

POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONSERVATION

**FZS CONSERVATION & HUMAN RIGHTS
FRAMEWORK**

RELEASE DATE
NOVEMBER 2023



**FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

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INTRODUCTION

FZS works to conserve biological diversity and natural ecosystems and promote the sustainable use of renewable resources to cover the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. FZS's long-term commitment to the ecosystems and landscapes where it works includes building effective and lasting partnerships with the Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), whose livelihoods, well-being and cultural identities are intrinsically linked to the sustainable use of natural resources that make these places relevant for biodiversity conservation.

Conservation goals can contribute to the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights for communities relying on natural resources for their livelihoods. Positive outcomes for both people and nature depend on mainstreaming human rights into conservation practices. Conservation initiatives can also generate negative impacts if human rights and well-being are not sufficiently understood and addressed. When conservation measures require access restrictions to natural resources, with considerable impacts on IPLCs' income sources and livelihoods, FZS will take special care to ensure that its actions are consistent with the highest internationally accepted human rights standards.

In situations where FZS works as a partner in government-driven conservation initiatives, it commits to using leverage to ensure that IPLCs are meaningfully engaged, through free, prior and informed consent processes, in decisions related to creating and managing state-recognised protected areas, and that they are not forcibly displaced.

FZS is guided by internationally proclaimed human rights as contained in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other applicable international and regional instruments¹ and affirms its commitment to the following principles. FZS is also committed to respecting customary rights and additional rights under national law provided that they are not inconsistent with international human rights standards.

1 PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide FZS to practice a human rights-based approach across its work in conservation:

- 1.1 Respect internationally proclaimed human rights and do not contribute to their violation in conservation initiatives.
- 1.2 Promote human rights and human well-being within FZS work, including the right of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes for IPLCs.
- 1.3 Promote a gender-responsive approach aiming at ensuring that FZS's actions are equally beneficial for all genders and do not reinforce gender-based discrimination.
- 1.4 Identify and mitigate negative human rights impacts connected to FZS activities, including preventing harm to IPLCs.
- 1.5 Advocate for governments to fulfil their obligations to right-holders within the scope of FZS projects.
- 1.6 Support the improvement of governance and participatory systems that can contribute to securing the rights of IPLCs.

2 REQUIREMENTS

To implement these principles, FZS commits to the following:

¹ Including, but not limited to, the nine UN Core International Human Rights Instruments, ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, the ILO core labour standards, UN Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the UN General Assembly Resolution on the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the regional Aarhus and Escazú conventions on access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice and other relevant human rights law in the Americas and African systems.

- 2.1 Establish appropriate policies and guidelines to ensure that these principles are followed, communicate the policies internally and externally, and periodically review them as needed.
- 2.2 Determine the internal competencies and develop FZS's capacities needed to implement these principles and facilitate learning and adaptation.
- 2.3 Mainstream human rights in conservation project design, implementation and monitoring. Incorporate gender and youth as cross-cutting considerations across offices, strategies and activities.
- 2.4 Conduct context-specific conflict assessments in relation to place-based activities to identify and mitigate the human rights violations that FZS's work may pose and disclose information on risk assessment and mitigation measures.
- 2.5 Establish grievance and redress mechanisms and communicate these mechanisms to affected rights holders.
- 2.6 Appoint a Human Rights Advisory Group, with internal and external participants to support the implementation of FZS's conservation and human rights framework.
- 2.7 Ensure that commitments and written agreements with governments of countries with which FZS works include compliance with human rights standards and good practices, especially in the establishment and management of protected areas and law enforcement and security activities.
- 2.8 Assess issues related to human rights in conservation records, policies and practices of prospective partners to identify potential gaps that could impact compliance with specified requirements in agreements to inform our advocacy decisions.