

African elephant, Chobe River, KAZA TFCA

“Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) are a progressive approach in addressing conservation challenges as well as enhancing the contribution of natural resources to regional economic development.”

Foreword

SADC Secretariat



The SADC region is endowed with diverse natural capital, within aquatic, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems of global significance for conservation of biological diversity that supports social and economic development. The regional economy continues to depend primarily on natural resources such as forestry, fisheries, and wildlife. Furthermore, about 75% of the rural communities depend directly on these natural resources for their livelihoods. These biological resources are, therefore, fundamental to the development of the region's economy and social transformation.

In view of the diminishing capacity of nature to provide vital ecosystem goods and services due to human impacts, we, in the SADC region, realise that successful conservation and the sustainable use of the region's shared biological resources depend on transboundary cooperation. The high-level political commitment to transboundary cooperation is enshrined in the SADC Treaty's Vision of "A common future for all countries and peoples of southern Africa" and the desire to deal with underlying poverty and the marginalisation of communities. Other important regional instruments guiding the implementation of Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) processes include the Protocols on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement; Environmental Management for Sustainable Development; Fisheries; Forestry; Politics Defence and Security Cooperation; Shared Water Courses Systems; and Tourism.

TFCAs are a progressive approach in addressing conservation challenges, as well as enhancing the contribution of natural resources to regional economic and social development. The concept of TFCAs recognises that the joint management of shared natural resources across international boundaries has the potential to promote peace and stability; and ensure sustainable conservation and utilisation of natural resources; while providing social and economic development opportunities, mainly for the local communities affected by the establishment and operationalization of these conservation initiatives, including their food and nutrition security necessities.

The TFCA approach is based on three pillars, namely:

- i. **Environmental Conservation** by supporting the integrity of large ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- ii. **Regional Integration** by bringing together two or more Member States to co-manage shared natural resources and progress towards legal harmonisation and active cooperation in resolving other matters related to transboundary conservation; and
- iii. **Socio-economic development** mainly of the areas and communities affected by the establishment of TFCAs.

The SADC Secretariat would like to thank the political leadership and guidance from the SADC Member States, and appreciate the support received from the local communities and our cooperating partners, in promoting the TFCA work. A greater part of the progress made in the implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme is a result of the technical and financial support provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) through GIZ and KfW, and this has elevated SADC TFCAs to the current high profile on the global scene.

Elias Mpedi Magosi

H. E. Elias Mpedi Magosi
Executive Secretary SADC Secretariat

“It is through regional cooperation that the natural richness of southern Africa can be best conserved and utilised for the benefit of its people.”



Foreword

German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ)



Biodiversity covers a variety of terrestrial and aquatic animal and plant species, the genetic diversity within these species and the diversity of ecosystems in which they live. It comprises our global natural heritage, and ensures the provision of ecosystem services, climate resilience, food production, water supply, clean air and recreation. In many countries – like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region – it is an essential pillar of socio-economic development.

At the global level, Germany, is a signatory member of the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1993 as well as other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. It resolutely believes there is the need to preserve biodiversity for the benefit of the respective countries, populations, and mankind at large. The Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) is, therefore, funding biodiversity programmes in over 30 partner countries, of which 12 are SADC Member States. These programmes support policy frameworks that help to improve the management of protected areas and ecosystems. They promote the fight against illegal logging, poaching and the illicit trade in wild animal and forest products. They also boost job creation through the promotion of nature-based tourism and the application of good practices in agriculture and rangeland management. Since 2013, the German government has provided EUR 500 million annually for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. In total EUR 200 million has been distributed to the SADC region through regional SADC programmes.

In the SADC region, BMZ specifically promotes the SADC Member States' important efforts to establish Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) jointly managed by two or more countries. The objective of the joint German Development Cooperation Programme on SADC Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources is to promote sustainable

development and economic growth i.e. to conserve transboundary ecosystems and biodiversity, improve livelihoods and the climate resilience of the population, enhance the tourism sector and job creation as well as to promote economic stability and regional integration. The Programme invests in infrastructure and the capacity development of TFCA stakeholders from the political to management level and to the level of the TFCA practitioners and local land-users. Activities are so far carried out in Kavango-Zambezi TFCA (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe), Great Limpopo TFCA (Mozambique, South Africa), Greater Mapungubwe TFCA (Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe), Malawi-Zambia TFCA, Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (Namibia, South Africa), Lubombo TFCA (Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa) and Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA (Lesotho, South Africa), as well as direct support to SADC Secretariat operational plans related to natural resources conservation.

The SADC region has vast natural capital and immense potential to protect and use the biodiversity as a primary source of economic, social and cultural development as well as regional integration for present and future generations. And it is through regional cooperation that the natural richness of Southern Africa can be best conserved and utilised for the benefit of its people. We are proud that we can celebrate the 20th Anniversary since the opening of the first TFCA – the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park alongside the SADC Member States, the SADC Secretariat and our partners.

Alois Schneider

Alois Schneider
Head of Division Southern Africa and South Africa, BMZ

List of Acronyms

ADB	African Development Bank	JMC	Joint Management Committee
AIZ	Academy for International Cooperation	JRC	Joint Research Centre
ARTP.....	Ai/Ais/-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park	KAZA	Kavango-Zambesi Transfrontier Conservation Area
BIOPAMA.....	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management	KfW	German Development Bank / Credit Institute for Reconstruction (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)
BMZ.....	Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation	LEAP	Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy
CADECOM.....	Catholic Development COMmission in Malawi	LTFCFA	Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources	M&E.....	Monitoring & Evaluation
CAP.....	Costed Action Plan	MDTFCA	Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area MEAs Multilateral Environmental Agreements
CAWM	College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka (United Republic of Tanzania)	MEA.....	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MESA	Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA)-SADC
CNBRM	Community-based Natural Resources Management	MIKE.....	Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants
CBO	Community-based Organisation	MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
CCA.....	Community Conservation and Forestry Areas	MRV.....	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
CI	Conservation International	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	NP.....	National Park
C-NRM.....	Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management	NRM	Natural Resources Management
COMACO.....	Community Markets for Conservation	NTFP.....	Non-Timber Forest Products
COP	Conference of the Parties	NTO.....	National Tourism Organisation
DEFRA.....	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	OFI	Olmotonyi Forestry Institute
DFID	Department for International Development	PA.....	Protected Area
DNPW	Departments of National Parks and Wildlife	PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
ESARO	IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office	REC	Regional Economic Community
EU	European Union	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
FANR	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources	RISDP.....	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
FF.....	Financing Facility	SADC	Southern African Development Community
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade	SanParks.....	South Africa National Parks
FZS	Frankfurt Zoological Society	SAWC.....	Southern African Wildlife College
FMD	Food and Mouth Disease	SMART.....	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
GCT.....	Gonarezhou Conservation Trust	SSWG.....	Safety and Security Working Group
GDC	German Development Cooperation	SUA.....	Sokoine University of Agriculture
GDC/SADC-TUPNR.....	GDC/SADC Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme	TAFORI.....	Tanzania Forestry Research Institute
GIZ	German International Cooperation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)	TBPA	Transboundary Protected Area
GLTFCA	Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area	TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
GDC/SADC-TUPNR.....	GDC/SADC Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme	TP	Transfrontier Park
GLTP	Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park	TRAFFIC	The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
H4H	Herding for Health	TWIX.....	Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange
ICCCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime	UN	United Nations
ICP	International Cooperation Partner (donor or non-donor)	UNCCD.....	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
IDP	International Cooperation Partner (donor or non-donor)	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IRDNC.....	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation	UNODC.....	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ITB	International Tourism Fair (Internationale Tourismus Börse)	USAID.....	United States International Development Agency
IUCN.....	International Union for Conservation of Nature	WB	World Bank
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WDA.....	Wildlife Dispersal Area
		WESSA.....	Wildlife Environment Society of Southern Africa
		WTO.....	World Trade Organisation
		WWF.....	World Wide Fund for Nature
		ZPWMA.....	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

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1. Executive Summary



Former Presidents Festus Mogae of Botswana and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa officially opening the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park on 12 May 2000.

The core mandate of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), as outlined in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) TFCFA Programme, is to promote sustainable use and conservation of shared natural and cultural resources through harmonised, joint cross-border initiatives.

This implies effective governance and management, socio-economic development, financial sustainability, climate resilience, and regional learning and integration. TFCAs are, therefore, bold conservation initiatives due to their size, complexity and vision.

2020 marked exactly 20 years since former Presidents Festus Mogae of Botswana and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa officially launched the first SADC TFCFA - the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Since then, 18 cross-border areas have been listed as SADC TFCAs, out of which 12 have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or Treaties.

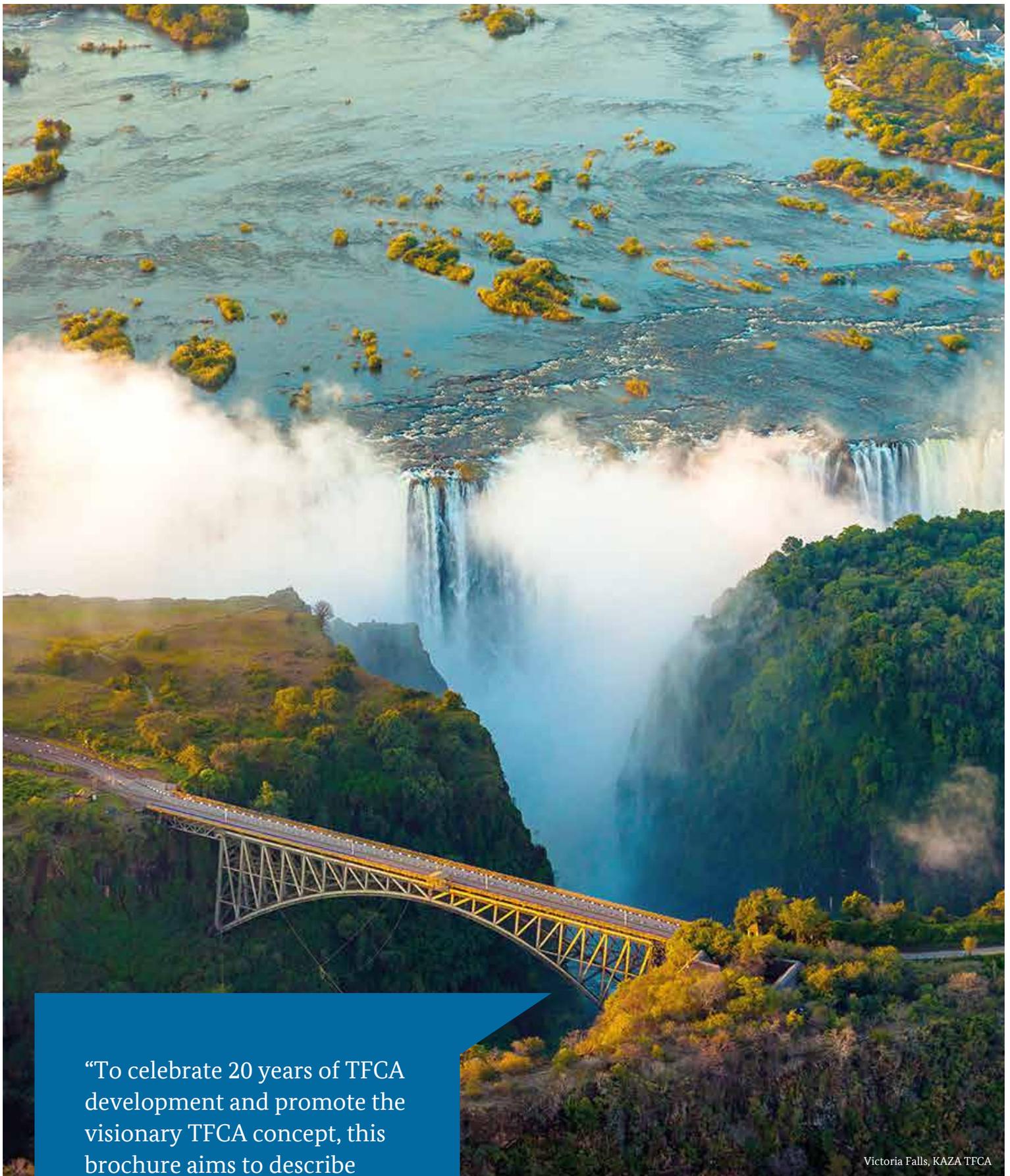
The German government strongly believes in the TFCFA concept as an integrated conservation approach and has supported SADC TFCAs from as early as 2002. In 2012, the German Development Cooperation (GDC) and SADC initiated a joint Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme (GDC/SADC - TUPNR) implementing activities at the regional and the local TFCFA level together with SADC Member States with a wide range of implementing partners and local Community-based Organisations (CBOs). Today, the GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme and its partners are a major initiative supporting the implementation of the SADC TFCFA Programme¹, the SADC Climate Change Strategy², the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy³ and the SADC Tourism Programme.⁴ Currently, the Programme specifically focuses on six TFCAs: (i) Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) TFCFA, (ii) Great Limpopo TFCFA (GLTFCA), (iii) Malawi-Zambia TFCFA, (iv) /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP), (v) Lubombo TFCFA (LTFCA) and (vi) Maloti-Drakensberg TFCFA (MDTFCA).

¹SADC (2013a)

²SADC (2015c)

³SADC (2015a)

⁴SADC (2019)



Victoria Falls, KAZA TFCA

“To celebrate 20 years of TFCA development and promote the visionary TFCA concept, this brochure aims to describe activities and results of the GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme, document, lessons learned and share knowledge derived.”



Ranger in Luengue-Lujana National Park in Angola

To celebrate 20 years of TFCA development and promote the visionary TFCA concept, this brochure aims to describe activities and results of the GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme, document lessons learned and share knowledge derived.

SADC has committed to developing TFCAs within the framework of SADC's mission to coordinate the harmonisation of policies and strategies to accelerate regional integration and sustainable development. Successful conservation at the TFCA landscape level relies on developing integrated approaches that deliver tangible economic development for communities, while conserving the natural resource base.

The GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme focuses on four essential pillars:

1. Establishing functional and representative cross-border institutional arrangements and governance structures that catalyse effective cross-border management and attract additional financial resources
2. Establishing and securing ecosystem connectivity within the landscape to build overall ecosystem health and resilience to external threats
3. Building strong incentives that allow and foster community engagement and co-existence between people and wildlife in the landscape through Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) approaches and the promotion of wildlife-friendly businesses and land-uses
4. Acting against the immediate threat of poaching and illicit wildlife trade through more effective, cross-border law enforcement and anti-poaching strategies

As temperatures continue to rise and natural disasters become more frequent, the need for TFCAs to improve the SADC region's resilience to climate change through climate-sensitive shared natural resource management, climate-smart agriculture and innovative benefit schemes like CO₂ payments for forest conservation becomes more urgent.

TFCAs are home to many tourist attractions and are renowned tourist destinations in Southern Africa. Tourism market development offers significant potential to enhance TFCA development, socio-economic growth and regional integration.

Through a multi-country market development approach and addressing bottlenecks that seemingly 'borderless' tourism experiences within TFCAs, tourism in TFCAs is gaining traction. SADC also has a key facilitating role in enhancing tourism flows across the region and preparing a coordinated response to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism. Targeted "growing back better" activities are currently implemented to support the recovery of the tourism industry from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To strengthen TFCA development, one of the core capacities that need to be built is the professional capacities of rangers and managers. Regional SADC Centres of Specialisation and other training institutes are supported to develop regional training programmes, to conduct cross-border training and to improve their respective training infrastructure.

For instance, the substantial investment in the establishment of the KAZA Secretariat considerably enhanced the TFCAs ability to coordinate, plan, manage and raise additional funds. Going forward, the GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme will promote the roll-out of more sustainable sources of funding through the SADC TFCA Financing Facility (FF) with an initial EUR 33 million, with the aim of growing the figure to a EUR 100 million multi-donor trust fund.

Recognising the importance of regional policy dialogue, TFCA development is supported by the institutional strengthening of existing SADC statutory structures, the development and implementation of strategies, programmes, action plans and guidelines alongside setting up innovative regional exchange platforms such as the SADC TFCA Network. The TFCA Network has since 2013 brought together over 600 TFCA practitioners, who are in regular communication. In addition, the SADC Secretariats' convening role has been strengthened to bring together the Member States to discuss common positions for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), thus speaking with a more united voice at international negotiations.

Overall, the GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme has seen many successes but also encountered challenges which must still be overcome to further the noble vision of integrated cross-border conservation of natural resources, socio-economic development of the local communities and regional integration. Regular exchange and collaboration are essential to creating mutual understanding and trust, needed to agree on the basic conditions (policies, strategies, programmes, TFCA governance structures, guidelines etc.) for TFCA development and followed by the distribution of financial means and investments needed for the joint development of TFCA landscapes and their people.

The success of the vision will create many viable outcomes and benefits for remote rural communities in terms of higher and diversified income as well as better resilience to environmental changes including climate change. In short, the TFCA vision is worth pursuing.

2. Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the SADC Context

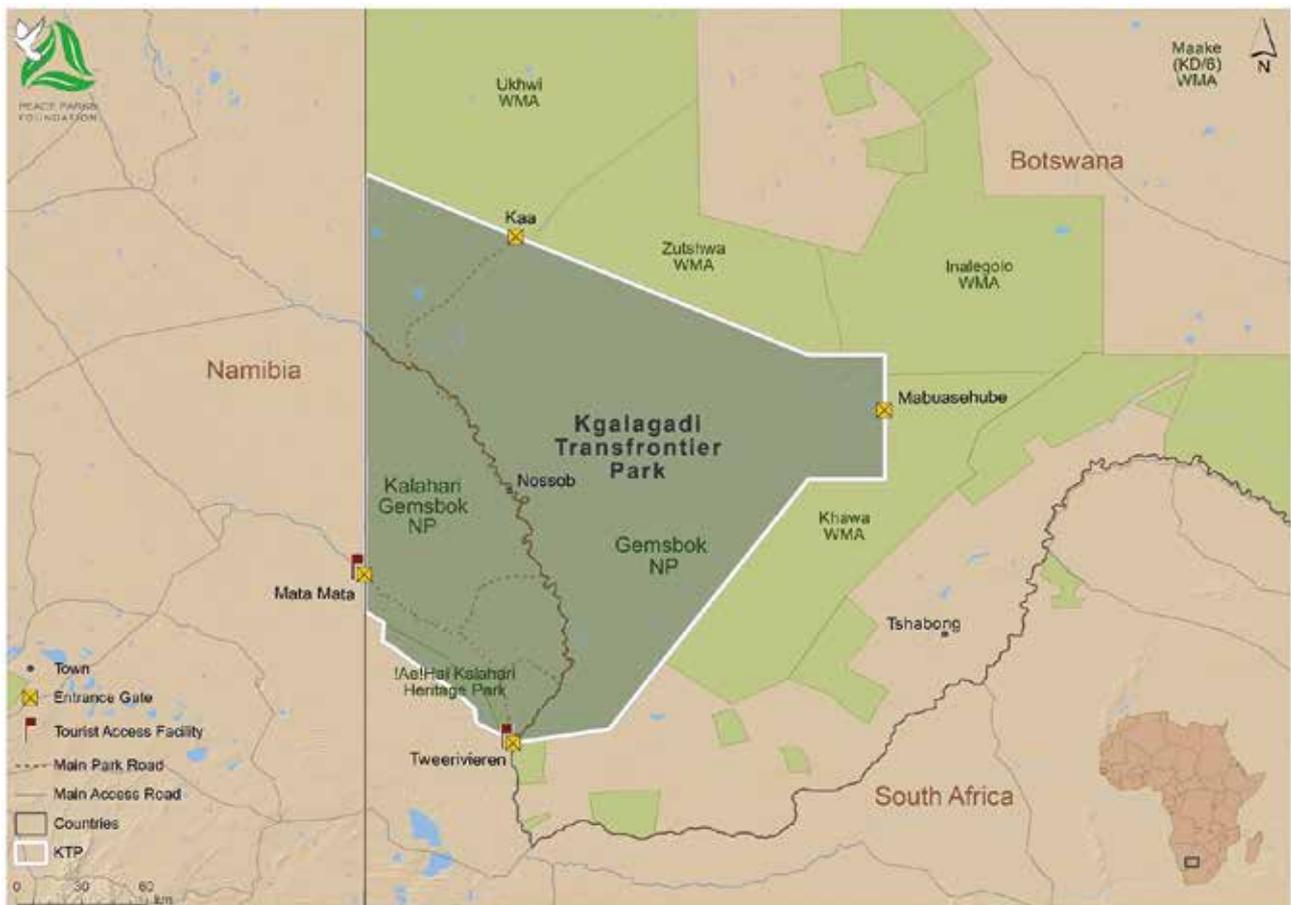
Ecosystems across the globe are interrupted by political boundaries, and approximately one-third of all terrestrial high biodiversity sites straddle international borders⁵. For this reason alone, there is a compelling argument for neighbouring states to collaborate with the aim of increasing landscape connectivity and conservation success. As a result, sovereign governments started to join hands on the creation of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), also referred to as Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPAs) or Parks for Peace. The first examples of the TFCA concept date back to 1924, when Poland and Czechoslovakia signed the Krakow Protocol. The Protocol laid down a framework for establishing international cooperation to manage border parks⁶. Around the same time, the first TFCA was established between the United States of America and Canada to mitigate conflict over a border dispute, through the joint management of shared ecosystems. The Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park was proclaimed in 1932 to commemorate the peace and goodwill between the two nations. The TFCA concept started to gain momentum in other parts of the world in the 1980s.

Globally, TFCAs are established for several purposes. Conserving nature and increasing landscape connectivity has been the primary one; striving to establish peaceful relationships and political stability as well as encouraging economic development and facilitating socio-cultural integration. In Africa, where most borders were drawn by colonial powers, both ecosystems as well as ethnic groups were broken up by political boundaries. As a result, TFCAs in Africa have been promoted to jointly protect shared natural and cultural resources across international borders.

2.1 History of the TFCA concept in the SADC region

In the SADC region, the TFCA concept emerged for the first time in the 1990s. It was only in 1999 that the SADC TFCA concept really picked up, when Botswana and South Africa signed an MoU to establish Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. In the same year, SADC Member States endorsed the SADC Protocol on Wildlife

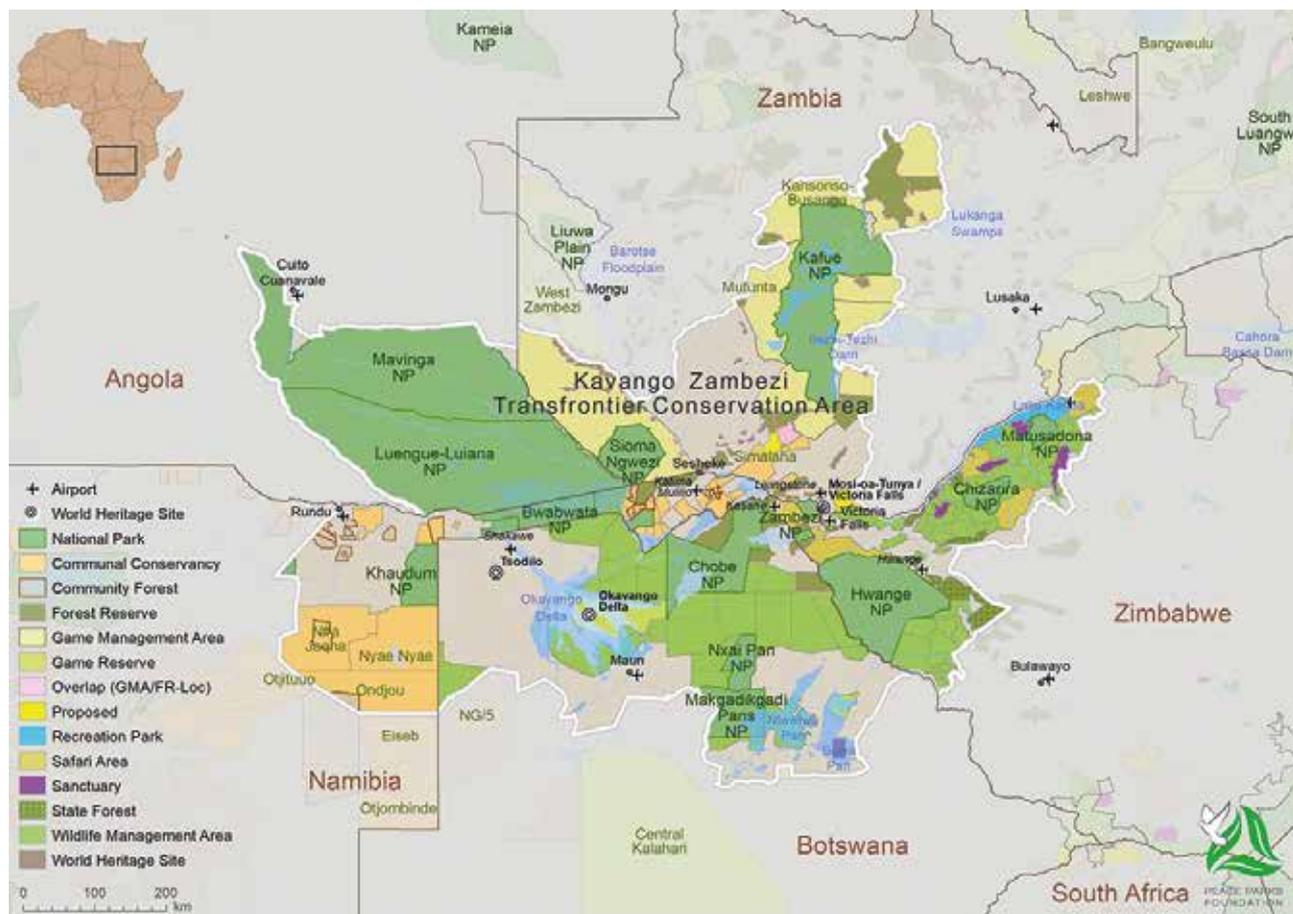
Figure 1: Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park



⁵Vasilijević et al. (2015)

⁶Thorsell (1990)

Figure 2: KAZA TFCA showing different protected area categories



Conservation and Law Enforcement to establish common approaches to conservation, the sustainable use of wildlife resources, as well as to assist with the effective enforcement of laws governing those resources. One of the key objectives of the Protocol is the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of TFCAs. It also defined TFCAs as “an area or component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries, encompassing one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resources use areas”. Consequently, the configuration of SADC TFCAs varies from a Transfrontier Park (TP), connecting two or more adjacent, but cross border protected areas (e.g. Kgalagadi TP, see Figure 1) to TFCAs that include a complexity of land-uses such as communal land, concession areas and protected areas (e.g. KAZA TFCA, see Figure 2).

Transboundary natural resources in SADC TFCAs include aquatic, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems. Other SADC Protocols that address the sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection and the development of TFCAs include the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses⁷, the Protocol on Forestry⁸, the Protocol on Fisheries⁹, the Revised Protocol on the Development of Tourism¹⁰ and the Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development.¹¹

SADC has committed to develop TFCAs within the framework of SADC’s mission to coordinate the harmonisation of policies and strategies to accelerate regional integration and sustainable

development. As a result, the TFCA concept hinges on three pillars to fulfil the mandate of transboundary conservation in the SADC context (Figure 3):

1. **Environmental Conservation**, referring to landscape conservation, climate resilience and the sustainable use of natural resources
2. **Regional Integration**, referring to the process of; firstly, bringing together two or more states to manage shared natural resources and secondly, progress towards legal harmonisation and active cooperation; and
3. **Socio-economic development**, referring to the process of using TFCAs to provide opportunities for socio-economic development, and recognising local communities living in and around TFCAs should be the primary beneficiaries.

⁷ SADC (2000)

⁸ SADC (2002)

⁹ SADC (2006)

¹⁰ SADC (2009)

¹¹ SADC (2014)

Figure 3: SADC TFCA pillars



2.2 Current state of play

Biodiversity loss is an important challenge to global prosperity, and the loss of ecosystem health is a manifestation of the loss of biodiversity health. The SADC Region owns an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity conserved in large and unique ecosystems of forests, marine, coastal and inland waters, wetlands, savannahs and bushveld inhabited by communities with various cultures, languages and religions. The region covers about 400 million hectares of forest and most Member States have already achieved their 17% terrestrial protected area Aichi targets¹². In addition, the SADC region is known to support the earth's largest intact assemblages of large mammals, including over 60% of the African elephant population.

Therefore, the vision of the SADC Biodiversity Strategy¹³ is

“to conserve biodiversity across SADC to sustain the region’s economic and social development in harmony with the spiritual and cultural values of its people. Its goal is to promote equitable and regulated access to, sharing of benefits from, and responsibilities for protecting biodiversity in the SADC region.”

An important part of this biodiversity is located in the 18 SADC TFCAs (See Figure 5 in Chapter 3) in both terrestrial and marine environments, which are in the following stages of development:

a. **Category-A-Established-TFCAs** (eight) with a legal mandate and established through a Treaty or any other form of legal agreement recognised by the partner countries with active structures and projects on the ground;

b. **Category-B-Emerging-TFCAs** (four) with signed MoUs. The MoUs serve as instruments that facilitate negotiations towards the signing of Treaties to formally establish the respective TFCAs; and

c. **Category C-Conceptual-TFCAs** (six) in the process of finalising MoUs or are proposed by some SADC Member States as potential TFCAs.

TFCAs are high biodiversity transboundary landscapes covering different land uses and systems for community development and ecosystem management. They cover an area of nearly one million square kilometres (ca. three times the size of Germany), which includes more than half of all the Protected Areas (PA) in the SADC region.

They have been developed as individual projects based on bi- or multilateral Treaties or MoUs between the partnering countries and are founded on the principle that conservation should embrace active participation and involvement of local communities in the planning and decision-making processes of natural resources management.

Initially, the TFCA concept was implemented bilaterally between SADC Member States. With time, however, Member States realised the role that the SADC Secretariat could play in mobilising financial and technical resources, as well as the importance of increasing regional knowledge sharing and collaboration. It is in this context that the SADC TFCA Programme was developed in 2013 to facilitate and support efforts designed to establish and develop TFCAs in collaboration with national, regional and international partners. The SADC TFCA Programme highlights seven key components:

1. Advocacy and Harmonisation
2. Enhancement of financing mechanisms for TFCAs
3. Capacity building for TFCA stakeholders
4. Establishment of data and knowledge management
5. Enhancement of local livelihoods
6. Reducing the vulnerability of ecosystems and people to the effects of climate change
7. Development of TFCAs into marketable tourism products

The objective of the TFCA Programme is

“to develop a functional and integrated network of TFCAs where shared natural resources are sustainably co-managed and conserved to foster socio-economic development, and regional integration for the benefit of those living within and around TFCAs and mankind at large.”

¹² SADC (2015c)

¹³ UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2016)



Elephants from the air, Okavango Delta, Botswana.

Since its development, the SADC TFCA Programme has been providing main support and guide TFCA development across the region.

Unique in the SADC region, is the high political endorsement and commitment, with legal agreements signed up to Heads of State level, providing a strong mandate for stronger coordination, joint management and planning. The establishment of functional TFCAs with proper zonation and wildlife corridors can greatly enhance the connectivity between conservation areas, reduce fragmentation of habitats and, therefore, increase species dispersal and the overall ecosystem health. With support from many stakeholders, thousands of animals have been translocated through the years into depleted wildlife areas within TFCAs. Also, countries started to collaborate and coordinate their law-enforcement activities, specifically in poaching hotspots.

As the management of TFCAs involves multiple land-uses and associated stakeholders working across different scales and borders, TFCA management requires stakeholders to set up both formal and informal shared cross-border governance and management systems involving government institutions, protected area staff, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), local community representatives, International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), private sector partners and researchers. The regional SADC TFCA Network, created in 2013, shortly after the

SADC TFCA Programme¹⁴ was endorsed, ensures that TFCA practitioners build strong relationships and exchange best practices.

Furthermore, with many renowned tourist destinations such as Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta, Kruger National Park and the Drakensberg mountains located within SADC TFCAs, the region is also increasingly marketing TFCAs as unique cross-border tourist destinations and strengthening the multi-country market development approach, through the Boundless Southern Africa Programme, since its establishment in 2008. The opening of tourism access facilities as well as the roll-out of the KAZA UNIVISA further supports the tourists' ease of movement across the TFCA landscape.

Despite the progress to date, the region's natural ecosystems and biodiversity continue to face challenges. Demographic growth and escalating deforestation, land degradation, poaching, the illegal wildlife trade as well as the impacts of climate change, are major direct threats. Given the importance of biodiversity in Southern Africa, the impact of land transformation is likely to have disproportionately high impacts on global biodiversity. The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how volatile the tourism industry is and that conservation cannot only rely on donor funding and private sector support, but also leverage funding from more innovative financing streams.

¹⁴SADC (2013a)

3. German Development Cooperation Support to SADC TFCAs

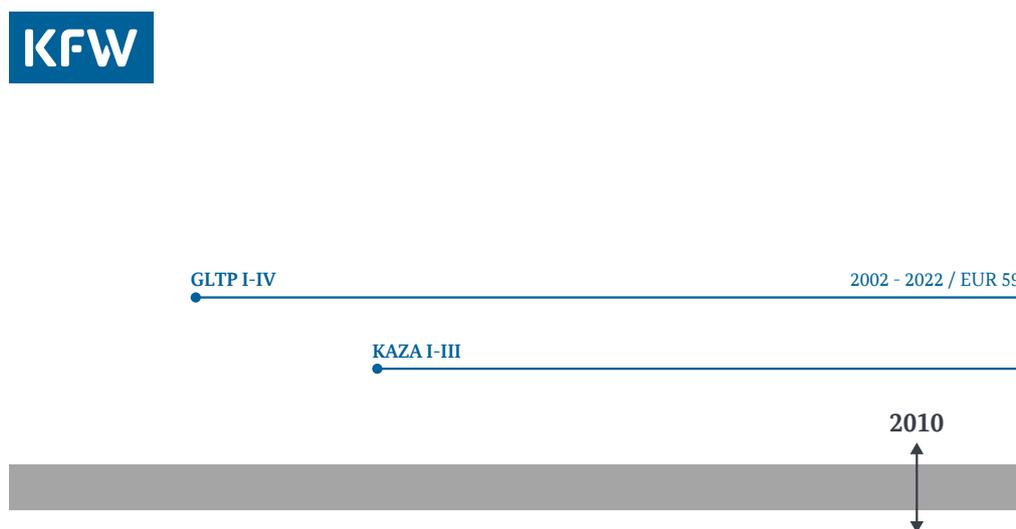
Germany supports the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems on a global scale. It is an active party to MEAs and also supports the SADC Member States in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The GDC is one of the major ICPs supporting the implementation of the TFCA Programme, the Climate Change Strategy, the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy and the Tourism Programme.

The regional GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme started in 2012 and comprises several individual projects, implemented through KfW and GIZ (see Figure 4 below and Annex A). The GIZ/SADC project *Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Project*

The German Government in its Africa-Political Guidelines and the Marshall Plan with Africa¹⁵ commits to strengthening regional integration, peace and security, rural development, responsible use and conservation of natural resources as well as nature-based tourism. The objectives are improved living conditions of the population, cooperation among the bordering communities and countries and increased political stability.

Figure 4: Timeline of regional GDC support for TFCAs



This aligns with the objectives of SADC and its Member States as laid down in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2016-2020¹⁶ and RISDP 2020-2030¹⁷ as well as the respective Protocols, Strategies and Programmes, which have partly been developed and/or implemented with the support of the German Development Cooperation (GDC).

The GDC supports the Natural Resource Management (NRM) sector at the SADC Secretariat through the regional GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme. The GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ)¹⁸ and is jointly implemented by the *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* (KfW) – Financial Cooperation – and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) – Technical Cooperation.

¹⁵ BMZ (2017)

¹⁶ SADC (2017)

¹⁷ SADC (2020)

¹⁸ BMZ also funds some other implementing agencies, European and international organisations like EU, UN, World Bank and Non-Governmental Organisations

(GIZ/SADC-TUPNR) have implemented activities since 2012 and closed down in March 2021.

It has been followed by the Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management (GIZ/SADC C-NRM) Project that started in January 2021. The GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme is currently scheduled to run until 2025 with various individual projects ending at different times. Through the GIZ/SADC C-NRM project, climate change, resilience and promotion of the productive sector, agriculture will be strengthened to enhance its alignment to the SADC green economy strategies.

Before 2012, the GDC through KfW already supported activities in two TFCAs, namely GLTFCA and KAZA TFCAs, which started in 2002 and 2004 respectively. Additionally, SADC Member States are provided with complementary bilateral support.

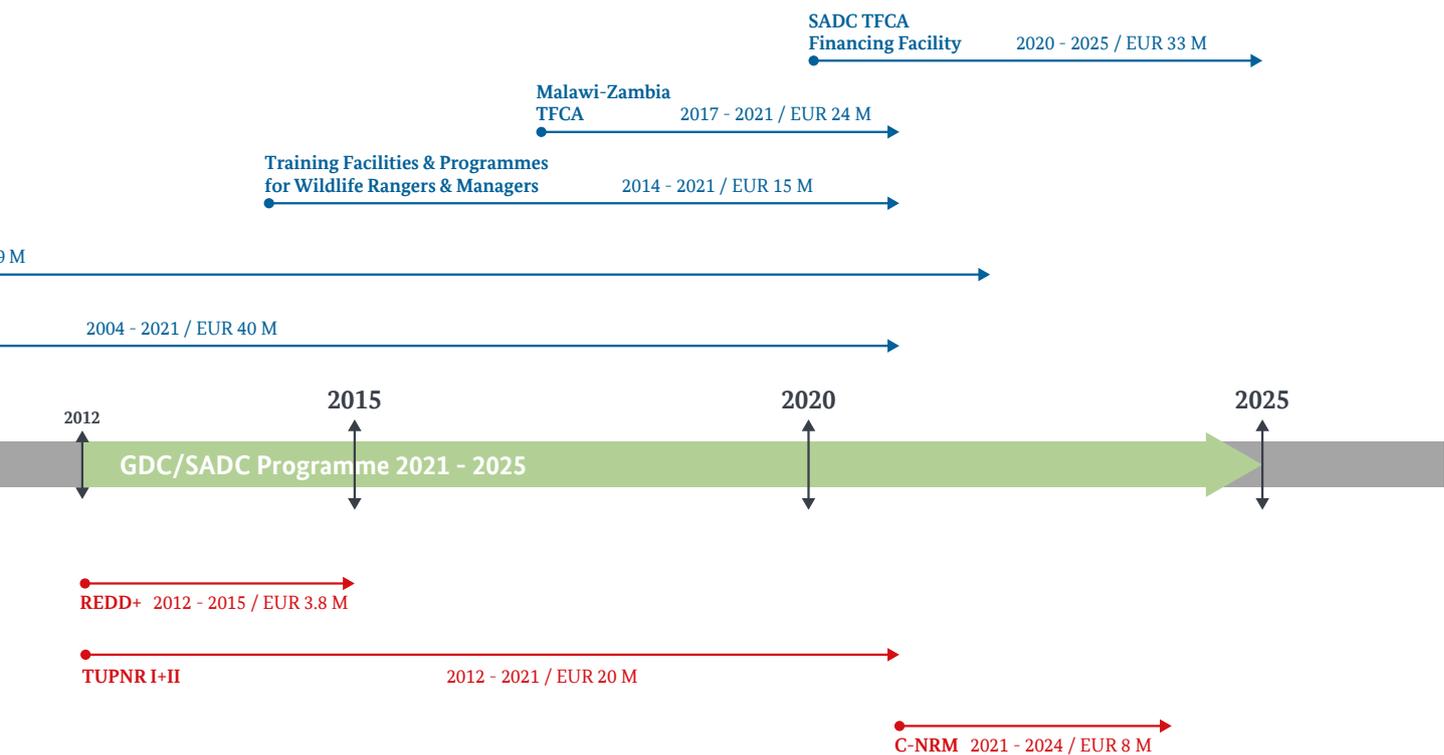
3.1 The approach

The GDC/SADC-TUPNR Programme is implemented in cooperation with the SADC Secretariat's Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate as a political regional

partner and with Member States at TFCA level. On the regional level, the implementation of SADC Protocols through the development of policies, strategies, programmes and action plans is promoted

At the local level, activities in six TFCAs are implemented: (i) KAZA TFCA, (ii) GLTFCA¹⁹, (iii) Malawi-Zambia TFCA, (iv) ARTP, (v) Lubombo TFCA (LTFCA), (vi) MDTFCA, Greater Mapungubwe TFCA (GMTFCA). Further TFCAs may be included in the future. The seven TFCAs involve nine SADC countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (see Figure 5).

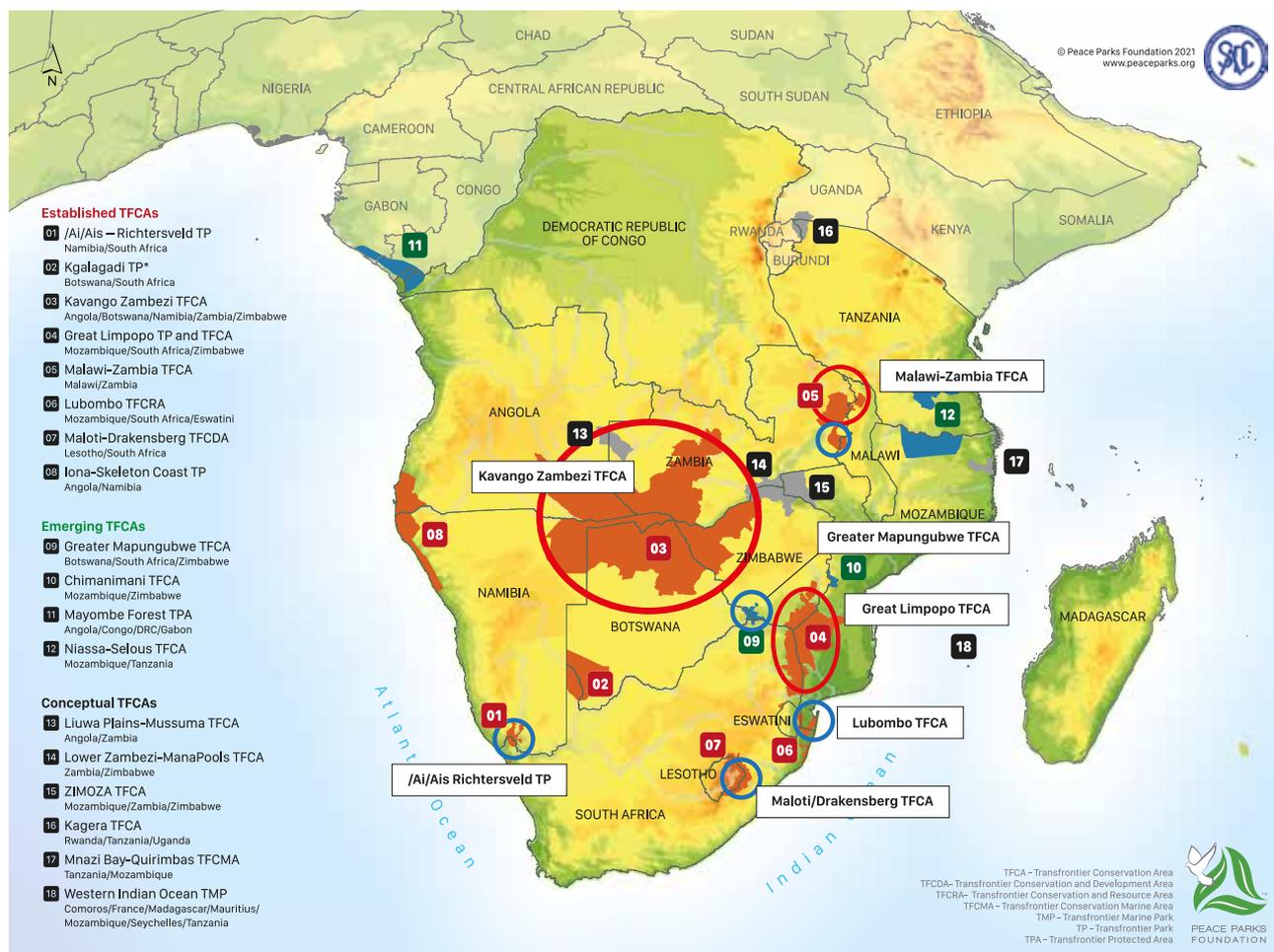
Within the supported TFCAs, the management capacities of TFCA structures are strengthened, infrastructure developments are supported, joint management plans are developed, activities are implemented, and training institutions are promoted. The objective is the conservation of shared natural resources and the long-term improvement of the socio-economic and ecological livelihood of the local population.



¹⁹ Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP), which comprises Kruger, Limpopo and Gonarezhou National Park, was established in 2002 through the signing of the Treaty by the Heads of State of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Since then, the three countries are working towards the establishment of the GLTFCA, incorporating various land-uses and two additional NPs in Mozambique (Banhine and Zinave). Only GLTP receives financial assistance, although the entire GLTFCA is benefitting from the technical cooperation on tourism.



Figure 5: SADC TFCA's including those supported by the German Development Cooperation



3.2 Key partners

The GDC cooperates with key partners directly involved in TFCA development. These include the national governments of the concerned Member States through their ministries responsible for environment, forests, wildlife and tourism and related public institutions like the departments of wildlife, local governments and National Tourism Organisations (NTOs), as well as Boundless Southern Africa, the marketing initiative for SADC TFCAs.

Besides the GDC, the following donor agencies are supporting TFCA development in the region: the African Development Bank (AFD), European Union (EU), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Kingdom (UK) Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the United States (US) Department of State, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank (WB).

In addition, many NGOs play a significant role in the success of the activities being implemented. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a globally recognised institution implementing a range of programmes in the field of nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. It is also the Project Executing Agency of the SADC TFCA

Financing Facility as well as of the Training Facility for Wildlife Rangers and Managers. Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) is the implementing agency for activities in Great Limpopo, KAZA and Malawi-Zambia TFCAs and implements self-funded programmes in TFCAs across the region. The inexhaustible list of other important NGOs includes the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), Conservation International (CI), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO). The GIZ Global Partnership against Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Project (former Polifund), TRAFFIC, TRACE Wildlife Forensic Network and USAID Vuka Now are partners on LEAP activities.

Activities related to capacity building and training have amongst others been implemented in collaboration with the SADC Centres of Specialisation, the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) and the College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka. And above all, the day to day activities on the ground are implemented in cooperation with the traditional authorities and local community trusts, conservancies, CBOs, CBNRM Fora, Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) associations, community resource boards – community representative and governance structures, democratically elected and accountable to their local constituencies, as well as numerous staff in protected areas, private or community-owned game reserves, game management areas and the private operators in the tourism industry.

4. Managing Shared Natural and Cultural Resources in TFCAs



On 15 March 2012 Dr. Effron Lungu, Zambia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr Francis Nhema, Zimbabwe's Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Mrs Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Kitso Mokaila, Botswana's Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism and Mr Pedro Mutindi, Angola's Minister of Hotels and Tourism officially launched the KAZA TFCA.

TFCAs are founded on the principle of managing shared natural and cultural resources across international boundaries. The challenge of successful conservation at landscape level relies on integrated approaches which deliver tangible economic development for communities while conserving the natural resource base. The GDC and its partners are focusing on the key aspects for creating an improved management of shared natural resources in TFCA landscapes.

Essential pillars for the success of the TFCA concept:

1. Establish functional and representative **cross-border institutional arrangement and governance structures** that catalyse effective cross-border management, attracting additional financial resources
2. **Establishing and securing ecosystem connectivity** within the landscape to build overall ecosystem health and resilience to external threats
3. Building strong incentives that allow and foster **community engagement and co-existence between people and wildlife** in the landscape through CBNRM approaches and the promotion of wildlife-friendly businesses and land use
4. Acting against the immediate threat of poaching and illicit wildlife trade through more effective, **cross-border law enforcement and anti-poaching** strategies as a strong deterrent to counter the recent poaching crises threatening the SADC TFCA.

4.1 Cross-border institutional arrangement and governance structures

To manage large cross-border and complex landscapes, and translate ambitious plans into reality, TFCA Partner States need to invest in and secure sufficient long-term capacity and funding to set up appropriate forms of governance across the various levels of decision making. Most importantly, these governance structures should reflect the circumstances of the TFCA concerned, such as the type and number of countries and stakeholders involved, diversity of land use, conservation priorities and the involvement of other sectors. At the national level, Ministries responsible for wildlife and tourism often take the lead and appoint national TFCA Focal Points to coordinate activities on the national level. In some instances, TFCAs either appoint an International Coordinator or set up a Secretariat to coordinate intervention on behalf of all the Partner States. At the TFCA level, decision-making structures include Ministerial Committees, Joint Management Boards or Committees as well as other cross-border working groups. Generally, more established TFCAs with signed Treaties or MoUs, also have more robust governance structures and, therefore, attract more funding than those without established agreements.

The GDC invested considerable resources to assist Partner States in setting up robust governance structures, in particular, KAZA TFCA, which involves five Partner States and spans across 520 000 km², including 36 formally proclaimed PAs. The KAZA Secretariat especially, which is hosted by the Government of Botswana on behalf of the other Partner States, has brought in considerable additional capacity and resources to enhance the collaboration and coordination of activities as well as leveraging additional resources beyond GDC support (see Text Box 1 for more information on KAZA TFCA governance structures). Based on the positive experiences in KAZA, GLTFCA is also in the process of establishing a Secretariat.

In the Malawi-Zambia TFCA, the GDC and its partners contributed to the establishment of a Project Management Committee, Village Natural Resources Committees and Community Resource Boards, with about 200 community members, 40% of whom are women. The involvement of local community representatives in the governance of the TFCA ensures they are actively involved in the planning and management of project activities, conservation and the sustainable use of their natural resources. Notable Malawi-Zambia TFCA achievements are the increased transboundary collaboration between rangers and communities, resulting in reduced poaching and improved biodiversity-based livelihoods (see chapter 4.3 and 4.4).

Text Box 1: Governance structures in KAZA TFCA

The KAZA TFCA covering Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe is a well-known Category-A-Established-TFCA formalised through a Treaty. KAZA TFCA originally evolved from the “Okavango Upper Zambezi International Tourism (OUZIT), and the “Four Corners” Transboundary Natural Resource Management” initiatives. These led to the signing of an MOU in 2006 by Ministers of the KAZA TFCA partner countries and later, the signing of the Treaty by Heads of State in August 2011. The Treaty laid down the overall framework of the TFCA, registering it as a legal entity with the legal power to enter into contracts and acquire intellectual and immovable property.

GDC has supported KAZA since 2004 amongst others, contributed to the establishment of the KAZA Secretariat. While the institutional arrangements coordinating the implementation of the TFCA interventions are robust, participation of non-state actors in some of these governance structures and working groups is still limited. Considerable efforts are undertaken to sustain the KAZA Secretariat operations, graduating the Secretariat from donor support.

The following structures for the governance and management of KAZA are currently in place:

1. National KAZA TFCA Committees in all five member states, which serve as an in-country cross-sectoral oversight institution responsible for monitoring and planning;

2. KAZA Secretariat, as a unique structure for coordinating and facilitating KAZA’s development on behalf of Partner States;
3. Joint Management Committee (JMC), administering and managing implementation, the involvement of stakeholders and monitoring the Secretariat operations;
4. Committee of Senior Officials, which renders Ministerial Committee decisions more operational and supervises the JMC and
5. Ministerial Committee, providing political leadership and the ultimate approval of KAZA programming.

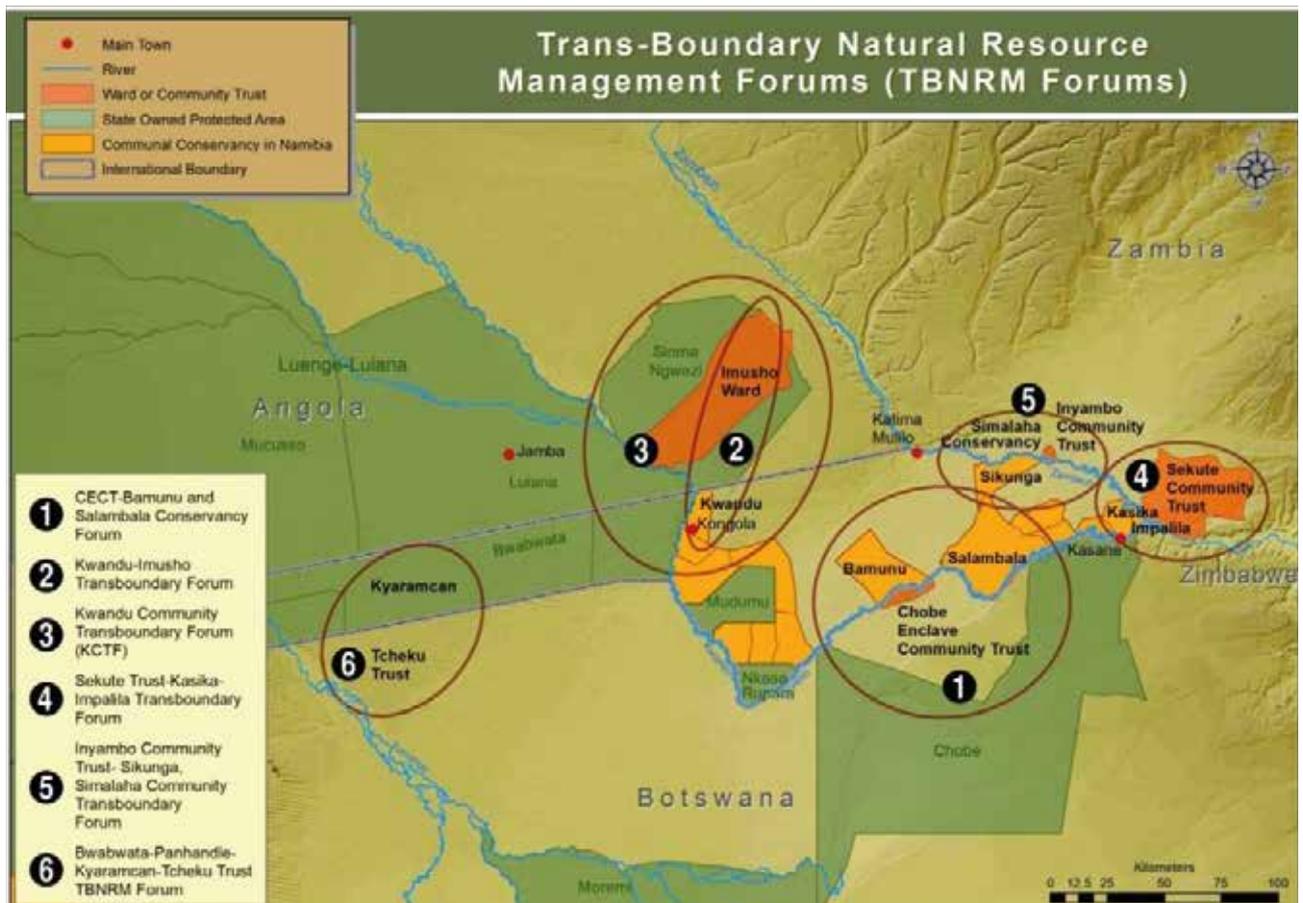
Additionally, several KAZA working groups address issues relating to Legal and Human Resources, Tourism and Communications, Community Development, Safety and Security as well as Conservation with sub-working groups on Animal Health, Carnivore Conservation, Fisheries, Forestry and Birdlife.

With support from Namibia-based NGO, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), KAZA has also managed to set up six community Transboundary Natural Resource Management (TBNRM) forums (see Figure 6). They are of critical importance to improving the management of shared natural resources, as well as knowledge sharing and building linkages to KAZA TFCA decision-making platforms that include government officials. This has resulted in the reduction of stock theft between neighbouring communities, increased exchange between Traditional Leaders, reduced poaching as well as the participation of community members in transboundary game-counts, amongst others.



KAZA TFCA Secretariat offices were officially opened on 26 August 2011, by Mr. Kitso Mokaila, Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism of Botswana, and Mr. Dirk Niebel, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

Figure 6: KAZA TBNRM Forums © IRDNC



4.2 Establishing and securing ecosystem connectivity

The CBD agreed in 2010 to protect at least 17% of the terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially those of particular importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services by 2020 (Aichi Target 11). With a little over 20 million square kilometres, or about 15% of the Earth's terrestrial surface under protection, the world will likely achieve the target within the next few years. In the case of SADC, TFCAs protect a combined area of more than 1 million square kilometres, which is over 50% of SADC's total area of PAs. However, reaching this Aichi target does not necessarily translate into lasting conservation success. Firstly, PAs need to be well-managed and financed to deliver conservation success. Secondly, individual PAs need to be well-connected in a PA system that ensures the long-term sustainability of biodiversity and ecosystem service delivery. Poorly connected PA systems hamper migratory species movements such as natural dispersal or seasonal migration. Species in isolated PAs are at risk of inbreeding and have little chance of adapting to climate change, which negatively impact species and genetic diversity, ecosystem health and the long-term delivery of biodiversity and ecosystem services²⁰. The fundamental aims of TFCAs is to create cross-border areas protecting the transboundary ecological capacities of an ecosystem by building meaningful connectivity between single conservation hubs. Conservation at scale and increased ecosystem connectivity are essential parts of the TFCAs DNA.

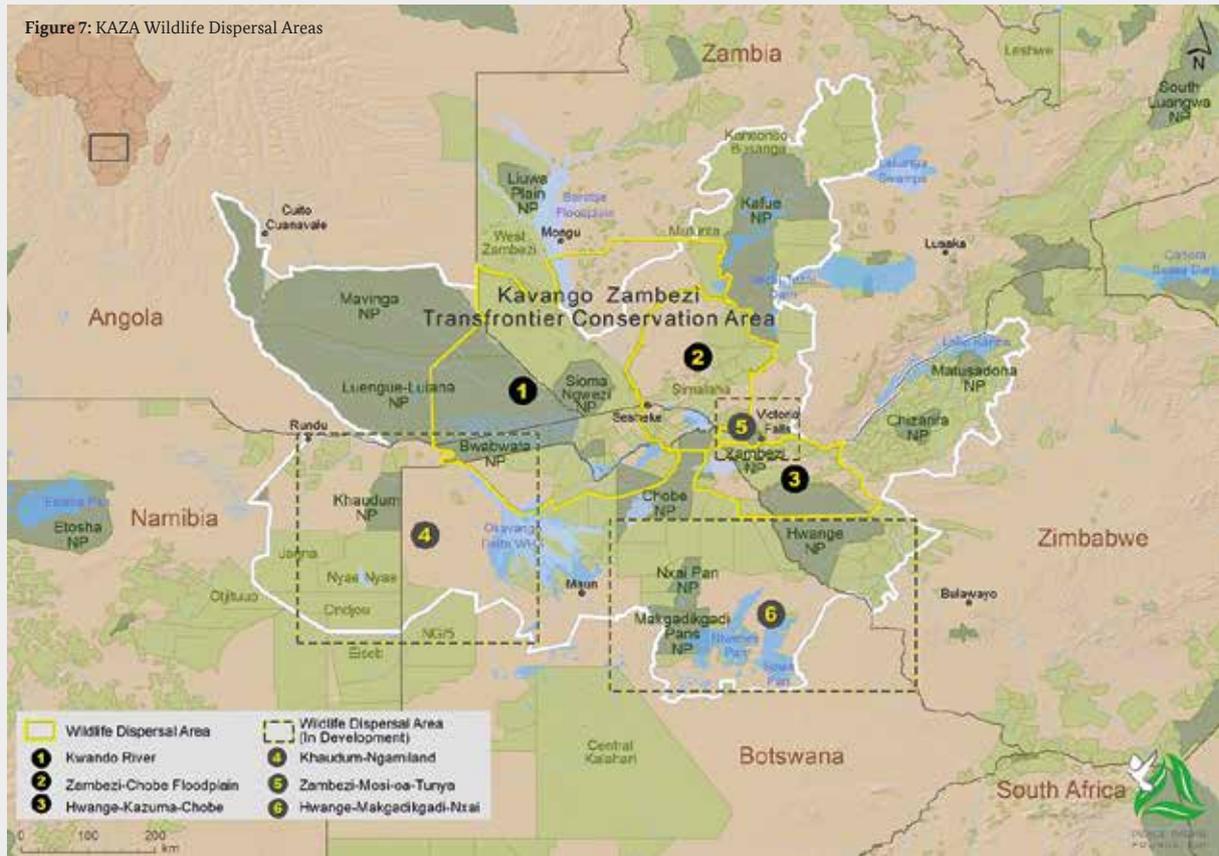
Establishing and developing the TFCAs is, therefore, indispensable in securing SADC's large ecosystem, wildlife and biodiversity resources.

The GDC and its partners are supporting the implementation of various strategies for securing connectivity. Although sometimes different in name – whether they are called Wildlife Dispersal Areas (WDA), wildlife corridors or land bridges – they are all based on effective (participatory) land use planning to ultimately minimise Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and maximise connectivity (e.g. see Text Box 2 on WDAs in the KAZA TFCAs). Moreover, upgrading infrastructure and strengthening management capacities in TFCAs country components is promoted for the equitable development of TFCAs across the countries. For example, such support is provided to Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, Luengue-Luiana National Park in Angola and Sioma Ngwezi National Park in Zambia (see Text Box 3).

Integrated wildlife management and the establishment of corridors help minimise human and livestock interaction with wild animals – thus minimising HWC and increasing income/productivity for local communities. GDC and its partners are emphasising the need to harmonise traditional livestock, small-scale agricultural and wildlife production systems.

²⁰Saura et al. (2019)

Figure 7: KAZA Wildlife Dispersal Areas



Text Box 2: Wildlife Dispersal Areas in KAZA TFCA

A key objective of KAZA is to ensure connectivity between key wildlife areas, and where necessary, join fragmented wildlife habitats to form an interconnected mosaic of protected areas, as well as to restore transboundary wildlife migratory corridors across the landscape. To align planning across the spatial scales, KAZA Partner States developed both Integrated Development Plans for their national components, as well as a KAZA Master Integrated Development Plan. The establishment of WDAs has emerged as a key component of the joint planning framework and identification of priority areas. While ranking the relative

importance of (potential) WDAs, data on the movement of elephant, lion, buffalo and other wildlife was used alongside land use and human population density. In total, six WDAs were identified to link crucial habitat and ensure cross-sectoral spatial planning: Khaudum - Ngamiland, Kwando, Hwange - Makgadikgadi-Nxai, the Zambezi - Chobe Floodplain; Hwange - Kazuma - Chobe; and the Zambezi-Mosi Oa Tunya (See Figure 7). Currently, the GDC is focusing its support on three WDAs: Kwando, the Zambezi-Chobe and Hwange - Kazuma - Chobe. These corridors re-establish and conserve large-scale ecological processes and mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation across borders.



Buffalo translocation into the Simalaha Community Conservancy in Zambia



Ngonye Falls also known as Sioma Falls admired by an international tourist.

Text Box 3: Sioma Ngwezi park development – a long-term vision

One of the priority WDAs is the Kwando WDA linking Angola and the Zambezi region of Namibia with Sioma-Ngwezi National Park in Zambia. The Sioma Ngwezi National Park was once vibrant; however due to the liberation wars in Angola and Namibia, the wildlife population declined as a result of heavy poaching. Since 2007, PPF and WWF Zambia have been co-managing the area with the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), to strengthen protected area management infrastructure development and community livelihood programmes. The GDC aided these efforts, given the value of re-establishing old elephant migration routes in the area.

To restore the park to its former glory, the three partners worked closely together to restock and rewild the area by re-introducing plain game such as buffalo, wildebeest, impala, sable and zebra. Re-introducing these species into the area will also attract additional carnivores boosting wildlife recovery and ecosystem health.

The development of a park headquarters including staff housing, a radio control room, electricity and satellite communication as well as the procurement of vehicles and boats considerably strengthened the operating capacities of field staff. As poachers operating in Sioma Ngwezi typically cross the borders between Angola, Namibia and Zambia, the warden of Sioma Ngwezi initiated a communication form with staff from the Luengue-Luiana National Park in Angola, the Mudumu and Babwata National Parks in Namibia, promoting more effective law-enforcement.

In addition, the GDC assists community livelihood development in the broader Siowana Complex surrounding the park, where a conservation agriculture programme supports small-scale farmers and a community campsite is being developed at the edge of the Ngonye Falls, a less-visited waterfall upstream of Victoria Falls.



Meeting of the KAZA TFCA Traditional Leaders in September 2016

“The successes of our various projects need to be broadcast, especially as a collective. We have lessons that can be shared with government agencies, donors and NGOs. Let them hear our voices.”

4.3 Community engagement and co-existence between people and wildlife

The future success or failure of the management of shared natural resources, however, will be decided outside of PAs. Conservation models will succeed only if resident communities are sufficiently integrated and benefitting from living with wildlife. Questions of transboundary connectivity will only be solved by a fundamental change of perspective from state-owned wildlife resources towards a devolution of rights and ownership over natural resources by the communities living in and around PAs. SADC Member States have implemented various levels of community participation models and transfer of rights and ownership of land and its natural resources to communities. The experience in the field has shown that TFCAs can bring people, especially local communities and institutions together to jointly negotiate new avenues that enable development opportunities for all while securing the natural resource base.

GDC and its partners have been supporting TFCA practitioners and decision-makers to draw on and ultimately, expand on the vast experiences with CBNRM in the region over the last 40 years, e.g. the CAMPFIRE programme in Zimbabwe or the more recent

CBNRM model in Namibia. In its efforts to support a variety of income models, GDC invests in new income models ranging from creating new community-benefitting tourism businesses (see text box 4), to improved climate-smart agricultural support programmes and better access to markets (see Text Box 5 and Text Box 3 in Chapter 4.2) and the generation of new income through carbon credits through the protection of local forests (see Text Box 9 in chapter 6).

The value proposition needs to be clear: If the positive impacts of adopting conservation-friendly land uses and businesses outweigh the potential risks of living with or in close proximity to wildlife, local communities will become the first line of defence for the conservation of natural resources. Therefore, new approaches that are market-driven and foster co-existence were tested. Part of the focus is thereby on strategies that help to minimise HWC. The consequences of HWC include the destruction of crops or reduced farm productivity, competition for water and grazing lands, livestock predation, the injury or death of human beings, damage to infrastructure or disease transmission among wildlife and livestock (e.g. Foot-and-Mouth-Disease (FMD)). To name but a few, farmers have been supported with solar-powered electric fences or being advised on making and use of natural repellents such as chili bombs or placing beehives around fields to deter elephants from raiding crops, to name but a few. The kraaling and herding of livestock is an important measure used to protect livestock against predators like lion, cheetah and wild dog.

Text Box 4: Development of community-based tourism products in TFCAs:

Tourism is one of the important wildlife-based revenue flows for communities situated within or adjacent to TFCAs. To increase benefit flows to communities, the GDC supported both the /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park as well as the Lubombo TFCA with setting up community-based tourism products that cross borders.

In particular, the ARTP with its unique environment, including beautiful mountainous landscapes, unspoilt remote wilderness and the Orange River set within the desert is ideal for adventure and sports tourism. To increase the tourism offerings in the area, **Desert Kayak Trails** were conceptualised together with the Namibian Wildlife Resorts (NWR) as fully catered kayak trails along a section of the Orange River with sleep-outs on both sides of the border. Community kayak guides were trained and a base camp called “Bo Plaats Rest Camp” has been set up. In 2020, a business plan recommending the development of Bo Plaats Rest Camp into an activity hub with a range of daily activities and camping on offer was developed. This was alongside the issuance of concession rights to a private operator for the implementation of the DKT activity to maximise benefit flows to the local communities.

The LTFCFA is known for its highly biodiverse Lubombo mountain range and stunning coastline. While the coastline between South Africa and Mozambique attracts many tourists, benefits to communities in areas of Eswatini and Mozambique are limited. To increase benefit flows to more remote areas of the TFCA, community-based **Lubombo Eco Trails** and **Mhlumeni-Goba Transboundary Trail** were conceptualised within a network of existing and proposed trails, intended to provide ‘off the beaten track’ adventure tourism with the opportunity of rich ecological and cultural experiences.

The infrastructure development of the Mhlumeni Tended Bush Camp in the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Goba Cliff Camp in Mozambique was also supported. Both camps have the capacity to host 16 tourists, with basic self-catering facilities and shared ablution blocks. The local communities of Goba and Mhlumeni are the official custodians of the trail and benefit directly from the shared product.

Figure 8 - Desert Kayak Trail Route



Text Box 5: Community Conservation Areas in Malawi-Zambia TFCA

In the Kasungu-Lukusuzi component of the Malawi-Zambia TFCA, new ecological land-bridges in the form of Community Conservation Areas (CCA) and forestry areas now secure the connectivity between the parks. Falling commodity prices combined with the continued lack of post-harvest processing depress household incomes, which largely rely on farming. Wildlife migrating through communal land poses another threat to farmers as they lose crops and livestock. Without compensation measures in place, this has led to an increasingly hostile atmosphere between the park authorities and surrounding communities. The GDC supported the two countries to set up a cross-border project which enables the participation of local stakeholders in decision-making, benefit sharing and the expansion of CCAs in collaboration with local NGOs - COMACO in Zambia and the Catholic Development Commission

(CADECOM) in Malawi. The CCAs are densely populated, posing a major obstacle to park connectivity as HWC incidents are anticipated. Currently, there are about 500 human settlements inside these CCAs. On the Zambian side, COMACO spearheads a new approach that has the potential to be a game changer for conservation in SADC. COMACO links smallholder farmer families to market incentives and value chains. Through its compliance-based premium pricing system, COMACO provides farmers with high-quality seeds and pays a crop-price premium to farmers who comply with ecological criteria (e.g. climate-smart agriculture and less poaching in the community) and encourages community leaders to set aside land within CCAs. Through the GDC support, an additional area of 13,732 ha of community land was set aside for conservation (Figure 9, CCA after extension), 400 farmers were supported with 7,000 kg of seeds, and local chicken and beehives were distributed to 260 households.

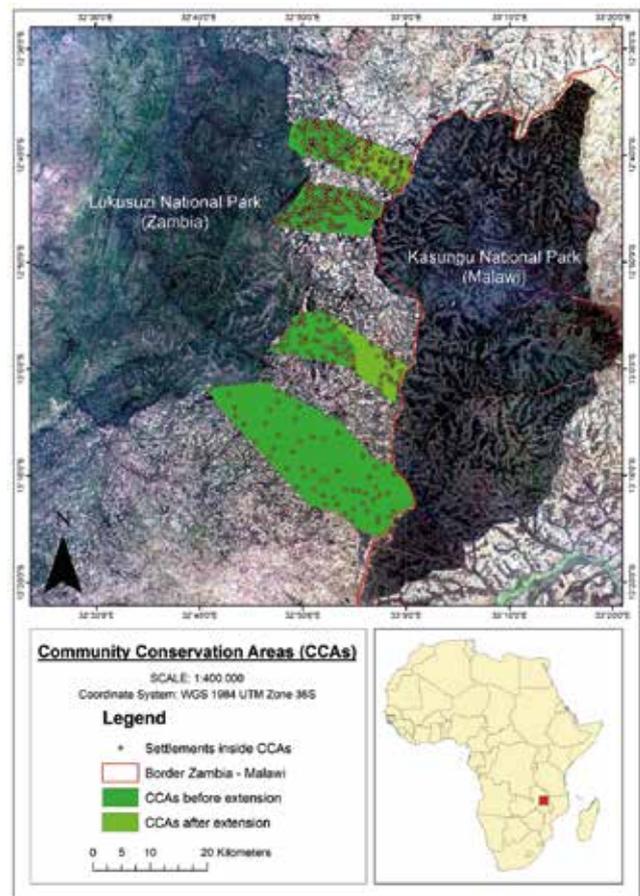


Cultivation of chilli peppers as cash crop

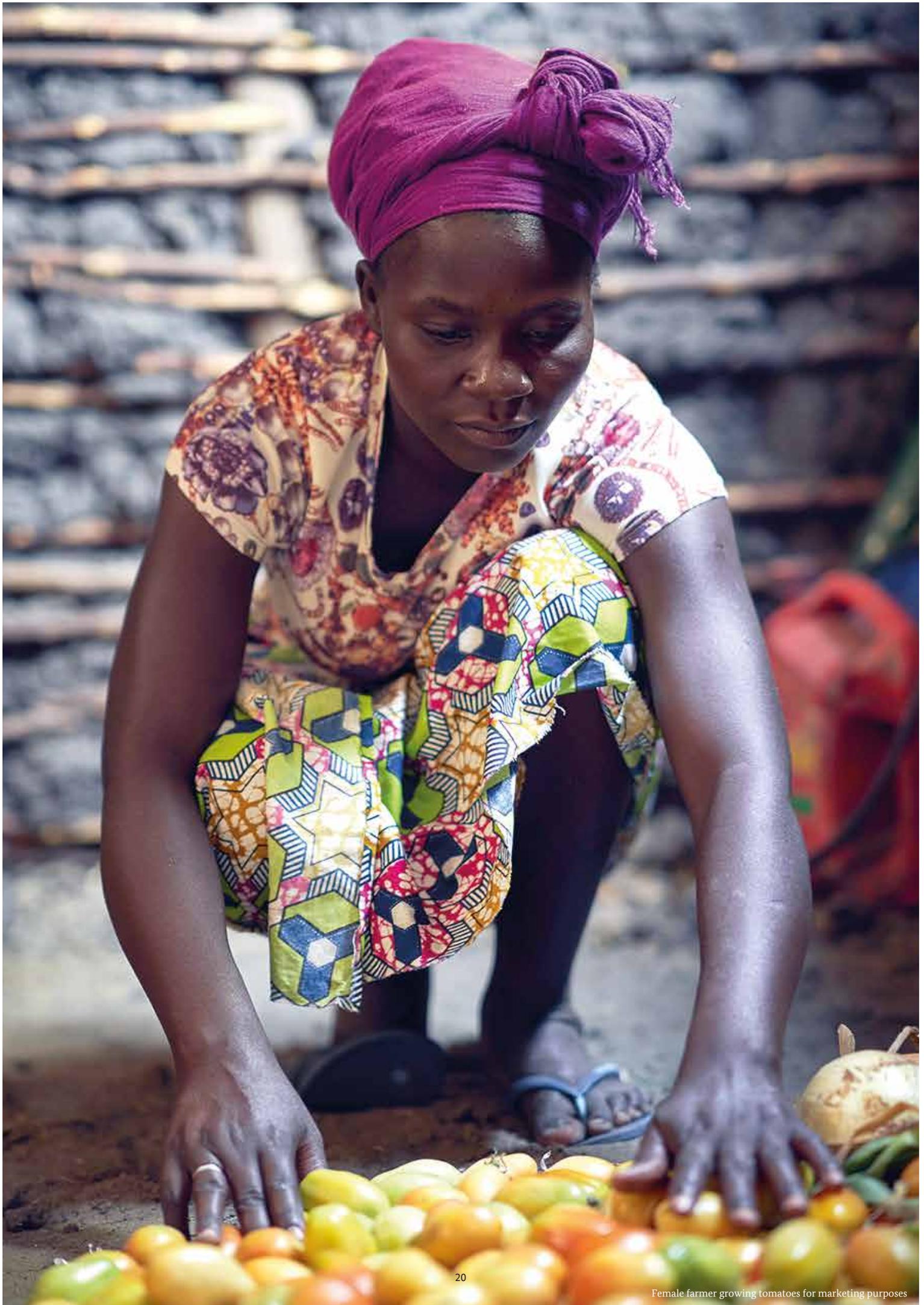


Farmers diversifying income by commercialising beekkeeping

Figure 9: Wildlife corridors between Kasungu National Park (Malawi) and Lukusuzi National Park (Zambia) managed and conserved by the local communities.²¹



²¹ Weinert et al. (2020)





Anti-poaching operation in KAZA TFCA

4.4 Cross-border law enforcement and anti-poaching

One important threat to the management of shared natural and cultural resources has been the recent surge in poaching and illegal wildlife trade. This is especially the case with the unprecedented poaching levels of elephants and rhino and the trafficking of wildlife specimens such as ivory, rhino horn, lion bones and pangolins as well as timber products. The “World Wildlife Crime Report”²² puts the annual loss of African elephants between 2006 and 2015 at 10,000 per year, the bulk of which is attributed to poaching. It also reveals that over 2 metric tons of rhino horn were seized between 2014 and 2019 in South Africa, which has over 75% of the global rhino population. This is of particular concern to the SADC region since it is home to the largest remaining populations of the world’s megafauna, 60% of the elephant and lion, and 95% of the rhino population.^{23/24} Poor governance and unsustainable utilisation were cited as the drivers of escalating poaching. The high and insatiable demand for wildlife products in the Asian consumer markets is estimated at US\$23 billion per year.²⁵

To facilitate a regional response, the GDC Programme in partnership with the SADC Secretariat and Member States supported the development of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-poaching Strategy 2016-2021²⁶ through its objective “to significantly reduce the level of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora and enhance law enforcement capacity in the SADC Region by 2021”. It is a framework for regional collaboration among SADC Member States designed to implement actions nationally and transnationally focusing on four priority areas:

1. Enhancement of legislation on wildlife and law enforcement
2. Integration of people and nature
3. Ensuring the sustained legal trade in and the use of natural resources
4. The improvement and strengthening of field level protection of wildlife resources

The LEAP Strategy addresses conservation issues that primarily affect rhinos and elephants as well as other endangered plant and animal species including, pangolin, marine mammals and turtles, fresh- and salt-water fish, a range of bird species, including important migratory birds. The loss of important habitats and their plant species through deforestation, illegal logging and illegal timber trade is regarded as equally important. On that basis, wildlife crime involving illegally trading in one or more of these commodities is addressed in the same fashion as other wildlife crimes. It further specifies that many poaching hotspots are situated within TFCAs, and cross-border collaboration is especially required to address poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. SADC Member States are urged to mainstream the SADC LEAP Strategy into their national and transboundary action plans.

On the regional level, the Strategy recommends the adoption and use of internationally acceptable tools in dealing with wildlife crime such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), the Forestry and Wildlife Analytical Toolkit, the Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX), CITES Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES) and ranger or law enforcement-based Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART).

The GDC in partnership with the ADB, EU, US Department of State, USAID, TRAFFIC, CI, TRACE and the South African Judiciary Education Institute, supported SADC and Member States to implement the following key activities:

1. The establishment of a regional internet-based SADC TWIX for the sharing of information on wildlife crimes among wildlife and other law enforcement officers. The system is managed through TRAFFIC. So far, 12 Member States have subscribed to the SADC TWIX, with 465 registered users. The SADC-TWIX mailing list has been operational since May 2019 and has seen over 360 messages exchanged. Over 87 distinct users have engaged through the mailing list.

²² UNODC (2020)
²³ IUCN (2016)

²⁴ (IUCN et al. (2017)
²⁵ UNEP (2016)

²⁶ SADC (2015a)



SADC TWIX regional launch workshop held in April 2019

2. Four Member States, namely Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia have established a sub-regional Combatting Wildlife Crime platform. It has provided an avenue for the exchange of information on wildlife crime syndicates, and this has resulted in a spike in arrests and seizures. Subsequently, the first arrests were made in 2020, based on improved information-sharing and collaboration, contributing to the attainment of the broader SADC agenda of regional integration.
3. The enhancement of a SADC Judiciary participation in the fight against Illegal wildlife trade through the organisation of a SADC Judiciary roundtable discussion on combating wildlife crime. This led to the creation of a Judiciary Working Group and Action that will champion the judiciary role in fighting wildlife crime in the region as well as guidelines on the management of stockpiles of wildlife specimen.
4. The distribution of 500 wildlife crime forensic testing toolkits aimed to train the first law enforcement responders at the crime scene in SADC Member States.
5. The development of a collaborative framework between SADC and its destinations or consumer countries of illegally traded wildlife products.

On the TFCA-level, the cross-border law enforcement activities were supported in Malawi-Zambia (see Text Box 6) and KAZA TFCA (see Text Box 7).



Cross-border radio communication in Malawi-Zambia TFCA to coordinate anti-poaching activities

Text Box 6: Transboundary law-enforcement in Malawi-Zambia TFCA

The landmark signing of the Malawi-Zambia TFCA Treaty in 2015 by the Presidents of the two countries saw the emergence of transformative partnerships in the TFCA. The two nearly contiguous Miombo ecosystems on both sides of the border had experienced a drastic reduction in the numbers of wildlife compounded by human settlements,

particularly in the wildlife corridor between the Kasungu National Park (NP) in Malawi and Lukusuzi NP in Zambia. Due to support from the GDC, USAID, IFAW, PPF, African Development Bank partnering with the Departments of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) of Malawi and Zambia and local rural development specialists, the situation has improved. A cross-border VHF radio network with shared radio signals has been installed across the entire TFCA. This will facilitate cross-border collaboration and communication on joint law enforcement and the management of the TFCA. The collaboration between the two DNPWs has resulted in joint patrols along the international boundary and intelligence information sharing. This has led to increased wildlife, including elephants, lions and other species. In Kasungu-Lukusuzi, elephant numbers are up 100% from 50 to 100 elephants since the last count in 2016. Between 2018 and 2019, more than 100 people were arrested for various wildlife crimes. Even though the law enforcement effectiveness is also a direct result of the successful community conservation activities (see Text Box 5), improved wildlife management comes with escalating HWC, which has now become a joint management priority. The development of a Malawi-Zambia LEAP strategy premised on the SADC LEAP Strategy is at an advanced stage.

Text Box 7: LEAP implementation in KAZA TFCA

In the KAZA TFCA, GDC in partnership with other development partners such as USAID, the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), PPF and WWF, has supported the KAZA TFCA in enhancing the collaborative fight against wildlife crime. This collaborative support has also reignited the activities of the KAZA Safety and Security Working Group (SSWG). The SSWG is an important structure in the KAZA TFCA responsible for monitoring law enforcement and security in the region for corrective action where necessary. Interventions have been made through training to strengthen communities, ranger and judiciary capacities in dealing with wildlife crimes at various levels and scale. The Secretariat is currently developing a KAZA LEAP Strategy, which is expected to be finalised and operational soon.



5. Tourism Market Development in TFCAs



TFCAs and the tourism sector are interdependent. TFCAs are an ideal platform for promoting sustainable tourism growth in the SADC region to contribute to employment generation, livelihood diversification and poverty reduction in rural and remote areas within and adjacent to TFCAs and their tourism attractions. Conversely, the tourism sector is the largest market-based contributor to financing protected areas, with the industry in some countries being almost exclusively dependent on healthy natural systems, often with wildlife as the primary attraction.²⁷

However, tourism marketing among SADC TFCAs has historically centred around a single-country model based on the political boundaries of respective TFCFA Partner States, with each country competing for its market share by using various promotional strategies to attract visitors. Substantial and untapped opportunities exist to grow sustainable transboundary tourism in SADC TFCAs. On the one hand, a clear willingness exists for regional collaboration among the Member States that make up respective TFCAs. On the other hand, there is a general lack of awareness of the TFCFA destination concept among inbound and outbound tour operators servicing key domestic, regional and international source markets for TFCFA destinations. These challenges are exacerbated by bottlenecks to the establishment of seemingly 'borderless' tourism experiences in

SADC TFCAs for travellers. These include but are not limited to accessibility, infrastructure, unharmonised and overly complex border crossing facilities, requirements and service standards.

The SADC TFCFA Programme and the SADC Tourism Programme both argue for the removal of barriers to tourism development and growth in the SADC region as well as market development on the level of a TFCFA. This so-called multi-country market development model expands the benefits of tourism to more than one country. It also diversifies the SADC tourism offerings, thereby contributing to inclusive socio-economic growth and regional integration. The GDC underscores this approach and has made investments both regionally as well as on TFCFA-level. Regionally, the SADC Tourism Coordination Unit and Boundless Southern Africa, a SADC initiative established to position TFCAs as favourable tourism destinations, are supported by additional technical capacity. The technical TFCFA-level tourism support mainly concentrates on five TFCAs: ARTP, GLTFCFA, KAZA, LTFCFA and MDTFCFA. The GDC also contributed to infrastructure development in KAZA TFCFA as well as the development of cross-border community tourism products in ARTP and Lubombo TFCFA (see Text Box 4 in Chapter 4).

²⁷ Twining-Ward et al. (2018)



5.1 Joint marketing and investment promotion of TFCAs

The newly endorsed SADC Tourism Programme 2020-2030 is among the main guiding policy documents designed to implement tourism measures in TFCAs. It serves as a roadmap to guide and coordinate the development of sustainable tourism in the region and to facilitate the removal of barriers to regional tourism development and growth.

On the operational level, the GDC supports Boundless Southern Africa Programme to strengthen the multi-country market development approach. Since its establishment in 2008, Boundless Southern Africa has engaged in the development of cross-border tourism products and experiences, engaged in the destination marketing of TFCAs and committed to increasing the tourism investment in TFCAs. To this end, Boundless Southern Africa Programme, its TFCA and private sector partners have been supported since 2017.

Results of interventions of successful business-to-business trade show participation of SADC TFCAs under the Boundless Southern Africa 'banner' include the International Tourism Fair (ITB) in Berlin, the Tourism Indaba in Durban and World Travel Market in London. TFCA structures and National Tourism Boards are jointly developing business-to-business marketing tools and brochures for the five supported TFCAs to be used during marketing and promotional activities.

Social media and press coverage are also important elements of multi-destination marketing. To increase press coverage, international press trips to ARTP, KAZA and LTFCAs were organised, reaching over 24 million readers as well as the hosting of a KAZA Land Rover expedition by Land Rover Germany. Public-private dialogue is also supported under targeted interventions to strengthen relationships between key actors towards collaborative TFCA tourism destination market development.

Going forward, the sustainability and role of Boundless Southern Africa Programme within the SADC Tourism Coordination Unit need to be addressed as the South African Government has hosted the brand since its inception. Currently, a feasibility study that will guide this discussion between SADC Member States on the future of Boundless Southern Africa is under on going.

5.2 KAZA UNIVISA

Southern Africa is not an easy and self-explanatory destination for the average uninformed tourist. Regulations affecting travel to and within the region are critically and negatively impacting the tourism sector. These include entry and visa requirements as well as inefficient, cumbersome and uncoordinated border crossing costs and requirements. Overcoming barriers to tourist travel to and within the region would open limitless potential and opportunities for regional integration, travel to and within the region as well as tourism investment by private sector actors.

Bottlenecks that hinder the smooth movement of tourists to and within the KAZA region impede KAZA TFCA's ability to achieve its objective of positioning itself as a premier multi-country and multi-faceted but single destination. The 2011 KAZA Treaty calls for the removal of barriers to cross-border tourism growth and development, among others.

This challenge was raised and discussed at the 13th March 2012 Meeting of the KAZA TFCA Ministerial Committee held in Kasane, Botswana. To this end, Member States in partnership with the GDC, established KAZA UniVisa initiative, which includes the following objectives:

- Facilitation of the movement of international tourists to and within the KAZA TFCA region
- Facilitation of inter-regional travel to and within the KAZA TFCA region
- Improvement of the value and volume of travellers to and within the KAZA region



“SADC has a key facilitating role in enhancing tourism flows across the region and preparing a coordinated response to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism.”



Building on long-standing SADC UniVisa discussions which date back to the mid-1980s, KAZA TFCA piloted a KAZA UniVisa encompassing the KAZA-region of Zambia and Zimbabwe during the August 2013 UN World Trade Organisation (WTO) General Assembly, which was co-hosted by the two countries in Livingstone and Victoria Falls.

The six months long KAZA UniVisa Pilot Project was formally launched on the 28th of November 2014. The pilot phase allowed testing of the newly developed visa system to draw from lessons learned towards the rollout of the UniVisa to all five KAZA TFCA Partner States. Since then, the KAZA UniVisa has been fully operational between Zambia and Zimbabwe, while consultations have started with Botswana and Namibia, both of which have both committed to join the KAZA UniVisa initiative.

5.3 Impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector and TFCAs potential to contribute to recovery

While the TFCAs multi-country destination marketing approach is gaining traction, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the aviation and tourism sector to a standstill in the SADC region. Subsequently, has resulted in the loss of billions of dollars, and other industries directly and indirectly associated with these sectors are not being spared. Aviation and tourism are two of the hardest-hit sectors, with experts predicting that tourism will take the longest to recover compared to other sectors.

The tourism industry's collapse has left many PAs in SADC TFCAs, including national parks, reserves and community conservancies, stripped of vital market-based funding generated from tourism needed to manage land and reward communities and private landowners for opportunity costs of coexisting with wildlife. Many PAs in SADC almost entirely rely on tourism supplemented by funding from ICPs and NGOs.

To support the SADC region in its efforts to rebuild the tourism sector and implement COVID-19 safe tourism protocols, the GDC assisted Member States to:

- Conduct a detailed analysis of the impact on protected tourism areas in KAZA and GLTFCA
- Develop a COVID-19 responsive SADC Tourism Programme Costed Action Plan to define jointly approved priority areas for the development of the SADC tourism sector
- Advocate for the lifting of travel restrictions and working with businesses to apply new harmonised protocols and standards that meet international best practice requirements for KAZA TFCA, through the development of KAZA harmonised COVID-19 Safe Tourism Guidelines



Photo safari on the Chobe River

6. Reducing the Vulnerability of Ecosystems and People to the Effects of Climate Change

Southern Africa as a natural resource-dependent region is vulnerable to natural frequent shocks and disasters like cyclones, droughts or floods, which are predicted to increase in strength and frequency with climate change. In 2019 alone, four cyclones killed over 1,000 people, leaving more than 3,000 injured.²⁸ During the 2018/2019 drought, the Okavango and Zambezi river levels were dwindling. Large areas of the Okavango did not receive their annual flood and the water levels of Victoria Falls were lower than average. Both were quickly communicated on social media, resulting in a drastic decline in tourist numbers.

The vulnerability is caused by a combination of structural, underlying social, economic and environmental factors that are aggravated by the effects of climate change. The adaptive capacities of countries, societies and eco-systems differ, as do the impacts of climate change.²⁹

What are the climate change projections for the SADC region? The average temperature is projected to rise by 50% to 100% more than the global average (Figure 10). A general decrease in rainfall is predicted in most parts of the region (Figure 11). Drastic temperature increases of 4–7°C are projected to occur over the western interior of SADC³⁰. As a result, droughts will become more frequent and longer.³¹ Less water exerts stress on crops and livestock production. In TFCAs, the vegetation and wildlife suffer due to dwindling water and lack of fodder. Species will seek to migrate to more suitable areas, which is only possible in large, interconnected ecosystem networks. New species may invade areas where they were formerly unknown.

Activities in TFCAs must, therefore, promote the resilience of the natural environment, the local population and its economic activities as well as the tourism industry along with its supply chain. At the same time, activities need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve the valuable carbon sinks formed by soils, biomass and wetlands in these huge areas.

GDC measures include the support for improved, cross-border management of protected areas (e.g. the protection of biodiversity, re-stocking and destocking of animals, fighting invasive species and promoting migration corridors). Support is provided for local communities to improve their economic activities by adopting climate-smart agricultural and livestock practices, job and income diversification through wildlife-friendly and sustainable economic activities such as eco-tourism or honey production.

Figure 10: Projected change in mean annual temperature for the period 2080-2099 relative to 1971-2000.³²

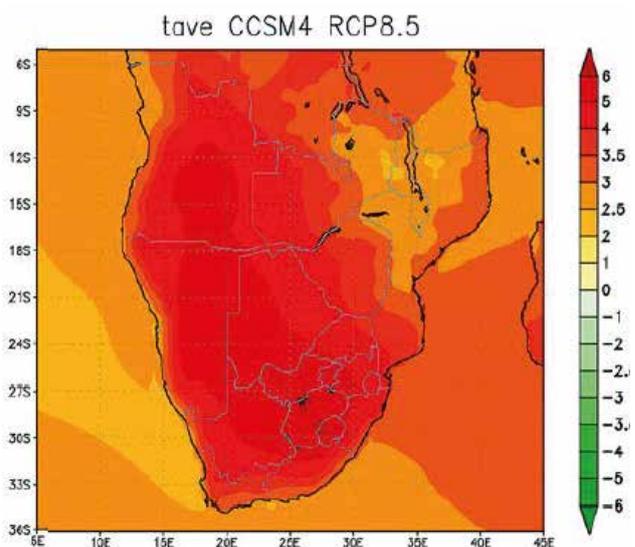
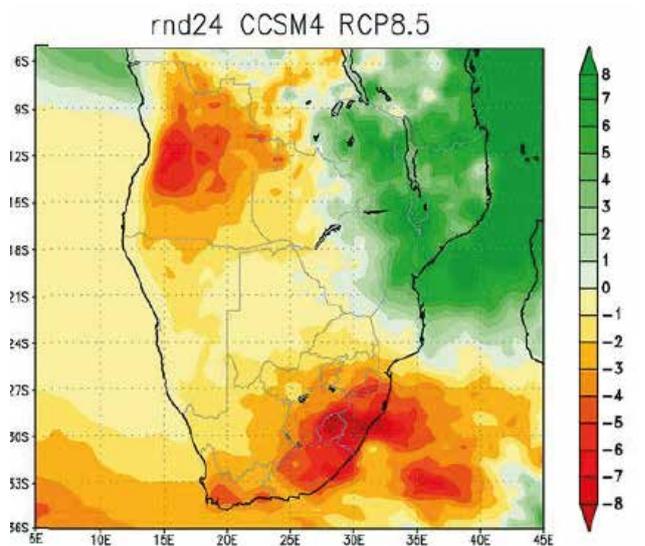


Figure 11: Projected change in annual rainfall totals (units 10 mm) for the period 2080-2099 relative to 1971-2000.³³



²⁸ SADC (2019)
²⁹ Lesolle (2012)

³⁰ Under a low migration scenario
³¹ IPCC (2014)

³² University of Hamburg (2018)
³³ University of Hamburg (2018)

Text Box 8: Rangeland rehabilitation through Herding for Health (H4H)

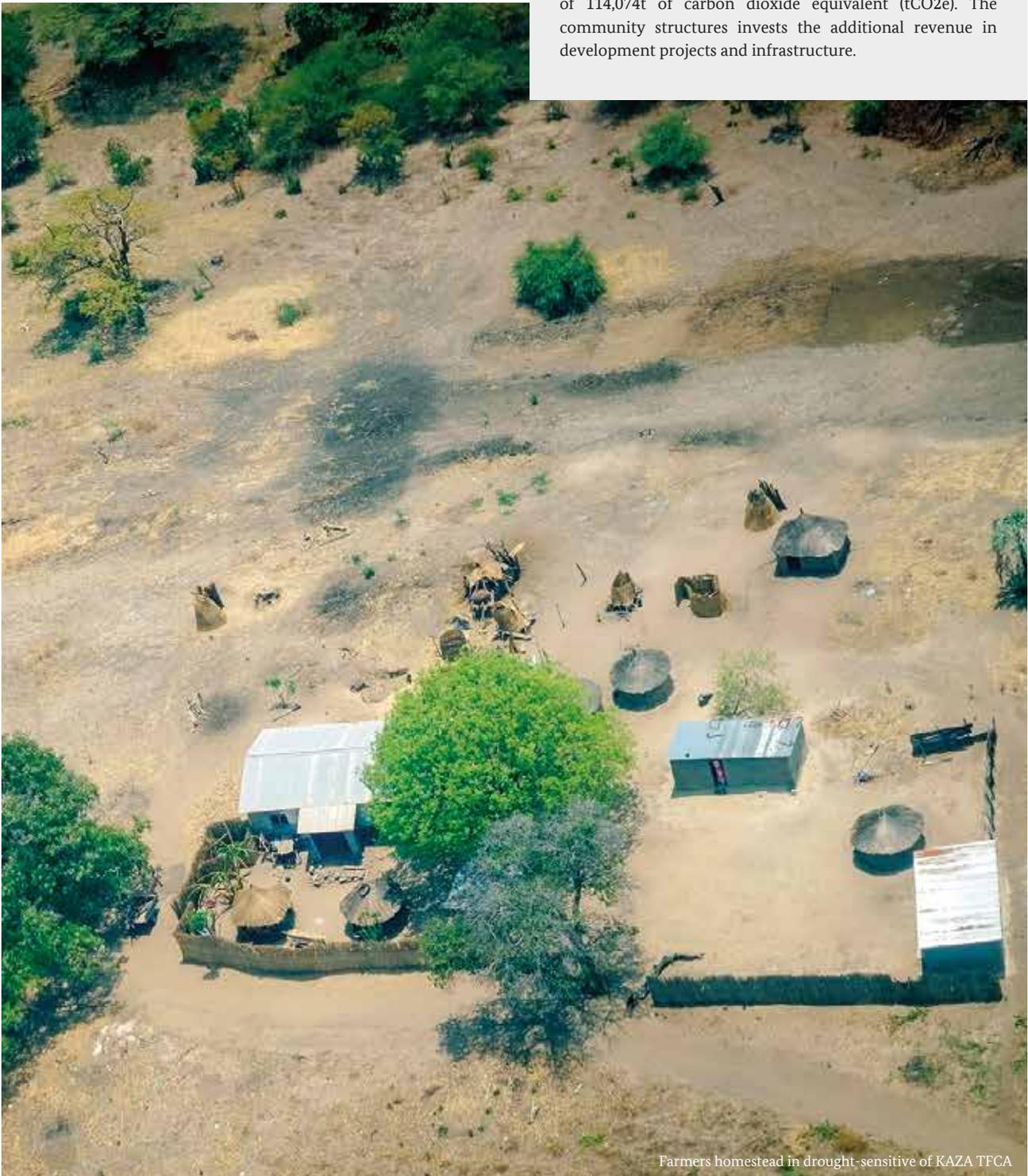
In southern Africa, rangeland habitats cover over 90% of the region. The rehabilitation and conservation of these areas offer a carbon sequestration potential equal to the Amazon forests and improved income to local communities. The Herding for Health (H4H) Programme addresses the complexity of rangeland degradation, climate change vulnerability, greenhouse gas emissions, HWC and rural development. Supported by GDC, CI and PPF promote H4H on approx. 500,000 hectares in communal areas in KAZA, LTFCFA and MDTFCFA. In 2021, it will be up scaled to Greater Mapungubwe TFCA. Professional herders (eco-rangers) rotate the herds to avoid overgrazing and kraal them by night. Approx. 10 m³ of livestock emissions are avoided per hectare of restored range-land. Biodiversity and water quality increase. Human-Wildlife Conflict is reduced, and household income improved through higher animal production and quality and a better market access.



Improved forest management within community areas provides a tool for the creation of new income streams through carbon credit payments and helps to establish essential wildlife corridors. The tourism industry is supported to improve and diversify its tourism products and intensify its marketing efforts. From 2021, the GIZ/SADC C-NRM Project will strengthen the focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation and start to disseminate climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management in the SADC region and selected TFCA. Conditions for success call for relevant stakeholder involvement, including communities, transparency of processes to establish mutual trust and the sharing of benefits. Text Box 8 and 9 give some examples of existing and proposed activities.

Text Box 9: CO2 payments for forest conservation

In the Kasungu Lukusuzi component of Malawi-Zambia TFCA, wildlife numbers dropped sharply due to settlements in what used to be a natural wildlife corridor between the two parks. In a community-driven approach, the NGO COMACO promotes community conservation and forestry areas, which can create much-needed income and secure the connectivity between the parks. The CCAs are 100% managed by the communities under the guidance of the traditional chief. Communities benefit from the sale of non-timber forest products (honey, mushrooms) and carbon credits through reduced deforestation. So far, the two chiefdoms in the project area have received US\$190,000 for the reduction of 114,074t of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). The community structures invest the additional revenue in development projects and infrastructure.



Farmers homestead in drought-sensitive of KAZA TFCA

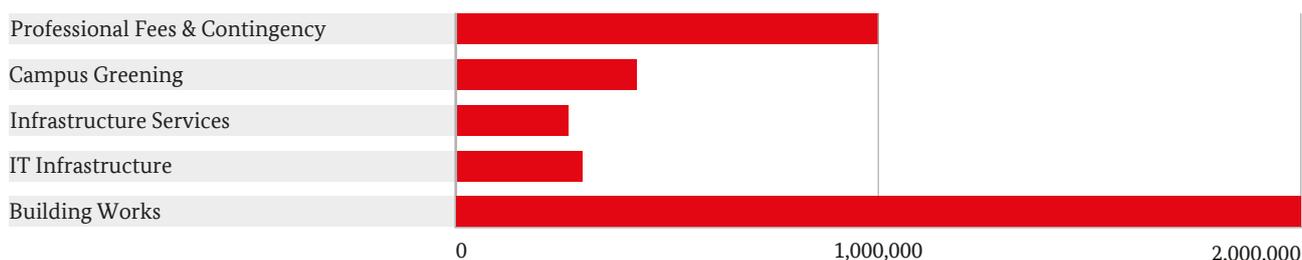
7. Capacity Building and Training

Capacity Development is an integral and fundamental element of successful TFCA development in the SADC-region. The SADC TFCA Programme emphasises the need for capacity building for TFCA stakeholders and highlights the importance of close collaboration and cooperation with national and regional institutions. To enhance the capacity of the successful development and management of TFCAs, the programme calls for the commissioning of a training needs assessment, the development and implementation of regional training programmes as well as the facilitation of partnerships between training institutes in the region. It is precisely within this context that the GDC invested in cross-border training for rangers and managers, supporting infrastructure development of SADC Centres of Specialisation as well as the development of regional training programmes.

Support to the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC): SAWC is an independent recognised SADC Centre of Specialisation in education, training and skills development in the field of conservation and wildlife management.

The establishment of SAWC in 1996 was initially funded by the GDC through WWF South Africa, local donors and the bilateral aid agencies of the Netherlands and Denmark. In 2014, additional funds were committed, through the GDC and SADC partnership, to the improvement and expansion of the SAWC, the focus of which was energy efficiency and an upgrade of a stand-alone field ranger training base with the capacity to accommodate 100 field rangers. An additional 11 staff houses, 11 offices and three environmentally friendly lecture rooms to accommodate 100 more students were built (see figure 12). The infrastructure upgrade was inaugurated in 2018 and contributed to the expansion of the field ranger training offerings, which now range up to the level of specialist anti-poaching units in response to the spike in poaching in the region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, additional resources were invested to upgrade three classrooms into solar-powered E-learning lecture rooms. This enables the college to provide more flexible access to learning through remote training.

Figure 12: GDC and SADC partnership on infrastructure development for SAWC



Ranger classroom at the stand-alone field ranger training base.

A significant positive impact of the SAWC infrastructure development was the livelihoods generated for the local community, which is part of the GLTFCA. This was done by working with local contractors and workers. A social return on investment study clearly showed that the investment had a large positive impact on the individuals employed during this time, with SAWC being the largest contributor to the income of the 95 households surveyed.

Besides the infrastructure upgrades, the GDC has supported the College's Natural Resource Management Programmes since 2006. To date, 82 students from eight SADC countries have been sponsored for the aforementioned Diploma Course, the Advanced Certificate Course in Transfrontier Conservation Management or the Higher Certificate Course in Terrestrial Natural Resource Management. These alumni of the College are responsible for managing some of the world's most biologically diverse areas.

To enhance the TFCAs' capacities to implement cross-border activities, SAWC conducted additional needs-based training courses between 2012 and 2020 in nine TFCAs: Chimanimani, Great Limpopo, Greater Mapungubwe, Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools, Lubombo, Malawi-Zambia, Niassa-Selous Maloti-Drakensberg and the Western Indian Ocean. The training courses included subjects ranging from TFCA Management, Development of Protected Areas Standard Operating Procedures to Community-Based Natural Resource Management and Marine Protected Areas. They all had a strong emphasis on improving cross-border collaboration and communication and took place either within the respective TFCAs or, during the COVID-19 pandemic, online.



Needs-based training in Lubombo TFCA.

7.1 Development of training courses

To support the implementation of SADC programmes and strategies in TFCAs, collaboration with several training institutes was initiated across the region to develop the following training modules:

Integrated Fire Management Training Course

The SADC Fire Management Programme³⁴ provides a framework for effective cooperation on fire management across national borders. The CAWM, Mweka and the Olmotonyi Forestry Training Institute (Tanzania), the SADC Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa - MESA (Botswana), as well as SAWC and Working on Fire (South Africa) jointly developed a regional course on Integrated Forest Fire Management, installed at CAWM. A pilot was conducted at seven TFCAs at the CAWM College in Mweka, Tanzania.

Climate Change Adaptation in TFCAs Training Course

SADC TFCAs play a key role in addressing challenges posed by climate change and the TFCAs need to adapt to the new conditions. To this end, the Wildlife Environment Society of Southern Africa (WESSA) in collaboration with Rhodes University developed and implemented a regional training course on Climate Change Adaptation in TFCAs.³⁵

More than 50 participants from all 18 SADC TFCAs participated in the training. The training followed a change-oriented learning approach that linked the knowledge gained through the course with the practical application thereof in the TFCAs through so-called 'change projects'. The course also entailed a training-of-trainer component. An evaluation of the training showed that as a result, climate change adaptation activities were implemented in 16 TFCAs. Thirteen TFCAs have since engaged with the communities about climate change, and three TFCAs could mobilise external funding for climate change adaptation activities.

REDD+ Training Course

The SADC REDD+ Programme (2011) provides a framework to reduce emissions from deforestation, forest degradation and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. That being the case, the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) developed a new course on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) consisting of three modules, namely (i) REDD+ for Land Use and Natural Resource Managers, (ii) REDD+ Governance Issues, and (iii) REDD+ Project Development.

This was in collaboration with the German Academy for International Cooperation (AIZ) together with experts from Germany, SUA and the Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI).

7.2 Training Facility for Wildlife Rangers and Managers in the SADC Region

The GDC and SADC are in the process of setting up a Training Facility to support capacity development, particularly in GLTFCA, KAZA and Malawi-Zambia TFCAs. Following a Training Needs Assessment conducted in 2013, key measures were identified, including the establishment of Mobile Training Units within or around TFCA landscapes. This was designed to improve access to venues for cross-border training, as well as the establishment of a funding mechanism to finance and provide needs-driven workplace-related training to Wildlife Managers and Rangers. In 2016, the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) was identified as the Project Executing Agency to support the implementation with a current commitment of €11 million. The Mobile Training Units will be developed based on a model proposed by the SAWC and deployed in consultation with the partner countries to ensure optimum location in the field. The roll-out is expected to start in 2021 and will considerably boost staff capacities within SADC TFCAs.



Advanced Certificate Natural Resource Management graduates 2019

³⁴ SADC (2010)

³⁵ SADC Climate Change Adaptation & Transfrontier Conservation Resource Hub (accessed on 3 March 2021) <http://tfca-climate-change-course.weebly.com/about.html>

8. Enhancement of Financing Mechanisms for TFCAs

Working towards more financial sustainability and diversity of funding sources is essential to ensure TFCAs progress, as outlined in the SADC TFCAs Programme.³⁶ Even though TFCAs are engines for sustainable development in the SADC region, the financial sustainability of the TFCAs remains the main concern. While some core funding for protected areas comes from Member States, it is generally insufficient. TFCAs, therefore, largely remain dependent on support from ICPs, NGOs and the tourism sector. To overcome this funding challenge, Member States felt that SADC Secretariat should play a larger role in mobilising additional financial and technical resources for TFCAs activities, either by supporting the direct acquisition of funds by TFCAs or raising funds at the regional level. GDC is currently the largest ICP supporting TFCAs development regionally through the SADC Secretariat. It has always underscored the importance of more sustainable sources of funding and multi-donor financing mechanisms, either through regional funding structures or by an effective TFCAs-level design that can attract substantial financial and other resources.

8.1 The SADC TFCAs Financing Facility

One of the highest priorities of GDC and SADC has been the establishment of a performance-driven multi-donor SADC TFCAs Financing Facility (FF). The idea of establishing a regional FF was first brought up in 2014, followed by intensive consultation processes between SADC Secretariat and the GDC, finalisation of a SADC TFCAs FF feasibility study in December 2016 and further consultation with SADC Member States through engagement with the SADC TFCAs Network Steering Committee. Finally, the SADC Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the regional SADC TFCAs FF in March 2018. The first phase will last six years. The FF is currently funded by the GDC with the first commitment of EUR33 million. The intention is to leverage additional funds from other ICPs, the private sector and partners to reach a volume of approximately EUR100 million in the medium to long term. The IUCN ESARO is the Project Executing Agency for the FF and started rolling out the FF in 2020.

The SADC TFCAs FF is intended to foster closer collaboration between stakeholders supporting TFCAs and provide the basis for longer-term and more sustainable funding opportunities to develop TFCAs. The FF's initial geographic focus is on three TFCAs; KAZA, Malawi-Zambia and GLTFCAs, which will be allocated approximately 80% of the grant funds, with the remaining 20% grant funds allocated to other SADC TFCAs. Grants will be awarded to TFCAs based on clear selection criteria. In the medium to long term, it is envisaged that all TFCAs will be equitably eligible to benefit from the FF.

Through the FF, investments in tangible measures strengthening ecological, economic, cultural and institutional connectivity within SADC TFCAs will be leveraged in a flexible, demand- and Performance-driven manner. The measures shall integrate three dimensions:

- i. Improved habitat connectivity, especially for elephants and large carnivores as flagship species ("species" dimension)
- ii. Improved management effectiveness and governance of TFCAs and Protected Areas ("habitat" dimension)
- iii. Improved livelihoods for communities affected by Human-Wildlife co-habitation ("people" dimension)

Currently, the Project Management Unit is being established, and the first Call for Proposals is expected mid-2021.



Meeting between SADC FANR, KfW and IUCN ESARO in 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya to develop a road-map for the inception of the SADC TFCAs FF

8.2 Striving to more financial sustainability in KAZA

One of the key successes for advancing KAZA TFCAs is the establishment of the KAZA Secretariat to coordinate development, management, planning and fund-raising of the TFCAs. Sustainable financing is critical to the development of KAZA TFCAs. The scale of ambition of the KAZA vision presents factors like geographical extent, cross-sectoral interventions, and transboundary collaboration realities. Financial requirements are inescapably huge, urgent and important for long-term success. Various initiatives have been undertaken in pursuit of adequate, diversified and sustainable financing from Partner States, ICPs and NGOs:

³⁶ SADC (2013a)

Institutional arrangements

- The KAZA Treaty provides for the establishment of a KAZA Fund relating to the development of KAZA from various sources, including Partner States, ICPs and NGOs
- The KAZA Fund constitution is operational and serves as a vehicle for receipts and expenditure relating to the development of KAZA from various sources, including Partner States, ICPs, NGOs and the private sector
- There are annual contributions by KAZA Partner States in support of Secretariat operations
- Mainstreaming operational costs by Partner States is ongoing at different stages. Key initiatives include supporting TFCA Units i.e. national structures responsible for the coordination and implementation of transboundary collaboration. They are at different stages of operationalization. Governments are responsible for the operational costs of the TFCA Desk Officers and were requested to internalise Liaison Officers in the respective TFCA Units or relevant departments as appropriate

Strategies and programming

Several planning tools, frameworks and strategies have been developed to guide the priority interventions, scope and funding requirements. Some of these provide the basis for conservation and development programming and project development, including:

- The KAZA Master Integrated Development Plan– a planning framework for priorities in land use planning, infrastructure development, natural resources management, tourism and community development. It also serves as the basis for detailed project proposals.
- Country Integrated Development Plans (IDP): Each KAZA Partner State has an IDP which articulates priority interventions and projects in the respective country components of KAZA.
- Species conservation strategic plans have been developed for Elephants, Carnivores and African Wild Dog. The plans allow project development for fundraising.

Leveraging international and regional ICP and NGO support

- The GDC has supported KAZA TFCA with close to €40 million since 2007. Through additional fundraising by the KAZA Secretariat, an additional €40 million was leveraged through other ICPs such as USAID, US Department of State, INL, DEFRA, JICA and the EU (both committed and planned)
- Formal partnerships through MoUs with various NGOs form the basis of joint fundraising in KAZA. Through facilitation by the KAZA Secretariat, most MoUs seek to augment efforts towards addressing priorities contained in the strategies and planning documents. Through their resources and networks, NGOs help to attract investment to KAZA, addressing priorities identified in the MoUs and those relevant to the various KAZA planning and strategic guidelines. A key recent highlight has been the award of €16.9 million by the Dutch Postcode Lottery through a joint proposal by African Parks, PPF and WWF. There is an urgent need for more similar collaborative initiatives to deliver impact at scale with various strategic partners

8.3 Other innovative funding models

Besides increasing the financial sustainability of TFCAs through direct funding, there is also a growing trend of improving the management of the protected area network within TFCAs. This is done by setting up collaborative management partnerships between state wildlife authorities and non-profit partners such as NGOs or philanthropists. Examples of these are (i) the co-management model, where a non-profit partner and government share governance and management responsibilities or (ii) the delegated management model, where a non-profit partner is delegated full management authority by government. The duration of these types of partnerships, which increase both the funding as well as the human resource capacity in the areas, is often more than 20 years. Such long-standing partnerships are signed for protected areas including within KAZA, GLTFCA and Malawi-Zambia TFCA. In 2016, the SADC TFCA Network organised a Symposium to identify the difference between these various collaborative management support models, and the pros and cons for governments to choose a certain type of partnership model.³⁷

To support effective park management within TFCA landscapes, GDC is increasingly working with NGOs that have made such a long-term commitment to protected area management. An effective co-management agreement has been set up in Gonarezhou National Park, which is part of the Zimbabwe component of the GLTFCA (see Text Box 10).

Finally, the SADC Member States are increasingly looking into more innovative ways of funding through wildlife-based economy revenue models. A wildlife-based economy is considered an economy focused on the sustainable use of biodiversity resources (flora and fauna biodiversity in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems). This includes biodiversity-derived value-added products, for trade and bio prospecting; the hunting industry; agriculture and the agro-processing of indigenous crops, wildlife and fish breeds as well as the eco-tourism sector. The GDC is supporting SADC Member States in their ongoing efforts towards the development of a SADC Wildlife-based Economy Framework.

³⁷ SADC (2016b)

Text Box 10: Setting up a co-management structure for Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe

FZS has been providing technical and financial support to Gonarezhou National Park since 2007. However, due to the declining financial and technical capacity of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), the spike in elephant poaching and lack of investment in tourism infrastructure, the partnership structure was no longer sustainable. It was at that time that the two partners started to discuss a new management model to effectively co-manage the area. This eventually led to the creation of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust in 2016 consisting of governance structures with equal NGO and government representation and a joint management committee. As a result of the co-management arrangement, donors provided significant additional support, which resulted in the much-needed budget increase. Consequently, more staff was employed from the local community, poaching reached an all-time low and the Trust invested substantially in tourism infrastructure. Tourism revenue will be re-invested in the park, and it is envisioned that once basic costs are covered, a percentage of the tourism income will be paid to the community. FZS and ZPWMA are currently in the process of reintroducing the black rhino into the park. Going forward, the GDC is planning to support the park development in this key node of the GLTFCA.³⁸

³⁸ Baghai et al (2018)

9. Regional Policy Dialogue, Knowledge Management and Collaboration



The establishment and development of SADC TFCA are highly dependent on collaboration and cooperation across the region, between TFCA Partner States as well as local and traditional authorities. The SADC TFCA Programme³⁹ highlights the need for advocacy and harmonisation of policy and legal frameworks to facilitate the development of regional standards, procedures and guidelines to overcome gaps and resolve conflicts. The SADC TFCA Programme highlights the need for advocacy and harmonisation of policy and legal frameworks to facilitate the development of regional standards, procedures and guidelines to overcome gaps and resolve conflicts. Also, the Programme calls for SADC-wide information exchange. It further encourages a stakeholder learning and innovation regional network to facilitate the gathering, processing and dissemination of TFCA-related information. The SADC Member States face several common challenges in the development of TFCA. These include effective governance of TFCA, establishing sustainable finance mechanisms, capacity development in parallel with implementing effective approaches to, amongst others, natural resource management, community beneficiation, tourism development along with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Recognising the importance of regional policy dialogue, TFCA development is also supported by the institutional strengthening of existing SADC statutory structures coupled with setting up

innovative regional exchange platforms such as the SADC TFCA Network.

9.1 Forming a Stakeholder Network

SADC TFCA are founded on the principle that transboundary conservation should embrace a multi-sectoral approach with the participation of a variety of stakeholders in the planning, management, and sustainable use of natural resources. In partnership with SADC FANR and the Member States, the SADC TFCA Network was established in 2013, the same year that the SADC TFCA Programme was endorsed, “to overcome TFCA challenges through shared learning, knowledge management and collaboration”.

Currently representing more than 600 members from government, NGOs, ICPs, communities, private sector and academia, the Network focuses its activities on knowledge management and learning, resource mobilisation as well as the strengthening of collaboration and partnerships. The founding members agreed that despite the Network being a multi-stakeholder platform, Member States should provide leadership to the SADC TFCA Network, and shall act on decisions emanating from the Network’s membership.

³⁹ SADC (2013a)

Hence the following governance structures were set-up:

- A SADC TFCA Network Steering Committee (SC) comprises of one representative TFCA Focal Point) from each SADC Member State and the SADC Secretariat. TFCA Secretariats or International Coordinators are also invited to SC meetings. The SC provides political leadership and can set priorities and determine the strategic direction.
- Communities of Practice on Monitoring and Data Management, Training and Capacity Building, Tourism, Community Engagement and LEAP were set-up to assist the SC with the decision-making process on specific subject matters and are comprised of subject-matter experts within the SADC TFCA network.
- The SADC Secretariat provides a coordinating and facilitating role to the SC.

Since its inception, the SADC TFCA Network has engaged in annual meetings and symposia collaboratively organised between the GDC, USAID, PPF, the EU-funded Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme implemented by IUCN and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC), among others. Matters discussed and deliberated on during these meetings are often recommended to SADC structural meetings for a decision (See Chapter 5.2). One of the key achievements has been the endorsement of the SADC TFCA FF by SADC Ministers after it was recommended to SADC statutory structures by the Network SC (See Chapter 9.1). As a result, the SADC TFCA Network is increasingly recognised as an important discussion, coordination and communication platform between TFCA practitioners, decision-makers and SADC structures.



To achieve its objectives, the internet offers a prime facility for efficient and effective communication and information sharing. Hence, the SADC TFCA Network has an online SADC TFCA Portal⁴⁰, which includes a public web page as well as a members only TFCA Network Intranet. It offers a range of functions including a resource repository, member database, on-line calendar feed and discussion fora. The COVID-19 pandemic has also provided opportunities for the network to reshape how it shares knowledge (see Text Box 11).

Having benefited from GDC assistance since its inception, the long-term sustainability of the SADC TFCA Network is one of SADC FANR and the Network SC's priorities. As a first immediate result, the TFCA Portal hosting was taken over by the IUCN BIOPAMA Programme from early 2020. Efforts are underway to find a long-term partner to support SADC FANR and Network SC in the coordination of the Network.

Text Box 11: Celebrating 20 years of Transfrontier Conservation in SADC through an online webinar series

2020 is the year that SADC celebrates 20 years of Transfrontier Conservation. While Member States were preparing for a regional SADC TFCA Summit to celebrate the successes and reaffirm commitment to TFCAs, COVID-19 unfortunately halted these plans. Nonetheless, the SC, during their first online meeting, agreed to instead organise a series of online webinars titled "20 Years of Transfrontier Conservation in SADC: contributing to resilience across borders" which ran from July to September 2020. The webinars comprised 20 sessions with weekly themes. The series of webinars was a huge success with more than 500 stakeholders attending from across the region and beyond. It further boosted the relevance of the Network as a platform for knowledge management and collaboration, which has also increased the membership considerably. One of the important milestones was that the webinar platform opened up participation to all network members. Previously, participation in network meetings was by invitation only. Going forward, the SC and its members wish to organise more meetings through online formats, increasing the reach while reducing the costs. The webinar series is available on the SADC TFCA Portal,⁴¹ YouTube⁴² as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Learning for Nature website.⁴³

⁴⁰ SADC TFCA Portal (accessed on 3 March 2021) - <https://tfcaportal.org/>

⁴¹ SADC TFCA Portal: <https://tfcaportal.org/sadc-tfca-networks-organises-10-week-webinar-series-celebrate-20-years-transfrontier-conservation>

⁴² YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNMT3vdat52Huh1juMUQpsNVN0NApEQVm>

⁴³ UNDP Learning for Nature: <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/courses/20-years-of-transfrontier-conservation-in-sadc-contributing-to-resilience-across-borders/>



9.2 Regional policy-harmonisation and adjustment of framework conditions

Improved treaties, policies, legislation and standards are an essential basis for the efficient development and management of TFCAs as well as collaboration among TFCA partner countries and relevant stakeholders. To support Member States in their efforts to harmonise their approaches to TFCA development and management, the GDC provides technical support to SADC FANR in policy-dialogue as well as the convening of SADC statutory meetings. Ultimately, however, the development of TFCAs is the prerogative of the SADC Member States and calls for political will and social acceptance of the TFCA concept at national level, to apply and implement the policy frameworks.

The main SADC statutory decision-making structures for TFCAs development are the Technical Committee on Wildlife; the Technical Committee on Forestry; the Technical Committee on Tourism; and the Joint Committee of Ministers of Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism. In addition, the Joint Committee of Ministers of Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism; and the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation discuss issues of law enforcement and anti-poaching as well as cross-border tourism. SADC Organ and FANR coordinate and facilitate the convening of these committees.

In partnership with the GDC, the Regional Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme,⁴⁴ TFCA Programme⁴⁵ and Tourism Programme 2020-2030⁴⁶ were developed alongside the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy 2016-2021,⁴⁷ the Green Economy Strategy, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan⁴⁸ as well as the Regional

Agricultural Policy (RAP).⁴⁹ Currently, implementation of the Tourism Programme is promoted through the development of a COVID-19 responsive Costed Action Plan (CAP) and Resource Mobilisation Strategy (see Annex B for a detailed overview). Besides its support of the development of policy documents such as strategies, programmes and action plans, more applied policy documents were promoted, including the following:

1. **Guideline for the Development and Establishment of SADC TFCAs (2015):** to guide the processes associated with the establishment and development of TFCAs, beginning with the process of obtaining buy-in from stakeholders, putting the appropriate governance model in place, firming up on the spatial aspects of the initiative (mapping), working towards a shared vision and a joint management plan, planning for financial sustainability and lastly, monitoring and evaluation.
2. **Guideline for Tourism Concessions in SADC TFCAs (2015):** to guide tourism concession in SADC TFCAs while ensuring that both the conservation and development objectives of regional TFCAs are met, including rural development and community participation.
3. **Framework on the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) of SADC TFCAs (2018):** to provide a standardised system to collect and analyse information on the SADC TFCAs that supports management accountability to monitor the contribution of TFCAs to the economic development of the SADC region; and to report to SADC statutory structures on the progress made in the implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme (See Chapter 10).

44 SADC (2013b)
45 SADC (2013a)

46 SADC (2019)
47 SADC (2015a)

48 SADC (2015b)
49 SADC (2015c)



4. Toolkit for Community Engagement in SADC TFCAs (2022): to provide practical step-by-step actions on how to engage local communities in the planning, establishment and operation of TFCAs. It provides information on principles and best practices, with case studies as examples and links to implementation tools.

5. Toolkit for the Development of Cross-border Tourism Products in SADC TFCAs (2022): to provide practical evidence-based guidance on a step-by-step process relating to the development and operation of cross-border tourism products, including scoping, design and feasibility, development and operation.

Recently, the SADC TFCA Network Steering Committee also recommended the alignment of the SADC TFCA Programme to the global Aichi and Sustainable Development Goal and to include a clear process for the listing and delisting of the TFCAs to support the continued expansion of the SADC Network of TFCAs beyond the current list of 18.

9.3 Strengthening regional multilateral environmental governance

Issues pertaining to the implementation of MEAs tend to be transboundary in nature, thereby requiring a regional response. Under the United Nations framework, several MEAs were established to address global environmental challenges; for example: the CBD; the CITES; the Ramsar Convention; the UNCCD and the UNFCCC. SADC Member States are signatories to these MEAs, attend Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and participate in their implementation.

Until recently, there was insufficient and inconsistent coordination between SADC Member States in preparation of COPs. Therefore, the SADC Member States expressed the need to embark on a regional consultative process, before going to a COP to find common ground on regional issues on COP agenda items. To strengthen SADC in their negotiation skills, the GDC aided the preparatory processes for several MEAs. This has helped the Member States to create a sense of unity when deliberating on issues of conservation and management of natural resources on the global arena (see text box 12). This preparatory process consisted of one to two meetings, where Member States discuss variations in country-level positions on COP agenda items to achieve regional consensus i.e. support, oppose or abstain on agenda items. As a result, SADC Member States were able to agree on common regional issues and to compile SADC common positions, which guided Member States at the COP meeting deliberations. The preparatory workshops and common positions for MEAs improved the transparency of voting by Member States at the COPs. SADC participation at COP meetings has led to SADC becoming highly visible and the Member States speaking with one voice. The SADC Member States also took advantage of COP meetings to present the TFCA concept on the global arena, and the SADC TFCA Network organised various side-events during the CITES COP16 in South Africa and CBD COP14 in Egypt.

Currently, a regional guideline is being developed to harmonise processes across MEAs and outline a preferred process as well as the structure of the common position document. To sustain these deliberations beyond GDC support, SADC would also need to look at alternative funding sources or consider convening more meetings online.



SADC Member States daily morning briefing meetings.

Text Box 12: SADC participation at CITES COP18, Geneva

SADC’s participation at CITES COP18 in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 2019 is a good example of how Member States should prepare for a COP meeting. Fourteen (14) Member States attended the COP: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. With support from the GDC, SADC convened two preparatory workshops to develop a SADC common position for CITES COP18. For the first time, officials from both the wildlife (fauna) and forestry (flora) sectors were invited and attended the workshops. Additionally, both sectors

were briefed at their respective meetings of the Technical Committee on Wildlife, Technical Committee on Forestry and important agenda items to be discussed at the forthcoming COP18.

At the COP18 venue, Member States held daily briefing meetings to review the SADC Common Position as well as the important COP agenda items of each day to strategize on how SADC countries would regionally conduct and support each other in the deliberations of the next day’s session. In the plenary meetings, Member States conducted themselves with great solidarity and spoke with one voice through the SADC Chair on most of the major regional issues affecting the SADC region.



High-level event with Ministers signing a SADC TFCA map during the CITES COP17 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

10. Ways to Monitor TFCAs - How We Can Show Progress and Impact



Data collection by ranger in the field using a SMART mobile device

To demonstrate the progress and impact of TFCAs, The SADC TFCA Programme⁵⁰ calls for the establishment of a SADC M&E Framework to monitor TFCA development and management at the TFCA and SADC Secretariat level. For the GDC, monitoring the TFCA progress is also important to showcase the effectiveness of its investments. The GDC-backed FANR to develop the SADC TFCA M&E Framework⁵¹ in close collaboration with SADC Member States and the SADC TFCA Network M&E Community of Practice. The M&E Framework was endorsed in 2018 and aims to monitor the contribution of SADC TFCAs to the joint management of shared natural and cultural resources for sustainable development, conservation and regional integration. The data collection is fed into the overall SADC Results-based M&E System for monitoring all SADC protocols and programmes, which serves to report to SADC statutory structures. The SADC TFCA M&E Framework was tested by SAWC in ARTP, LTFCA and Malawi-Zambia TFCA in preparation for full roll-out to all TFCAs.

On the TFCA level, KAZA set up a comparatively advanced monitoring system, before the development of the regional SADC TFCA M&E Framework. The KAZA TFCA M&E Framework consists of an online M&E tool and M&E Framework Document. The online KAZA M&E Tool encompasses a centralised data and

information repository that reports progress on the TFCA's key biological and socio-economic indicators, which is more detailed than the SADC system. To implement this tool, collection methods had to be harmonised. The user-friendly, spatial monitoring tool enables multiple users to assess changes in biological and socio-economic indicators and the achievement of set indicator targets in relation to baselines. The tool monitors various data types, including spatial wildlife corridors and elephant numbers. The overarching aim of the system is to evaluate the impact that individual investments and entire projects have made in KAZA TFCA over time. It enables informed adjustments of existing projects (adaptive management) as well as the responsible planning of future initiatives. Further work will include complementing missing field data, reviewing the socio-economic, remote sensing, tourism data, updating the Indicator Framework and the release of Version 2.0 of the M&E Tool. The monitoring tool will also contribute to the compilation of regular "State of KAZA report". In future, Partner States must facilitate in-country data collection to ensure complete and comparable data.

⁵⁰ SADC (2013a)

⁵¹ SADC (2018)

11. Conclusion and Outlook

Towards the Next Decades



It has been twenty years since the opening of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park between Botswana and South Africa in 2000, the first TFCA in the SADC region. The GDC has supported the TFCA approach since its early days. Today, 18 TFCAs are listed, 12 of which have signed MoUs or Treaties. The long process has seen many successes but also encountered challenges, which must still be overcome to further the noble vision of integrated cross-border conservation of natural resources, socio-economic development of the local populations and regional integration.

TFCA development has only been possible through political commitment of the SADC member states, close collaboration among the many partners from the public sector, ICPs, NGOs, communities, the private sector and research, none of which knew each other in the beginning. Today, a vibrant TFCA network of these partners exists for the exchange of know-how and synergistic collaboration on TFCAs development.

Regular exchange and collaboration were essential to creating mutual understanding and trust, which are needed to agree on, first, the basic conditions (policies, strategies, programmes, TFCA structures, guidelines etc.) for TFCA development and the distribution of financial means and investments needed for the joint development of TFCA landscapes and their people. Today, transboundary structures exist at the national, TFCA and local level. Some are operational while others still need to gain momentum.

Official political recognition of TFCAs through Treaties, MoUs and successes on the ground have created more interest among public, private and civil society organisations. Where only individual initiatives could be found in the beginning, now the TFCA-promoting community and its activities have become more diverse and better funded.

Enhanced regional collaboration also took place with regards to the regional strategic framework and the international commitments of the SADC Member States. The number of regional SADC Strategies, Programmes and Guidelines have been developed in regional consultative workshops attended by Member States representatives, NGOs, academia, private sector and community representatives. Today, Member States regularly

meet before MEA COPs to discuss common environmental positions, which create a sense of common regional purpose on issues relating to the management and conservation of natural resources. This is to say that many things have improved and been achieved. But we must realise that we are in for a long journey, and many aspects still need further attention and scaling the lessons learnt.

Communities being custodians, guardians or beneficiaries of natural assets, play a pivotal role in the development of TFCAs. The notion that they are a threat to conservation has to be overcome. This means that they not only have to participate in the processes of developing the TFCAs, but also need gainful activities and returns on their conservation efforts and investment.

While on the one hand, the funding of TFCAs to implement the existing TFCA development plans is unreliable and still insufficient, on the other hand, available funds are not easily absorbed by TFCA structures and partners. Spending efficiency is sub-optimal and transaction costs are often high. Funds from Governments and more so ICP and NGO funding, fluctuate in volume and time. Additional funding mechanisms are, therefore, needed to allow long-term planning security and sustainability. The recently started SADC TFCA Financing Facility is an important step in this direction.

Being a long-term process, TFCA development as a catalyst for regional integration will continue. The success of the vision will create many viable outcomes and benefits for remote rural communities in terms of higher and diversified income and better resilience. Internet will provide better access to public and private services. Well managed public and private parks, biodiversity and wildlife management areas will conserve an important part of the global biodiversity heritage. The rich biodiversity forms the basis for a thriving, more sustainable tourism sector embedded into local supply chains. Increased numbers of regional and international tourists will travel across countries on a digital SADC UniVisa and with digitally procured park entry permits. The SADC Region is becoming an internationally renowned destination. In short, the TFCA vision is worth pursuing.

Annex A

Project Briefs

Projects	Duration and Main Activities	Budget (€)
KFW GLTP (I-IV) 2002-2022	<p>The project supports the Limpopo National Park (LNP) in Mozambique as a component of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park" (GLTP), which also includes Kruger National Park (KNP) in South Africa and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. The objective of the Project is to protect and sustainably use ecologically valuable resources and to promote the livelihoods of current and future generations of the local population.</p> <p>The project works with the park administration, the rural population within the parks, the surrounding zone and the private sector. It involves financial support for the voluntary resettlement of the villages located in the core zone of the LNP, as well as support for park and project management through complementary investment in infrastructure, science, training and awareness-raising. The COVID-19 funding comprises health and hygiene equipment, cash for work and wage subsidies for up to 12 months.</p>	58,000,000 EUR plus 1,000,000 EUR COVID-19 funding
KFW KAZA (I-III) 2004-2024	<p>The project supports the KAZA TFCA stretching over five countries i.e. Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It aims to support the development of the KAZA TFCA by establishing appropriate organisational structures at regional, national and local levels, facilitating integrated management of natural resources, improving the infrastructure in conservation areas and uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the local populations.</p> <p>At the regional level, the project strengthens the KAZA TFCA Secretariat and the KAZA TFCA structures such as Joint Management Committee, Committee of Senior Officials, Ministerial Committees, working groups and dedicated task teams. At national and local levels, consultation for expert groups is supported as well, as the institutional setup is needed to coordinate and manage the development of the KAZA TFCA at scale and across boundaries. Investments and other measures aim at participatory natural resource management, mitigation of HWC and a conservation economy with a fair share of benefits originating from tourism and natural resource management for local communities. Corridors for wildlife dispersal and migration between neighbouring parks are promoted, leading to improved biodiversity and wildlife population numbers and distributions.</p> <p>The COVID-19 funding addresses park management authorities, local communities and employees in the tourism sector, mainly community and joint venture lodges. It comprises financial support for park management and operations, livelihood development, cash for work, food supply and wage subsidies for six to 12 months.</p>	36,000,000 EUR plus 4,000,000 EUR COVID-19 funding

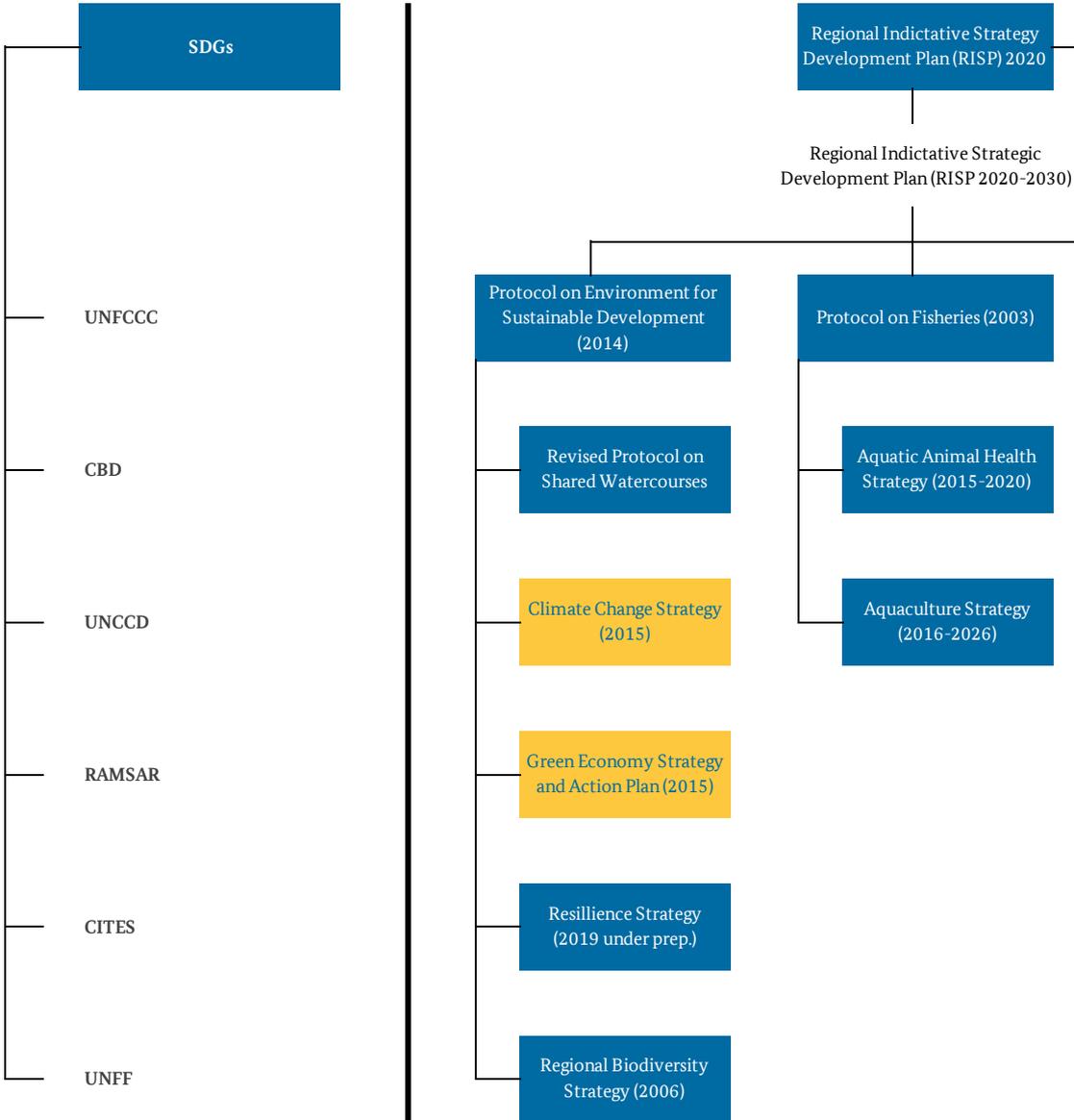
<p>KFW Malawi-Zambia TFCA 2017-2023</p>	<p>The project supports the governments of Zambia and Malawi in the development of their Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) with a focus on the northern part of the TFCA consisting of the Nyika National Park (NP) and the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve in Malawi as well as the Nyika NP, the Lundazi-Mitengi and Mikuti Forest Reserves, the Musalangu Game Management Area (GMA) and the North Luangwa NP in Zambia. The project essentially comprises investments in four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a supra-regional coordination unit and local implementation units. • Establishment of a transnational structure to combat poaching. • Improvement and expansion of park infrastructure and equipment. • Population-based approaches (community and conservancy development, community forest management) and Public-Private-Partnerships (park management, game ranching, tourism). <p>In parallel, the legal and institutional frameworks are improved by the two partner countries. Staff support is provided by the PPF and other NGOs such as the FZS. The COVID-19 funding comprises health and hygiene equipment, cash for work and wage subsidies for up to 12 months.</p>	<p>23,000,000 EUR plus 1,000,000 EUR COVID-19 funding through bilateral cooperation with Namibia</p>
<p>KFW Training Facilities and Programmes for Wildlife Rangers and Managers in SADC region, 09/2014-09/2021</p>	<p>The project's goal was to support the development and management of established TFCAs in the SADC region to join fragmented wildlife habitats across international boundaries, in which wildlife is efficiently managed, biodiversity maintained, and where the socio-economic conditions of the rural communities are enhanced through eco- and cultural tourism development and the sustainable use of natural resources. The expected outcomes were:</p> <p>Wildlife managers and rangers, park management staff, related governmental agencies, CBOs and local administrations are trained to apply work-place related skills and up-to-date knowledge to manage critical ecosystems functions and key species across boundaries.</p> <p>Improved efficiency of the SAWC. Of the total EUR10.000.000, SAWC received EUR4.000.000 for infrastructure development and EUR6.000.000 was allocated for KAZA TFCA and GLTFCA. The additional commitment of EUR 5,000,000 made in 2019 has not yet been allocated and appraised.</p>	<p>15,000,000 EUR</p>
<p>KFW TFCA Financing Facility, 2020-2025</p>	<p>The TFCA Financing Facility was established in 2020. The facility's purpose is to invest in tangible measures that strengthen ecological, economic, cultural and institutional connectivity within SADC TFCAs for the management of shared natural resources and sustainable development. The Facility contributes to the vision and mission of the SADC TFCA Programme.</p> <p>Its overall objective is to provide the basis for longer-term and more sustainable funding to support conservation and management of SADC TFCAs. Specific objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a standardised grant mechanism for the development of SADC TFCAs in line with the overall socio-economic development and regional integration goals of the SADC • To provide a financial response mechanism for urgent needs critical to the success and integrity of TFCAs • To leverage funding for similar programmes and foster the exchange of information and good practice to strengthen strategic alliances <p>The facility is managed by IUCN.</p>	<p>33,000,000 EUR</p>

<p>giz Monitoring, Reporting and Verification for REDD + 02/2012-02/2015</p>	<p>The project aimed to develop a regional integrated Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System for changes to forest areas, carbon stocks and emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (technical readiness). It was implemented in four countries: Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.</p> <p>The project supported the implementation of the SADC Support Programme on REDD+. It produced two guidelines on the Design of REDD+MRV System in SADC and Regional Cooperation for REDD+ MRVs.</p>	<p>3,764,000 EUR</p>
<p>giz TUPNR I: 06/2012-05/2015 and TUPNR II: 06.2015-03/2021</p>	<p>The Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (TUPNR) Project ran for 6 years divided into two phases: Phase I 2012-2015 and Phase II, 2015-2018.</p> <p>The project aimed to improve the implementation of SADC protocols and strategies for sustainable natural resource management by local, national and regional actors. It supported the implementation of Protocols on forestry, wildlife and tourism; forestry and LEAP strategies; programmes on fire, REDD+, and TFCAs; as well as the development of a tourism programme.</p> <p>It also supported change projects in Malawi-Zambia and Lubombo TFCAs, and Ai Ais Transfrontier Park. The COVID-19 funds comprise sanitary equipment and cash-for-work activities.</p>	<p>20,051,000 EUR</p>
<p>giz C-NRM, 01/2021-12/2024</p>	<p>The project aimed to develop a regional integrated Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System for changes to forest areas, carbon stocks and emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (technical readiness). It was implemented in five countries: Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.</p> <p>The project supported the implementation of SADC Support Programme on REDD+. It produced two guidelines on the Design of REDD+ MRV System in SADC and Regional Cooperation for REDD+ MRVs.</p>	<p>3,764,000 EUR</p>
<p>giz C-NRM, 01/2021-12/2024</p>	<p>The objective of the project is to mainstream climate change aspects into the SADC cross-border management of natural resources. In cooperation with SADC/FANR, the project will help to develop an investment plan for the SADC TFCA Programme and update the SADC Biodiversity Strategy. It will analyse climate risks and mitigation potentials in TFCAs and indicate resource mobilisation sources.</p> <p>It will promote knowledge management of climate-smart agricultural and natural resource management practices in TFCAs and strengthen capacity building institutions in the SADC Region. It will implement climate-smart demonstration projects for cross-border cooperation of communities in TFCAs. Additionally, it will promote tourism development in TFCAs.</p>	<p>8,000,000 EUR</p>
<p>Total EUR:</p>		<p>202,815,000 EUR</p>

Annex B

SADC Strategic Framework and involvement of GDC

Global



SADC Treaty (1992)

Vision 2050

Industrialisation Strategy
(2015-2063)

Protocol on Forestry (2003)

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Tourism Programme
(2019)

TFCA Development
Strategy for 2010 and
Beyond (2005)

Regional Agricultural
Investment Plan (RAIP)
2017-2022

REDD+ Programme
(2011)

TFCA Programme (2013)

Regional Food and
Nutrition Security
Strategy (2015-2025)

FLEGT Programme
(2013)

- Guidelines:
1. TFCA Development
 2. TFCA Concessions
 3. TFCA M&E Framework
 4. Community Engagement in TFCA
 5. Cross-border Tourism Products

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