

Building Regional Capacity to Establish and Manage TFCAs: The Case of Mozambique

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Introduction

- Transfrontier Conservation Areas contribute to the protection of biodiversity, the establishment of peaceful relations between neighbouring countries and the well-being of people living in and around the protected environments;
- Social acceptance of conservation, ‘political will’, institutional cultures, relationship building, and cultural factors that support protection, management, motivation and willingness to support conservation and sustainable development;

Regional Integration

- Regional integration is a process in which neighbouring states enter into an agreement in order to upgrade cooperation through common institutions and rules;
- WorldBank Regional Integration Strategy for Africa 2018-2023 recognises that many of today's fragility risks in Africa have an increasing cross-border dimension;
- There are eight **Regional Economic Communities** in Africa. Each established under a separate regional treaty (AMU, CEN-SAD, **COMESA**, EAC, ECCAS, **ECOWAS**, **IGAD** and **SADC**).

Regional Capacity for TFCA's

- Capacity is the ability of individuals, communities, institutions, organisations, social and political systems to use the natural, financial, political, social and human resources that are available to them for the definition and pursuit of sustainable development goals;
- The IUCN 2015-2025 Strategic Framework for Capacity Development
 - Protected Areas Institutions and Personnel;
 - Landscapes and Seascapes Stewards;
 - Influencers

Capacity to Establish and Manage TFCA's

- Capacity-building in less-developed partner nations;
- institutional capacity and development opportunities that may not have happened otherwise;
- In GLTP involving South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, Mozambique had considerably less management capacity and financial resources than its transboundary neighbours;
- Mozambique did not have a fully functional national system of protected areas and was suffering from a lack of financial resources, professional capacity,
- The Mozambique component of GLTP was not a National Park but a hunting concession (Coutada 16)

Mozambique's Benefit in Capacity Building

- Ministry of Agriculture which created the Mozambique TFCA Program with a dedicated TFCA Unit, in 1997,
- The TFCA Unit had resources both technical and financial (WB around 50 million for 15 years)
- **Coutada 16 developed to become Limpopo National Park a component of GLTP**
- Development of Skills and Competence in Stakeholders Responsible for TFCA
 - Training of staff members and new recruiters in SAWC who are now occupying key positions in Mozambique TFCA's;
 - There were in 1994 in wildlife sector, only 5 B.Sc at Headquarters and None at the Park Level. These areas had only 40 Game scouts in the TFCA's.
 - In 2020, the ANAC, has around 30 B.Sc in the Headquarters. The Limpopo National Park, has currently 317 staff members and 25 of them have B.Sc;
 - Integration of private sector conservancies and improved protection capacity of rhinos in shared border between Mozambique and Kruger National Park

Conclusions

- The existing regional capacity in all stakeholders is still not sufficient to efficiently manage the Southern African TFCA's. There still differences among participating countries in terms of capacity which will take efforts that must be coordinated at SADC Secretariat levels to support the countries to achieve the required capacity
- Mozambique benefited significantly from TFCA development to shape its national systems of conservation areas. The TFCA program (1997-2013), has been key to achieve the following:
 - Design of Policy of Conservation and its Strategy for Implementation;
 - Creation of ANAC;
 - Creation of Biofund;
 - Biodiversity conservation Law criminalizing illegal wildlife use;
 - Co-management;
 - Local community participation, including attendance in PA management committees; community based enterprises, value chain and community conservation areas;
 - Empowerment of private sector
 - AHEAD diseases Wildlife/Human/domestic stock;
 - Knowledge and skill sharing

Next Steps

- Advance in regional policies and regulations to face the current problems and accelerate the regional integration, including facilitation of cross border private sector investments
- Further reforms in tenure and resource access rights and the development of adaptive co-management arrangements between protected areas and neighbouring areas and communities as it is crucial for the sustainability of the TFCA's;
- Improve capacity to deliver at site level by aiming to:
 - Improved design for employment opportunities and creation of jobs within the TFCA to support local community needs and attract them outside of poaching,
 - Address land use and human wildlife conflicts with local community by strong considerations of the ecological, historic and cultural factors to ensure the sustainable wildlife conservation
- Improve community capacity climate smart agriculture, sustainable tourism, biodiversity conservation and cooperation across the border.