

Project information

Biodiversity and resource conservation Tanzania

Conservation has to start with the people: sharing more of the proceeds to improve participation

The Serengeti ecosystem is one of the world's largest conservation areas for wild animals. But the ecosystem and its great biodiversity are threatened by poaching, overexploitation of natural resources from cattle ranching, population pressure, and harmful infrastructure measures such as the possible construction of a road across the national park. As a result, on behalf of the German Federal Government, KfW is cooperating with its partners to support sustainable development for the Serengeti ecosystem. To ensure that people are on board with these efforts, the measures primarily focus on doing more to involve the population: in sharing the proceeds, in sustainable management and in the conservation of natural resources. Enabling people to enjoy greater participation in this unique natural area should help them to identify with the conservation measures more strongly. This, in turn, will help to effectively preserve the biodiversity of this extraordinary ecosystem.

owned by locals, and their staff are often recruited from other regions with better education systems. And just 0.5% of the proceeds from tourism in the Serengeti National Park benefit the surrounding districts.

The two rural neighbouring regions of Serengeti and Ngorongoro are far below the national average in terms of their development. This is evident from the deficiencies in the districts' infrastructure; the road networks in particular are poorly developed. Furthermore, people have little access to education or health services. School buildings, pupil accommodation, health centres, transport links and water supply facilities are all lacking.

Since those living next to the national park do not benefit from it and have nothing to gain from biodiversity conservation, they do not identify with the conservation measures either. Instead, they support poachers and graze their herds inside the national park.

Context

The Serengeti ecosystem stretches over an area of roughly 30,000km² from Tanzania to southern Kenya (by way of comparison, Wales covers an area of around 21,000km²). The ecosystem is one of the world's largest savannah areas that still remains broadly unspoiled. It is famous for the seasonal migration of close to two million gnus, zebras and various breeds of antelope. Spanning close to 15,000km², Serengeti National Park forms the backbone of the system as a whole.

Nearby areas hardly benefit at all from the proceeds of tourism in the national park.

These world-renowned natural areas are important for Tanzania's tourism sector. Tourism accounts for around 17% of the gross national product and is a strong driver of job creation, with up to two million jobs depending directly or indirectly on tourism. However, the local population is still not adequately involved in managing the conservation area, nor do they receive an appropriate share of the income generated by biodiversity conservation and resource use. The tourism companies are rarely

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Country/region	Tanzania
Project partners	Tanzania National Parks Authority, Frankfurt Zoological Society





A migrating herd of gnus in Serengeti National Park.
Source: Daniel Rosengren/ZGF

Project approach

The project, which is funded by KfW, is primarily concerned with improving living conditions in the neighbouring districts and, in turn, ensuring effective conservation of biodiversity while safeguarding the Serengeti ecosystem's natural resources. To this end, KfW is financing the necessary investments in the districts' infrastructure, primarily in expanding and rehabilitating the rural road network. In addition, financing is being provided for school buildings, teacher and pupil accommodation, health centres and small dams for water supply purposes.

To increase the population's involvement in sustainable resource use, participatory wildlife and forest conservation areas (known as wildlife management areas) are being established in the two districts. The local communities in these areas will manage the natural resources and agree on sustainable use strategies. The Frankfurt Zoological Society (ZGF) is assisting the wildlife management areas with setting up an administrative structure. And to further curtail resource conflicts, land use plans are being drawn up together with the local population. Income-generating measures, such as support for community savings groups, also help to relieve pressure on Serengeti National Park.

KfW is also helping the Serengeti National Park administrative staff to improve its management mechanisms as well as its equipment and infrastructure. This includes:

- creating management plans
- providing equipment such as vehicles
- rehabilitating or building ranger accommodation or administrative buildings
- a new visitor centre

KfW is providing the lion's share of funding for the project, with its project partner, the Frankfurt Zoological Society, also providing some of the funds. The project went into its second phase in late 2021.

The Frankfurt Zoological Society is also assisting the project executing agency, the Tanzania National Parks

Authority, with implementing biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use measures. To ensure the long-term viability of these efforts, ZGF will also remain a project partner in the Serengeti ecosystem after the project has been completed.

Impact

The project plays a role in achieving the development goals set out in Tanzania's development plan. In addition, the measures initiated by this project are important steps for compliance with the commitments arising from various international agreements on nature and resource conservation, such as the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- **Through wildlife management areas and improved infrastructure in villages, the local population is receiving a larger share of the income generated from resource conservation.**
- **Income-generating measures like the community savings groups also relieve pressure on the natural resources.**
- **Thanks to the increased financial benefit, the local population identifies more closely with the efforts to conserve resources and biodiversity in the Serengeti ecosystem, reducing the pressure human use is currently placing on it.**
- **The national park's administrative staff is being empowered to run the park more effectively and sustainably thanks to improved management and park infrastructure.**
- **As a result, the extraordinary biodiversity of this ecosystem can be preserved for generations to come.**

The project promotes an alternative to the destructive use of resources and the planned infrastructure developments that pose a threat to the integrity of the Serengeti ecosystem.

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