



CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC,
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE SADC TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION
AREAS SUMMIT**

HARARE

23 MAY 2025

Your Excellency Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar and Incoming Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and Outgoing Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues; Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency, Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we come to the close of this historic inaugural SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Conference and Summit, I wish to express my deep appreciation to you, Your Excellencies and our distinguished participants. Your unwavering dedication, active contributions and spirit of collaboration, have defined and give renewed impetus to this landmark gathering.

We have shared knowledge, reviewed our collective progress, identified the challenges faced and reflected on the journey of our TFCA Programme. For the past 25 years, this initiative has stood as a testament of our unity, solidarity, resilience and commitment to sustainable development. From its humble beginnings with the establishment of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, to the broad network of transboundary ecosystems which we now celebrate, this Summit has demonstrated that our shared vision is not only alive, but thriving.

Your Excellencies;

This Summit was a celebration of what has been achieved and a bold statement of what we still must accomplish. It has reaffirmed the critical role of Transfrontier Conservation Areas as powerful instruments for regional integration, resilience, inclusive growth, and peace-building. We have come to better appreciate the importance of multi-sectoral cooperation, policy harmonisation, and fostering a culture of shared

ownership for the conservation of our rich heritage and natural resource endowments.

Our strategies must continue to place communities at the centre of every initiative, not only as stakeholders, but as co-creators and primary beneficiaries. When we empower local communities, we capacitate the very ecosystems, which we seek to protect. Our people should reap and enjoy the benefits of the on-going conservation efforts.

The Summit has also amplified the importance of strengthening the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy. As such, cross-border cooperation should continue to deliver tangible results in the protection of our wildlife heritage.

As we return to our respective countries, let us carry forward the momentum built here, towards developing an integrated, modern, industrialised and prosperous SADC we all want. Let us provide transformational

leadership that is grounded in the lived realities of our peoples. May this Summit serve a catalyst for a renewed era of action, guided by the SADC TFCA Programme 2023–2033, and grounded in the principles of inclusivity, solidarity, sustainability, and sovereignty. This is more so as we will be celebrating Africa Day in two days' time.

Once again, I extend my profound gratitude to you all, for honouring us with your presence, and wish you safe travels.

I thank you.

Muito Obrigado.

Asante Sana.

Merci Beaucoup.