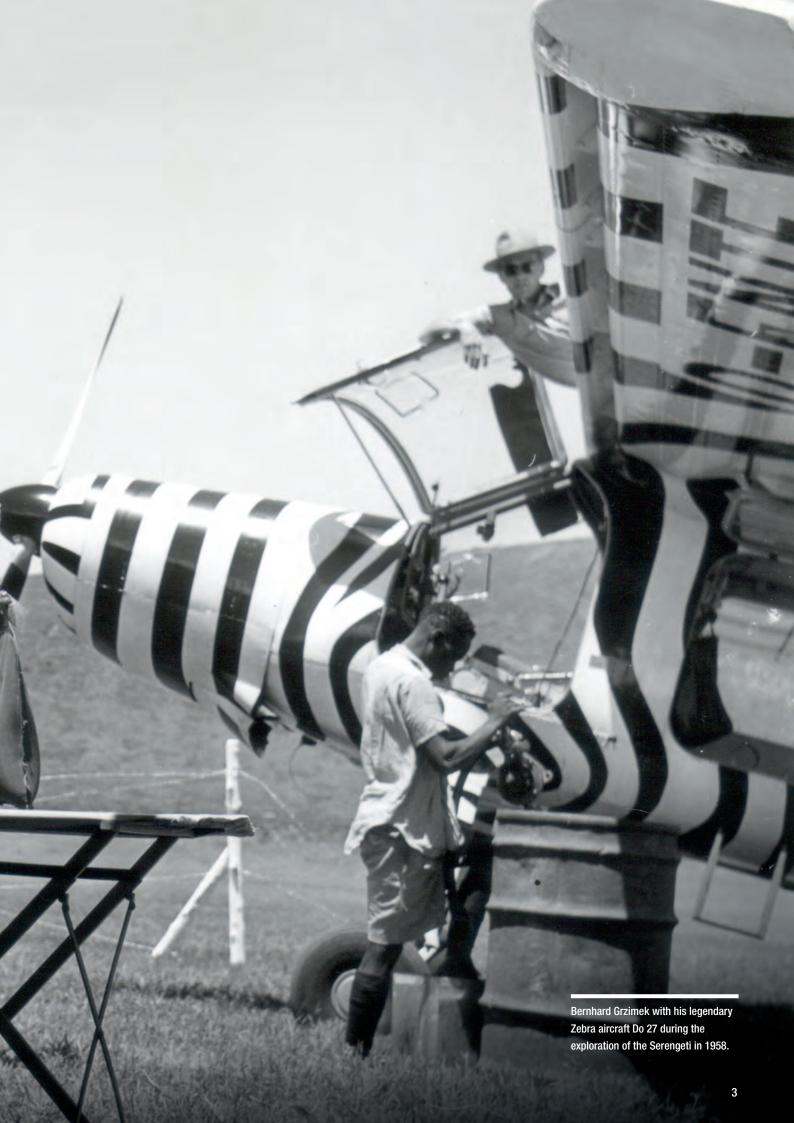


PROFESSOR BERNHARD GRZIMEK (1909 - 1987)

Pioneer and visionary, environmentalist and endangered species conservationist, zoo director, filmmaker and "animal professor". Bernhard Grzimek introduced an entire generation to the world of animals. He devoted his life to wildlife and as a brilliant fundraiser he used his influence to raise millions for his "Help for Threatened Wildlife" projects.

Grzimek received international recognition for his Oscar-winning documentary "Serengeti Shall Not Die", and in Germany the decades he spent fronting his "Ein Platz für Tiere" (A place for animals) show made him a TV legend. In his role as zoo director he rebuilt the Frankfurt Zoo after the Second World War, attracted public attention to the Serengeti, pioneered the conservation movement in Germany and initiated a global conservation programme through the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The legacy of Bernhard Grzimek lives on to this day in the conservation work of the FZS.





FZS AT A GLANCE

Wilderness & Biodiversity

the focus of our work

29 projects and programmes in 18 countries worldwide

Approx. EUR 20 million

the amount we currently invest into our conservation projects per year

East Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe

our geographical focus for decades

Large grasslands, forests, wetlands and mountains

the habitats to which we are committed





Dear Readers, Dear Friends of FZS

B ernhard Grzimek is a German legend. His commitment to protecting nature was visionary back then and remains so to this day. With the backing of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Grzimek offered practical help over many decades to various national parks, not only in Africa but also in Asia and South America. He collected donations to pay rangers' wages, to purchase vehicles and to build ranger posts.

Half a century later, Frankfurt Zoological Society is still supporting national parks and other protected areas, acting as a partner on the ground and helping the parks in areas where financial and human resources are in short supply.

This work is now carried out by some 400 dedicated employees in 18 countries who bring a great deal of know-how and enthusiasm to the FZS projects. The challenges which the staff members face are nearly always the same: the wilderness areas we are trying to protect are increasingly coming under pressure – from growing local populations, from poachers, from road construction or from the desire to exploit natural resources. People's inclination to tap into the last reserves of our planet is spiralling out of control.

To counter this on a long-term basis, FZS has adopted a special approach: it establishes a genuine partnership with the authorities or competent organisations. It helps them to perform their work effectively and to protect their country's natural treasures – that is the strategy of FZS. It is a highly successful strategy, but not always an easy one. One of the reasons behind its success is the considerable support we can count on from our donors. Join us! And support our work – as a member, as a sponsor, or simply by making a donation.

Klaus Becker

President of Frankfurt Zoological Society

Dan MA



THE HEART OF FRANKFURT

The Frankfurt Zoological Society was re-established as the friends' association for Frankfurt Zoo at the end of the 1950's. "Frankfurt", as people call it, dedicates itself to nature conservation and today manages programmes all over the world aimed at protecting wilderness areas and focusing on the conservation of biological diversity.

he vast savannahs of Eastern and Southern Africa, the great pristine forests of Europe, the species-rich tropical rainforests of South America and Southeast Asia – Frankfurt Zoological Society is actively protecting wilderness and wildlife in 18 countries. We have been active where national parks and wilderness areas need help for more than half a century.

Frankfurt Zoological Society has its roots in the Frankfurt Zoo. The Society was originally founded in 1858 by dedicated Frankfurt citizens with the aim of establishing a zoo. It then handed the zoo over to the city and disbanded, but after the Second World War, zoo director Bernhard Grzimek revived the Society by turning it into a registered "friends of the zoo" association, but from the late 1950s it also served increasingly as the basis of his conservation work in Africa.

Since his first trips to Africa in the 1950s Bernhard Grzimek was convinced that the unspoilt wilderness areas and their unique wildlife would not survive if the human population of our planet continued to grow and occupy more and more space. This was a vision that would prove all too prescient. Grzimek confronted this challenge head-on, and used "his" Frankfurt Zoological Society to support African national parks with donations he collected, mostly from the viewers of his popular television show "Ein Platz für Tiere" (A place for animals) in Germany.

Bernhard Grzimek is familiar to many Germans above all from his TV series, but he was also a pioneer of nature conservation in Germany and beyond. Grzimek supported national parks by unconventional means and forged important alliances, especially in Africa.

SERENGETI SHALL NOT DIE

Grzimek's commitment to the Serengeti was legendary; his film "Serengeti Shall Not Die" became world famous, and protecting the Serengeti National Park marked the beginning of FZS commitment to conservation today. Serengeti remains the heart of what has since become a comprehensive strategy including 29 projects and programmes aimed at protecting outstanding wilderness areas and national parks. Over the last six decades FZS has grown from a small association for the zoo into a strategic conservation organisation

with over 400 employees worldwide. FZS currently invests around twenty million euros annually in the protection of unique natural areas and endangered species.

Standing beside FZS is the Frankfurt-based "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" charitable foundation. The foundation has an untouchable foundation capital of 60 million euros and uses the revenue exclusively to support the conservation work of FZS.

CONSERVATION CRAFTSMEN

In all of our projects we are a reliable partner to protected area authorities, helping where they lack resources or capabilities or have their hands tied. We do so practically, non-bureaucratically and through a wealth of nature conservation expertise. Dealing responsibly and transparently with our local partners is a basic principle of our work and an integral part of our success. In addition, we enter into long-term commitments in all our projects because we know that conservation requires time and patience. What unites the committed and professional members of FZS teams worldwide is their shared passion for wildlife and nature.

WILDERNESS AND DIVERSITY

The focus of all our conservation projects is protecting wilderness areas and conserving biodiversity.

When time and financial resources are scarce, and when there is major conflict between use and protection, it is crucial to focus on the species-rich regions – the treasure troves of biodiversity. This is why FZS concentrates its efforts on specific ecosystems – large grasslands, forests, wetlands and mountains – in our main geographical focus areas of East Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and eastern Europe. FZS is also a committed and vocal supporter of wilderness, by which we mean large, predominantly intact areas in which natural processes take place without human interference and are thus fundamental to the conservation of biodiversity.



WILDERNESS AND BIODIVERSITY - OUR APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

The conservation challenges are almost limitless. Never before have there been so many people living on this planet, and never have habitats been so fundamentally disturbed. All forecasts concerning population growth, the loss of species-rich ecosystems and global climate change point to further intensification of the problems. Only with an intelligent strategy can we find an effective way out of the maze of challenges and opportunities. The biologist and FZS Executive Director Dr. Christof Schenck describes the FZS strategy for the current decade in an interview.

Dr. Schenck, where does FZS work?

Dr. Christof Schenck: We focus on specific ecosystems – savannahs, forests, wetlands and mountain areas. Marine projects or projects in the polar regions are not in our portfolio, not because they aren't important, but because it's simply not possible to do everything and we prefer to concentrate on our core competencies. Our main geographical focal points are Eastern and Southern Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

FZS puts biodiversity and wilderness at the heart of its conservation strategy. But so do others. What's so special about the FZS strategy?

That's right, many other conservation organisations also have the conservation of biodiversity and wilderness as their goal. But scarcely any other organisation is as consistently and exclusively dedicated to it as FZS. Cultural landscapes, one-off reintroduction projects, improvement of different types of agricultural and forestry use, environmental protection, campaigns or the development of environment-friendly

consumer products – these are not our issues. They are undoubtedly important issues, but others are better equipped to tackle them. We have a clear focus on protecting wilderness.

Does that mean that biodiversity and wilderness are the only criteria for the projects?

No. Efficiency is a further core element in our approach. Our project selection and prioritisation criteria also include aspects such as the ability to secure an area, the level of urgency and available opportunities. We also ask questions such as: Do we already have a base in the country? What is the current political situation and what are relations with the nature conservation authorities like? FZS is not afraid of taking action even in difficult and sometimes dangerous regions, but we are also realsitic about prospects for impact.

"We've come to realise that it takes stamina and many years to achieve success in conservation work. We go a step further."

Dr. Christof Schenck has been Executive Director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society since 2000. Schenck studied Biology in Tübingen and Freiburg and received his doctorate in Munich. At the beginning of the 1990s he conducted research into giant otters in Peru, founding the current FZS Peru Programme.



Executive Director Christof Schenck ensures that FZS remains on course in talks with partners and project managers on the ground.

FZS is known for working locally at the grass roots level. What does that involve?

Our employees act as "craftsmen" on the ground. Most live in protected areas or in close proximity to them, no matter how difficult the conditions may be. The countries' nature protection authorities are our key partners. We focus on setting up new conservation areas or improving existing ones – preferably national parks and World Heritage Sites.

Is this a long-term commitment?

Most groups involved in conservation work have come to realise that it takes stamina and many years to achieve success. We go a step further. Our aim is to establish a permanent presence in a small number of major wilderness regions and protected areas. Since habitats and protected areas ultimately depend on political decisions which can be highly unpredictable, sometimes even the best, most renowned and lucrative conservation areas can suddenly be endangered. Without a permanent presence on the ground, we might not recognise such developments until it is too late. Or we might not have the strong local relationships and network necessary to meet unexpected challenges.

"Other conservation organisations also have the conservation of biodiversity and wilderness as their goal. But scarcely any other organisation is as consistently and exclusively dedicated to it as FZS."

To which areas is FZS permanently committed?

FZS remains inextricably entwined with the Serengeti, but also other pre-eminent protected areas such as the Selous in Tanzania, Manú in Peru or Bukit Tiga Puluh in Indonesia where we have long-term commitments.

And what about protecting species?

We devote ourselves to protecting single species where these are of special ecological significance and where protecting them is closely linked to protecting the area. If we protect large expanses, we ultimately protect all the species that live there.

Where does the money come from for FZS and its conservation projects?

There are the contributions of our members, as well as donations and the bequests of generous individuals. And there is also project funding from major donors – for example KfW, GIZ, different federal ministries or international donors such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife and various foundations. And then there is the income from our Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation, as well as the Eleonore-Beck Foundation, both of which are core sources of our funding. In addition, our American sister organisation Frankfurt Zoological Society-U.S. makes a significant contribution to the projects.

WILDERNESS MEANS: NATURE WITHOUT US, BUT FOR US.

Wilderness protection is the most selfless of conservation activities since it protects habitats solely for animals and plants that cannot defend their own rights. It also conserves options for future generations who may face challenges we cannot currently imagine. The protection of wilderness is inherently about sustainability beyond our own lifetimes.

By wilderness we mean large, predominantly intact areas in which natural processes take place without human interference. Wilderness areas therefore play a fundamental role in the conservation of biodiversity. Wilderness areas represent important reference zones for our own actions. They are climate change buffers and they are appealing for eco-tourism which can help generate funds for their maintenance.



FOCAL POINTS OF OUR WORK

FZS is currently active in 18 countries and is running or supporting 29 projects and programmes. The major

programmes/projects are outlined on this map.



KANUKU MOUNTAINS

Guyana is the least densely populated country in South America. 80% of the country is covered by near-natural tropical rainforest and humid savannah almost untouched by man. Guyana takes forest conservation seriously and FZS is supporting the protected area authority in setting up the 6,000 km² Kanuku Mountains conservation area.

BRAZIL

CANTÃO CONSERVATION AREA

The Cantão conservation area is located on the south-eastern rim of the Amazon region in Brazil and includes vast floodplain forests containing rich wildlife. Together with the Instituto Araguaia we support the park by providing additional rangers, assisting in wildlife monitoring and managing the buffer zone.

3) PERU

FROM THE ANDES TO THE AMAZON

In Peru FZS cooperates closely with the Peruvian conservation agency, SERNANP, to improve the protection of large areas of forest in the east of the country. The Frankfurt Zoological Society is active above all in the Manú National Park, but also in the Alto Purús and Bahuaja Sonene national parks, the Megantoni and Tambopata conservation areas and the Yaguas National Park.

4) COLOMBIA

IMPORTANT WILDERNESS AREAS

Some of the world's greatest wilderness regions are to be found in the Amazon lowlands in Colombia - areas that are highly inaccessible and have scarcely been explored. FZS supports the Colombian conservation area authority in policing and managing the national parks in the southeast of the country.

GERMANY

GROWING WILDERNESS IN GERMANY

Since 2012, FZS has increasingly focused on regions with large and relatively intact natural ecosystems. In Germany we focus on the large wilderness areas in Brandenburg, as well as the Hohe Schrecke area in Thuringia. Lobbying for wilderness as well as for new national parks and other conservation areas is the focus of our work in Germany.

SLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE, POLAND

WILDERNESS IN THE CARPATHIANS

The forested parts of the Carpathians, especially in Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania, constitute one of Europe's largest contiguous areas of virgin forest. Our long-term goal is the permanent conservation of over 250,000 hectares of valuable old-growth and primeval forest through land purchase and the reinforcement of national parks in all project countries.

3) BELARUS

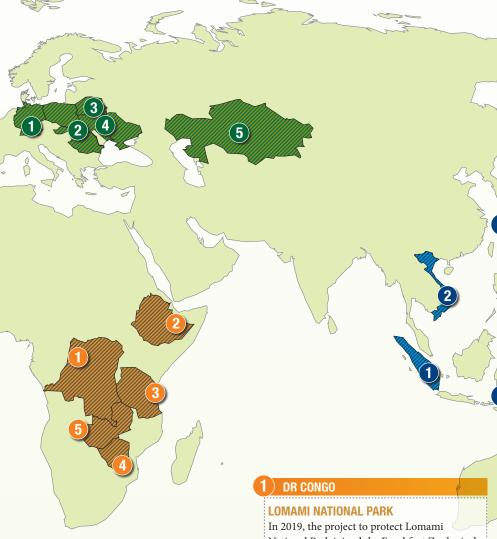
FOREST OF SIGNIFICANCE

The vast forest complex of Bialowieza (on the Polish side) or Bielaviežskaja Pušča (Belarusian side) is one of the largest and most significant areas of lowland mixed forest in Europe. FZS helps the nationalpark administration on the Belarusian side to protect the area and provides support for scientific research.

4) UKRAINE, BELARUS

CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

The Pripyat and Desna rivers form Europe's largest natural floodplain system; the region covers several million hectares of forest and vast areas of marshland. Our goal is to support and develop a conservation area system in the Belarusian and Ukrainian part of the Polesia



In 2019, the project to protect Lomami National Park joined the Frankfurt Zoological Society's portfolio and has grown to become both a park protection and a community conservation project.

2) ETHIOPIA

AFROMONTANE HIGHLANDS

The protection of natural resources is at the heart of the work of FZS in the Bale Mountains National Park and in the Afroalpine regions of the northern Ethiopian highlands. We develop strategies for the protection and the sustainable use of the natural areas in collaboration with the people who are dependent on these resources.

3) TANZANIA

SERENGETI, SELOUS, MAHALE

Protection of the Serengeti has been, and remains, the flagship programme of FZS in East Africa. We also manage large projects for the protection of the Selous Game Reserve and the Mahale National Park, the home of one of the largest chimpanzee populations in Africa.

1) INDONESIA

THE ORANGUTANS OF BUKIT TIGA PULUH

The Bukit Tiga Puluh Landscape Conservation-Programme is by now more than just the reintroduction of orangutans. Protecting the last large contiguous lowland rainforests on Sumatra has been the main objective of the programme for some time now. Because without it there is no habitat for orangutans, tigers or forest elephants.

2) VIETNAM

PRIMATE PROTECTION

Since 2013 FZS has been working in the Kon Ka Kinh National Park. We support the park authorities in monitoring and managing the 42,000 hectare park, which is home to the critically endangered grey-shanked douc langur.

4) ZIMBABWE

GONAREZHOU NATIONAL PARK

Gonarezhou is part of the "Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park" in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and is home to a sizable elephant population. This transfrontier park offers the opportunity to protect wilderness areas across national borders.

5) ZAMBIA

RHINOS IN NORTH LUANGWA

North Luangwa is one of the great wilderness areas of Africa. In 2003 FZS succeeded in reintroducing the black rhino to North Luangwa after years of preparatory work. This is the only population of black rhinos in Zambia and FZS works closely with Zambia's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to protect both rhinos and national park.

5 KAZAKHSTAN

SAIGA CONSERVATION IN THE ALTYN DALA STEPPE

The aim of the project is to protect and restore the steppe and semi-desert ecosystems in central Kazakhstan by establishing a large network of conservation areas. We are supporting the Irgiz Turgai and Altyn Dala conservation areas by buying vehicles, building ranger stations and equipping the anti-poaching units. We also want to learn more about the ecology of the saiga antelope, in order to make recommendations for new conservation areas in the wintering area.



THE CRADLE OF FZS' CONSERVATION WORK

Anyone travelling in the Serengeti will sooner or later encounter the Frankfurt Zoological Society. What is "Frankfurt" doing out here in the Tanzanian savannah?

ince the 1980s the Frankfurt Zoological Society has supported the Serengeti National Park, running its own small office in Seronera at park headquarters. We support the national park in all aspects of park management and we also coordinate all activities of our Serengeti program from here.

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) is managing the country's national parks, and everything that we do to protect the Serengeti is done in partnership with TANAPA. Tanzania has a proud history of conservation and FZS is there as its welcome guest and friend, helping to conserve one of the world's most spectacular World Heritage Sites, a wilderness area of global importance for which we too carry responsibility.

For more than three decades the FZS team has supported the national park financially, logistically and with its expertise. FZS purchases vehicles for the rangers, for example, and guarantees their oper-



ational capability by managing its own garage to service them. We work together with the park on strategic plans for monitoring the area: Where and how are the rangers deployed to prevent poaching? How are the patrols conducted and what new technologies are needed? FZS set up a digital radio network for the rangers that allows much better communication and monitoring. We sponsor initial and ongoing training of the park's rangers, vets and ecologists as well as public relations work, e.g. the establishment of the Serengeti Visitor Centre.

FZS also supports ecological monitoring in the park because solid data on animal numbers and environmental issues is essential to guiding conservation decisions. In the Serengeti FZS has already completed thousands of hours of flying time in its striped Cessna aircraft, monitoring the large herds of wildebeest or counting the numbers of elephants, as well as scanning for signs of poaching.

However, one of the most important aspects of protecting the Serengeti lies outside the park because conservation can only succeed if the people in the region are actively involved. Environmental education and Community Conservation are integral to all of the Frankfurt Zoological Society projects, in Africa and beyond. FZS works with the local communities in and around the Serengeti with a focus on generating conservation-friendly incomes for the people. This ranges from photo tourism and chicken farming to honey production. The programme is financed largely through development funds from the German Government with the aid of the KfW Development Bank as conservation and development work are closely related today – protecting natural resources is the basis for sustainable development in the rural areas of Africa.



VAST WILDERNESS AND NEW RHINOS

Returning extirpated species to their natural habitat represents a logistical and financial challenge. It requires a very long-term and comprehensive commitment.

he North Luangwa National Park in Zambia is one of the last truly wild and pristine wilderness areas in Africa. There is little tourism here. There is no permanent lodge, and only a few safari providers have seasonal camps in the park. The North Luangwa National Park itself covers an area of 4,636 km². It is surrounded by Game Management Areas meaning that the total area in which we operate covers about 22,000 km².

FZS has had a presence in North Luangwa since 1986 and is an important and trusted partner to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Together we have significantly expanded the scope of the park protection efforts. FZS' North Luangwa Conservation Programme manages many logistical tasks in the park. We equip the rangers with almost everything they need for their work –



from boots to vehicles. We build ranger posts, keep the access roads in order and take care of the initial and ongoing training of rangers. Environmental education in the 22 schools around the park is a further integral part of the project. Most notably, the project has chalked up one of the greatest achievements in rhino conservation in the past decade.

Historically Zambia was one of the major black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) strongholds and, even up to 1980, Zambia had the third largest black rhino population in Africa. Within Zambia, the Luangwa Valley was the most important rhino habitat and between 500 and 2,000 black rhinos lived in the North Luangwa National Park itself. But the 1980s were a disastrous period of poaching, and by 1998 the black rhino was declared extinct in Zambia.

In 2003, after years of painstaking preparation to secure the park, work began on reintroducing the black rhino to a restricted area within the National Park – a joint project of FZS, the DNPW and the SADC Rhino Conservation Programme. South Africa contributed 25 animals for this endeavour. Almost two decades later, the population is growing and no animal has yet been poached in the park due to intensive protection of the area. We will continue this work into the future to keep it that way, so that the rhino population can continue to grow and elephants, lions and other wildlife have a safe haven in North Luangwa.



HOTSPOT OF BIODIVERSITY

Eastern Peru is one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth. We are helping to protect its unique habitats – from the highlands of the Andes down to the Amazon lowlands. And have been doing so for more than 30 years.

n the southeast of Peru, where the Andes fall from the snowy summits rising to more than 4,000 metres above sea level down to tropical rainforests, is where Manú is found. The national park was established to protect a region that combines two of the most diverse habitats on Earth: the slopes of the eastern Andes and the lowlands of the western Amazon basin.

Experts estimate that more than 500,000 animal and plant species live in the Manú National Park. Since the park was first established the Frankfurt Zoological Society has supported the Peruvian government in conserving this unique wilderness area through the protected area authority SERNANP. Over the years, FZS' involvement in the region grew and now extends far beyond Manú into adjacent protected areas.

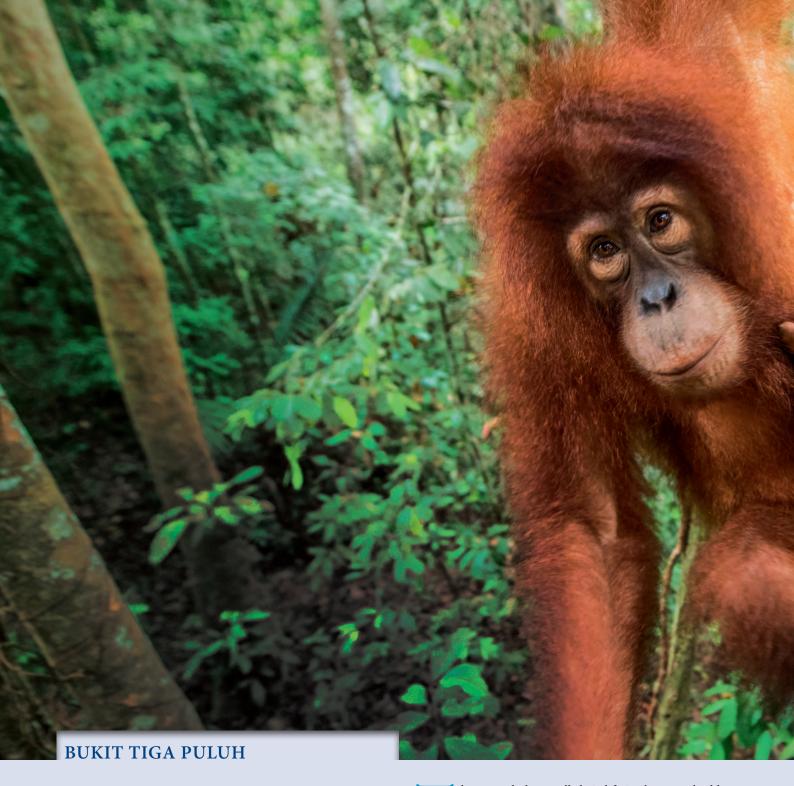


This support is often very practical in nature, such as helping construct control posts. The FZS team also conducts special patrols in very remote and inaccessible regions of the rainforest. Other support includes funds for monitoring flights that collect essential data on the vast rainforests and the threats facing them – such as illegal deforestation or gold mining.

We have conducted extensive training and continuing education programmes for numerous conservation area staff members over the years. FZS has also invested significant resources in educating local communities in environmental and nature conservation. In the buffer zone communities of Manú, Alto Purús and Tambopata FZS leads school programmes and trips into the conservation areas. A group of local environmental volunteers also organises various campaigns and events on behalf of FZS to generate enthusiasm

among the children and adults for the animals and nature of their local area. By engaging in environmental education we are generating appreciation for Peru's natural resources within the population as well as paving the way for more programmes on how to conduct sustainable business. We are also working with rural and indigenous communities, aiming for a sustainable development and improved livelihoods that will contribute to a more efficient protection of the protected areas

FZS is also extremely dedicated to the cause of the endangered giant otter, the flagship species of the Peruvian Amazon. These were the first animals to which FZS committed itself in Peru. Monitoring and researching the behaviour of these large yet elegant predators in the oxbow lakes and rivers of the rainforest have been integral parts of the Frankfurt Zoological Society's Peru programme since the 1990s.



A FOREST FOR ORANGUTANS

At the beginning of the millennium the Frankfurt Zoological Society launched its reintroduction programme for the redhaired apes; today more than 170 of them live freely in the jungle of the Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park in Sumatra.

hey spend almost all their life in the trees, build a new sleeping nest each and every night, and survive on the fruits of the rainforest: Sumatran orangutans, the charismatic great apes that are so similar to humans. However, their forest is disappearing at a dramatic rate, cleared and replaced by monoculture oil palm or acacia plantations.

There are barely 14,600 Sumatran orangutans alive today and so in 2001 FZS began to reintroduce orangutans into Bukit Tiga Puluh. These were animals that had been held illegally as pets in Indonesia. The goal of the programme is nothing less than to ensure the long-term survival of orangutans and the conservation of their habitat.

These confiscated orangutans, some of which have always lived in captivity and never seen a forest since their childhood, learn what



it means to be a real ape in our jungle school in the buffer zone of the Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park in the centre of the island of Sumatra. They master the skills of climbing trees, building a sleeping nest and discovering which fruits are edible. And when the orangutans are ready for the wilderness, they are released into the forest of the national park. More than 170 orangutans have now been reintroduced, and their babies are now being born as free animals in the forest.

Reintroduction is not the end of the story, however. Our local team is also focusing on conserving the forests around the park because deforestation is moving ever closer to the park boundaries. In 2015 a coalition of conservation partners obtained the usage rights to large areas of forest, adding critical land to the safe haven for orangutans, tigers and Sumatran elephants.

Our programme in Sumatra includes many supplementary components: FZS provides training for rangers who monitor the project area, and supports the conservation authorities and local communities in managing the park and its conservation-friendly economic development. We are also monitoring the populations of Sumatran tigers and elephants in Bukit Tiga Puluh and we are working to mitigate conflict between humans and elephants. And because education is the best basis for gaining a better understanding of nature, our teams visit local schools to raise the awareness of the pupils and their teachers for the importance of, and the threats to, their home.



HIGH TIME FOR MORE WILDERNESS

Think of wilderness and you think of magnificent landscapes with no roads or power lines, of impenetrable forests and adventures in faraway lands. Is there no wilderness in Germany any more?

or us the definition is clear: wilderness is nature that is allowed to develop without direct human influence. In wilderness areas there is neither agriculture nor forestry, grass is not mowed and no natural resources are exploited. The forest can be ravaged by storms, fire and insects. Dynamic change is welcome. Clearing up is unnecessary.

Wilderness areas are once again being given reign to flourish in Germany, such as in the former military training areas of the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation and the core zones of some national parks. At present this represents just over half a percent of



the area of Germany but the Federal Government plans for this figure to rise to two percent. In addition, five percent of the country's forest areas are to be allowed to develop naturally.

In our "Wilderness in Germany" project we are firmly committed to reaching these ambitious goals. Wilderness offers a place of retreat for endangered species, it can serve as a reference area from which we can study natural processes and it can help mitigate the effects of climate change. Wilderness areas are unique places for humans to experience nature, and to this end we are supporting the establishment of new national parks and the creation of wilderness areas.

We raise funds to purchase land or otherwise secure its existence, so that wilderness can flourish. And we are working to strengthen publicity work and promote the understanding and appreciation of the wilderness concept.

FZS cooperates with other conservation organisations, associations and foundations that are also dedicated to protecting wilderness in Germany and lobbying the government – in short, we are doing everything we can to make Germany's nature wild again.



SHY ANTELOPES IN THE ENDLESS STEPPE

Europe's only antelope, the saiga, lives in the vast steppe areas of Kazakhstan – a barren and wild habitat that needs our protection. azakhstan's vast steppe areas are also known as the "Serengeti of Central Asia". They are indeed reminiscent of the East African savannah. However, they are much sparser, lack trees, and have an extreme climate – scorching hot in summer, freezing cold in winter. The saiga antelope with its distinctive nose is at home in this rugged wilderness. They once roamed in vast herds of hundreds of thousands of animals across the Kazakh steppe. Over many decades, saiga numbers were decimated as the result of uncontrolled hunting and they were also poached for their horns. By the turn of the Millennium they had all but vanished. Thanks to intensive conservation efforts, the consistent deployment of rangers, environmental education and the designation of new protected areas, the numbers of saigas started to rise again. We have



been supporting our local Kazakh partners in this work since 2002. The project area covers 75 million hectares, which is more than twice the size of Germany.

Studying the saiga antelopes and their ecology has become an increasingly important aspect of the project. This became especially critical in 2015, when tens of thousands of saigas were killed by an infection that caused the population to shrink dramatically. Finding the cause took three years of interdisciplinary and international research which showed that a combination of environmental factors, infectious agents and the biology of the saigas were responsible for the mass die-off. Most critically, the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*, which is normally harmless for saigas, was deadly to them in 2015 as

it was combined with hot and humid weather in the weeks before the die-off, resulting in haemorrhagic septicaemia in infected individuals. Fortunately, annual counts show that the population has recovered. The 2019 census demonstrated that there were about 334,400 saiga antelopes in the three populations. There haven't been this many saigas in Kazakhstan for 20 years!

The saiga, a shy antelope with its striking nose, symbolises the survival of all wildlife in the steppes of Kazakhstan. The wide grasslands need to be conserved for them and for the future of us all.



WE NEED NATURE. AND NATURE NEEDS DEDICATED PEOPLE.

Help us to conserve the last large wilderness areas of our planet and their unique wildlife. Support the work of Frankfurt Zoological Society – as a member, as a donor, a sponsor or with your legacy. By leaving a gift in your will you ensure a future for wildlife and wild places.

We are happy to answer your questions personally and confidentially.

In Germany

Sanja Krebs FZS philanthropy

phone: +49 (0) 69 94 34 46 - 16

email: krebs@zgf.de

In the USA

Dr. Peyton West FZS-US

phone: +1 202 - 342 - 1264 email: peyton.west@fzs.org

Joyce Chiluba is a wildlife police officer working for North Luangwa National Park's canine unit in Zambia. Her unit is an integral part the North Luangwa Conservation Programme, which ensures the prevention of wildlife crime.

THE FZS IN FIGURES 440 employees 29 projects and programmes in 18 countries 6,500 & supporters 1960 1950 1962 Founding of a The General Assembly adopts "conservation" as the constitutional charity to support goal of the FZS. This now reads as follows: "The Society advocates Frankfurt Zoo the conservation of animal and plant life in Germany and abroad, (Zoo-Gesellschaft). and supports these efforts." 1945 Bernhard Grzimek 1961 becomes director of The "Help for Threatened Wildlife" fundraising Frankfurt Zoo. campaign is launched.

"Zoo-Gesellschaft" renamed "Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt" (Frankfurt Zoological Society).

1958

1983

Africa office set up in the Serengeti with Markus Borner as FZS Africa Programme Director.

