

Nature Culture Community



Transfrontier Conservation Areas

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas



Established TFCAs

- Treaty Signed**
- 1. **/Ai/Ais - Richtersveld TP***
(Namibia/South Africa)
- 2. **Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCa**
(Angola/Namibia)
- 3. **Kgalagadi TP***
(Botswana/South Africa)
- 4. **Kavango Zambezi TFCa***
(Angola/Botswana/Namibia/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 5. **Great Limpopo TP and TFCa***
(Mozambique/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
- 6. **Malawi-Zambia TFCa***
(Malawi-Zambia)
- 7. **Lubombo TFCa***
(Mozambique/South Africa/Swaziland)
- 8. **Maloti-Drakensberg TFCa***
(Lesotho/South Africa)

Emerging TFCAs

- MOU signed**
- 9. **Greater Mapungubwe TFCa***
(Botswana/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
- 10. **Chimanimani TFCa**
(Mozambique/Zimbabwe)
- 11. **Mayombe Forest TPA**
(Angola/Congo/DRC/Gabon)
- 12. **Niassa-Selous TFCa**
(Mozambique/Tanzania)

Conceptual TFCAs

- 13. **Liwua Plains-Mussuma TFCa***
(Angola/Zambia)
- 14. **Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCa***
(Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 15. **ZIMOZA TFCa**
(Mozambique/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 16. **Kagera TFCa**
(Rwanda/Tanzania/Uganda)
- 17. **Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCMA**
(Mozambique/Tanzania)
- 18. **Western Indian Ocean TMP**
(Comoros/Kenya/Reunion(France)/Madagascar/Mauritius/Mozambique/Seychelles/Somalia/South Africa/Tanzania)

SADC TFCAs

Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the Southern African Development Community

Introduction

This booklet invites the reader to a journey through Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Conservation is more than protecting rhinos and elephants, the controlling of illegal logging or managing overfished waters. Progressive management of natural resources is about finding a balance between using the natural resources for economic development, keeping them in good stewardship for future generations whilst enjoying them for their beauty, natural wonders and recreation. This is not an easy task, and is rarely creating instant rewards. Many people around the globe have started to engage in conservation activities. They may join to clean their nearby creeks, they buy organically produced fruits and vegetables from local farms and they donate money to organisations that promote the protection of the environment.

Lakes, forests or animals do not know national borders and therefore there is now a call for the people and the governments of neighbouring countries to work together to conserve river basins, large expanses of tropical forests, or water bodies bordering more than one country. What happens at the source of large rivers affects people at the far end where they join the ocean. So transfrontier conservation is more than conserving the environment, it is an opportunity for working together, lower barriers between people and countries and to promote peace and stability across the region.

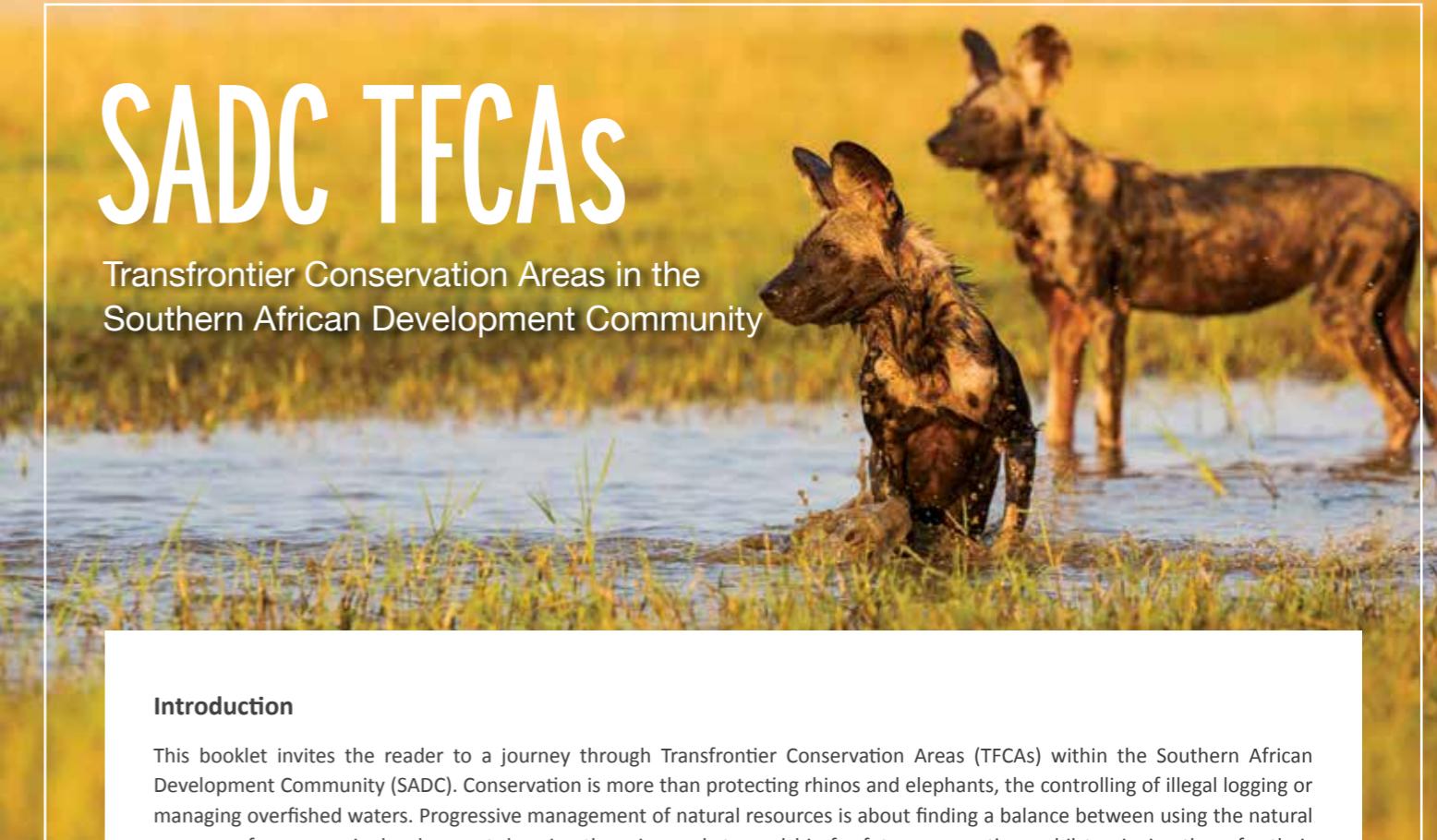
TFCAs in the SADC Context

Transfrontier Conservation Areas are a relatively new concept in the conservation arena. They are founded on the realization that natural resources that straddle international boundaries are a shared asset with the potential to meaningfully contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the welfare and socio-economic development of rural communities. Also, TFCAs are practical means of demonstrating regional integration

Currently, there are 18 TFCAs in SADC in both terrestrial and marine environments in various stages of development, covering more than one million square kilometres which includes more than half of the protected area estate in southern Africa. Southern Africa also hosts many of global endangered species, including over 60% of the African elephant population. The configuration of SADC TFCAs varies from those that are Transfrontier Parks (TP) and include two or more adjacent and protected areas (e.g. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park) to those that include a complexity of land-uses such as communal land, concession areas and protected areas (e.g. Kavango Zambezi TFCAs). SADC TFCAs are not necessarily between SADC Member States only but may also involve partnerships with countries that border SADC Member States. Three broad categories based on the legal status and levels of development of the TFCAs exist:

- Category A – Established TFCAs: These are TFCAs established through a Treaty or any other form of legal agreement between the participating countries;
- Category B – Emerging TFCAs: These are TFCAs established on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOUs serve as instruments that facilitate negotiations of Treaties to formally establish the respective TFCAs for eventual formalization to Category A;
- Category C – Conceptual TFCAs: These are TFCAs without an official mandate from the participating countries but have been proposed by SADC Member States as potential TFCAs.

The SADC Member States at their meeting of March 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa, adopted an overarching vision and mission for SADC TFCAs.



Vision:

SADC, a model of community centred, regionally integrated and sustainably managed network of world class Transfrontier Conservation Areas.

Mission:

To develop SADC into a functional and integrated network of Transfrontier Conservation Areas where shared natural resources are sustainably co-managed and conserved to foster socioeconomic development, and regional integration for the benefit of people living within and around TFCAs, the SADC region, and the world.

Rationale for the SADC TFCA Programme

Several policies and legal frameworks provide an enabling environment for the establishment and development of TFCAs in the SADC region. They include the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999), the SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002), the SADC Protocol on Shared Water Courses (2002) and the SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy (2006). The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) has identified sustainable development, conservation of wildlife and transboundary natural resources as a priority for SADC. The SADC Member States mandated the SADC Secretariat to facilitate and support their efforts in the establishment and development of TFCAs.

To implement the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement with regard to TFCAs, SADC developed the "SADC Programme for Transfrontier Conservation Areas" in 2013. The SADC Programme for TFCAs highlights seven action areas for reaching its overarching vision:

1. Policy harmonisation and advocacy
 2. Sustainable financing
 3. Capacity building
 4. Data and knowledge management
 5. Local livelihoods
- Harmonising the pertinent legal and policy frameworks within and between Member States;
 - Reducing the knowledge and skill gaps among managers, administrators, communities and operators in all areas relevant for TFCA development;
 - Developing site, species and biome specific conservation approaches and viable land-use concepts;
 - Engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including communities, local government, traditional authorities, private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the TFCA development processes, through inclusive planning, beneficiation, livelihood alternatives and better representation in TFCA governance and management structures;
 - Investing in basic economic and social infrastructure such as roads, border crossings, education and health facilities, and;
 - Expanding the focus from wildlife conservation to embracing all aspects of transboundary natural resource management in TFCAs.

6. Climate change vulnerability, and
7. TFCAs as marketable tourism products

Challenges for SADC TFCAs

Many renowned tourism destinations such as Victoria Falls, Kruger National Park and the Drakensberg mountains are located within SADC TFCAs. Tourism can help to generate employment in rural and remote areas, thereby contributing to poverty reduction. But developing of TFCAs includes a lot more than tourism development. With sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation as objectives, the task at hand is enormous. Private sector, civil society, communities and governments have to find a way to align their interests, join forces and invest skills, time, and money to make the TFCA idea a reality on the ground. The development of TFCAs does not yield short term benefits, and actors and stakeholders must realize they are in for a long journey. To unlock the potential of TFCAs, Member States need to address the following challenges:

- Harmonising the pertinent legal and policy frameworks within and between Member States;
- Reducing the knowledge and skill gaps among managers, administrators, communities and operators in all areas relevant for TFCA development;
- Developing site, species and biome specific conservation approaches and viable land-use concepts;
- Engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including communities, local government, traditional authorities, private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the TFCA development processes, through inclusive planning, beneficiation, livelihood alternatives and better representation in TFCA governance and management structures;
- Investing in basic economic and social infrastructure such as roads, border crossings, education and health facilities, and;
- Expanding the focus from wildlife conservation to embracing all aspects of transboundary natural resource management in TFCAs.



TFCA Network members at the TFCA Network Symposium on Conservation, Collaboration and Management Support held at Gaborone, Botswana in July 2016.

Communities play a pivotal role in TFCA development. The long established notion that communities are a threat to conservation has to be overcome in favour of communities being stewards, guardians or beneficiaries of natural assets. This will require that they are not only integrated in the processes of developing the TFCAs through participation in the planning and decision making, but also through gainful activities and returns on their investment. As this will not always be possible with a limited natural resource, the creation of alternatives livelihood becomes crucial. These alternatives may involve agriculture, game ranching, tourism and service sectors or other public employment. At any rate, the utilisation of natural resources should be managed sustainably. It is therefore vital that broad economic development platforms for public/private/community partnerships and investment opportunities. In this endeavour, the SADC Secretariat assists Member States in identifying best practices, sharing of experiences and mobilising additional resources for investing in TFCA development.

Forming of a Stakeholders' Network

This process has already begun. TFCA practitioners of ten SADC Member States, TFCA international coordinators and several international NGOs met in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2013. Realizing that TFCAs have common challenges they founded the SADC TFCA Network "to overcome TFCA challenges through shared learning, knowledge management and collaboration". Specifically, they agreed to share information among practitioners and the public alike, to learn from each other and create and expand knowledge on TFCAs, to foster innovation on the ground as well as on policy level, to mobilize resources, and to contribute to the empowerment of the ultimate stewards of the natural resources, the communities.

Membership and Achievements of the SADC TFCA Network

To date, the network comprises more than 275 members representing various stakeholders, including the TFCA Focal Points for each SADC Member State, TFCA International Coordinators and practitioners, international and regional NGOs, international cooperating partners, private sector and academia representatives. The Network also intends to broaden membership and involve more community representatives and traditional leaders. Membership is open to anyone with a genuine interest in TFCA development.

The Member States are guiding the development of the TFCA Network through a Steering Committee, with one representative from each SADC Member State (TFCA Focal Point) as well as the SADC Secretariat.

The TFCA Network actively supported the development of three regional guidelines and strategies:

1. The *TFCA development guideline* outlines principles and requirements that a TFCA needs to meet to fulfil its role as a space for sustainable rural development;
2. The *TFCA tourism concession guideline* helps to guide governments and private sector alike to establish tourism concessions, to help conserve nature and provide benefits for the local communities within and around TFCA;
3. *The Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (LEAP)* is an important policy document for SADC Member States to develop cross-border responses to the growing poaching crisis.

Two additional guidelines are currently being developed on TFCA community engagement and TFCA cross-border tourism products.

Finding SADC TFCAs Online

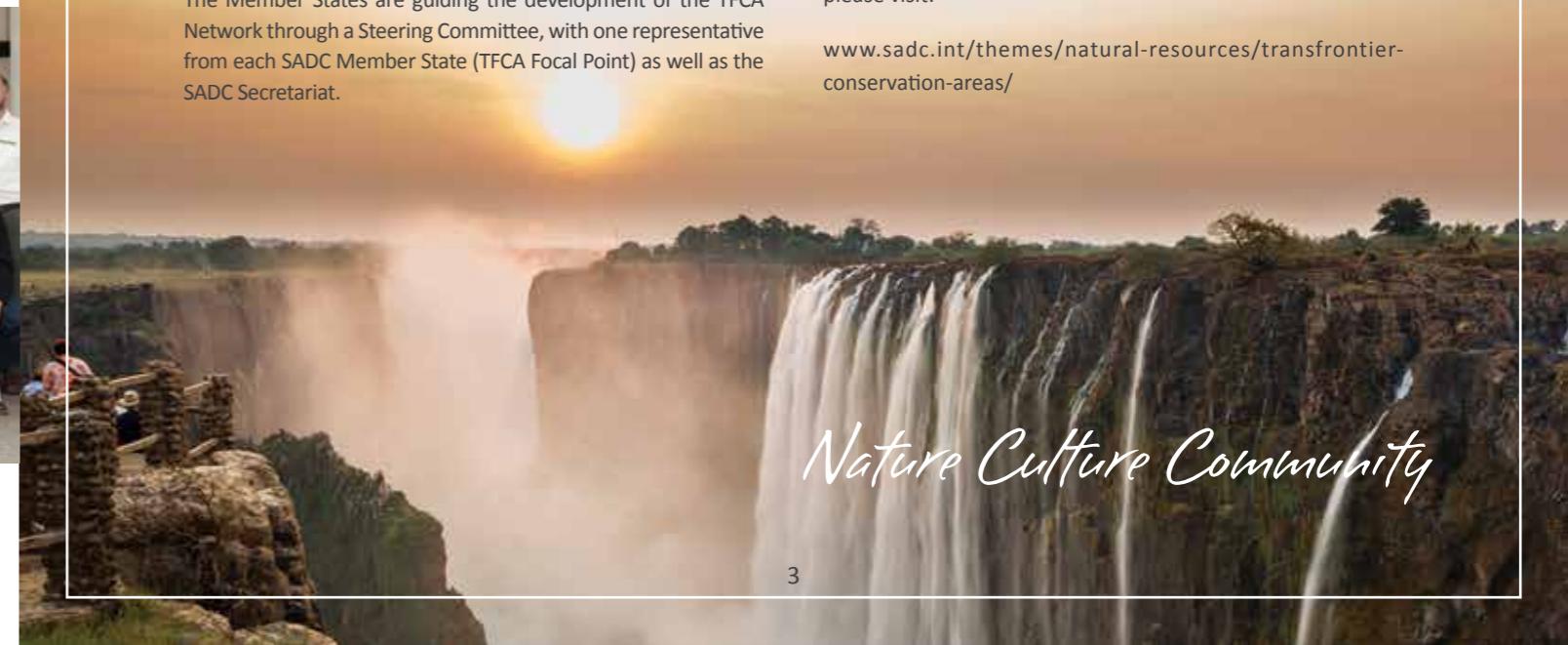
In 2014, the TFCA Network launched an interactive members-only web-based intranet to enable SADC TFCA practitioners to share information, experiences and knowledge. Currently this intranet is the only one in the sub region on TFCAs. Once registered as a TFCA Network Member, the TFCA Network Intranet can be accessed through the TFCA website or portal and offers a range of functions including discussion fora, a resource repository, member database, on-line calendar feeds, an image and movie data base. It also enables staff of a particular TFCA to share information within their own teams.

The SADC TFCA Portal provides general information on all TFCAs and gives access to a variety of spatial tools and was launched in September 2016. The interactive TFCA portal provides and invites the public to view, share and discuss TFCA related information. To find more detailed information on SADC TFCAs, to register as a TFCA Network Member and/or subscribe to its Newsletter, please visit:

www.tcaportal.org

For general information on the SADC TFCA Programme, please visit:

www.sadc.int/themes/natural-resources/transfrontier-conservation-areas/



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Boundless Southern Africa



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Chobe National Parks, the Fish River Canyon, the Okavango Delta, the Victoria Falls, and the Maloti-Drakensberg Mountain Range. This creates the basis for development of authentic tourism products that are unique to southern Africa.

Boundless Beginnings

Boundless Southern Africa is a regional marketing initiative that promotes TFCAs as tourist and investment destinations to potential investors and tourists from around the world. Boundless Southern Africa encourages regional tour operators to offer cross-border tourism products and itineraries, which link these expansive attractions with other unique and remote transboundary destinations.

In 2005 the Ministers of Tourism of the nine SADC Countries of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe endorsed a TFCA Development Strategy for 2010 and beyond. The strategy's main objective is to increase the tourism potential of Southern Africa by consolidating marketing, infrastructure development and investment promotion efforts of the Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) initiatives. Initially seven TFCAs were identified to be marketed under this joint initiative in the first phase of the marketing roll-out, and this has now been expanded to include all the TFCAs within the SADC region. Boundless Southern Africa supports initiatives of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) to deliver against their mission of developing effective and impactful tourism initiatives in the SADC region.

Nature, Culture, Community

Beyond experiencing the wilderness experience, visitors can engage with local people and get to know, their culture, customs, and traditions. The people of the region are known for their warmth and hospitality and TFCAs provide a multi-faceted cultural representation to any visitor. Hence Boundless Southern Africa has chosen the slogan "Nature, Culture and Community" to promote TFCAs as tourism destinations offering experiences over and above the 'Big Five'.

Tourism Routes in TFCAs

In order to facilitate the movement of tourists within a number of TFCAs, a number of border posts, also known as tourist access facilities, have been opened by the Presidents of respective member states. These facilities and a pontoon over the Orange River at Sendelingsdrift in the /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld create a vital link between the Namibian and South African sections of this Transfrontier Park. Similarly, the tourist access facilities at Giriyondo between Mozambique and South Africa in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and at Mata Mata and Tweerivieren in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park between Namibia and South Africa

and Botswana and South Africa respectively significantly improve the tourist experience within these TFCAs.

A univisa system has been piloted between Zambia and Zimbabwe to facilitate easier access for visitors to the popular Victoria Falls and Livingstone area that falls within the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. Preparations are underway to expand such a service to other participating countries of the KAZA TFCA.

TFCAs and World Heritage Sites

There is a strong geographical overlap between TFCAs and many of the region's inscribed World Heritage Sites. The Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, Victoria Falls, the Okavango Delta, Mana Pools National Park and the Sapi and Chewori Safari Areas, the Maloti-Drakensburg Transfrontier Park, the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and the Mapungubwe National Park offer visitors a range of natural and cultural heritage experiences.

Tourism Investment in TFCA

Boundless Southern Africa provides the basis for unifying and consolidating marketing and investments promotion efforts of the TFCAs. Under this brand, a pipeline of 51 bankable investment opportunities was developed.

In addition to raising global awareness of these TFCAs as exciting cross-border destinations, Boundless Southern Africa is promoting public and private investment in projects located in TFCAs. Investment in tourism related accommodation facilities and development of supporting infrastructure will enhance the tourism attractiveness of these destinations.

Boundless Southern Africa brings together conservation and tourism communities across international borders and encourages collaborative effort in sustainable tourism development.

Cross-border Products and Events

A key tourism marketing strategy of Boundless Southern Africa is to facilitate the development and hosting of an increasing number of cross-border products and events in TFCAs throughout the region. These events are significant in the ongoing tourism development of the TFCAs due to the following factors:

- they raise the profile of the respective TFCAs through media articles and word of mouth from participants,
- employment and other economic opportunities for communities living adjacent to these TFCAs are created, and
- close and effective working relationships between stake-holders in the respective participating countries are fostered.

undesignated border crossings, thereby giving the visitor a true Boundless experience. The Nedbank Tour de Tuli, Desert Knights and Great Limpopo Transfrontier Mountain -bike Trail are all multi-day mountain bike events some of which have been running for years. The Safari-on-the-Run™: Mapungubwe and The Namibia Crossing are part of a growing portfolio of cross-border trail run events that also now appear on the annual events calendar of TFCAs in the SADC region.

A number of other trails and products are currently under development.

For more information on Boundless Southern Africa, please visit: www.boundless-southern-africa.org



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/Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park



COUNTRIES	Namibia, South Africa
AREA	5,920 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Treaty signed on 1 August 2003



including natural springs, lava rock formations, and scorching sweeps of desert. Nestled among this harsh environment in vivid patches of green and blue, is an abundance of plant life – a full third of all succulent plant species in the world. Here, life seems more vibrant because of the very nature of the desert environment within which it thrives.

An Overview of the Transfrontier Park

The /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP) measures 5,920 km² and spans some of the most spectacular arid and desert mountain scenery in southern Africa. It includes the /Ai/Ais Hot Springs Game Park in Namibia and the Richtersveld National Park and Richtersveld World Heritage Site in South Africa. There are plans underway to merge the ARTP with one of the newest National Parks in Namibia, Tsau Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park. This National Park is a desert area encompassing 26,000 km² that was closed to the public for nearly a century due to diamond mining activities.

The Transfrontier Park is renowned as a biodiversity hotspot and boasts some of the richest succulent flora in the world. It also features the world's second largest canyon, the Fish River Canyon, which zigzags between spectacular cliffs characteristic of the desert landscape. An MOU was signed by Namibia and South Africa in 2001, after which the international Treaty formally established the ARTP on 1 August 2013. Joint activities between the Namibian and South African components of the ARTP started in 2010, including joint patrols by park managers and the introduction of a border permit. The permit allowed officials from both countries to easily cross the border while on duty within the boundaries of the ARTP. With cross-border operations well in hand and successful, the attention turned to increasing visitor numbers to the ARTP. This is being realised by developing unique cross-border tourism products.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The 350 million year old and erosion-rich Orange River gorge that separates Namibia and South Africa abounds with history, folklore and grandeur. Animal paintings are found in caves, some estimated as being over 25,000 years old. ARTP is part of



the succulent karoo biome which has the richest succulent flora in the world harboring about one-third of the world's approximately 10,000 succulent species, with new species being discovered on an ongoing basis. The ARTP is one of only two entirely arid ecosystem hotspots.

Sparse rainfall occurs in winter due to passing cold fronts falling as light mist, with an annual rainfall of between 50 - 100 mm. The only permanent source of water is the Orange River. Two trees are particularly associated with the ARTP: the bastard quiver tree, *Aloe pillansii*, and the half-mens (half-human), *Pachypodium namaquanum*, which the Nama people revere as embodiments of their ancestors, half human, half plant, mourning their ancient Namibian home. The Orange River mouth is a wetland of international importance and designated as a Ramsar Wetland Site. Wildlife found in the area is adapted to withstand the arid climate, with many species concentrated in the denser vegetation around the Orange River. The ARTP harbors 56 species of mammals, including six species endemic to the southern African sub-region and at least 194 species of birds. The programme by South African National Parks (SANParks) to re-introduce wildlife to the ARTP started in 2007, when they brought in 40 gemsbok and 80 springbok. Leopard, caracal, brown hyena and black-backed jackal are some of the predators found in the area. The only breeding pair of augur buzzards in the region nest on the high cliffs. Jackal buzzards and African fish eagle are other common raptor species to see.

The People of ARTP

The /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park is one of the last areas preserving the Nama people traditional lifestyle of nomadic pastoralism. Richtersveld National Park is a contractual park which means that the land belongs to the community and is managed by the government agency SANParks on behalf of these communities. While some community members continue to reside in the park and are entitled to graze a total of 6000 head of livestock, the majority choose to live in four settlements adjacent to Richtersveld National Park.

After the Governments of Namibia and South Africa signed the international Treaty in 2013 they established a

joint management board. The board includes community representatives and government officials, ensuring joint decision making and benefit sharing in the ARTP.

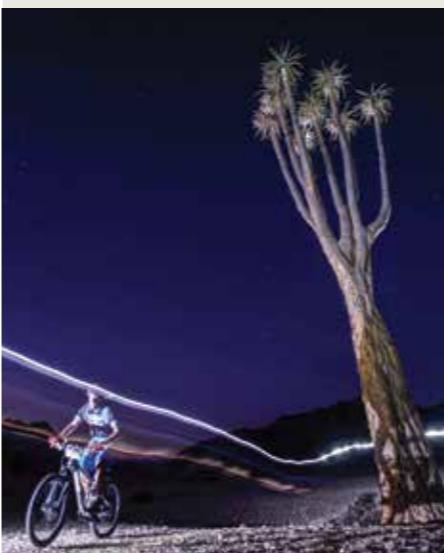
ARTP Highlights

One of the highlights that ARTP offers is the jointly managed pontoon across the Orange River in Sendlingsdrift. This infrastructural gem has greatly improved the access for tourists to the ARTP and resulted in increasing visitor numbers to the parks.

Based on a joint operation strategy and a tourism development strategy, several tourism initiatives are developed and jointly managed by the Transfrontier Park, including a range of facilities and adventure tourism initiatives. The Desert Knights cycling tour that started in 2010 is now a permanent fixture on the calendar of events for mountain bike enthusiasts' from all over the world. The cross-border adventure combines five days of cycling, most of it at night under full moon, and one day of canoeing on the Orange River. A team of approximately 100 community support staff ensures that the tour runs smoothly – from the camp set-up and breakdown, to the provision of catering in the camps and along the cycling route. The tour runs twice a year during full moon in April and September.

In addition to the Desert Knight cycling tour, in 2015 the ARTP management launched the Desert Kayak Trails. This adrenaline pumping three-day kayak trail was an obvious tourism product to pursue as the two National Parks in the ARTP are divided by the magnificent Orange River. Tourists already visiting the park in 4x4 adventures were simply missing an opportunity to enjoy the river safely. Since safety is of paramount importance, river guides from the host communities underwent stringent training with the African Paddling Association to ensure the highest level of qualification and accreditation in the development of this new product.

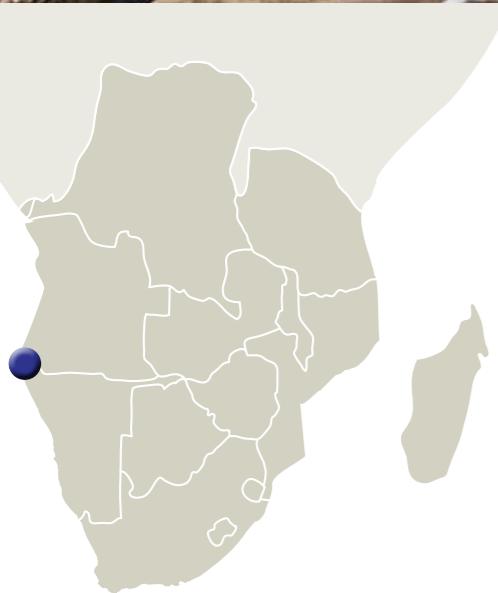
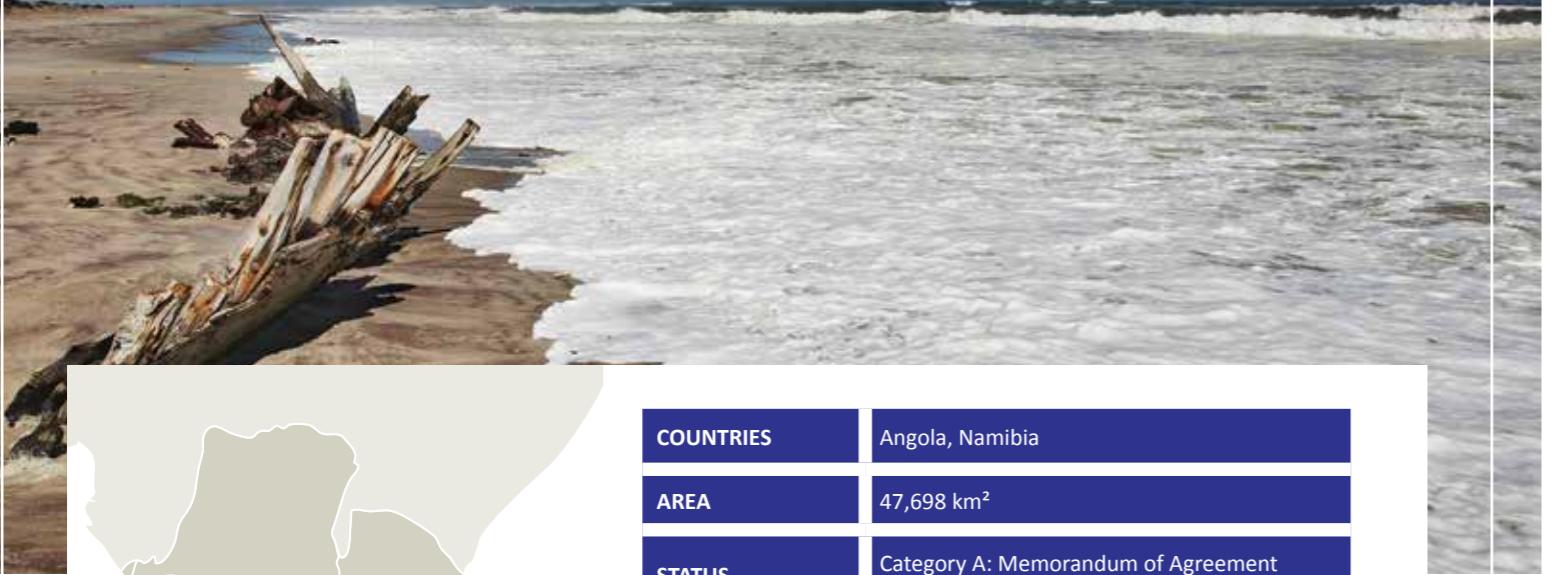
The Namibia Crossing, an epic bi-annual trail run event, is yet another cross-border adventure tourism product in the ARTP. Revenues of the cross-border tourism products are used by the joint management board to support conservation and community development initiatives on both sides of the border.



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Iona-Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Angola, Namibia
AREA	47,698 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Memorandum of Agreement signed on 3 May 2018 (Equivalent of a Treaty)

Dry winds blow downwards, caressing stark desert dunes before travelling to distant shores across the dramatic oceanscapes along the Skeleton Coast of Namibia. A haunting and evocative coastline, trapping stranded ocean vessels of times long past in yellow white stretches of sand reaches north into Angola and meets rivers running through, across and around spectacular rock formations and towering mountains. Together, these spaces work to support life in this desert world.

An Overview of the TFCA

Stretching along the desert coast of Angola and Namibia, several national parks, reserves, conservancies and tourism concession areas on both sides of the border form the Iona-Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area, encompassing a total area of 47,698 km². In Angola the Iona National Park is found in the Namibe Province of Angola, 200km from the city of Namibe. It is Angola's oldest and largest National Park, covering 15,150 km². The Namibie Partial Reserve, covering 4,450 km², lies to the north of Iona National Park separated by a narrow strip of occupied land along the Curoca River. In Namibia, the Skeleton Coast National Park is located in the north-western part of the country and extends from the mouth of the Ugab River to the Kunene River covering a total area of 16,845 km². Skeleton National Park is approximately 500 km long and 30-40 km wide while the marine component of the park is only 1 km wide. Namibia's Skeleton Coast National Park adjoins Angola's Iona NP at the Kunene River. To the east of Skeleton Coast National Park are a number of conservancies and tourism concessions.

Negotiation processes towards formal establishment of the TFCA started in August 2003 by signing of the MOU. Recently the TFCA developments received a new boost when on 3 May 2018 the Angolan and Namibian Ministers for Environment and Tourism signed a Memorandum of Agreement (equivalent of a Treaty) for Iona-Skeleton Transfrontier Park during the Head of State Visit in Windhoek, Namibia.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

This TFCA has much to contribute in terms of conservation, especially by fostering migration of species across the region, the improved protection of the Kunene River and ecosystem, and shielding of the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plants. Iona National Park and the Skeleton Coast National Park both occur in a desert biome that includes the Namib Desert. Annual average precipitation is approximately 18mm.

The TFCA is characterised by wild dunes, vast plains, and rough and clifftop mountains. The Skeleton Coast National Park is rich in minerals, including diamonds and other gemstones. The Atlantic Ocean forms the western border of the TFCA with the cold Benguela current bringing much marine diversity. The shoreline is dotted with shipwrecks and is inaccessible to most tourists. Natural springs sustain

the desert biome while the great Kunene River is an annual river that forms a border between Angola and Namibia. Sand dunes and dune hummocks, important for coastal biodiversity, are home to a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate species, including at least 90% of the world population of *Gerrhosaurus skoogi*, the world's largest herbivorous lizard.

Both the Skeleton Coast National Park and Iona National Park harbour similar desert-adapted species, including the black-faced impala, elephant, lion, black rhino and the remarkable *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant. This plant can live for thousands of years in extremely harsh desert conditions. On the coastline flamingos, pelicans, seals and jackals are regularly seen. Also the endemic Damara Tern and other endemic bird species breed on the beach. Despite the fact that the two parks have a similar ecosystem the status and distribution of many species is largely unknown in Angola's Iona National Park due to a three-decade civil war.

With the establishment of the TFCA, reintroduction of historically occurring species such as giraffe, mountain zebra, hippopotamus and roan antelope, are being planned. It is hoped that through the range expansions, rare and endangered black-faced impala will also return to areas they historically occurred. With increasing prey densities, predators are also slowly moving in the Angolan component of the TFCA. Recently a survey confirmed the return of the cheetah to Iona National Park.

The People of Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCA

Climate change poses several challenges to the area. One of the challenges is declining fish species due to rising ocean temperatures. Due to the barren coastal and rocky roads access to the park is another challenge, limiting the amount of income generated through tourism into the area, and impacting on revenue streams to support implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

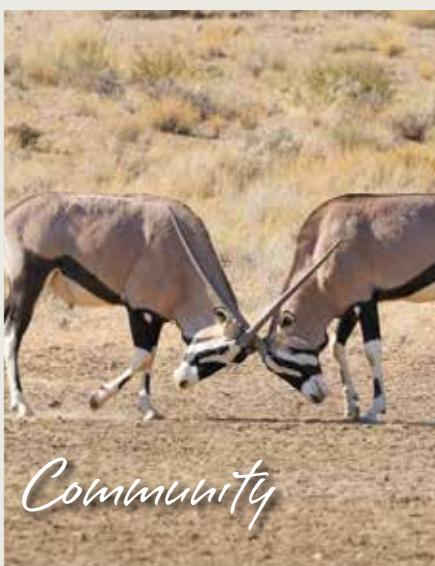
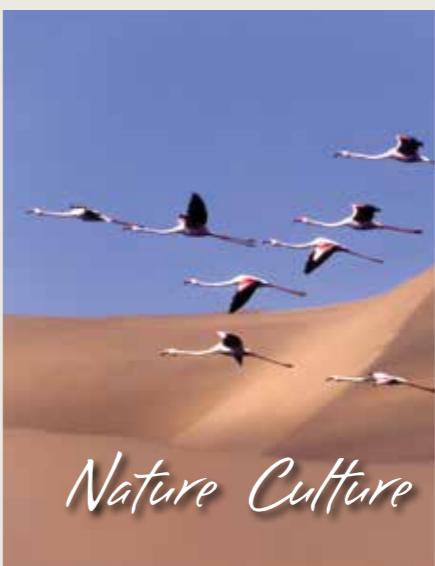
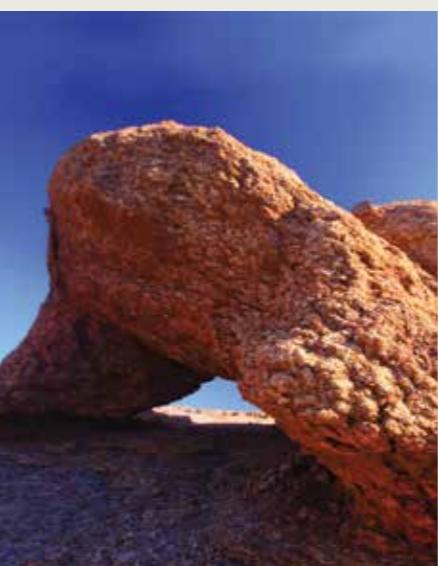
With only a few nomadic Himba people residing within or adjacent to the parks and little viable agricultural land or industry in surrounding areas, the TFCA has little community engagement and communities receive limited benefits. Since the establishment of Angola's Iona National, the area has been

home to a few Himba tribes, whose main activity is livestock farming. In Namibia community involvement is mainly occurring in conservancy areas that are managed outside the National Park and fall under the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

TFCA Highlights

In terms of sheer pristine beauty, the Iona-Skeleton Coast has few rivals. Remnants of old shipwrecks, whale skeletons and shelters of early inhabitants and explorers who struggled to survive the inhospitable coastline are the source of the region's frightening name. Given the vulnerability, variety and importance of the landscape and the life it supports, the entire Namibian Skeleton Coast National Park is zoned as either acutely sensitive with a high conservation value or managed for conservation and controlled tourism. In its current state, the ecological importance of the park to sea creatures as a sanctuary and to wildlife as a corridor for movement in a hostile setting is critical. Uniquely, the northern section is only accessible by airplane, while the southern section is open to those with 4x4 vehicles, and is accessible as far as the Ugab River gate.

Increased co-operation between Namibia and Angola in developing the Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCA may lead to the establishment of a much larger TFCA along the Namib coast spanning South Africa, Namibia and Angola. This would be known as the Three Nations Namib Desert Transfrontier Conservation Area (TNND TFCA), and would include the /Ai-/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park in the south of Namibia and the northwest of South Africa and the proposed Namib-Skeleton Coast National Park (NSNP). The NSNP would be the eighth-largest protected area in the world, and the sixth-largest protected area and largest park in Africa, covering 107,540 km². It would consist of the current Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park, the Namib-Naukluft Park, the proposed Walvis Bay/Swakopmund conservation area, the National West Coast Recreation Area (upgraded to National Park status), and the Skeleton Coast Park. A new Marine Protected Area borders the proposed NSNP and several private game reserves and communal areas would add a further 140,000 km² of conserved land and sea.



Nature

Culture

3

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park



COUNTRIES	Botswana, South Africa
AREA	35,551 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Treaty signed on 7 April 1999



Kgalagadi, meaning 'place of thirst' in the San language - a name that truly captures its spirit. The landscape is one of washed out greys, bottle greens, browns and golden yellows, contrasted with the vibrant reds and oranges of dune and sun permeating every stretch of horizon. It is a place where mornings bring life, movement and energy, and the aging day brings increasing silence, stillness and scorching heat.

An Overview of the Transfrontier Park

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) is Africa's first Transfrontier Park, officially opened by the Presidents of Botswana and South Africa on 12 May 2000. It served as a symbol of the long anticipated dawn of transnational interdependence and cooperation in the SADC region. A verbal agreement reached in 1948 forms the basis of the existence of the Kalahari Transfrontier Park in its current form. In recognition of the arrangement no barrier exists along the international border separating the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park in South Africa, and the Gemsbok National Park in Botswana. A bilateral agreement signed on 7 April 1999 formally recognized KTP as a landmark Transfrontier Park. At 35,551 km², it represents a large ecosystem relatively free of human interference - an increasingly rare phenomenon in Africa. This is the only Transfrontier Park to date that is open in the true sense of the word – here tourists can move freely across the international border within the boundaries of the park. Passports are not required for entry, unless departure is planned through a different gate into another country, in which case a two-day stay in the park is compulsory.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

As is common in arid regions, the weather can reach extremes. During January the daytime temperatures are often in excess of 40°C. Winter nights are cold, with temperatures below freezing. Extreme temperatures of -11°C and up to 45°C have been recorded, with a mean annual rainfall of between 127 mm in the east and 350 mm in the west of the KTP.

Although similar to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve the habitat is harsher with spectacular parallel dunes, separated by dune valleys. These dunes consist of both red and white sands. The Nossob and Auob Rivers cross the area. While these river beds are normally dry, they do flow from time to time after heavy rains. KTP is dominated by shrubby Kalahari bushveld, including deep-rooted Acacias and other hardy plants. Also endemic to the region is the African horned cucumber or melon (*Cucumis metuliferus*) and the medicinal Hoodia succulent (*Hoodia gordonii*).

The wildlife is concentrated along the Nossob and Auob valleys as well as around the calcrete pans of Mabuasehube. Despite the harsh conditions the KTP has large numbers of wildlife, with 60 mammal species and over 300 bird species, and is well known for its carnivores, particularly its black-maned lions. Other carnivores include the brown and spotted hyena, cheetah, caracal, black backed jackal, bat-eared fox and cape fox. The endangered African wild dog is also occasionally sighted. Desert antelope such as gemsbok, springbok, eland and wildebeest are commonly seen as well as kudu, steenbok and even giraffe. Other threatened mammals include the pangolin, honey badger and Woosnam's desert rat (*Zelotomys woosnami*).

Increasing desertification has led to a global recognition of the importance of plants and animals which are adapted to withstand desert conditions.

The People of KTP

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is an important cultural heritage area for the #Khomani San people. The #Khomani San were former resident hunter-gatherers in the arid Kalahari Desert. Communities living adjacent to the KTP are building livelihoods primarily based on small-stock herding, craft manufacturing and cultural performances.

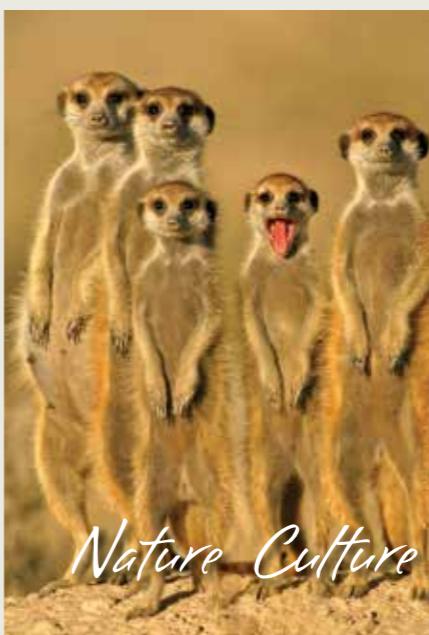
In May 2002 the #Khomani San and Mier communities reached an historic land settlement agreement with the Government of South Africa and South African National Parks (SANParks) which restored a large tract of land to the communities that had once roamed or farmed this area. Named the !Ae!Hai Kalahari Heritage Park Agreement, its outcome resulted in the transfer of ownership of 50,000 hectares of land within the boundaries of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park from SANParks to the two communities, who then leased the land back to SANParks to manage. The Heritage Park aims to preserve

the cultural and traditional knowledge of these indigenous communities, while improving their opportunities to earn a livelihood. One of the key objectives of the communities is to expose Bushman children, youth and adults to the traditional lifestyles of their ancestors. This is realised through the implementation of traditional veld schools held at the Imbewu Camp in the Heritage Park.

KTP Highlights

The Botswana side of the KTP is more remote and campsites are only accessible with 4x4s. On the South African side the roads are accessible by saloon cars and, in keeping with that, the campsites at the rest camps - Twee Rivieren, Nossob and Mata Mata - are fenced and have facilities such as shops and filling stations. Visitors come from far and wide to see the magnificent lion of the Kgalagadi. Kgalagadi's lion population is one of the most important in Africa. However, a reduction of approximately 30% has been noted over the past two decades, mainly due to indiscriminate killing in defense of life and livestock, coupled with prey-base depletion and an outbreak of canine distemper. A collaborative effort by Botswana and South Africa to collar female lions in order to follow their movements is therefore under way. Data obtained from the study will be used as the basis for a programme to reduce human-wildlife conflict in and around Kgalagadi.

A promising development towards further cross-border collaboration was started when Presidents of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa opened the Mata-Mata tourist access facility on 12 October 2007. The opening of this access point on the border of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park with Namibia is seen as a historical step towards the removal of barriers and the free movement of people as part of regional integration within the SADC Region. It is intended to further boost cross-border tourism, reunite local communities and enhance job creation.



Nature Culture

Community



Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
AREA	520,000 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Treaty signed on 18 August 2011
WEBSITE	www.kavangozambezi.org



Too vast to describe with any accuracy, the sheer scope of this TFCA bewilders the mind with a range of experiences, from the 'Smoke-that-Thunders', the Victoria Falls, to the great Zambezi River. Thundering waterfalls, running through wide stretches of savannah and marsh, rustling forest and woodland, and finally sluggishly ambling a thousand changing paths through the majestic Okavango Delta - these moments and more are available to the explorer of Kavango-Zambezi TFCA.

Overview of the TFCA

This expansive Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA is the world's largest TFCA at approximately 520,000 km². Occupying part of the Okavango and Zambezi river basins, it encompasses areas within the borders of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and includes 36 formally proclaimed national parks and a host of game reserves, forest reserves, game management areas, communal lands and conservation and tourism concession areas designated for use of natural resources. Most well-known components of the TFCA are the Chobe National Park, Hwange National Park, Kafue National Park, the Makgadikgadi Pans, the Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls.

In KAZA TFCA the five countries have created an opportunity to harmonize regional legislation towards landscape approaches to conservation and sustainable rural development. During the SADC Summit in Luanda, Angola, on 18 August 2011, the Presidents of all five KAZA countries signed a Treaty which formally established the KAZA TFCA. Shortly after on 26 August 2011 the KAZA TFCA Secretariat's offices were officially opened, facilitating the implementation of projects and programmes in KAZA partner countries. This is the first TFCA Secretariat in the SADC Region. Biggest financial supporter is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, through the German Development Bank, KfW.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The TFCA is home to the Victoria Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Victoria Falls presents a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, forming the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Besides Victoria Falls, KAZA TFCA harbours two further UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Okavango Delta and Tsodilo Hills. The Okavango Delta is a unique permanent marshlands and seasonally flooded plains. It is the largest Ramsar Wetland Site and one of the very few major interior delta systems that do not flow into a sea or ocean. Depending on the season, the delta

covers between 6,000 and 15,000 km² of Kalahari Desert in northern Botswana and owes its existence to the Okavango (Kavango) River. The river flows from the Angolan highlands, across Namibia's Zambezi Region into the Kalahari Desert. The annual flooding arrives when water is most needed in the region, in the middle of the dry season (May-September). In Botswana the delta is protected by both the Moremi Game Reserve, on its eastern edge, and the numerous wildlife concessions within Ngamiland. The Tsodilo Hills are located in Botswana west of the Okavango Delta and close to the Namibian border. They contain one of the highest concentrations of rock art in the world, with over 4,500 persevered rock-paintings in an area of only 10 km².

The scope of KAZA TFCA provides both range and opportunity for diversity of species. There are four key structural vegetation types within the TFCA including grassland, wetland, dry forest and a variety of woodland types covering the greatest portion of the area, as well as saltpans and scrublands. There are more than 3,000 plant species throughout the TFCA, of which 100 are endemic to the sub-region. The TFCA also caters to large-scale migrations of mega fauna; the TFCA contributes to the conservation of threatened species such as African wild dog, lion, cheetah, buffalo, hippopotamus, lechwe, roan, sable, eland, zebra, wildebeest, waterbuck, puku and sitatunga. Over 600 bird species have been identified, as well as 128 reptile species and 50 amphibian species.

Kavango Zambezi TFCA hosts the largest contiguous population of African elephant on the continent, making the elephant the flagship species of the TFCA. Developing harmonised management approaches towards this species and securing movement corridors are some of the critical activities of the KAZA TFCA which are expected to offer relieve high elephant population pressures in some areas with high human-wildlife conflict.

The People of KAZA TFCA

Ca. two million people live in KAZA TFCA. The predominant livelihoods are low-scale pastoralism, hunting, fishing, natural resource harvesting and agriculture. The expansive tourism sector in the TFCA contributes significantly to local employment. The KAZA TFCA authorities hope to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people residing within the TFCA by harmonizing

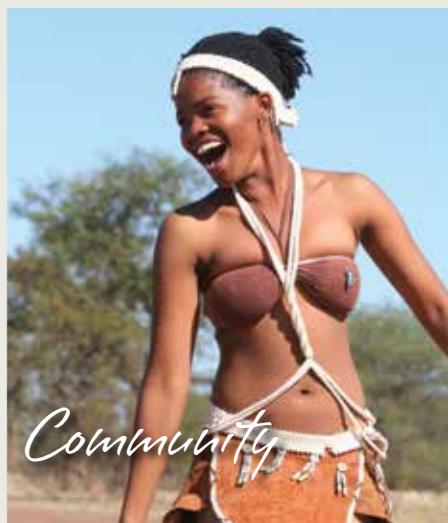
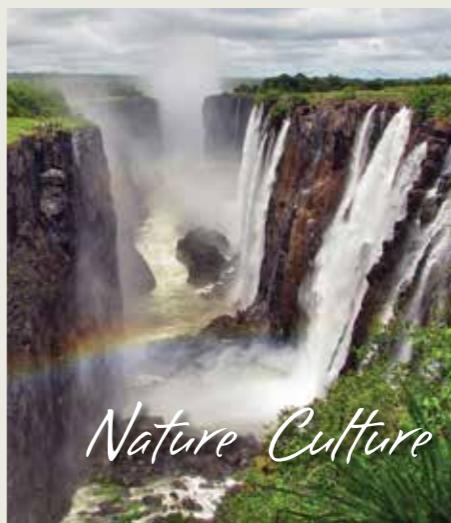
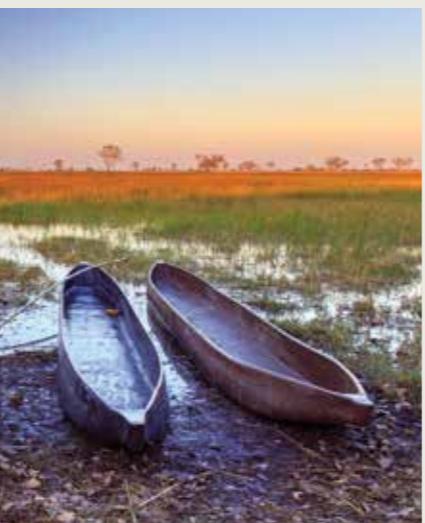
economic development, tourism and conservation. Communities are engaged as partners within the TFCA through comprehensive participatory planning processes. This has begun to result in conservation becoming a more locally viable land-use option. Through cultural tourism, the TFCA authorities aim to celebrate and nourish the rich cultural diversity within the area, allowing communities across borders to share their age-old knowledge and symbolic traditions with each other and the world at large.

TFCA Highlights

In a major step for KAZA TFCA to become a world class tourism destination, the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe have launched the KAZA UniVisa, with the aim of facilitating easier movements of international tourists between the two KAZA partner countries. It was initially piloted by Zambia and Zimbabwe for six months following their co-hosting of the 20th session of the UN World Tourism Organization General Assembly in August 2013. Even though logistical difficulties still arise with the implementation of this 30-day Visa, the KAZA UniVisa is intended to be rolled out to the other three KAZA partner countries. In December 2016 the KAZA UniVisa was relaunched and made available to 65 countries. Ultimately, more SADC countries are expected to join in this pioneering initiative, further boosting regional integration.

To increase the tourism potential of the TFCA, the KAZA Secretariat has recently launched the Kavango Zambezi Golf Classic. In 2017 this unique annual golf tournament will be held across two KAZA partner countries, becoming a fully-fledged cross-border tourism event. Chobe Mowana Golf Course in Kasane, Botswana, will host the first day of the tournament, and then the golfers will cross the border to Elephant Hills Golf Course, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe for their second day of golf.

Cooperation in the KAZA TFCA also benefited the conservation of large predators. Through a conservation alliance called the Large Carnivore Coalition several local and international NGOs are working together to help protect lions, leopards, cheetahs and wild dogs. All five countries are piloting shared management approaches and standards to ensure the long-term survival of these threatened species by protecting and connecting core carnivore populations in KAZA.



Nature Culture

Community

5

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park



COUNTRIES	Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe
AREA	37,572 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Treaty Signed on 9 December 2002
WEBSITE	www.greatlimpopo.org



A vast wild jewel nestled between three countries, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park has become so much more than its name, 'gushing waterfalls' in Sepedi language, suggests. Overflowing with an array of natural treasures, from vast horizons to stampede herds of game, this Transfrontier Park offers a constellation of natural wonders appealing to every taste.

An Overview of the Transfrontier Park

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) encompasses various land-uses and represents a true example of collaboration and management of shared natural resources. The GLTP joins together some of the most established wildlife areas in southern Africa into a core area of approximately 37,572 km². The Transfrontier Park links the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa, and Gonarezhou National Park, Manjinji Pan Sanctuary and Malipati Safari Area in Zimbabwe, as well as two community owned areas, one which forms part of the Kruger National Park, namely the Makuleke Area and the Sengwe communal land in Zimbabwe. The Presidents of Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe signed the international Treaty for the establishment of GLTP in 2002. This landmark also provides a platform for the future development and implementation of the second-phase Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), which includes a wide variety of land-uses, varying from communal areas to private reserves, adding up to a conservation area of almost 100,000 km².

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is an extensive area of essentially flat savannah bisected north to south by the Lebombo mountain range, and drained by four river systems flowing from west to east: the Limpopo, Olifants, Save and Komati. Home to three biomes (grasslands, forest and savannah), this area is constituted of lowland savannah ecosystem landscapes, hilly granite plateau in the western portions, and the Lebombo Mountains rising to an average of 500 m above sea level.

There are five major vegetation types, including mopane woodlands and shrubveld in the north, mixed bushveld in the south, sandveld in the south-east of Mozambique, riverine woodlands in the Kruger and Gonarezhou National Parks, and seasonally flooded

dry grasslands in Banhine National Park. Stone-age artefacts and iron-age implements provide evidence of a very long and almost continuous presence of humans in the area making up the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Early inhabitants were the San people, who left numerous rock-paintings scattered across the region, followed by Bantu tribes about 800 years ago.

There is abundance of wildlife in the GLTP, with a total of 147 species of mammal, 116 reptile species, 49 species of fish, 34 species of frogs, 500 or more bird species, in addition to at least 2,000 species of plants. It is possible to see all the iconic African big game, including elephant, black and white rhinoceros, lion, leopard, giraffe, zebra, buffalo and many antelope species. Currently Kruger National Park is also home to one of the last significant and viable populations of African wild dog, with some 300 individuals in total.

With Kruger National Park being one of the last strongholds of black and white rhinoceros, poaching is an alarming threat to the survival of the two species. With a view to addressing amongst other things the increase in wildlife crime related activities between the two countries, the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa have signed an MOU in April 2014 on Biodiversity Conservation and Management. Since then senior officials from Limpopo and Kruger National Parks have successfully collaborated on a number of strategic anti-poaching activities, including improved cross-border collaboration and operations, joint training initiatives and the development of a joint communications system.

The People of GLTP

The GLTP has a strong Shangaan heritage, which predates European cultures. The heart of the GLTP, the Pafuri area, is the focal point of the two Shangaan clans still holding traditional rule across the three borders: the Makuleke and the Sengwe clans. The site of the confluence of the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu Rivers is the centre for traditional ceremonies, such as coming of age ceremonies of the youth of the two clans and other traditional events. The water in the Pafuri area is being sought after by traditional healers of the three countries.

The Makuleke people have reclaimed the northern reaches of the Kruger National Park in South Africa, from which they were

removed in 1969. Hence, the Makuleke area is a contractual park within the boundaries of Kruger National Park and managed by SANParks. The local communities continue conservation land-use practices, and focus on livelihoods based on eco-tourism. Following systematic community consultations the National Park was formally declared, resulting in two focal areas: a) development of voluntary resettlement and compensation plans, and b) realignment of the Kruger National Park boundary along the Limpopo River, resulting in a number of strategies and action plans for implementation. Similar consultations regarding community beneficiation are happening across other components of the GLTP.

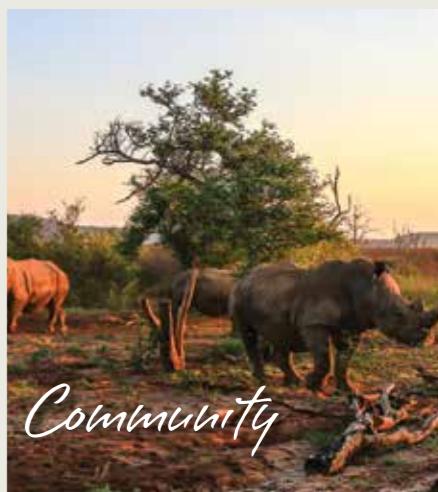
GLTP Highlights

One of the main tourist attractions in the GLTP is the Kruger National Park in South Africa. Encompassing more than 20,000 km² this National Park is a flagship of the South African National Parks, impressive in the diversity of its lifeforms and a leader in environmental adaptive management techniques and policies. Internationally Kruger National Park is known as one of the best "big-five" game viewing areas that Africa has to offer. The National Park was established in 1898 and attracts more than 1.5 million visitors annually from all over the world. The Mozambican component of GLTP, Limpopo National Park can be accessed from South Africa through the Giriyondo border crossing in Kruger National Park for visitors driving 4x4 vehicles and meeting Mozambican Visa requirements, and vice versa.

The GLTP is known for a number of tourism products, of which several are transboundary in nature. The various Great Limpopo Cross-Border 4x4 Trails between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe offer challenging river crossings and an opportunity to navigate of the beaten tracks. The Pafuri Cross-Border Trail that includes an annual Shangaan Cultural Festival held at the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe is another cross-border experience representing the GLTP's rich cultural and natural heritage. Recently a cross-border mountain bike event is also being introduced. Other adventure tourism opportunities are the Rio Elefantes Canoeing Trail down the Olifants River; a Palarangala Wilderness Trail through pristine wilderness; the Lebombo Hiking Trail; and the Elefantes Gorge Backpacking and Fishing Trail.



Nature Culture



Community

6 Malawi-Zambia

Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Malawi, Zambia
AREA	31,792 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Treaty signed on 7 July 2015



Follow the wind across a vista of undulating grasslands, gently dancing around vivid wildflowers; skimming over wetlands and marches as they chuckle with the cacophony of frogs, birds and insects; stirring through woodlands cloaked in shades of green and brown bedecked in jewel-toned orchids; and finally settle into the deep earth, safely holding clues to our cultural past.



An Overview of the TFCA

The Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area encompasses 31,792 km² and incorporates national parks, wildlife reserves, forest reserves, game management areas and communal lands. The signing of the MOU in 2004 marked the beginning of a formal process of negotiation between the Governments of Malawi and Zambia towards the establishment of the Malawi-Zambia TFCA. This eventually led to the signing of the Treaty by Presidents of both countries on 7 July 2015. The TFCA is built out of two components. The Nyika-North Luangwa and Vwaza/Lundazi components comprise Malawi's Nyika National Park, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Zambia's North Luangwa National Park, Lundazi Forest Reserve, Mitengi Forest Reserve, Mikuti Forest Reserve and the Musalangu Game Management Area. The Kasungu/Lukusuzi component comprises the Kasungu National Park in Malawi, the Lukusuzi National Park in Zambia and a narrow corridor of customary land in-between.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The north of the Malawi-Zambia TFCA, centered around the Nyika Plateau, a high undulating montane grassland plateau that rises over 2,000 meters above the bushveld and wetlands of the Vwaza Marsh. The highest point on the Nyika is Nganda Hill (2,607m) in Malawi. The vegetation above 1,800 meters is predominantly montane grassland, interspersed with evergreen forest. These high-lying areas are often shrouded in mist, giving them a unique appeal. In summer a multitude of wild flowers and orchids burst forth in the highlands, making it a sight unlike any seen in most other game parks.

To the south-west the TFCA also includes North Luangwa National Park which boasts the "big-five": elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard and lion. Also the rare Cookson's wildebeest can be found here. The southern component of the TFCA consists of Kasungu National

Park and Lukusuzi National Park represents the last and largest contiguous area of undisturbed, relatively pristine miombo woodland of the Central African Plateau. Lukusuzi is fairly flat beyond its western foothills, and like Kasungu, has few topographic reliefs beyond small inselbergs.

The Nyika National Park in Malawi boasts exceptional and internationally important biodiversity. In the highlands alone there are about 102 mammals as well as 3,000 plant, 462 bird, 47 reptile, 34 amphibian, 31 fish, and an unknown number of invertebrate species, including 287 species of butterflies. It also offers the highest diversity of large mammals and largest concentration of roan antelope in Africa and supports the world's greatest blue swallow breeding population.

Kasungu-Lukusuzi has a noteworthy diversity of mammals, plants and birds - about 112 mammal species of which seven are endemic to the miombo woodland zone, as well as 2,000 plant, 370 bird, 47 reptile, 34 amphibian, 31 fish, and an unknown number of invertebrate species.

Important cultural heritage resources and artefacts are found on the Nyika Plateau and in Kasungu National Park. These include ancient dwelling sites with rock paintings, such as at Fingira Rock and Wan'gombe Rume. There are also various iron-ore mines, and remnants of complex traditional iron-working practices.

The People of Malawi-Zambia TFCA

Communities living in and adjacent to the TFCA are engaged in mainly smallholder agriculture on customary tenure. Cattle grazing, human-wildlife conflict, human encroachment and poaching area challenge in some parts of the TFCA. While park staff sometimes struggle in their efforts to maximise stakeholder consultations with communities, these communities have also

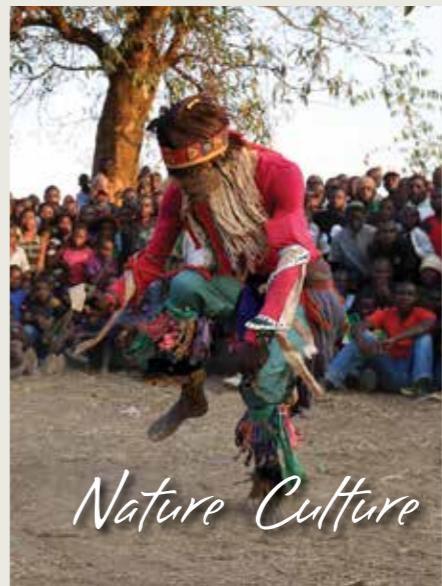
begun to bring their concerns to the table. Cross-border trade and other cultural exchange initiatives are important to these communities who share many of the same traditional values.

TFCA Highlights

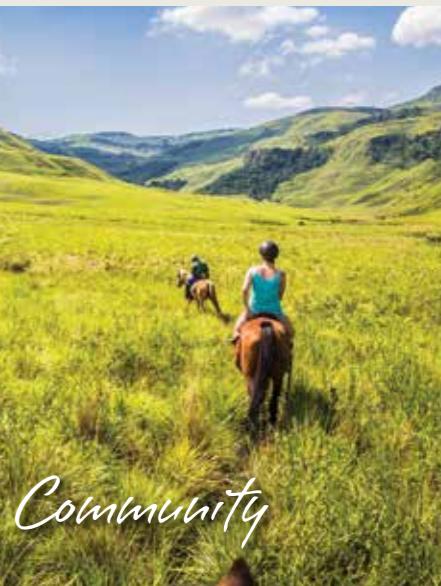
The remote North Luangwa National Park in Zambia is one of the finest wilderness experiences in the entire region. Although declared a wilderness area, North Luangwa National Park was not open to anyone other than game rangers for more than thirty years. Now there are safari operators in the park, giving visitors a unique opportunity to experience the largely untouched Luangwa Valley. In 2003 an ambitious translocation project reintroduced black rhino back into the National Park. Hence the North Luangwa National Park harbours Zambia's only black rhino population.

Malawi's Nyika National Park has a well-established infrastructure, with roads, airfield and an up market lodge and other accommodation at Chilinda. This component of the TFCA is recommended for trekking, mountain biking and horse riding safaris, as well as 4x4 excursions. Cultural heritage resources and artefacts also contribute to tourist attractions to the area, including ancient dwelling sites, rock paintings and Iron Age smelting sites. The Chigwere Cultural Village is gaining increasing popularity with tourists, with the communities who run it offering an enthusiastic experience of local cultures.

Kasungu National Park, established in 1970, is the second largest in Malawi at 2,316 km² and lying at approximately 1,000 m above sea level. Although poaching has reduced the number of some species of animals there is still wildlife to be seen, including elephant, roan antelope, buffalo, leopard and spotted hyena. There is a lodge at Lifupa as well as good camping nearby. Access to the park has been greatly improved in recent years, which is situated only 160 km from the capital Lilongwe.



Nature



Culture



Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland
AREA	11,169 km ²
STATUS	Category A: Treaty signed on 22 June 2000



A pallet of turquoise seascapes capped in white juxtaposed with deep rich earth tones of green and brown forest, woodland and marshland, undulates before you, as you enter a landscape where every angle offers a different view into the magnificent natural arena that is the Lubombo TFCA.

An Overview of the TFCA

Lubombo TFCA encompasses a complex system of conservation areas between Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland, covering a total area of 11,169 km². On 22 June 2000, the three Governments signed the tri-lateral protocols to establish the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area containing initially four distinct TFCAs: Lubombo Conservancy-Goba TFCA (Mozambique, Swaziland), Ponta do Ouro-Kosi Bay TFCA (Mozambique, South Africa), Nsubane-Pongola TFCA (South Africa, Swaziland) and Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA (Mozambique, South Africa). Inclusion of a fifth component, the Songimvelo-Malolotja TFCA (South Africa, Swaziland) and the incorporation of Swaziland into the Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA were formally approved at a trilateral Ministerial meeting in 2004. In March 2014, the Lubombo Commission decided to merge the Lubombo Conservancy-Goba TFCA with the Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA, linking the Lebombo Mountain Ecosystem with the coastal plains.

Lubombo boasts the first marine TFCA in Africa, the Ponta do Ouro-Kosi Bay TFCA, where Mozambique's Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve turtle monitoring programme links up with the one across the border in South Africa's iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The primary objective of Lubombo TFCA is to help facilitate sustainable economic development through optimisation of opportunities presented by the countries' natural assets, ecologically and financially sustainable development, and the sustainable utilisation of the natural resource base through holistic and integrated environmental planning and management.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Lubombo is one of the most striking areas of biodiversity which lies in the Maputaland Centre of Endemism. The largest section of the Ponta do Ouro-Kosi Bay sub-TFCA consists of a flat, coastal plain with a maximum elevation of about 150 m.

Along the western border of the coastal plain, the Lebombo Mountains rise to a maximum elevation of over 600 m. On the eastern side of the coastal plain, the sea is bounded by a ridge of vegetated dunes which rises to almost 200 m in KwaZulu-Natal. Lubombo occupies dry woodland, grassland and east African coastal forest and scrub biomes. The coastal plains of northern KwaZulu-Natal include five renowned Ramsar sites: Ndumo Game Reserve, the Kosi Bay System, Lake Sibaya, and the turtle beaches and coral reefs of Tongaland and Lake St. Lucia (Africa's largest estuary at 350 km²).

The Lubombo TFCA coastline provides critical nesting sites for the endangered leatherback and loggerhead turtles. To monitor and protect the turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs, a marine monitoring programme is in place since 1994. Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park's significant features include coral reefs with soft corals, 800 species of fish, humpback whales, ragged tooth sharks, whale sharks and manta rays. There is a wide variety of bird species due to a broad range of habitat types, including three species and 47 subspecies.

As part of developing the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area, the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa began a wildlife translocation programme to Maputo Special Reserve in 2010. Until 2015 more than a thousand animals were translocated, including kudu, warthog, impala, nyala, zebra, giraffe and blue wildebeest. The translocations reintroduce animals that were historically found in the area to enable the fast recovery and subsequent increase of the reserve's wildlife populations. This is essential to developing the reserve as a primary tourist destination.

Lubombo TFCA is also important for elephant conservation as Tembe Elephant Park and Maputo Special Reserve are the only protected areas on the coastal plain of southern Mozambique and KwaZulu-Natal that harbour indigenous elephant populations, with ca. 180 and 200 individuals respectively. All other elephants in protected areas in KwaZulu-Natal have been reintroduced from other areas. The TFCA has the potential to link these small, isolated herds through the newly proclaimed Futi Corridor.

The People of Lubombo TFCA

The development of the TFCA reunited the Tembe-Thonga people, who historically ruled over the entire area stretching southwards from Maputo Bay to Lake St. Lucia. The development of the TFCA can go a long way towards strengthening former cross-border social and cultural relations. Cultural manifestations include the famous fish kraals of Kosi Bay, the marula fruit festival, thrust basket (isifonyo) fishing and the extensive palm wine trade, which extends the borders of South Africa and Mozambique. The Tembe-Thonga also have a long history of cooperation and social integration with the Swazi people. With Swaziland's rich culture and strong traditions, the component of Lubombo TFCA offers fascinating cultural activities and holds an intrinsic value to the Swazi nation. The TFCA is used as the annual venue for 'butimba' - a traditional hunting event led by the King of Swaziland.

A strong coalition of state and non-state actors plan to create the Lubombo Eco Trails (LET) network. The Lubombo Eco Trails is a community-focused initiative: a growing adventure trails network including hiking, mountain biking, 4x4 routes, bird watching, cultural routes and river rafting. The Eco Trails will also initiate a number of community enterprises, such as eco-lodges and cultural attractions.

TFCA Highlights

Magnificent scenery as well as a rich historical and cultural environment makes this area a significant tourist destination. Sites of interest include the sacred Hlatikhulu forests, King Dingaan's Grave and Border Cave in South Africa, the ruins of the old border post at Manhoca in Mozambique, and the Royal Hunting Reserve within the Royal Hlane Game Reserve in Swaziland. With Swaziland's rich culture and strong traditions, this is a wonderful TFCA at which to partake in some fascinating cultural activities. The monarchy and the people of Swaziland actively maintain and preserve a remarkable cultural heritage, allowing visitors to get a better understanding of traditional African culture.



8

Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Lesotho, South Africa
AREA	14,740 km ²
STATUS	Category A: MOU signed on 11 June 2001 (equivalent of a Treaty)



This majestic TFCA marks the marriage between two contrasting landscapes, as old as the mountains themselves - where the uKhahlamba – ‘the wall of spears’ clashes against the Sehlathebe – ‘the plateau of shields’. It is a place of dizzying heights, plunging rock faces, and rock painted tales of days long gone.

An Overview of the TFCA

The Maloti Drakensberg TFCA covers a total area of 14,740 km² comprising the mountains that straddle the eastern border of the landlocked mountain Kingdom of Lesotho with the Republic of South Africa. The TFCA is composed of four sub-regions: (i) the Eastern Cape Drakensberg and Witteberge, (ii) the KwaZulu Natal Drakensberg, (iii) the Lesotho Maloti Mountains, and (iv) the eastern Free State. The TFCA boasts three National Parks, the Sehlathebe and Tsehlanyane National Parks in Lesotho and the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in South Africa. The Governments of Lesotho and South Africa signed an MOU on 11 June 2001, which was drafted in such a way that it is the equivalent of a TFCA Treaty. Almost seven years later, the two partner countries completed their joint management plans for the TFCA. On 22 June 2013, UNESCO inscribed Lesotho’s Sehlabathebe National Park as an extension to the uKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site in South Africa, becoming the Maloti Drakensberg Transboundary World Heritage Site, which is Lesotho’s first World Heritage Site listing.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The Maloti Drakensberg Mountains are home to a vast array of cultural heritage features. The mountains, with their highest peak Thaba Ntlenyana rising to 3,482 m, contains the largest, most concentrated collection of rock paintings in Sub-Saharan Africa. 35,000-40,000 individual images are housed in more than 600 known sites; and painted by the San people over a period of more than 4,000 years. Other cultural heritage includes palaeontology, stone-age and iron-age excavations, sites and artefacts.

The TFCA encompasses both a grassland biome and afro-montane forest biome, and is an important centre of endemism for montane plant species. Comprising a 500 km long alpine and montane area, the TFCA can be found in the south-eastern portion of the great escarpment of southern Africa. By far, the most important water catchment for the people of both Lesotho and

South Africa, the integrated wetland systems provides critical water purification and ecosystem storage services for both countries. The Tugela-Vaal Scheme and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project transport water from the catchment to the metropolis of Johannesburg and surrounding cities, while at the same time producing electricity for Lesotho.

This area contains a range of globally significant fauna and flora, including over 2,500 species of flowering plants, of which 13% are endemic. Plant diversity and endemism in the region are related to broad-scale altitudinal, topographic and climatic gradients, as well as an array of micro-habitats. The high cliffs are also home to endangered species such as the Cape vulture and the bearded vulture. Sehlabathebe National Park’s African alpine tundra ecosystem, with its 250 endemic plant species, significantly enhances the value of uKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site. This site hosts 23% of the plant species found in the whole of the Maloti-Drakensberg area. Apart from the unique flora in the park, there is a record number of 65 rock art sites, and other forms of previous habitation.

The People of Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA

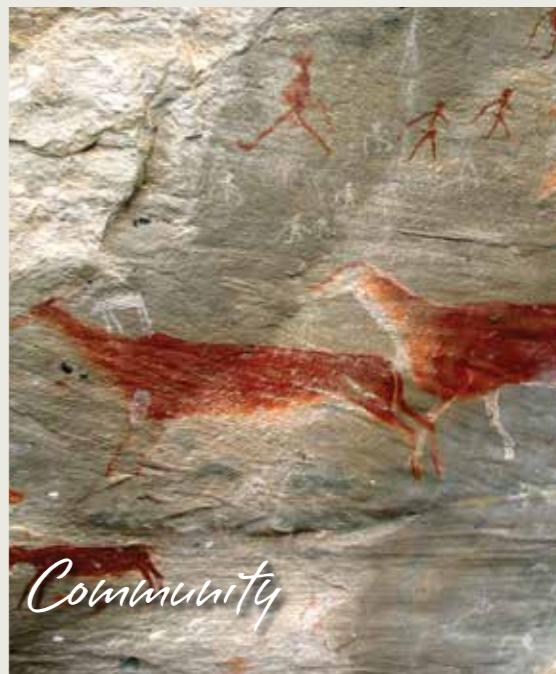
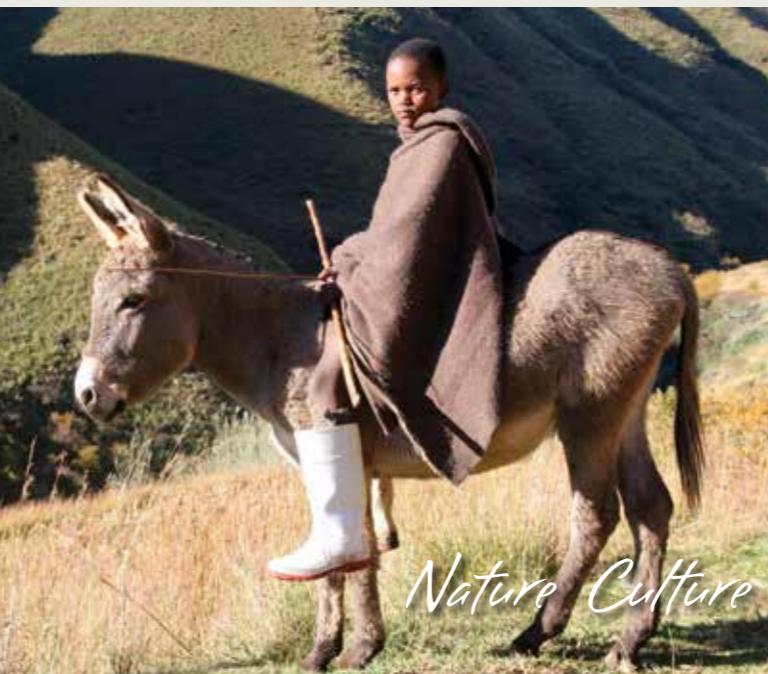
This vast stretch of land is home to almost two million people, contributing to an explicit goal of the TFCA – to make a positive difference in the livelihoods of people in these communities. Significant numbers of other people are also indirectly dependent on the regions’ ecosystem services. Large areas of the TFCA are under various forms of common property regimes, including land-uses and tenure systems, formal protected areas, privately owned commercial farms, range management areas, and human settlements. These multiple forms of land-use result in a variety of human-biodiversity challenges, including impacts from grazing, conflicts between traditional tribal resource management and park resource management strategies, and conflicting

land-use priorities. The two countries have different land management strategies, with diverse governance systems (state vs. traditional authority). Key livelihood activities include agriculture, extractive resource use and tourism. A primary challenge in an area with such a large population is to conserve the natural environment and maintain healthy ecosystem services while meeting the development needs of its people. Despite the drive to improve tourism and related livelihoods options into the TFCA, there are still challenges of inaccessibility into some areas, as well as a lack of adequate resources to improve, maintain and expand tourism assets.

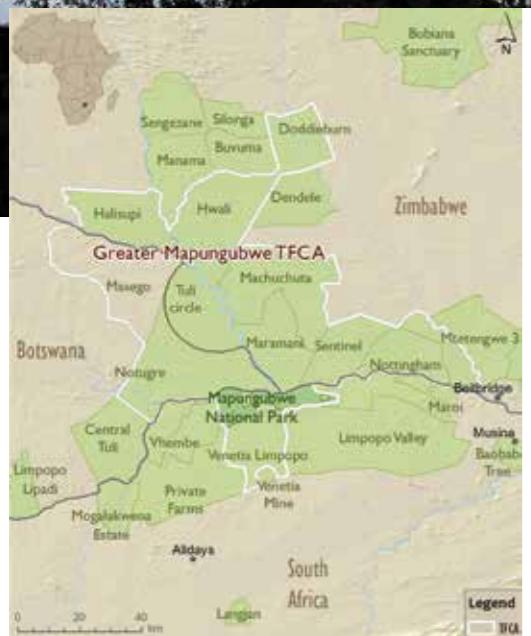
There are currently two related strategies being explored to increase community livelihood and to reduce the impact of cattle grazing in prime ecosystems. The first is the proposed development of a payment scheme for those deriving ecosystem services from the area – the income generated would benefit local communities and help maintain and manage park services for the TFCA. The second is the re-introduction of resource associations that help to manage grazing on communal pastures.

TFCA Highlights

This TFCA offers a range of tourism highlights and opportunities. There are well-established camps and campsites across the region, ranging from rustic bush camps to well-equipped luxury lodges. Cultural tourism opportunities are as bountiful, with several cultural villages, multiple sites of public access to rock art, and a selection of cultural tour packages. There are also an increasing number of adventure tourism offers available, including annual mountain biking challenges, a number of well-marked and maintained hiking trails, and mountain climbing routes. Currently, those are more developed on the South African side, but they are also growing in Lesotho, or straddling both countries.



Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe
AREA	5,910 km ²
STATUS	Category B, MOU signed on 22 June 2006

A place of towering sandstone, regal baobabs, and majestic stretches of savannah, echoing with the voices of civilizations long gone and promising an adventure through time – an example in its vitality and kinship to the people of southern Africa; Mapungubwe, the ‘hill of jackals’, was the centre of civilization in the south in its past life. Now it lives as a testament to the past, a complex arena for wildlife-people relationships in the present, and a promise for greater harmony and peace for the future.

An Overview of the TFCA

Situated at the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo Rivers, the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) measures 5,909 km² encompassing private land in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Tourists visit the area not only to see the magnificent sandstone formations, the wide variety of trees – notably the enormous baobabs – and game and birdlife, but also to experience a kinship with past generations. In Botswana the Greater Mapungubwe TFCA is comprised of the Northern Tuli Game Reserve. Here an association of private landowners agreed to remove the fences that separate their properties to jointly manage wildlife resources. Similar conditions apply for Zimbabwe where the Tuli Circle Safari Area is a contiguous with the Northern Tuli Game Reserve where no physical barriers impede the movement of wildlife. The South African component encompasses a complex mosaic of private land, state-owned land, Mapungubwe National Park and the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape, a World Heritage Site.

The area has a long history of conservation, dating back to 1922. A first attempt at creating a TFCA linking two similar conservation areas was mooted at the time, only to be revisited again in the mid 1990’s. A MOU towards the establishment of the TFCA was signed in 2006. The TFCA adopted its new name in 2009, changing from Limpopo/Shashe to the Greater Mapungubwe TFCA.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

In an important development for the TFCA, the South African Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape was proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2003. Artefacts discovered in the area attest to Iron Age settlements around 3,000 years ago. The resemblance of excavated items at multiple sites across the modern international borders of the three countries, attest to the cultural affinity of those who lived in the area historically. Evidence indicates traces of a highly sophisticated civilisation that traded with Egypt, India, China and Arabia. Additional features of cultural importance in the Limpopo Valley are the numerous San rock paintings and engravings, fossilised dinosaur footprints and skeletal remains of the dinosaur *Massospondylus carinatus*. In 2011, much time was spent to ensure responsible mining operations at the Vele Colliery that lies 5.7 km from the boundary of the Mapungubwe National Park and World Heritage Site.

The TFCA is situated in a savannah biome and is found at the nexus of a unique combination of geology, climate and vegetation. The constituent areas share patterns of low, erratic rainfall (an average of 350 – 400 mm per annum), which, combined with frequent drought cycles and poor soils, contributes to making the area extremely marginal for agricultural crop production. Vegetation in the area is typically short dense growth of shrubby Mopane trees within shrub and tufted grasslands.

The region has excellent potential for a “big five” conservation area. Elephant, giraffe, eland, gemsbok, duiker and numerous other antelope species occur naturally in the area, as do a range of predators including lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and hyena. The habitat is suitable for both white and black rhinoceros and in July 2004, four white rhinos from Kruger National Park were released into the Mapungubwe National Park. Birders can currently tick off more than 400 species, with numbers still increasing. Insect and other arthropod life, too, is diverse. The Mopane Moth is in evidence between November and March; moth larvae are a valuable food source. At least nine scorpion species have also been identified.

The People of GMTFCA

Surrounding communities rely on livestock rearing and agriculture for their livelihoods. Compounding climate change impacts have resulted in significant decreases in crop yields and available grazing areas for livestock, linked to decreasing rainfall. Competition between game and livestock has increased, contributing to an escalating level of human-wildlife conflict.

Transboundary community engagement is ensured through an institutional arrangement through which community workshops, consultations and exchanges are managed. For example, as with other reserves in South Africa, the Machetes and Lishebas successfully claimed land on one portion of the Mapungubwe National Park. Negotiations are still underway to determine restitution, and are being facilitated through a trilateral technical committee. Communities and the TFCA are working together to establish and promote alternative

livelihood options in the face of increasing environmental instability. In this context, eco-tourism is seen as a key alternative land-use option, and other beneficiation options are being considered in the various countries. In Zimbabwe, through the participation of the Beitbridge Rural District Council and Gwanda Rural District Council, there is strong school-based community engagement.

GMTFCA Highlights

The TFCA boasts a range of cultural and natural history activities. Cultural history activities include visits to the Lost City at Mapungubwe Hill, an interpretation centre and a number of heritage routes and trails. Wildlife tourism includes game drives with a number of lodges and bush camps situated across the TFCA.

Adventure tourism activities are also successfully introduced by the GMTFCA partner countries, including the annual Nedbank Tour de Tuli, which is attended by cyclists from across the world offering participants a chance to visit all three countries while cycling through wild areas. Safari operator Wilderness Safaris organizes this four-day mountain bike tour. Participants cycle 300 km of challenging single-track across ancient elephant trails and remote terrain in the GMTFCA. The Tour de Tuli is supported by all three Governments, enabling border crossings along riverbanks. Overriding goal of this live changing event is to raise funds for Children in the Wilderness (CITW), a non-profit organisation supported by Wilderness Safaris.

CITW is an environmental and life skills educational programme that focuses on the next generation of rural decision makers, developing environmental leaders who are inspired to care for their natural heritage so that they become the custodians of these areas in the future.

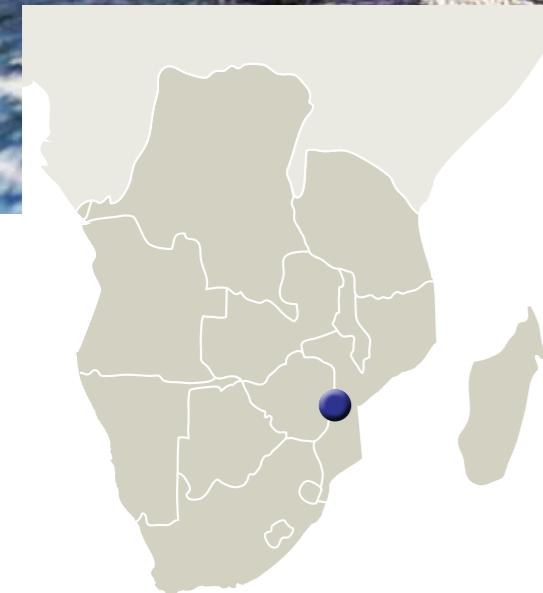
The Safari-on-the-Run™: Mapungubwe is now an annual cross-border trail running event, covering 90km over three days. The Maramani Community Campsite is the base for this four-night event. Significant economic benefits flow to the members of the Maramani community through temporary employment, camping and traversing fees.



Nature Culture Community

10

Chimanimani Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Mozambique, Zimbabwe
AREA	3,021 km ²
STATUS	Category B, MOU Signed on 8 June 2001

Chimanimani meaning 'to be squeezed together' describes the narrow pass in the mountain range through which the Musapa River flows. The name brings to mind the towering peaks of mountains, pondering waterfalls, enchanted forests and deep, echoing caves. It is a place of undiscovered secrets, breath-taking beauty and hidden depths. The TFCA is flushed with fresh greens, crisp blues, and the hidden earth tones.

An Overview of the TFCA

The Chimanimani TFCA comprises the Chimanimani Nature Reserve in Mozambique (2,368 km² with approximately 645 km² conservation area and 1,723 km² buffer zone), Chimanimani National Park (200 km²) and Eland Sanctuary (15 km²) in Zimbabwe. It encompasses a number of mountain ranges with peaks rising to 2,436 m. The Governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe initiated the process towards the establishment of the TFCA by signing an MOU on 8 June 2001. Infrastructure development in the TFCA is limited to preserve the pristine natural beauty of the area. The TFCA boasts the inclusion of spectacular mountains, virgin forests and world-renowned cave systems.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The development of the TFCA was initiated by the Governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe to conserve the biodiversity of the highlands ecosystem, as well conserve the local wildlife and work with communities to develop eco-tourism and sustainable resource harvesting practices. Chimanimani TFCA encompasses a tropical mountain biome. The area falls within the Eastern Zimbabwe montane forest-grassland mosaic eco-region, which is an Afro-montane Centre of Endemism.

The Chimanimani mountain ranges receive high rainfall varying between 1,000 mm to 1,270 mm a year, which gathers from the south east monsoon winds sweeping inland from the Indian Ocean. Climate in the mountains varies from being generally humid and tropical to temperate, with cold winters (2°C) to fairly temperate summers (up to 28°C).

The rugged landscape of Chimanimani TFCA is comprised of mostly Quartzite Mountains, with its escarpment containing a number of cascading rivers; the entire area lies within the Buzi River system. Most of the river system is pristine, although recent years have seen pollution from alluvial gold mining impacting on the Lucite and its major tributary, the Haroni River. Forest lovers will take a delight in the virgin forests of the Chimanimani National Park with the rare thick and moist, evergreen forest cover. There are no roads in this wild area and only footpaths and narrow tracks lead to the various attractions. This adds to the fun of the wild and unspoilt character of the area.

Along the river banks, there are marshy springs and wetlands. The Eland Sanctuary is dominated by fine sandy soils which are as white as salt. The vegetation includes semi-deciduous Miombo woodlands; low altitude moist ever-green forests; dry montane forests; montane grassland; afro-montane scrub, hosting some endemic Protea and Faurea species; and rock vegetation (*Aloe* & *Euphorbia* spp., including some endemics such as *Vellozia argentea*). A unique combination of altitude, soils, rainfall and fire have created an environment which supports many rare species of flora and fauna including over 1000 vascular plant species of which 45 are endemic.

Little is known about species diversity of and population densities of animals living in the TFCA, but among large mammals, charismatic species like leopard and other species including mountain reedbuck, klipspringer, blue duiker, common duiker, samango monkey and various small mammals occur in the area. However, wildlife populations are low due to subsistence poaching.

The TFCA is home to over 160 bird species, 49 fish species, 35 amphibian species, of which two are endemic (*Bufo vertebralidis grindleyi* and *Anthroleptis troglodytes*) and 60 reptile species.

The People of Chimanimani TFCA

Communities on both side of the border are connected through origin and marriage. The people share the same Chief on the upper Chikukwa section in Zimbabwe. Surrounding

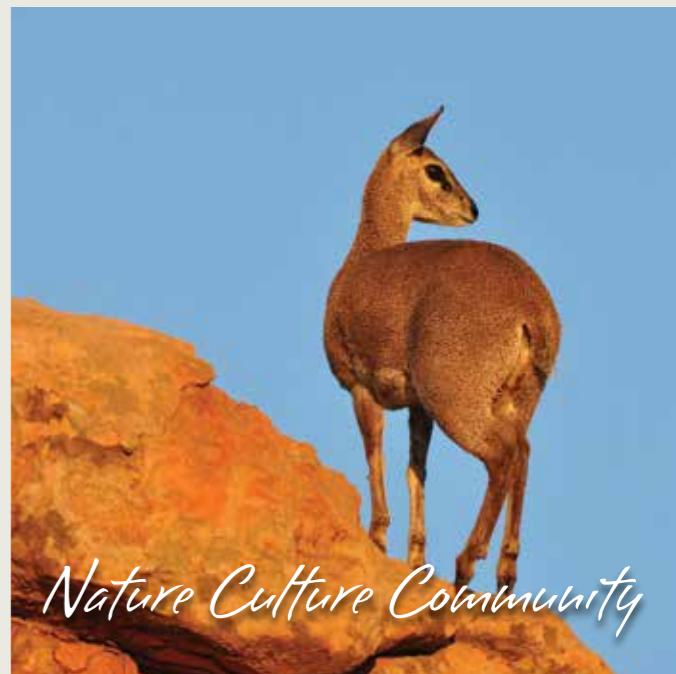
communities are highly dependent on the natural resources found in the TFCA for their livelihoods. Community representatives participate in joint stakeholder management committees which facilitate joint decision-making on TFCA related issues with wildlife authorities, and implementation of mutually agreed action plans.

TFCA Highlights

The TFCA provides basic facilities catering to the self-sufficient explorer, and maintains a low carbon footprint management style. Hiking, rock climbing, birding, camping in caves among the sparkling waterfalls and natural swimming pools are some of the tourist attractions offered.

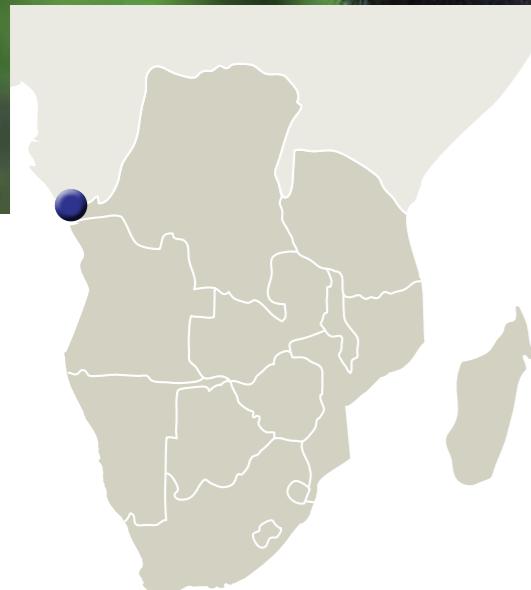
The Mountain Hut in the Chimanimani Mountains never fails to leave visitors in awe. Sitting bare at 1,630 m above sea level the hut acts as an ideal refuge. Daring visitors have the option of spending the night in either Terry's or Peter's caves (disused mine shafts). Hikers who do not like the physical challenge posed by the trails to the mountain hut may prefer the Corner Camp Area that borders Chikukwa Village.

Visitors may camp free of charge anywhere within Chimanimani National Park except at Base Camp found at the foot of the mountains. A picnic site at the base of the Bridal Veil Falls in Eland Sanctuary offers spectacular views of the Porkpie mountain range. The falls plunge 50 m down into a base about 10 m wide. Visitors can take a plunge in the cool crocodile free pool along the Muhohwa River.



Nature Culture Community

Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Protected Area



COUNTRIES	Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo
AREA	36,000 km ²
STATUS	Category B: MOU signed in July 2009
WEBSITE	www.mayombe-tpa.org

Dense tropical forests stand brooding and overlooking the slopes below, hiding a mysterious and secluded world within them. Towering canopies reach overhead, hiding the sky and sheltering the tribes of curious chimpanzee and regal gorillas, as they nest, groom and play far below. A hundred shades of green and brown greet the eye, broken only by flashes of plumage, and forest birds chatter and flit from tree to tree. This is a true frontier, with few tourists, and bountiful wildlife.

An Overview of the Transfrontier Protected Area

The proposed Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Protected Area (TPA) encompasses the entire Mayombe forest, stretching over four countries, including the south-west corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cabinda Exclave of Angola, the coastal forests of the Republic of Congo and south-west Gabon. Mayombe Forest TPA covers a total area of approximately 36,000 km² and forms the south-western part of the tropical rainforest in the Congo Basin. The Mayombe Forest TPA will encompass protected areas located in three countries, namely the Mayombe National Park in Angola, the Luki National Park in the DRC and the Dimonika Biosphere Reserve, Conkouati-Douli National Park and Tchimpounga National Reserve in the Republic of Congo.

Already in 2000 the Governments of Angola, DRC and Republic of Congo promoted the transboundary cooperation process in the Mayombe Forest ecosystem. In 2002, the Transboundary Protected Area (TPA) initiative was adopted by the Republic of Congo and an MOU was signed between Angola, Congo and the DRC in July 2009. Gabon manifested its interest in 2013. This cross-border conservation area shall also contribute to political and economic stability in the region.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Termed one of the world's richest hot-spots of biological diversity, Mayombe Forest, part of the tropical rainforest biome, forms the southern margin of evergreen tropical rainforest in Central Africa. Climate in the region is hot and humid, with mean annual temperatures between 23°C and 26°C and a mean annual rainfall ranging between 1,200 - 1,800 mm. Due to these climatic conditions fog occurs frequently. Mayombe Forest is a multi-storied forest, ranging from dominant layers of tall evergreen trees (40-60 m), with narrow canopies, through layers of smaller trees and shrubs with climbers, to diversified layers of herbaceous and epiphytic plants.

The forest is home to several primate species such as the chimpanzee, lowland gorilla and several species of old world monkeys. Other mammals that can be found here include the forest elephant, forest buffalo, bush pig and forest hog. The area is also known for the rare giant pangolin, tree pangolin and flying squirrel. The African manatee is found in the Congo River, and the forest also boasts a variety of at least 95 bird species, amongst others the African grey parrot and the great crested lourie. Hence, the Mayombe ecosystem is internationally recognized as an Important Bird Area.

The People of Mayombe Forest TPA

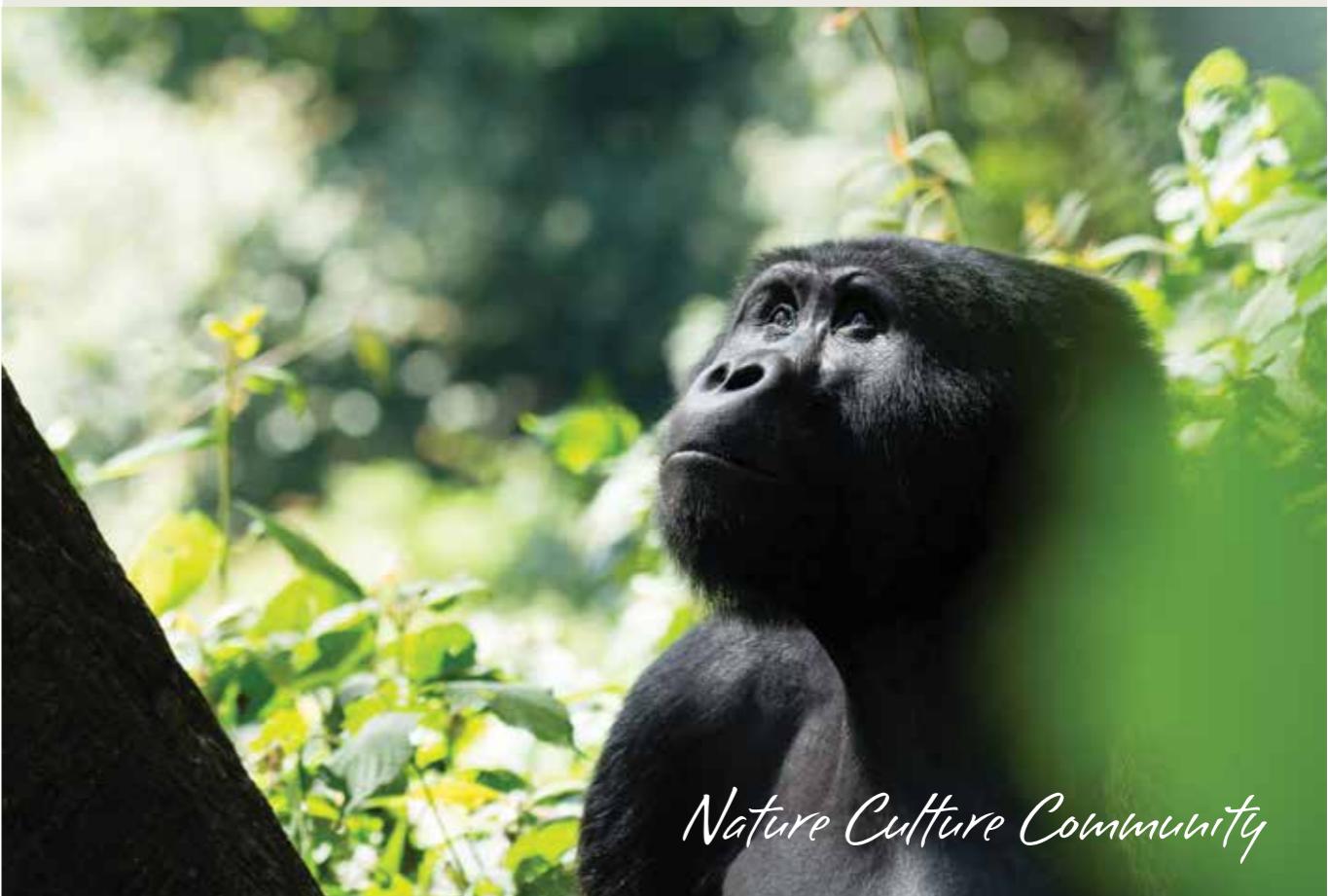
All countries in the TPA are troubled by political and economic instability. As a result of increasing population densities, the Mayombe Forest TPA is subject to a high rate of degradation, mainly through heavy logging and poaching. Most of the residents in the forest rely on subsistence cultivation, small-scale husbandry, hunting, and commercial logging operations. Population in all four countries as well as an unknown number of internally displaced people and refugees, have suffered from decades of armed conflicts, the results of which include poverty, unemployment and lack of access to basic public services and commodities. A consultation process with

resident communities for the conservation of the Mayombe Forest TPA and its biodiversity is ongoing. This initiative is twofold: protecting the rich and significant biodiversity of the forest and to alleviate poverty through sustainable alternative livelihoods. There is hope that a transfrontier initiative will serve to build medium and long-term sustainable socio-economic welfare of resident communities, and also contribute to peace and stability in the sub-region.

TPA Highlights

The TPA has great potential to become an attractive tourism destination along the Atlantic coast with its long sunny beaches, extraordinary landscapes from savannah to rainforest, a unique flora and fauna, and a rich cultural history.

There are a few hotels in the Angolan Cabinda Exclave that are old but still functioning, and tours lead from there into the forest. Safari packages include activities like river tubing, gorilla and animal watching, trekking, hiking, visiting waterfalls, swimming in rivers and lakes and camping. Although more and more people visit the Mayombe Forest TPA, responsible tourism (biodiversity conservation, education, and empowerment of local communities) is still under development in the sub-region.



Nature Culture Community

Niassa-Selous Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Mozambique, Tanzania
AREA	154,000 km ²
STATUS	Category B: MOU signed on 29 March 2007

A family of elephants starts on a journey across a vast expanse; from open savannahs where wild dogs play through lush wetlands teeming with aquatic life, past hushed woodlands, down steep escarpments and finally through a corridor of land where humans live and thrive, nestled between two vast natural areas; a stretch of land providing a genetic lifeline.

An Overview of the TFCA

Niassa-Selous TFCA is one of the largest TFCA in Africa covering a total area of approximately 154,000 km². Two thirds of the area is protected by the Selous Game Reserve, the northern component of the TFCA in the United Republic of Tanzania. Encompassing 48,000 km², Selous is Africa's largest single protected area. The Selous Game Reserve is also one of Africa oldest formally protected area, dating back to 1896. Its counterpart, the Niassa National Reserve, is Mozambique's largest conservation area and covers a total area of 42,000 km². The two protected areas are linked by a corridor – the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor, which extends for a total length of approximately 160 to 180 km following the Ruvuma River. An MOU on cross-border cooperation was signed between the Governments of Tanzania and Mozambique on 29 March 2007 to facilitate the establishment of Niassa-Selous TFCA.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Moist and dry woodlands are the primary biomes in the area. Niassa-Selous TFCA ecosystem is one of the largest transboundary natural dry forest eco-regions in Africa. The area's key features are granite inselbergs, seasonal and permanent wetlands and rivers – creating excellent conditions for globally significant biodiversity. Annual rainfall in the North of Selous is around 1,200-1,300 mm decreasing towards the South to about 800 mm along the Ruvuma River. Mean annual temperature is approximately 21°C.

The Niassa-Selous TFCA harbours around half of the world's remaining wild dog population. Selous Game Reserve is renowned for its populations of elephant, black rhino, cheetah, giraffe, hippo and crocodile, amongst many other species. In 1982, UNESCO enlisted the Tanzanian protected area as a World Heritage Site, emphasizing the global importance of Selous Game Reserve as one of the last relatively undisturbed wilderness areas. Today the TFCA is under heavy poaching pressure. Mozambique's Niassa National Reserve is only accessible by road during the dry season and is home to significant populations of lions, leopard, hartebeest, buffalo and elephant, and large herds of sable antelope. With its diverse landscape the TFCA also boasts over 450 bird species.

The Niassa-Selous Wildlife Corridor provides an important biological link between these two reserves, supporting the conservation of one of the largest elephant ranges globally. Poaching of these iconic species to feed the ivory trade remains however one of the greatest challenges for the TFCA. In 2014, UNESCO placed Selous on its List of World Heritage in Danger due to the severity of elephant and rhino poaching. Recent surveys in Mozambique showed that the elephant populations in Niassa National Park declined by more than 50% in the last five years. The Governments of Mozambique and Tanzania signed an MOU in 2015 to strengthen cross-border collaboration to tackle poaching and trafficking.

The People of Niassa-Selous TFCA

All the communities in the corridor area engage in community-based natural resource management activities. A unique feature of the TFCA is that the corridor is located entirely on the land of 29 villages within the administrative areas of Namtumbo and Tunduru districts in Ruvuma region; it is composed of a contiguous network of five Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) managed by community-based organisations. In cooperation with local and district authorities, 17 villages established two WMAs, the "Mbarang'andu" and "Nalika" WMAs. The three community-based organisations, Chingoli, Kisungule and Kimbanda, established their wildlife management areas in the southern part of the corridor and their people have been involved in capacity development.

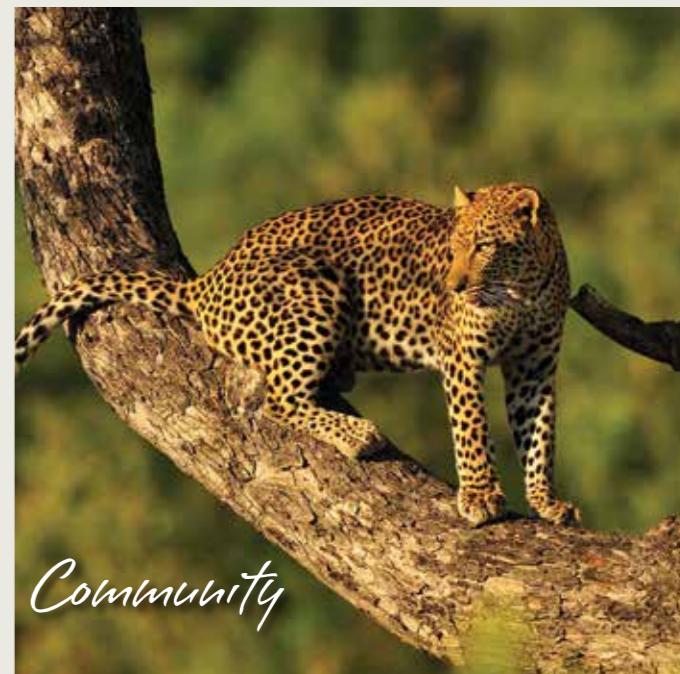
Maintaining a balance between village development needs and biodiversity conservation is a priority for the TFCA.

An innovative strategy to negotiate between these two priorities has been implemented in the area, involving a participatory land-use planning process. Local communities designate areas in which they conserve and manage wildlife and other natural resources to create income from these areas. With this strategy TFCA tries to contribute to conservation and development and poverty alleviation alike. While environmental degradation and human-wildlife conflict remain a problem, it is hoped that these initiatives will empower local communities to become stewards over their natural resources.

TFCA Highlights

Through the landscape of northern Selous Game Reserve a network of channels and lagoons run off in the Rufiji River. Due to the high water availability this area boasts a phenomenal concentration of wildlife, in particular at the end of the dry season. The area is a popular tourism destination with several luxury lodges and camps situated along the river.

Located in Niassa National Reserve, Lugenda Wilderness Camp offers one of the most remote safari experiences in the TFCA. As the Mozambican Reserve is difficult to access by road, visitors that stay at one of the exclusive safari or hunting lodges can only reach their destination by private charter flight.



Liuwa Plains-Mussumma Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Angola, Zambia
AREA	16,289 km ²
STATUS	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

The sound of pounding hooves echoes across the plains as gargantuan herds of migratory blue wildebeest make their annual pilgrimage between Angola and Zambia, interspersed with the black and white of zebra herds, mingling in unending patterns of movement. The eerie call of lionesses stalking through the honey-coloured grass can barely be heard over the restless movements of thousands of legs on land, as they engage in battle of stealth and wiles with the vast roaming herds.

An Overview of the TFCA

The Liuwa Plains-Mussumma TFCA, measuring 16,289 km², will protect the second largest wildebeest migration in Africa, as well as a significant portion of the catchment area of the Zambezi River, Africa's fourth largest river system. In preparation of the TFCAs development the Government of Angola proclaimed the Mussumma area as a National Park in order to further protect the wildlife migration on the Angolan side. On the Zambian side, Liuwa Plain National Park was historically a traditional park under the local chiefdom, until the Government took it over in 1972. It is amongst the parks with the longest history of wildlife protection in Africa, which started when King Lubosi Lewanika of the former Royal Kingdom of Barotseland declared it a 'game reserve' in the 1880s. In 2003, the Zambia Wildlife Authority and the Barotse Royal Establishment entered into a formal agreement with African Parks for the management of Liuwa Plains National Park for a period of 20 years.

The supporting documentation, preparatory work and draft MOU have been finalised for the Governments of Angola and Zambia to formalise the TFCA.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The TFCA occupies the northern reaches of the Barotse plain, lying between the Lungwebungu and Luanginga River. The area covers the Zambezi flooded grassland eco-region, the miombo woodland eco-region and the Zambezian dry forest eco-region that occurs in patches north of the Lungwebungu River riparian zone. Liuwa Plain National Park is situated in the upper west Zambezi flood plains, coverage a significant catchment area of the Zambezi River.

Large areas of the plains flood annually between December and April. In the southern areas, there are scatterings of flat open pans, many of which hold their water well into the dry season. Although primarily consistent of vast stretches of grassland, the plains are dotted with occasional small tree-islands or clusters of raffia palms. Game movement is controlled by seasonal shifts, with animals following water movements across the plains. Besides the large herds of migratory wildebeest and zebra, the TFCA is also home to numerous rare and endemic flora and fauna species, where the flood plains act as critical breeding grounds for several endangered reptiles, amphibians and birds. Mammal species occurring in the area include wildebeest, lechwe, sitatunga, tsessebe, reedbuck,

zebra, oribi, spotted hyena and leopard. There are also more than 300 recorded bird species, 56 of which are either rare or migrating, contributing to the Important Bird Area status in the TFCA.

Many species that were locally extinct are slowly returning to Liuwa Plains National Park and the western Massuma National Park, including elephant, African wild dog and roan antelope. The lion population in Liuwa Plains was once reduced to only one strong-hearted lioness. Through reintroduction of several more individuals in 2011, the lion population slowly stabilized again.

The People of Liuwa Plains-Mussumma TFCA

There are about 430 villages and 20,000 people living in and around Liuwa Plains National Park. These people have a long history of coexisting with wildlife, and the park plays an important role in local Barotse culture.

In the 19th century, during the era of the Royal Kingdom of Berotseland, community members worked in the park as official gamekeepers. During this period, the so-called 'Indunas' held various conservation responsibilities - an institution that continues to exist. Communities practice agriculture with mixed farming methods, while living with wildlife. People in the region have developed a sophisticated system of rights of resource use, including fishing and harvesting of natural resources such

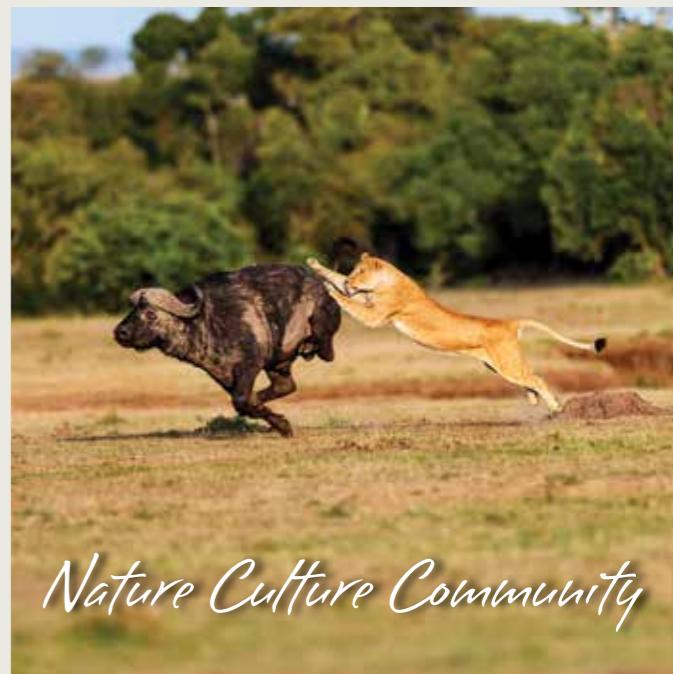
as thatching grass, building poles and palm fronds.

When a centralized management of the Liuwa Plains National Park was established in 1972, many of these cultural practices and traditional institutional regulations were abolished. Later park management realized the value of these practices, and began documenting them in 2005. Since then many traditional practices have been re-established with the assistance of the Barotse Royal Establishment. The TFCA enjoys strong community engagement and participation in strategic management.

TFCA Highlights

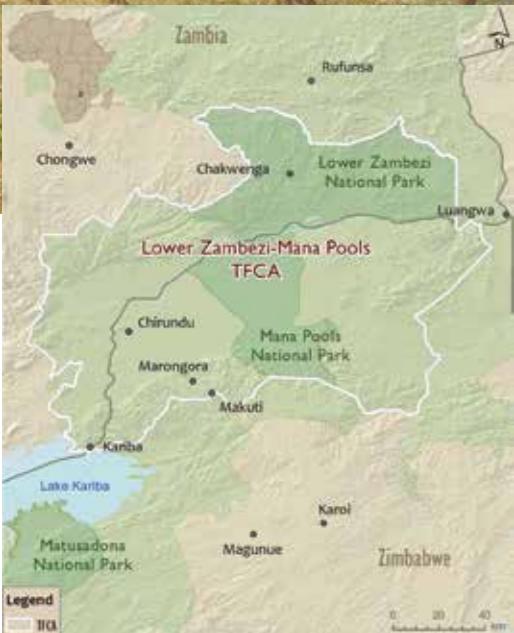
Home to Africa's second largest migratory population of wildebeest and zebra, after the Serengeti, the TFCA offers numerous wildlife sightings in a pristine area. Spectacular herds of between 40,000 and 50,000 heads migrate annually from the Liuwa Plains National Park in Zambia to the Mussumma region in Angola for the duration of the flood season and return again after the water has receded.

For visitors many parts of the TFCA are still difficult to reach, with few roads leading into the area. Adventure tourists can access the area from February to April by walking and canoeing, although this needs to be arranged in advance, and carefully planned for. There are also five community campsites in operation, serviced by communities, who also offer cultural tourism activities.



Nature Culture Community

Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Zambia, Zimbabwe
AREA	17,745 km ²
STATUS	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

A landscape strewn with the cast-off remnants of a ponderous river that left behind Mana, ‘four’, orphan pools as it strove for increasing speeds in its race to reach the ocean. The Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools TFCA is a lush gem of woodlands and moist riverine life, dressed in green, blue and brown.

An Overview of the TFCA

In northern Zimbabwe, the Mana Pools National Park has the mighty Zambezi River separating it from Zambia’s Lower Zambezi National Park. The Lower Zambezi Mana Pools TFCA measures 17,745 km² and lies in the Zambezi Valley, below the Kariba Dam; wildlife used it as a thoroughfare between the escarpment and the Zambezi River since the dawn of time.

In Zambia the TFCA is composed of the Lower Zambezi National Park and several game management areas. On the Zimbabwean side it encompasses Mana Pools National Park and the Sapi and Hurungwe communal areas, which incorporate Chewore and Marongora safari areas. In Zimbabwe the TFCA also encompasses river frontage, floodplains, islands, sandbanks and pools.

Mana Pools National Park was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 based on its wildness and beauty. The pools so characteristic of the area are designated as a Ramsar Wetland Site.

The supporting documentation, preparatory work and draft MOU is ready for the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe to formalise the TFCA.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The TFCA falls in the dry woodland and moist woodland biomes, offering lush, vivid landscapes. There are four permanent pools in Mana Pools National Park which are the remnant ox-bow lakes that the Zambezi River carved out thousands of years ago as it changed its course. With six kilometres in length, Long Pool is the largest of the four pools and has an impressive population of hippo and crocodile.

With wet hot summers and dry temperate winters, this TFCA is great for game viewing. The mean annual rainfall is approximately 700 mm with an average annual temperature of around 25°C. Mana Pools National Park has a large flood plain on the lower Zambezi. During the rainy season the river flows, turning the area into a broad expanse of lakes. The river banks are flanked by magnificent forests with mahogany, wild figs, ebonies and baobab while the flood plain is fringed with mopane forest. The

vegetation changes to open woodlands on the old river terraces and hills that form the backdrop to the National Park. As the lakes gradually dry up and recede towards the dry season, the region attracts many large animals in search of water, making it one of Africa’s most renowned game viewing regions. There is a wide range of large mammals including very high concentrations of elephant, buffalo, hippo and crocodile. The area also attracts predators like lion, leopard, spotted hyena, cheetah and wild dog. The floodplain boasts over 450 bird species and a diversity of aquatic wildlife.

The People of Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA

On the Zambian side, communities live outside the National Park but within the game management areas. Most community livelihoods revolve around farming and fishing from the Zambezi River. They engage in wildlife conservation through established community structures called Community Resources Boards. The Zambian National Park has a village scout programme where scouts are recruited, trained and equipped to patrol and protect the Lower Zambezi’s wildlife and deter illegal activity. This programme trained and employed young women and men in the adjacent communities. An international NGO has now established a community programme providing assistance with a variety of activities, including human-wildlife conflict patrols,

elephant-behaviour workshops and a chilli-farming project as a mitigation method to deter elephants.

Chewore and Marongora safari areas in Zimbabwe engage the communities through the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) programme which facilitate community beneficiation through controlled hunting. The community programmes are promising and relationships are strong between the National Park and the surrounding communities.

TFCA Highlights

The popular Zambezi canoe trails provide visitors the opportunity to experience what the entire TFCA has to offer. While floating down the river between Mana Pools and Lower Zambezi National Park, the adventure seeker will experience some close-up wildlife encounters. There is a wide range of tourist facilities from lodges to communal or exclusive campsites within the boundaries of the TFCA. Tourism offerings include walking safaris, lion tracking, fishing and game drives. Notably Mana Pools National Park is one of the very few wilderness areas where visitors can explore the mostly inaccessible scenery on an unguided walk. The privilege of walking alone in an area with dangerous wildlife is unique in southern Africa.

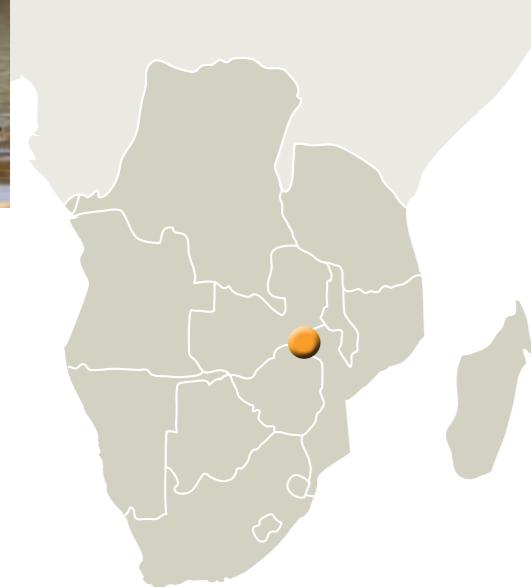


Nature Culture

Community

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Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia (ZIMOZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe
AREA	29,859 km ²
STATUS	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

A landscape strewn with snaking meandering rivers rushing past contoured boulders and dramatic mountain valleys nestling hushed woodlands, this park is home to impressive numbers of African elephant, roaming across the expanse of land between three countries, largely oblivious to man-made divisions.

An Overview of the TFCA

The ZIMOZA TFCA is a transboundary initiative for managing shared natural resources through community based resource management, infrastructural development and policy harmonization. The area consists of four districts, which are Mbire in Zimbabwe, Zumbo, and Magoe in Mozambique, and Luangwa in Zambia. It is located in the Zambezi valley where the Zambezi

River and Luangwa River meet, covering a total area of approximately 29,859 km². The area encompasses national parks, game management areas, safari areas and communal land. ZIMOZA TFCA overlaps slightly with the Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools TFCA which lies directly on its western border. The TFCA encompasses parts of the Lower Zambezi National Park and the entire Rufunsa Game Management Area in Zambia and includes the Chewore and the Dande Safari Area in Zimbabwe. There is no formally protected area in Mozambique although the area included communal land and provides for a good habitat for many wildlife species.

ZIMOZA TFCA is at a conceptual stage although the process towards formalizing the TFCA development was initiated in 2002. The establishment process of this ZIMOZA TFCA was first spearheaded and facilitated by IUCN from 2002 to 2003 and then later in 2008 by the African Wildlife Foundation in conjunction with the Zambia Wildlife Authority. The initiative is overseen by an intergovernmental steering committee. An international agreement was finalized after wide stakeholder consultations but still awaits approval by the respective governments.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Bordering the Chewore Mountains in Zimbabwe, the vegetation is dominated by grasslands, riverine woodlands and dry forests with an average annual rainfall of 400 mm and annual temperature of around 25°C. Major rivers found in ZIMOZA TFCA include the Zambezi River, which forms the boundary of Zimbabwe and Zambia, and the Luangwa River, forming the boundary between Zambia and Mozambique.

ZIMOZA consists of many wildlife corridors and home ranges of animals with an increase in deforestation, human encroachment, poaching and human-wildlife conflict. The proposed TFCA contributes to the protection of a variety of endangered species including elephant, hippopotamus, buffalo, lion, leopard, sable and roan. The area also attacks over 300 bird species.

The People of ZIMOZA TFCA

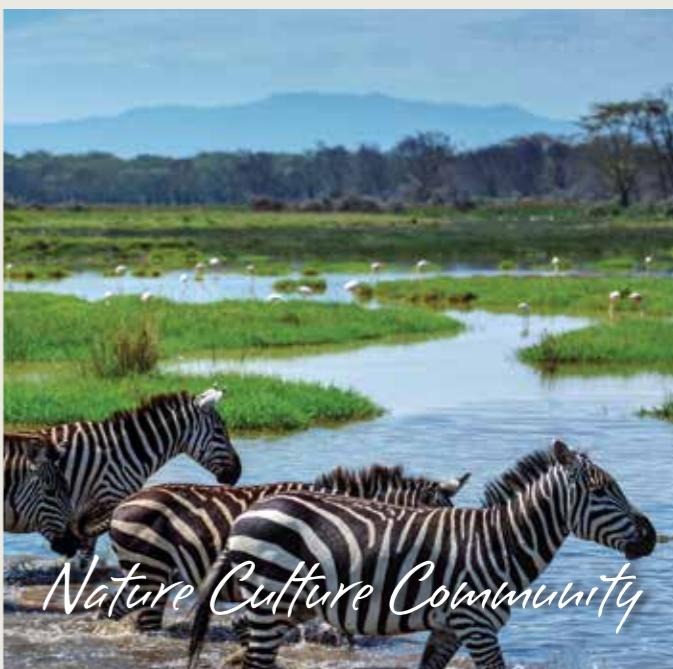
Approximately 600,000 people reside inside the TFCA, many of which livelihoods are heavily dependent on natural resources such as water, fish, wildlife and forest. Communities that live within the TFCA are separated by borders but not by culture and history. One of the primary aims of the transboundary initiative is to enhance community livelihoods through community ecosystem based adaptations, mitigation and land-use planning. Education on wildlife movement corridors in an effort to keep human settlement away from wildlife dispersal areas will also help to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in the long run.

To date, Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is implemented on the Zambian side, while the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) programme is run in Mozambique and Zimbabwe to facilitate beneficiation to communities in the Zambezi valley. To accurately inform management decisions

and strategic planning, there is a need for the TFCA to engage communities in risk and vulnerability assessments around a host of human-environment relationships. Communities and technical parties are increasingly working together and developing plans for managing shared natural resources. It is hoped that by increasing the tourism potential of the TFCA, communities can be actively engaged and benefit from local employment and the sale of goods and services.

TFCA Highlights

The IUCN undertook a study to profile the ZIMOZA area for its tourism potential that includes land, wildlife, and rivers, natural forests, a variety of vegetation types, local culture and beautiful panoramic views. The focus of governments is to ensure that tourism benefits communities and contributes to poverty eradication across the area. An example of a community initiative is a cultural village in Zambia where a local community showcases their traditional way of life and is now bearing fruit with tourists paying to visit the village.



Nature Culture Community

Kagera Transfrontier Conservation Area



COUNTRIES	Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda
AREA	13,432 km ²
STATUS	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

An eagle soars high among the clouds looking over the rolling landscape below. Strewn among wooded grasslands is a constellation of jewel-toned lakes, where warm sunlight bounces off the rippling surfaces of mirrored lake-faces. Swooping closer, the nuances of an animated system of life begin to emerge as keen avian eyes pick out the movements of water birds in their thousands, rustling among the shallows, and large mammalian forms ambling across the savannah grasslands as far as the eye can see.

An Overview of the TFCA

The proposed Kagera TFCA lies along the Kagera River, which is a natural boundary between Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. This TFCA comprises Ibanda and Rumanyika Game Reserve in Tanzania and Rwanda's Akagera National Park. The TFCA is located within the East African Community (EAC) with Tanzania being a member of both SADC and EAC and Rwanda and Uganda only of the EAC. Ibanda and Rumanyika Game Reserves are situated relatively close to Lake Victoria in the north western part of Tanzania. Akagera National Park is situated in the north eastern region of Rwanda, and named after the Kagera River which flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into Rwanda's labyrinth of lakes. Since 2009 this component is jointly managed between African Parks and the Rwanda Development Board. Situated directly on a trilateral border, the TFCA also extends into Uganda.

This TFCA is still in the conceptual phase of development, offering an exciting range of new possibilities. One of the challenges to the establishment of an MOU between three countries is that Rwanda and Uganda are situated outside of SADC. While the countries are interested in taking plans for the TFCA forward, there are still strategic agreements that require negotiation.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The proposed TFCA encompasses a range of biomes, including savanna, grasslands, moist woodland, wetlands, afro-montane forest and tropical rainforest. The area lies just south of the equator. The Kagera River, flowing from west to east provides a permanent and reliable source of water for humans and wildlife throughout the year. Average annual rainfall is between 750-800 mm. Notably, rainfall is becoming increasingly erratic due to climate change. Heavy downpours are common during the rainy season between February and June. Temperatures range between day-time from 22°C to 27°C and night-time temperatures between 16°C and 21°C with occasional frost in the higher lying areas.



Because of the Kagera River, a complex system of lakes and papyrus swamps cover over a third of the area, enjoying the status of the largest protected wetland in eastern Africa. These marshes and swamp-fringed lakes occur in low-lying flat areas, varying between being permanent and seasonal. In the forest and mountain areas visitors can explore sacred forest waterfalls, cave systems and ancient rock paintings. The Ibanda Game Reserve contains rock engravings dated at over 200,000 years ago.

Due to its variety of habitats the Kagera TFCA has exceptional levels of biodiversity. Akagera National Park in Rwanda is home to many large plain species as well as species restricted to the papyrus swamps such as the sitatunga antelope and the rare and illusive shoe-billed stork. Of the primates, olive baboons, velvet monkeys and the blue monkey can be found here. The Tanzanian Ibanda and Rumanyika Game Reserve also include elephant, lion, eland, waterbuck and roan. Notably the Ibanda Game Reserve has the largest density of leopard of all game reserves in Tanzania. Lining the string of lakes along the Kagera TFCA are some of the continent's highest concentrations of water birds, with over 525 species being recorded.

The People of Kagera TFCA

This TFCA has a long history of co-existence between communities and wildlife; the area is therefore surrounded by human activities. Nonetheless there are challenges regarding human-wildlife conflicts, especially when wildlife moves onto agricultural land. Similarly, development activities also have an impact on the natural resource base through vegetation clearing to make space for growing settlement and agricultural activities. Efforts to resolve these challenges are

implemented through alternative livelihood projects, such as the implementation of sustainable land and agro-ecosystem management practices and training of farmers.

Former refugees fleeing the Rwandan civil war resettled large areas of the Akegera National Park in the late 1990s resulting in the reduction of the park size from a former 2,500 km² due to allocation of land to the settlers. Revenue-sharing has been introduced within the Akagera component of the TFCA, through which 5% of the annual park income is distributed among a variety of community development projects. A successful community employment scheme introduced by African Parks created additional livelihood, and enhanced the park's tourism appeal and reduced human-wildlife conflict.

TFCA Highlights

Akagera National Park offers self-drive safaris to visitors. The park management has vehicles available to hire and visitors can stay overnight at Ruzizi Tented Lodge. As a result of regular patrols and close community engagement, wildlife numbers are slowly increasing. As one of the recent highlights, lions have been reintroduced to the area after a 15-year absence. This is soon to be followed by the black rhino, after which Akegera National Park can officially be declared as the only "big-five" area in Rwanda and in the entire TFCA.

Ibanda and Rumanyika Game Reserve offers tented camps within the area. A recent visit into the area by journalists and travel writers bodes well for widening exposure to the areas. This part of the TFCA includes two game lodges and a tented camp in its tourism offerings that offer boat safaris and game drives. Hunting tourism is also offered here, including hunting of big game species. Visitors are steadily increasing, almost doubling in the last 5 years.



Nature

Culture

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Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas Transfrontier Conservation Marine Area



COUNTRIES	Mozambique, Tanzania
AREA	8,150km ²
STATUS	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

Sea turtles glide beneath the surface, passing through the string of ocean pearls that are the Quirimbas Archipelago in Mozambique, visiting coral reefs along the way and pausing their oceanic journeys to nest among the golden white sandbanks up to Tanzania's Mnazi Bay. Travelling further inland, other denizens of sea and sky encounter mangroves, standing with their bizarre root-arms in the air.

An Overview of the TFCMA

With a total area of 8,150 km² and the high levels of connectivity, this coastline TFCA is a critical source and refuge for the dispersal and maintenance of reef diversity to downstream areas in the north and south on mainland coastal areas, and to the east-side of the Mozambique Channel. In the southeast

border of Tanzania, the TFCA incorporates Mnazi Bay-Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park (MBREMP) with a total area of 650 km². Along the northeast coast of Mozambique, Quirimbas National Park stretches 110 km along the northeast coast of Mozambique covering an area of 7,500 km². This NP is constituted of the 11 most southern the Quirimbas islands. The complex is globally unique, due to its mangrove, sea grasses, and rocky shores habitats.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Arab trading posts and Portuguese trading routes dominated the seas around the Quirimbas Islands many decades ago. Today many of the islands remain uninhabited. Showcasing the melting pot of influences from the Arab, African, Indian and European culture, the total of 34 Quirimbas Islands are declared as a cultural and natural national heritage by Mozambique.

The TFCA falls under the eastern Africa coastal forest and scrub biome. Climate is tropical, with the rainy season from December to April and dryer cooler season from May to September. Daytime temperatures range from 25°C to 35°C and the water temperatures fall between 24°C and 27°C. The northern coast of Mozambique experiences extremely high mixing due to cyclonic and anti-cyclonic eddies generated in the north of the Mozambique channel, and is defined by breakpoints to the north, where the East Africa coastal current touches the Tanzania coastline flowing north, and to the south where the narrowest part of the Mozambique channel induces changes in currents and upwelling features on the Mozambique coast.

Mudflats, salt pans, rocky and sandy shoreline, coral reefs and seagrass beds all form part of this area. Mangrove forests have an integral part in coastal and marine ecosystems as the breeding and nursery grounds for invertebrates and fish. These forests trap river sediments that would otherwise smother seagrass beds and coral reefs, stabilizing the coastline by preventing shoreline

erosion from wave action and changing sea levels. There are approximately 70 km² of mangrove forest in the TFCA, accounting for nearly a tenth of all the mangrove forests of Tanzania.

Coral reefs within the TFCA are among the most diverse hard coral communities in east Africa. In total, 258 hard coral species have been identified in the park - coral fauna is dominated by species in the *Acroporidae* and *Faviidae* families. There is a thousand-metre wide tidal expanse of thick, healthy seagrass beds along the northern end of the Msimbati Peninsula; ten species of seagrass have been reported in MBREMP, and are home to many marine biota. Approximately 400 species of fish have been identified in the park. Although five species of turtle have been recorded, the most common species are the green and hawksbill sea turtles, both of which nest on the shores of the TFCA at various times of year. The IUCN has designated all turtles of the western Indian Ocean as endangered, with hawksbill and leatherback turtles considered critically endangered.

In total four species of dolphin are found beyond the shores, namely the common bottlenose dolphin, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, Indo Pacific humpback dolphin and spinner dolphin. Several whale species also occur, including the humpback whale and sperm whale. Terrestrial fauna is understudied in the TFCA, but the area is recognised as an Important Bird Area for shorebirds and waders. The TFCA is home to a large population of crab plovers, although numbers seem to be declining. Other animals of interest include hippo, crocodile and elephant.

The People of Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCMA

Several cultures are represented within the TFCA, including the Makua, Thonga, Sena, Nyungwe and Yao people. The Makua are the largest ethnic group in Mozambique and known for their unique white "musiro" facial mask. The

Quirimbas National Park in Mozambique works together with NGOs and technical working group to engage community associations. This networking group has been operating since 2008. Eco-tourism initiatives have been establishing over the last few years. By providing training to local community members, employment opportunities in the tourism industry are increasing.

In Tanzania, around 30,000 people live in and adjacent to the MBREMP component of the TFCA. These communities depend heavily on marine natural resources. Local communities are represented through village councils; each council comprises representatives of the village community. The council empowers a village liaison committee to act on their behalf. Building the capacity of communities to engage in sustainable use of resources and climate change adaptation are key focus areas to engage communities in the Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCA.

TFCA Highlights

Ibo Island is one of the best known islands of the Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCA, with a beach totally surrounded by clear water and soft sand. It also offers phenomenal diving opportunities with deep ocean drop-offs and pristine coral reefs. Every year in June there is a festival on Ibo Island called Kueto Siriwala meaning "home is where the heart is" through which the Island celebrates its vivid history with music, dance, song and art.

Although some areas are less accessible, there is a wide range of accommodation options throughout the proposed TFCA, from basic beachfront cottages to luxurious villas. Tourism is increasing as people learn about the TFCA. Strengthening tourism infrastructure and publicizing tourism offerings will help to provide sustainable income for park management and TFCA development.



Western Indian Ocean Transfrontier Marine Park



COUNTRIES	Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion (France), Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania
AREA	-
STATUS	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

Undulating blue expanses meet the gaze as far as the eye can see, broken only by brown smudges of land in the distance. Life, in this landscape, occurs primarily beneath the surface, hidden from the casual gaze, and yet flourishing in greater numbers and variety than any place on land. Pods of sperm whales roll and call within the depths, as they farm the ocean for sustenance, and everywhere around them, life teams and swirls in the gentle rolling dance that marks the oceans tempo.

An Overview of the TFMP

The proposed Western Indian Ocean Transfrontier Marine Park (TFMP) covers vast marine water spaces that includes the SADC island states of Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, together with the Indian Ocean island states of Comoros and Reunion, the latter being an overseas territory of France. It also includes marine areas along the coastline of Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania and others outside the SADC region such as Kenya and Somalia.

The Western Indian Ocean region stretches along the coast line from Somalia to South Africa. The island states consist of more than 400 islets and islands. The proposed Western Indian Ocean TFMP is in an early state of concept development. Decisions on the total area and participating countries encompassing the TFMP are still pending.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The Western Indian Ocean is characterised by unique features arising from tectonic activity. The ocean floors are covered with remnants of sedimentary rock from the African highlands. Some of the Western Indian Ocean islands such as the Seychelles are made up of rocky outcrops with narrow strips of sandy beaches. This is different from Mauritius that has large areas of sugar cane farms.

This proposed Transfrontier Marine Park comprises marine environments and its littoral borders. Along the shores the reefs diversity of corals and other marine flora and fauna is typically high. The oceanic waters within the TFMP range in depth and composition. Estuaries, algae, seaweed and wetland flora abound in areas where fresh and saltwater meet, boosting a high species diversity. The pelagic zone, under continuous threat of overfishing, provides more income to nations sending trawlers than the island states. Marine biomes are divided into coral reefs, estuaries and ocean ecosystems, all of which fall within the TFMP. The TFMP also extends to terrestrial biomes, including eastern African coastal forest and scrub and moist woodlands.

Landscapes include dune forests, coastal forest, and marine to mountain thickets.

The Transfrontier Marine Park encompasses the third largest coral reef on the planet, home to five of the seven marine turtle species. It is a highly diverse marine environment harbouring just under 400 coral species and over 2,000 fish species, which includes more than 30 species of ray and 27 species of shark. There are also many threatened marine mammals found in the oceanic waters, amongst them the dugong and the sperm whale. Habitat destruction and overfishing are currently threatening populations of many of these species.

The People of Western Indian Ocean TFMP

A diverse range of communities live within the proposed Western Indian Ocean TFMP, all of which have diverse needs and challenges, depending on their country contexts and ecosystem environments. One of the foci for conservors

within many of these communities is the development of education programmes and resources that demonstrate the importance of the marine environment in relation to national economies and biodiversity conservation. Educational programmes for schools and communities, as well as for tourists exist. In some areas, for example in Mauritius, work has begun to mobilise school children, teachers and women around coral health activities.

TFMP Highlights

International tourism is booming on the island states. The best way to see the diverse marine life is through diving and snorkelling, with many diving centres situated along the beaches and coastlines. Eco-conscious travellers should look out for diving operators that adhere to sustainable diving practices. There is also a drive to promote cultural tourism for conservation purposes, ensuring that local communities begin to appreciate the benefits this potential TFMP has to offer.



Nature Culture

Community

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