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& the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environmen
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA







Implemented by:
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



ifaw



Wildlife-Based Economy

- Sharing Benefits and Knowledge with Communities.
- The Wildlife-Based Economy Roadmap, building youth environmental understanding and support, and making SADC TFCAs more inclusive of Indigenous Peoples and local communites.

Lead: **Mr Khorommbi** Matibe, South Africa

Presenters:
Wiseman Ndlovu - AWEI
Rowan Prybus - Sunshine Cinema
Rogers Lubilo - Community Leaders Network

Setting the Scene

Mr Khorommbi Matibe, South Africa

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY STRATEGY

SADC WILDLIFE BASED ECONOMY

12 NOVEMBER 2026

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Regional Socio-Economic & Natural Capital Overview (16 Member States)

REGIONAL DEBT & GDP COMPARISON

Sub-Saharan Africa Average Debt-to-GDP Ratio: 55.5%

Advanced Economies Average: **107%**

G7 Countries Average: **123.9%**

POPULATION

~417 Million

26% of Africa • 51% under age 20

EXTREME POVERTY

48%

Below international extreme poverty line

YOUTH LITERACY

86%

Outperforms 69% Sub-Saharan Africa avg

MINERAL & HYDROCARBON WEALTH

$6T – $10T+

- **Solid Minerals:** $2.5T+ in SA, 92% global PGMs, 56% cobalt
- **Oil & Gas:** Namibia (10B+ bbl), Mozambique (160+ Tcf), Angola & SA
- **Rare Earths:** High-grade deposits in South Africa

WILD FAUNA & FLORA (NATURAL CAPITAL)

$7T – $10T+

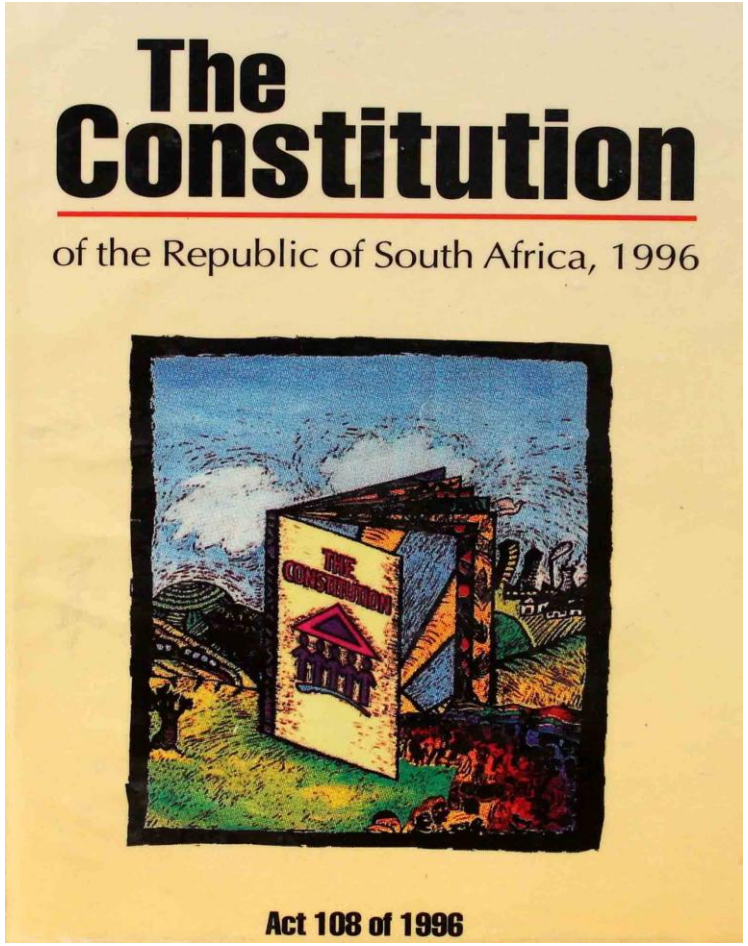
- **Ecosystem Services:** Generates $1T+/year in climate, water & soil value
- **Key Assets:** DRC rainforests ($6.4T) & SA biomes ($610B/yr)
- **Direct Commercial GDP:** ~$33.9B/year (tourism, fisheries, forestry)

Key Takeaway: $13T–$20T+ in combined mineral, hydrocarbon, and natural capital wealth across 16 member states.

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2030 NDP

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Section 24 of SA's Constitution

- **Everyone has the right**—

(a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and

(b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that—

(i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;

(ii) promote conservation; and

(iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

THE REALITY



Population:

estimated to be 63,02 million in 2024, with the female population accounting for 51,0% (approximately 32,13 million) and 27,5% of the population is aged younger than 15 years (16,8 million)

Poverty:

Approximately 55.5 percent (30.3 million people) of the population is living in poverty at the national upper poverty line (~ZAR 992) while a total of 13.8 million people (25 percent) are experiencing food poverty.

Unemployment:

- South Africa's official unemployment rate rose to 33.6% in the second quarter of 2026
- Total Unemployed: 8.5 million people (up 345,000)
- Total Employed: 16.7 million people (down 16,000)
- Youth Unemployment (15–34): 47.4% (up 1.5 percentage points)

Gini coefficient:

- 0.67 (indication of a very unequal society)

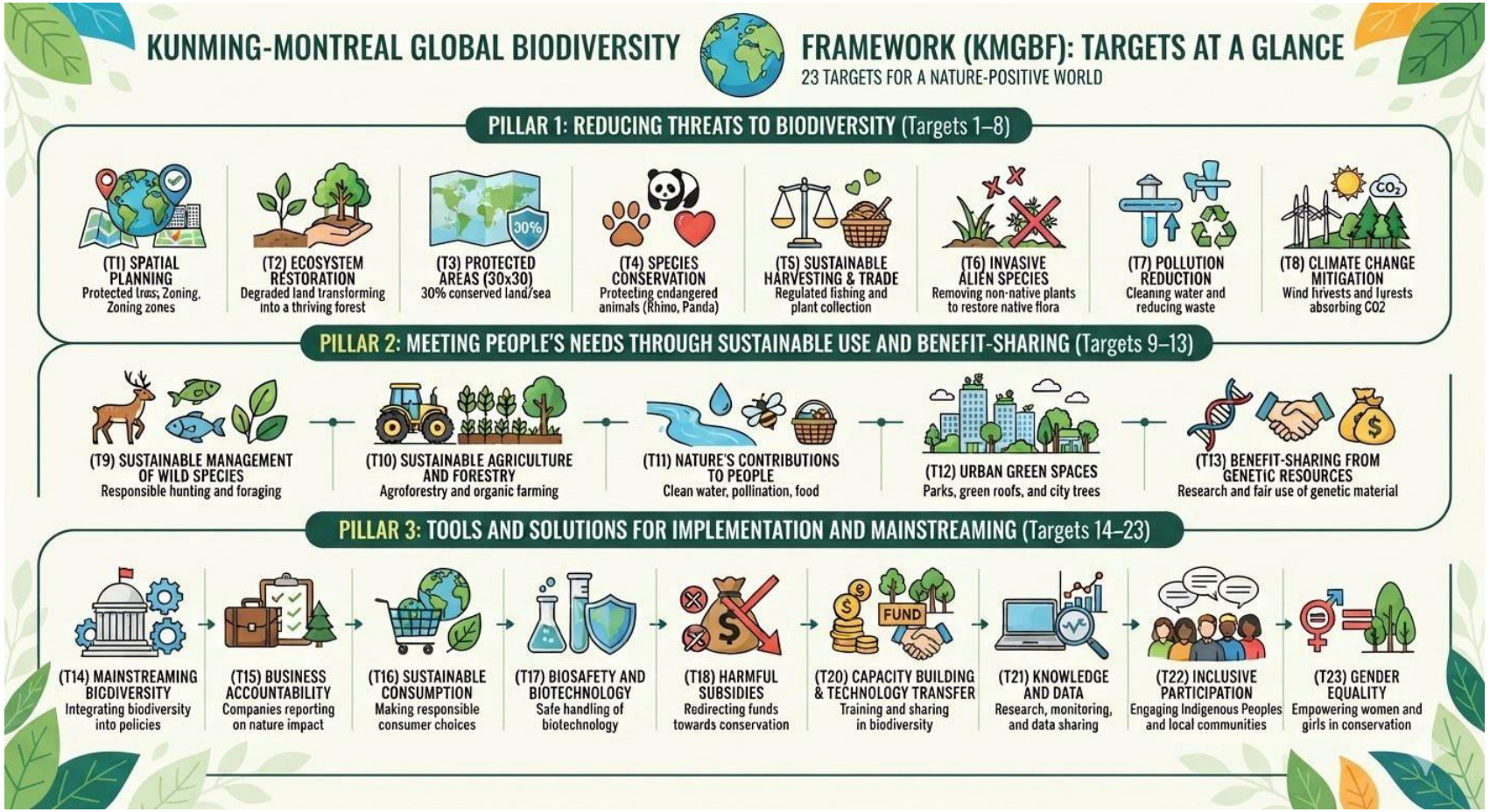
Economy growth:

sluggish, growing at less than 2% , below the NDP target of < 5% per year

17 UNITED NATIONS SDGs 2030



23 KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERITY FRAMEOWRK TARGETS 2030



THE WHITE PAPER POLICY ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 1: Biodiversity Conservation Promoted: Conserve all biological diversity and its components

GOAL 2 :Sustainable Use: Ensure that sustainable use enhances thriving living land- and seascapes and ecosystems, livelihoods, and human well-being, while avoiding, minimising, or remedying adverse impacts on biodiversity

Enabler 1 ~ **Integrated, Mainstreamed and Effective Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use**: Integrate policy and practice across government and effectively implement multilateral agreements; and

Enabler 2 ~ **Enhanced Means of Implementation**: Expand and develop ability to effectively conserve biodiversity, to manage its use, and to address factors threatening it

GOAL 3: Equitable Access and Benefit Sharing: Ensure that benefits are derived and shared from the use and development of South Africa's genetic and biological resources, without compromising national interests

GOAL 4 :Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use is Transformative: gives effect the environmental right (contained in Section 24 of the Constitution), and other human rights, facilitates redress, and promotes transformation

THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY STRATEGY

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Leveraging biodiversity-based features to scale inclusive ecotourism industry growth in seascapes and in sustainable conservation land-use	Sustainable consumption and beneficiation of Game from extensive wildlife systems that drives transformation and expanded sustainable conservation compatible land-use	Sustainable consumption of wild and produced marine and freshwater resources that drives inclusive coastal socio-economic development	Well structured, inclusive, integrated and formalised Bioprospecting, Biotrade, and Biodiversity-based Harvesting and Production Sector that beneficiates communities

CROSS–CUTTING GOAL 5

Secure and enhance ecological infrastructure across ecosystems essential for South Africa's economy through cross-sectoral coordination, leveraging additional investment and market support critical to rural and informal economies.

Cross cutting imperative 1: leverage the biodiversity economy to promote conservation, species and ecosystem management

Cross cutting imperative 2: Promote growth and transformation of the biodiversity economy

Enabler 1:effective and efficient regulation and policy implementation	**Enabler 2:**financial support sustains conservation and grows the biodiversity economy
Enabler 2: increased capacity, innovation and technological support	**Enabler 4:**market access for communities and previously disadvantaged individuals

CURRENT JOBS AND OUR AMBITIOUS TARGETS

1. **Ecotourism 91 000 (baseline)** + 63 679 (2036)
2. **Game Meat: 104 000 (baseline)** + 89 000 (2036)
3. **Hunting (local and international) 95 000 (baseline)** + 35 000 (2036)
4. **Professional Services : 15 193 (baseline)** + 10 033 (2036)
5. **Restoration of Ecological Infrastructure: 38241 (baseline)** + 24 048 (2036)
6. **Protecting Biodiversity: 21 395 (baseline)** + 15 197 (2036)
7. **Extractive Use (fishing, harvesting floral species): 256 000 (baseline)** + 30 043 (2036)
8. **(Megahubs): Beneficiation of indigenous biological Resources:** 130 000 (2036)

Total: 397 000 Jobs projected by 2036

The NBES intends to grow Biodiversity Job numbers from 418 000 to 815 000 by 2036

BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY MEGAHUB INITIATIVE

“Taking the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy Into High Impact Action”

10 FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND BUSINESS PLANS INCLUDING 3-DIMENSIONAL VISUAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY MEGA HUBS WITHIN ALL 9 PROVINCES HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED IN FEBRUARY 2026 FOLLOWING 18 CONSULTATIVE SESSIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Three Pillars of the Model

The Foundation of Success:

Pillar 1: Economic Specialisation & Value Addition:
Assigns specialized roles to provinces to ensure a complete and efficient value chain.

Pillar 2: Scientific Innovation & Cultural Preservation:
Ensures growth does not compromise intellectual or cultural heritage.

Pillar 3: Integrated Ecotourism & Networking:
Extends beyond physical products to high-end services and community integration.



BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY MEGAHUBS INVESTMENT POSTURE

- The Biodiversity Economy Megahub is a **R64 Billion** investment
- Will attract **R55 Billion** of Private sector investment
- Require **R9 Billion** Public sector investment
- Will create at least **130 000** jobs (construction & permanent jobs).
- Will generate **R3 Billion of tax revenue** annually to the State.

BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY INVESTMENT INDABA

Venue: Sun City, North West Province, South Africa

Date: 03 – 05 March 2027

The Indaba Theme: “Collective Action for sustainable beneficiation, localisation and commercialisation of South Africa’s indigenous Biological and Genetic resources”

Investment Ticket

Investment Pledges

R100 Billion+

Overall Target Deal Value

R64 Billion	R36 Billion+
10 Megahub Pledge Target	SADC Conservation, Community & Private Green Industry

200
Target Exhibition Booths

Academic Institutions

30%
Emerging / Community Exhibitors


FISHERIES SECTOR
SADC COUNTRIES
TOP 100 JSE COMPANIES
COMMERCIAL BANKS AND DFIs
DFFE
BIOPROSPECTING ZONE
ECOTOURISM HARMONY
WILDLIFE ECONOMY PAVILION

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0083

Thank You!

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Wildlife-Based Economy Strategy Framework

Implementation

1. Overview of the Wildlife Economy Project
2. SADC WBESF Implementation Roadmap
3. Worked example — Step D: Value chains & wildlife economy enterprises

Co-funded by the European Union

Collaborative Effort

Wild – Livelihoods Project

To undertake a set of prioritised activities in support of the SADC WBESF Framework's four strategic objectives and associated outcomes

1. Capacity Building
2. Implementation (CAP + Roadmap)

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TRAINING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

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SADC SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE

Global Gateway

Co-funded by the European Union

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by: giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Capacity building initiatives to enable implementation of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Wildlife-Based Economy

DONOR:	**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**
PROJECT:	SADC WBESF
DURATION:	April 2025 – December 2026
STATUS:	Active
PROJECT CODE:	**81315697**

Capacitate WBE **champions (incl. TFCAs)** to enable the development of actionable ideas for the implementation of the WBESF at local, national, and regional

Initiatives in Support of SADC-WBESF implementation

1. **P2P Learning Exchange Programme** on WBE and Livelihoods between TFCAs (*31 August - 06 September 2025 in GLTFCA*)
2. **Champions Training** (27 July – 31 August 2026)
3. **Implementation Roadmap** (February – 31 December 2026)







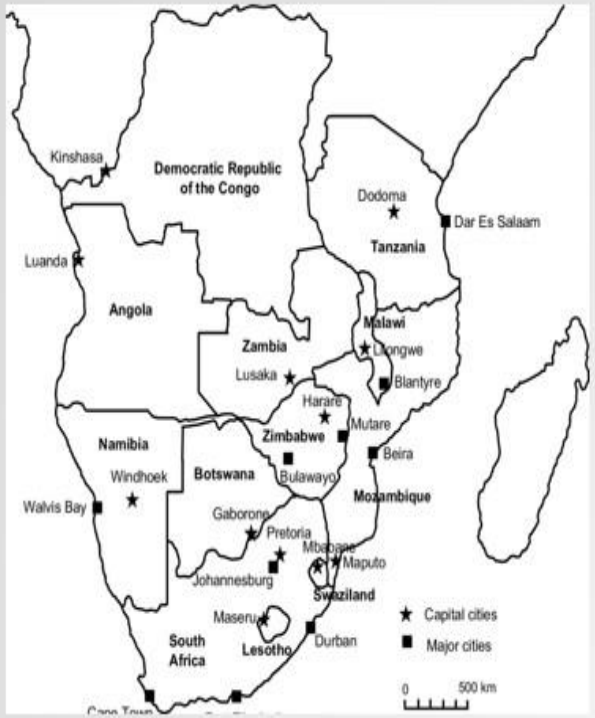
Initiatives in Support of SADC-WBESF implementation

P2P Learning exchange programme on WBE and Livelihoods between TFCAs

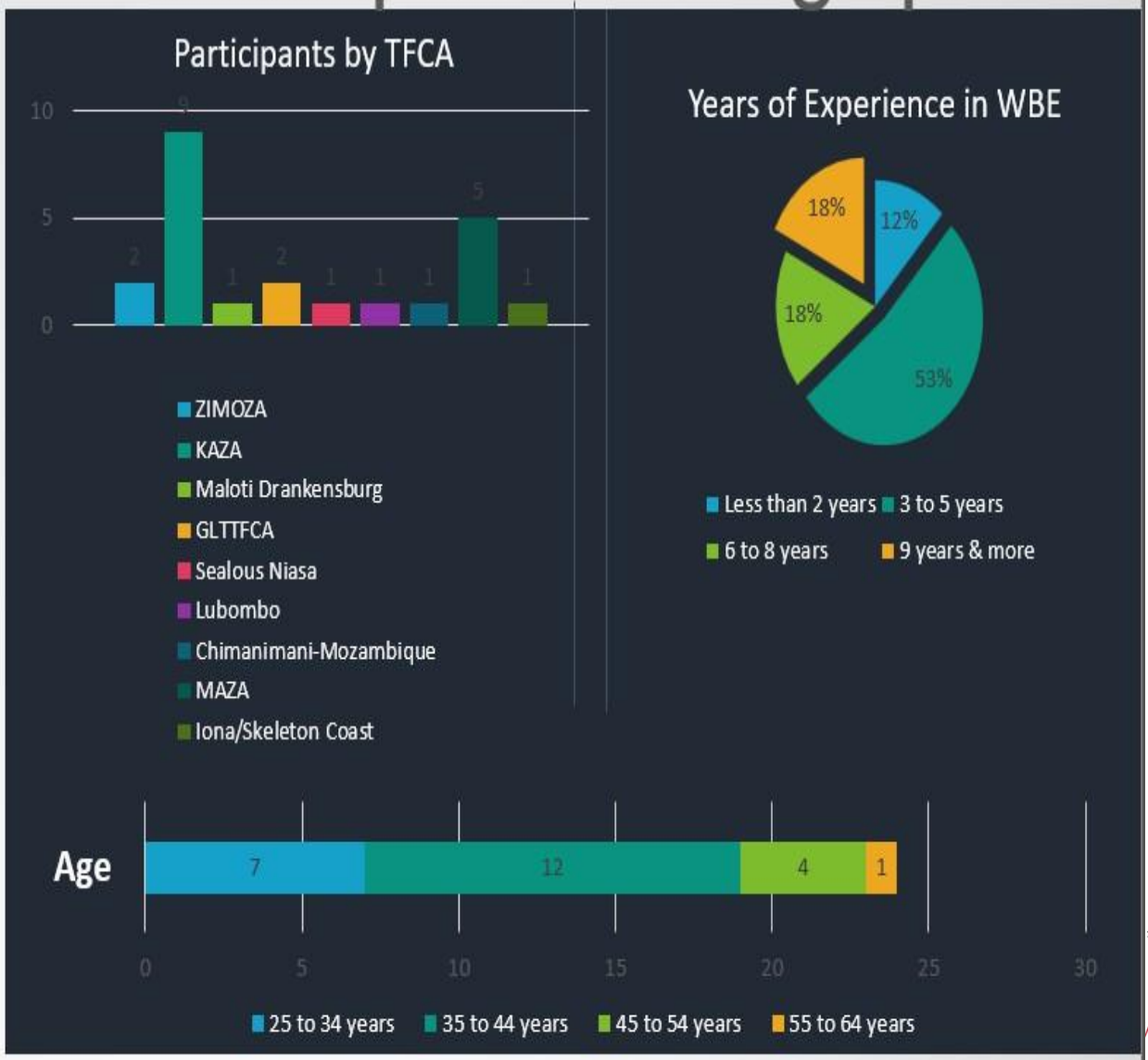
Participants

Targets 24 participants, including community leaders, representatives from government, NGOs, NGOs, CBOs, Private Companies, researchers, and other key stakeholders from the TFCAs.

Participants Demographics



- 24 peers (50% women and 50% men) participated.
- With KAZA being the most represented at 9. KAZA participants were also linked to other TFCAs.
- Over half (53%) have between 3 to 5 years of experience in WBE
- Half of the peers were aged 35 to 44 years; those aged at 25 to 34 stood at 29%
- 9 SADC countries represented -Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South AFRICA, Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania



Regional Issues to the SADC Wildlife-Based Economy

Insights from Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange | SADC TFCAs

Tier 1 issues dominate (37.5%)

Share of Participants Citing Each Issue



Lower Frequency High Impact Issues

- 3 — Absence of processing facilities & markets
- 3 — Weak/absent exit strategies & political interference
- 4 — Illegal wildlife trade
- 4 — Competing land uses
- 4 — Human–wildlife conflict

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Training beyond boundaries

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Pre- and Post-Learning Exchange Perceptions

Participants' views on wildlife-based enterprise value chains in SADC TFCAs | N = 24

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KEY PERCEPTION SHIFTS

Value Addition Mentions

11 → **15**

Stronger focus on processing

Considerable Viability Affirmed

>45% → **62.5%**

Rising confidence in models

Tourism Mentions

7 → **3**

Shift toward integrated approaches

Bioprospecting Barrier Recognition

~4% → **18%**

Clearer view of infrastructure gaps

CORE INSIGHTS FROM THE LEARNING EXCHANGE

Integrated Value Chains

Greater recognition of models combining consumptive and non-consumptive uses with downstream processing and value addition.

Science-Based Management

Field exposure reinforced science-based quotas, diversified revenue streams, and sustainable offtake from operating ranches.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Unchanged, robust consensus that networks among communities, private sector, NGOs and governments are essential.

Balanced Governance

Sustained emphasis on cross-border policy harmonization and multi-actor governance over exclusive private-sector control.

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Capacity Building and Research Needs

Participants' voices mapped to priority skills for wildlife-based enterprise development in SADC TFCAs

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	PARTICIPANTS' VOICES	SKILLS NEEDS
1	Identify entrepreneurship opportunities.	**Enterprise Opportunity Development skills**
2	Best practices of creating value chains for wildlife products.	**Value addition and value chain analysis**
3	Grow and sustain community tourism businesses.	**Leadership & community tourism governance**
4	Adapt successful value chains from elsewhere and implement them for communities adjacent to Malawi's protected areas.	**Benchmarking – TFCAs and WBE enterprises**
5	Improve knowledge of linking value chains to market access.	**Market Access and Value Chain Development**
6	Policy alignment.	**Policy Analysis / Review**
7	Value chain networks and innovative ideas for making community projects sustainable.	**Community Business Modelling**
8	Sustainable financing mechanisms at programmatic and enterprise levels.	**Sustainable Finance for Community Projects**

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No successful stewardship that treats community benefit as a by-the-way reward.

- ☐ Social, economic and ecological outcomes are a **chicken-and-egg trifecta**.
- ☐ Drop one and the other two fail. The **value chain** is how that trifecta either holds or leaks.

01

The trifecta

Social · Economy · Ecology as co-equals, not a sequence.

02

Walk the chain

Production → Harvesting → Processing → Markets.

03

Name the leak

Stewardship energy stops at the fence and the harvest.

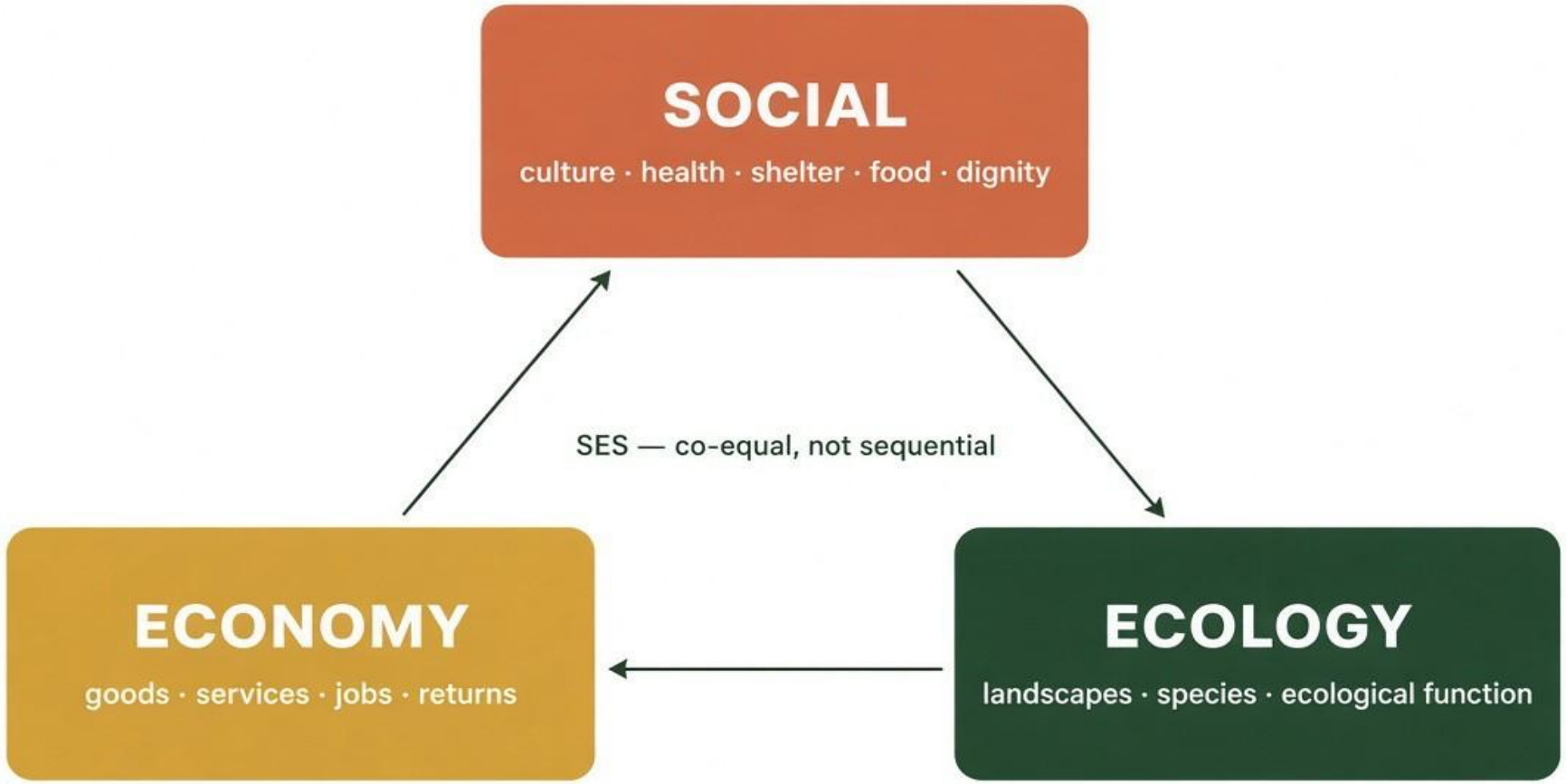
04

SADC WBESF

Roadmap

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THE CONSERVATION TRIFECTA



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Three pillars. Four actors. One system.

SOCIAL

Culture, health, habitat, food, dignity. Who holds rights. Who eats. Who decides. **State, NGOs, communities and private actors sit here, they are not outside the system.**

ECONOMY

Goods, services, jobs, returns. Not a later ‘benefit-sharing’ annex. If the economy does not work, the social pillar collapses and the ecology is stripped.

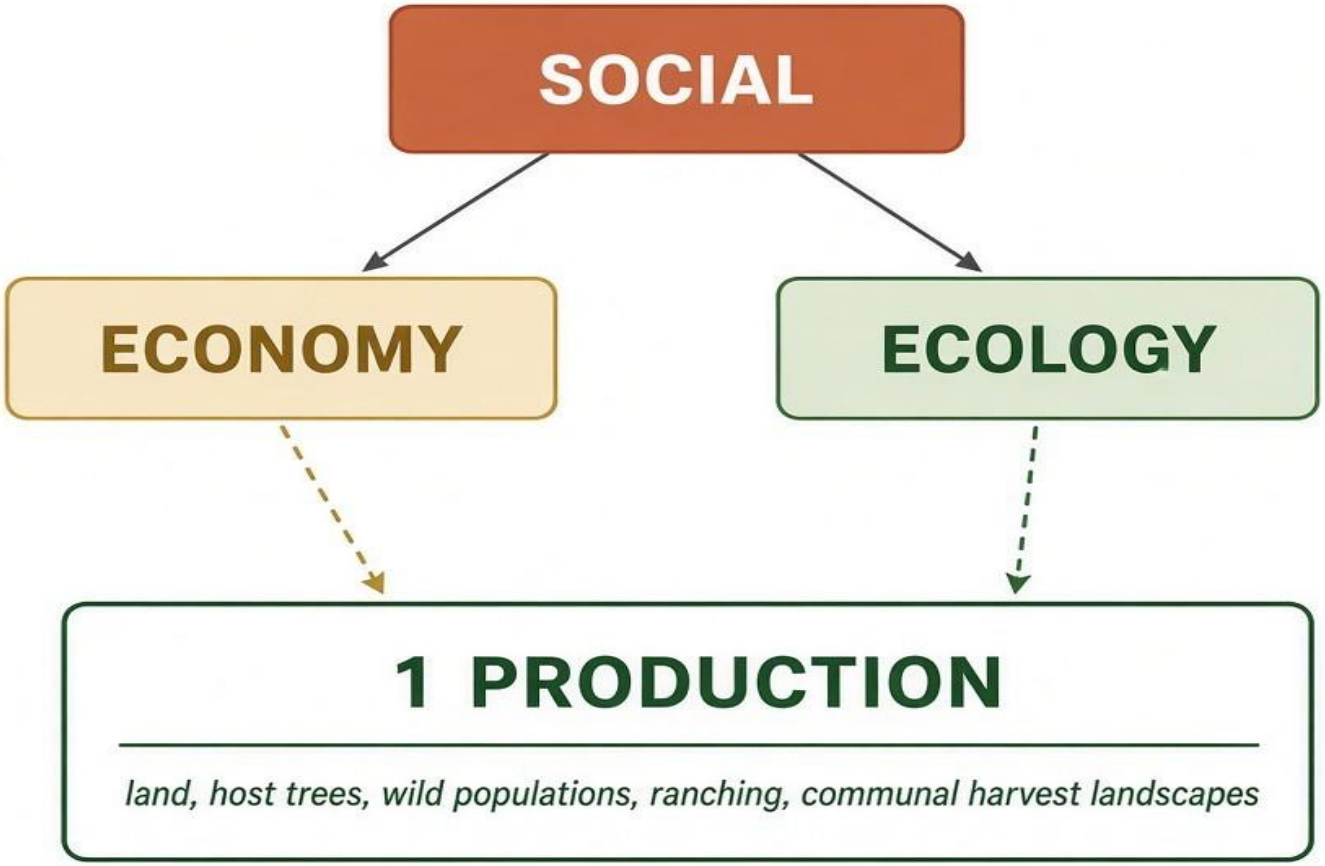
ECOLOGY

Landscapes, species, ecological function. The production base. Stewardship has been strongest here and often stops here.

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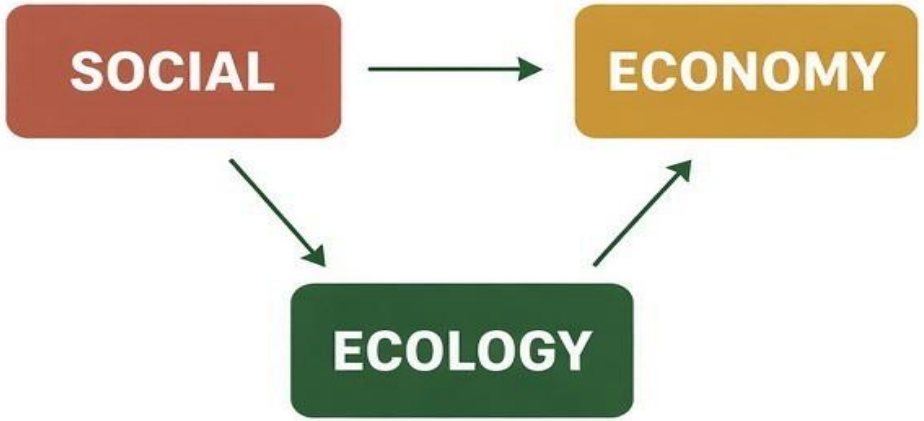
SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE
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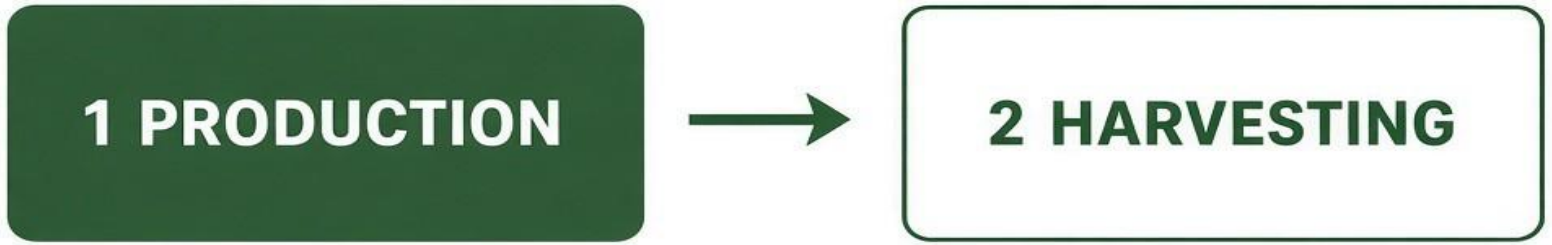


Stewardship usually starts here — the landscape.

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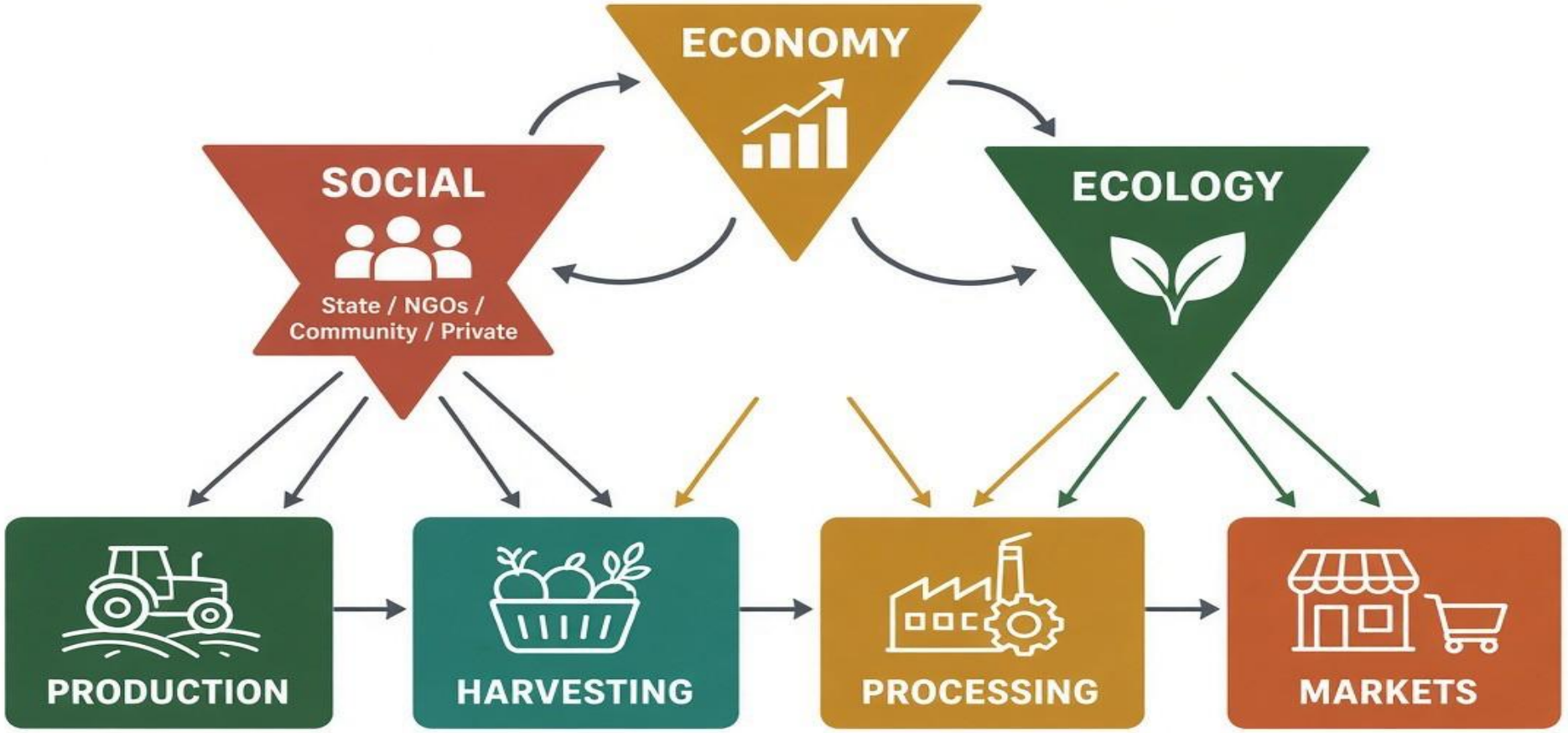
Ecology and social rules decide who may harvest, what, and when.





Processing is where raw nature becomes a product — and where stewardship usually thins out.

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The trifecta only holds when the whole chain is held.

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Most stewardship programmes stop at the fence and the harvest.

The pattern

Stewardship programmes invest most of their legal, scientific and facilitation energy in landscapes and in who may harvest (rightfully so)

Processing and markets are treated as if they will appear by right once the hectare is secure.

That is the leak in the trifecta.

When later stages are neglected, we invent buyers who do not exist.

What programmes hope

A designated stall. A ‘buy local / buy wild’ campaign. A retailer who takes the product because it is the right thing to do. A tourist who pays a premium out of sympathy.

What buyers actually do

People buy on self-interest. What is in it for me? How does my life change if I buy this and not the next product on the shelf? Taste, price, convenience, status, safety — not our theory of change.

What then happens

The product stays raw. No grade. No brand. No consistent volume. No cold chain. The landscape is ‘secured’ and the household is still selling an unprocessed cup at a taxi rank.

SADC WBESF ROADMAP: BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS

BACKGROUND

Ministers recognized the importance of sustainable wildlife-based economies (WBEs) in supporting conservation, economic development, and community empowerment.



PROGRESS

Ministers endorsed the need to develop comprehensive SADC WBE roadmap

The roadmap will guide SADC Member States in implementing sustainable wildlife-economy ecovas based initiatives at national levels within the regional contexts

A regional blueprint for advancing sustainable wildlife-based economies to support conservation, economic levels, al, and community empowerment

OBJECTIVES

To provide a framework for harmonized and coordinated WBE initiatives across the region

To enhance collaboration among SADC Member States in wildlife management and utilization

To support the sustainable use of wildlife resources while ensuring long-term conservation



GBF Targets 5 & 9





RISDP 2020 - 2030 Pillars - Social and Human Capital Development and Sustainable Environmental Management



CBD

International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



SADC WBESF



SDGs (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 15 (Life on Land)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

The SADC and its member states are enabled to implement the Wildlife-based economy strategy in a cooperative manner through international, regional, and national actions, aiming to ensure that the SADC region's and Member States' enabling environment is in place to facilitate growth and development of the wildlife-based economy in the region and within the Member States.

AgriSciences - EyeNzululwazi ngeZolimo - AgriWetenskappe

1 • Overview of the six Roadmap steps

If SADC creates enabling policy and investment conditions, builds capacity, mobilises finance, develops competitive value chains, improves market access, and strengthens monitoring — the wildlife economy grows sustainably.

STEP A	STEP B	STEP C	STEP D	STEP E	STEP F
Policy, governance & regulation	**Capacity, awareness & roles**	**Business & investment climate**	**Value chains & enterprises**	**Market access, marketing & brand**	**Monitoring, learning & scaling**
Create the enabling environment	Equip people and institutions	Make it investible	Upgrade production & SMMEs	Open markets	Measure, learn, adapt
Flagship	Flagship	Flagship	Flagship	Flagship	Flagship
Governance & Policy Harmonisation Programme	Wildlife Economy Skills Academy	Enterprise & Investment Hub	Wildlife Enterprise Accelerator	Brand SADC WBE Programme	Wildlife Economy Observatory

Steps can run independently or concurrently. Step A is foundational. Short-term 0–24 months = governance, diagnostics, pilots. Years 2–5 = implementation and scale. Do not create parallel systems.

2 • Standard structure of every Roadmap step

Each of Steps A–F uses the same architecture so a TIG member can open any step independently.

DIAGNOSTIC

1. Key issues in the region
2. Key requirements for success
3. Roles and responsibilities
4. Risks, mitigation & resources

DECISION

1. Recommendations
2. Priority actions — first moves
3. Flagship regional programme
4. Further guidance / tools

DELIVERY

1. Phase 1 • 0–18 months
2. Phase 2 • 1–3 years
3. Phase 3 • 3–5 years
4. Milestones & Year-5 outcomes

TWO IMPLEMENTATION WINDOWS (does not replace the six Steps)

SHORT-TERM • 0–24 MONTHS
Governance, diagnostics, coordination, priority-setting, resource mobilisation, prepare pilots.

MEDIUM-TERM • YEARS 2–5
Implementation, value-chain development, enterprise support, investment, market access, scaling.

3 • Step D example — Developing value chains & enterprises

Worked example for TIG. Same structure applies to Steps A, B, C, E and F. Aligns with WBESF Strategic Objective 1 and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy.

KEY ISSUES IN THE REGION

1. Fragmented, informal chains focused on raw exports
2. Limited local processing and value addition
3. Weak SMME and community-enterprise support
4. Inconsistent metrics and monitoring
5. Poor market linkages and buyer networks
6. Gaps in processing, storage and logistics
7. Weak standards, certification and traceability
8. Uneven benefit distribution along the chain

WHAT MUST HAPPEN FIRST

1. Strengthen production and processing in a few priority chains
2. Support SMMEs and communities through TFCA centres of excellence (e.g. leather tanning)
3. Share pilot outcomes via Champions and TFCA Communities of Practice

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

SADC Wildlife Enterprise Accelerator

Components
- Incubation and technical assistance
- Market access support
- Finance readiness for SMMEs and community enterprises

4 • Step D implementation roadmap — three phases

PHASE 1 • 0–18 months

Diagnostics, bankable projects, pilots

Establish the evidence base and launch viable pilots

1. Map priority value chains
2. Package bankable projects
3. Launch TFCA / site pilots
4. Set baselines and offtake links

PHASE 2 • 18 months–3 years

Operationalise chains, scale SMMEs

Strengthen and expand wildlife enterprises

1. Open processing capacity
2. Incubate SMMEs & communities
3. Unlock blended finance
4. Apply standards & certification

PHASE 3 • 3–5 years

Regional integration & competitiveness

Achieve regional scale and global competitiveness

1. Harmonise standards across MS
2. Run regional value-chain platforms
3. Drive product innovation
4. Position SADC products globally

5 • Step D Year-5 outcomes and discussion points

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TRAINING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

CHAINS

Diversified, competitive priority value chains with more local processing

ENTERPRISES

More viable community and SMME wildlife enterprises still operating

VALUE

Higher local value retention, jobs and contribution to GDP

INCLUSION

Women, youth and persons with disabilities participating in higher-value segments

QUESTIONS

1. Which two or three priority chains should each Member State start with (comparative advantage + conservation + livelihoods)?
2. Which existing industrialisation, SMME and TFCA instruments should host the Accelerator — so we do not build a parallel system?
3. What would a bankable WBE projects look like in your country within 18 months?
4. Does this Step D capture the work as the template for the remaining Steps A, B, C, E and F?

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2nd African Wildlife Economy Colloquium

AWECO 2

Co-funded by the European Union

Implemented by: giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

DATES

23–25 March 2026

Arrival: 22 March

VENUE

Southern African Wildlife College

Hoedspruit, Limpopo

THEME

Sustainable Wild Livelihoods in SADC

From Policy to Practice

ORGANISERS & PARTNERS

- African Wildlife Economy Institute, Stellenbosch University
- Southern African Wildlife College
- SADC Secretariat
- School of Wildlife Conservation, African Leadership University
- Institute for Rural Development, University of Venda
- Wildlife Returns, Vinson Centre, University of Buckingham
- GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- South African National Convention Bureau

OPERATIONALISING

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets 5 & 9 and the SADC Wildlife-Based Economy Strategy Framework (WBESF)

Rowan Pybus
Sunshine Cinema

Introductory video played via Canva

Link:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAHZ3sx94tU/QvPq9-00RKL2Haj82vlt2g/edit



Sunshine Cinema
#SPARKconversation

SEEDS OF CINEMA: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE HOST THE CONVERSATION?

Youth-led solar cinema building community voice in the wildlife economy across KAZA and the Kgalagadi

SUNSHINE CINEMA · SEEDS OF CINEMA

TFCA • 2026

Global Gateway

Co-funded by the European Union

german cooperation

Implemented by: giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Kgalagadi TRANSFRONTIER PARK

kaza





WHAT IF YOUNG PEOPLE COULD BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS?



SEEDS OF CINEMA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

kaza

Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area

Angola Botswana Zimbabwe Zambia Namibia

Global Gateway

Co-funded by the European Union

german cooperation

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Disney

Kgalagadi TRANSFRONTIER PARK




COMMUNITY
PARK

SEEDS OF CINEMA

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MEET THE 2026 SEEDS OF CINEMA AMBASSADORS!

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Disney

Kgalagadi TRANSFRONTIER PARK

kaza

A YOUTH NETWORK INSIDE TWO TRANSFRONTIER LANDSCAPES

68
Screenings

12
Ambassadors

3,200+
People

Seeds of Cinema trains young people from TFCA communities to run solar-powered screenings and facilitated dialogue on conservation, coexistence and livelihoods — in their own villages, in their own languages.



LOCAL YOUTH MAKE CONSERVATION DIALOGUE POSSIBLE.

Seeds ambassadors are conservation communicators: they convene communities, facilitate honest conversation and turn what people say into evidence.

FILMS + PARTNERS
stories, guest speakers

SUNSHINE CINEMA
training, SunBox kit, curation

SEEDS AMBASSADOR
mobilise + screen + facilitate + report

COMMUNITY
dialogue + action

The same system builds conservation literacy, brings partners into the room and creates paid work for young people in TFCA communities.







WHO'S IN THE ROOM

Intergenerational by design: elders bring traditional knowledge, youth bring energy and new tools.













6 IN 10

33

380

51%

900

WHAT ARE TFCA COMMUNITIES TALKING ABOUT?

Films become shared reference points for conversations rooted in people's own lives.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Crop and livestock loss · elephants near homes · compensation · staying safe



WATER + CLIMATE

Drought and floods · water points · boreholes for wildlife



BENEFITS + LIVELIHOODS

Tourism jobs · who benefits · youth unemployment · enterprise



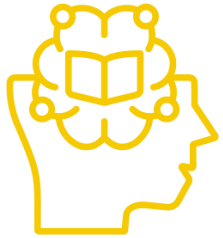
LAND + WASTE

Littering · deforestation · invasive Sexanana trees · burning waste



WILDLIFE CRIME

Reporting safely · poverty as a driver · rhino and pangolin



KNOWLEDGE + VOICE

Traditional deterrents · elders' knowledge · being consulted

THE WILDLIFE ECONOMY, IMAGINED FROM THE GROUND UP.

When given the space, communities move quickly from problems to enterprise and practical fixes.



SAFARI TRANSPORT

Youth safari shuttles using for outfits in the Chobe area. 20/1



LOCAL PRODUCTS

Motlopi root coffee; charcoal from invasive Sexanana (Makopong)



GUIDING

Tour-guide training for youth (Hwange)



ESCORT GUIDES

Trained guides to steer elephants from fields — unpaid today (Tubu)



WATER POINTS

Boreholes in the bush to keep elephants from villages (Tubu, Etsha 1)



BEE FENCES

Beehives to protect crops (Mushashani, Kachikau)



VOICE

A community question box reviewed every two months (Sangwali)

The ideas are already in the village. What's missing is a route to investment.

FROM CONVERSATION TO COMMITTED ACTION

Each screening ends with a community commitment; ambassadors return to track it.

YOUTH CLUBS

Maleshe conservation club formed; Caprivi Senior Secondary environmental club started; Metswe ya Tlhago youth club registering in Kazungula.

TREES

Etsha 1 "Plant a Tree" initiative with the VDC; Parakarungu planting with Forestry seedlings due November.

CLEAN-UPS

Kasane clean-up with Chobe District Council; school litter days across Chobe and Kgalagadi.

PARTNERSHIPS

Satau learners and Botswana Police worked together on an anti-poaching poster; Wuparo Conservancy co-hosting in Samalavi and Sangwali.



FILM IS THE INVITATION. DIALOGUE IS THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

For TFCA programmes, every screening is a structured listening session with youth and elders.



FILM

A shared story



AMBASSADOR

Local trust



COMMUNITY

Youth + elders gather



DIALOGUE

People speak



EVIDENCE

Monthly reports, voice notes



ACTION

Commitments + partner follow-up

Seeds of Cinema can carry the Wildlife-Based Economy Roadmap into communities — and bring community voice back to the TFCA table.

Sunshine Cinema
#SPARKconversation

GROW THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE WILDLIFE ECONOMY.

Partner with us today!

SUNSHINE CINEMA · SEEDS OF CINEMA

SKUKUZA • 2026

Rowan Pybus · rowan@makhulu.co.za / org

kaza
Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area
Angola
Botswana
Namibia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Kgalagadi
TRANSFRONTIER PARK

SADC
Global Gateway
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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
Implemented by: giz

The Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa (CLN)

Presentation by
Rodgers Lubilo, Ph.D
Community Leaders Network

Skukuza, Kruger National Park South Africa
12 November 2026

Community Leaders Network

Where we work and our impact

- A regional network promoting CBNRM
- Coordinating **National CBNRM Association** (active in 14 states)
- CLN also act as **AICA secretariat** and active members of the Pan African IPLC
- Policy, Legal and Advocacy
- Promoting the **IPLCs** voices
- Involved in international and regional advocacy issues on hunting, wildlife economies (CITES, CBDs, IUCN, SADC etc)
- Nature based economies

Country	National Community Association
Angola	ACADIR
Botswana	NCONGO
DRC	Groupe Academia RDC
Eswatini	Big Game Parks
Lesotho	PEWA
Madagascar	National Defenders
Mozambique	RegeCom
Namibia	NACSO
South Africa	CASA
Tanzania	CMWA
Malawi	CBNRM Forum
Mauritius	Ecosud
Zambia	CBNRM Association
Zimbabwe	CAMPFIRE



Community Leaders Network

Our role in TFCA Communities

Support CBNRM programmes in the TFCAs that delivers on **sustainable livelihoods**

Help map out what kind of communities and their structures exist in the landscapes

Working with national associations to support CBOs/ local communities with necessary skills so they can be able to become **active participants and beneficiaries of TFCA funding**



Community Leaders Network

Our Key Activities

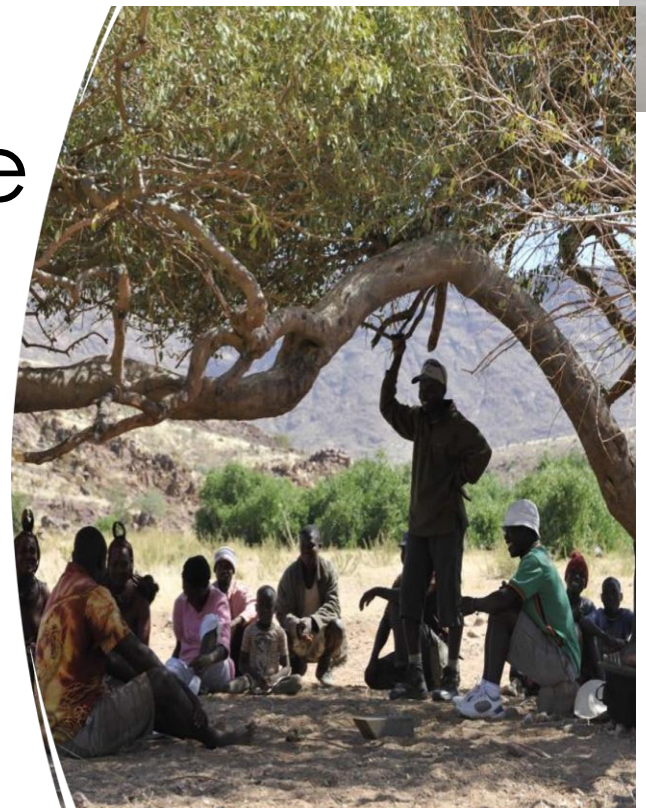
- Knowledge Sharing
- Capacity Building of Community Representatives and local community institutions/structures
- Knowledge Generation and Dissemination on CBNRM
- Engagement with Traditional and Non-Traditional Partners, building collaboration and partnerships
- Profile Raising through Media Engagement and communication
- Supporting our regional governments in promoting CBNRM
- Building regional database and profile of CBOs



Community Leaders Network

Making SADC TFCAs Inclusive of IPLCs: From Consultation to Co-Ownership





Participatory face to face governance
Local knowledge
Socio-cultural practices
Sustainable livelihoods
Empowerment

Community Leaders Network



TFCAs present an opportunity for better supported IPLCs

- Across SADC's Transfrontier Conservation Areas, wildlife-based enterprises offer genuine potential to finance conservation and improve rural livelihoods, but only where communities are fairly rewarded and meaningfully involved in decision-making.

- Drawing on the practical experience of Community based Conservation Programmes in TFCAs across the region, this presentation examines how transfrontier landscapes can become more inclusive of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), not through token consultation, but through legal devolution, benefit-sharing that reaches households, governance that fits existing institutions, and investment partnerships that give IPLCs real decision-making authority.
- Can be more inclusive to support sustainable benefit and better livelihoods
- Creating deliberate efforts to have budget support or funding to IPLCs

Community Leaders Network

The Inclusion Gap: Why "Community Engagement" Is Not Enough

TFCA programmes often define "community" through administrative units (wards, conservancies, Chiefdoms, Village areas) that do not match how IPLCs self-identify or govern themselves.

This mismatch undermines legitimacy from the outset, IPLCs may not recognize the "community" being engaged.

A more inclusive and transparent inclusion on the decision making table- institutionalising community or IPLCs will enhance their capacities and opportunity to benefit greatly

Practical action: Audit stakeholder maps against IPLC self-identification, not just government administrative boundaries.

Inclusion begins with recognizing who the community actually is.



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Legal Devolution:. The Foundation Without Which Nothing Works

- Southern Africa evidence is unambiguous: community wildlife economies succeed only where law devolves real rights over wildlife and land.
- Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE and Namibia's conservancy legislation gained traction because devolution was legislated in primary wildlife law (1982 and 1996).
- Where legal frameworks are weak or non-inclusive progress stalled.
- Project-level interventions alone cannot achieve IPLC inclusion.
- **Practical action:** Condition TFCA investment and partnership agreements on demonstrated legal recognition of IPLC rights; use TFCA convening power to advocate harmonized devolution across borders.

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Benefit-Sharing That Reaches Households, Not Just Committees

- Persistent weakness: financial benefits accrue at collective level, while costs (crop damage, livestock loss, restricted access) fall on households.

- When benefits do not outweigh costs at household level, conservation incentives erode. We need innovations to build stronger households or families to sustain the local livelihoods.

- **Practical action:** Pilot household-level benefit mechanisms alongside collective structures, with transparent distribution rules co-designed by or in very close collaboration with IPLCs.

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Institutional Fit: Build With Existing Governance, Not Over It

- *Recurring CBNRM failure:* imposition of formal committee structures (constitutions, written plans, elections) that conflict with customary decision-making based on negotiation and consensus
- Communities function better in their own space – where they become comfortable
- Where traditional authorities allocate land and resolve disputes, they must be engaged as governance partners, not bypassed for newly created committees
- **Practical action:** Conduct governance-mapping at each site to identify existing IPLC decision-making structures; design project governance to interface with them

Eg.

The remaining period of EU NaturAfrica's funding through the SADC TFCA Financing Facility and other similar funding present an opportunity to embed this in project appraisal criteria.

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Investment and Partnerships: What participants Can Do

Below are three potential pathways for investment, partnership, and community participation across the region.

- **Pathway1 : Direct finance to IPLC-led structures:** GEF Global Biodiversity Framework Fund targets 20% of resources for actions "by, and not for" IPLCs, with IPLCs in the driver's seat and decisions through FPIC; TFCA proposals should budget for IPLC-led implementation.
- **Pathway 2: Blend finance to de-risk community enterprises:** SADC Wildlife Economy Implementation Roadmap positions institutionalized community roles as central to scalable models through peer-to-peer learning and pilots.
- **Pathway 3: Embed accountability:** SADC Wildlife-based Economy Strategy commits to elevating IPLC development needs; request TFCA progress reporting include indicators on IPLC governance participation and household-level benefit flows, not just aggregate "community engagement" metrics.

Community Leaders Network

Thank You

Community Leaders Network

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For further inquiries on CLN works in the region contact

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