

**Subject: Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions**  
**Grantee: Frankfurt Zoological Society**  
**Project: Protecting Priority Conservation Sites in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, Tanzania CEPF application number #62598**

## **A. Project Background**

The 19,500 km<sup>2</sup> Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) with the Mahale Mountains National Park at its core, is part of a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot.

Approximately 75% of the ecosystem is currently woodland and forest, important for plant species diversity, globally important chimpanzee populations and elephant movement routes. The GME also provides key ecosystem services in terms of carbon storage in the woody biomass, hydrological services and watershed management.

Over the past few decades Lake Tanganyika's productivity has declined by 30% due to poor natural resource management, population growth and changes in climate conditions. Consequently, fishers and recent immigrants to the area have increased their reliance on slash and burn agriculture and Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) deforestation is about 10% per year. This poses a direct threat to the GME's functionality and services it provides to the local communities. Moreover current and expected climate changes (1.3-2.2°C in next 50 years, with wetter wet seasons and drier dry seasons, but an overall increase in aridity) may cause a 10-20% decline in agricultural productivity and further declines in fish yields, putting additional pressure on natural areas as people search for new ways to feed their families and earn a living. Climate change impacts to forest, woodland and freshwater habitats in the GME will have a cascading effect on livelihoods, health and well-being of local communities, compounded by high population growth rates and few alternative livelihoods. Finally, the planned expansion of the road network across and into this currently inaccessible remote ecosystem, presents a further threat. By adopting an ecosystem approach to tackle the threats to the GME the Action will address the interrelated threats of deforestation, poor land use, climate change and poverty. Protecting key sites within the GME is a critical part of protecting the ecosystem and the endangered species within.

More than 50% of the estimated 2000 endangered chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) living the GME reside outside of protected areas in currently ungazetted 'general land'. Initial work to seek local government approval to expand / establish protected areas have been successful, it is the intention of this proposed project to develop and facilitate the process of gazettment of key conservation sites on general land and to strengthen the capacity of local communities to protect village forest resources.

Currently less than 10% of the GME is designated as a National Park and thus fully protected. Much of the remaining area is unallocated government land. FZS has previously supported 14

villages to secure their land tenure and develop community based natural resources management through Participatory Forest Management.

Actions to develop a new protected area in the GME described in this project are based on the recommendations of the participatory Conservation Action Planning process (started in 2008) which included a range of GME stakeholders, and numerous subsequent meetings with those partners.

FZS has facilitated the village land use planning process in 14 villages and establishment of village land forest reserves in 11 villages. The actions described in this project to strengthen VLFR management were designed in collaboration with the communities during these planning processes.

## **B. Participatory Implementation**

Village land use planning has already defined the village boundaries of most of the villages adjacent to the area proposed for protection, thus most villages have already agreed and delineated the boundaries of their village land. The decision of the fate of the general land (outside of village land) lying within the districts will be made by locally elected representatives on the district council. Implementation of a new protected area will be in fully partnership with local authorities.

Strengthening village forest management will be implemented fully in partnership with the officially elected representatives of each respective village community and nominated forest scouts. Communities themselves have designated the areas of village forest protection and defined the management and restrictions to be enforced in those areas.

## **C. Criteria for Eligibility of Affected Persons**

Affected persons will include those who reside and have a legitimate claim to land falling within the new proposed protected area. This is clearly defined in Tanzanian government policy which in the absence of clear land tenure for many remote areas includes criteria for customary ownership of land. People conducting residing illegally or conducting illegal activities such as poaching and illegal timber harvesting are not included.

## **D. Measures to Assist the Affected Persons**

Measures to assist affected persons will follow national legislation and guidelines for compensation where appropriate. In addition complimentary project activities such as livelihoods development activities will be focused on those communities who may have been subject to restrictions on legal activities.

## **E. Conflict Resolution**

Grievances and conflicts raised by affected communities can be brought to the respective district councils directly or through the elected councillors or FZS staff in the project area, by individuals, communities, or civil society groups. FZS will work with local authority partners to ensure these grievances are dealt with. Mediation can occur through representatives from community groups and project partners to ensure restrictions, eligibility criteria, and mitigation measures are understood and appropriate to local communities. Grievances can be addressed through informal discussions, planned meetings, or participatory workshops as appropriate.

## **F. Implementation Arrangements**

FZS is formally responsible for all elements of implementing this grant, including ensuring that community members invited to trainings and or meetings, are able to attend, and are given a proper voice during those. FZS personnel have prior experience in the GME in participatory mapping, planning, and boundary demarcation. FZS will control all financial and logistic resources.