



## **Press Release by Frankfurt Zoological Society on handing out 6,369 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) in Villages in Serengeti District.**

Mugumu, Serengeti District, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Honorable Angelina S.L. Mabula officially invited as the guest of honor to hand out the CCROs to the community members of Nyichoka, Bokore, Nyanungu and Makundusi Villages.

**Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)** is a non-governmental organization whose mission is to exercise charity by preserving wild animals and biological diversity in the world and empowering local communities on conservation. FZS has been operating in Tanzania since 1957. Since this time, FZS has provided support to the Government of Tanzania in establishing and maintaining national parks and associated wildlife areas, and ensuring the benefits from these parks flow to the central government of Tanzania, as well as regions, districts and local communities where these parks are located. The focal areas of FZS include the Serengeti, Nyerere and Mahale National Parks and Selous Game Reserve.

Over the years, Frankfurt Zoological Society has worked closely with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), local governments and local communities and other stakeholders to support efforts in conservation in the Serengeti ecosystem.

FZS, TANAPA and the local governments in these villages jointly started the initiative of land-use planning preparations in the year 2016. These stakeholders and partners continue to work closely together in efforts to support village land use planning in the Serengeti district following systematic procedures put in place, including participatory land use planning, that allows primary stakeholders like village leaders to collaborate with these partners in preparations and approval of the plans. All these partners work tirelessly together to prepare proper plans of land allocation especially lands for settlement, grazing, agriculture, rangelands, and corridors for wildlife. Moreover, an important aspect of land use plans is that it gives an opportunity for land tenure security through provision of Customary Rights of Occupancy

and also provides the local governments with directions in developing programs and strategies to support these plans further from the community level to the Ministerial level.

With support and facilitation from Kfw development Bank of Germany, more than 180,000/- Euros has been used in the land use planning process of 12 villages and these are Iharara, Nyamburi, Manyata, Kitunguruma, Gatarungu, Nyansurura, Mbalibali, Bonchugu, Nyanungu, Nyichoka, Bokore and Makundusi. Moreover, an amount of 180,000/- Euros has been used in preparation of the CCROs of these villages. The total amount is equivalent to Tshs. 800,000,000/-.

To date, FZS under Serengeti Ecosystem Development and Conservation Project (SEDPC) has managed to conduct land use planning in 22 villages in the Serengeti ecosystem following all necessary procedures and guidelines for participatory village land use planning in Tanzania prepared by the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC).

Even with all these efforts, there are a few challenges that we cannot escape during the various processes of land use planning, and these are;

- Boundary conflicts between the park and the villages,
- Inadequate tenure security in some villages,
- Limited education on sustainable conservation,
- Conflicts in adherence to village land use planning by-laws; and
- Seven villages of Bisarara Ward have not been demarcated to know their boundaries.

Today, we are grateful and honored to officially have Honorable Angelina Mabula hand out CCRO's to the community members of these villages.

For further information, please contact,

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