



CONCEPT NOTE

SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs)

Network Meeting

22 – 24 March 2017

Johannesburg, South Africa

February 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) are a relatively new concept in the conservation arena. This concept of TFCAs recognises that management of shared natural resources across international boundaries has the potential to promote peace and stability, ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources, as well as providing economic development opportunities through nature-based tourism as well as addressing food and nutrition security. In the SADC context, the TFCAs have a major role to play towards achieving regional integration. Currently, there are 18 TFCAs in SADC in both terrestrial and marine environments and are at various stages of development.

Transfrontier Conservation and the establishment and development of TFCAs are recognised as a mechanism that is appropriate for delivery on a number of SADC Protocols and Strategies that relate to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources. They include the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999), the Protocol on Fisheries (2001), Protocol on Forestry (2002), Protocol on Shared Water Courses (2002) and the Regional Biodiversity Strategy (2006). The revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) has identified sustainable development, conservation of wildlife and transboundary natural resources as a priority for SADC.

It is against this background that the SADC Programme for Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA Programme) was developed and approved by Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources in 2013. The specific components of this Programme are (i) advocacy and harmonization; (ii) enhancement of financing mechanisms for TFCAs; (iii) capacity building for TFCA stakeholders; (iv) establishment of data and knowledge management systems; (v) enhancement of local livelihoods; (vi) reducing vulnerability of ecosystems and people to effects of climate change; and (vii) development of TFCAs into marketable regional tourism products.

To facilitate the implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme, SADC TFCA practitioners from SADC Member States, TFCA International Coordinators, several international NGOs met in September 2013 to establish the SADC TFCA Network. They agreed that the TFCA Network should contribute to overcome TFCA challenges through shared learning, knowledge management and collaboration. Currently the Network comprises of more than 250 members representing various stakeholders, including the TFCA Focal Points for each SADC Member State, TFCA International Coordinators, International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), international and regional NGOs, private sector and academia. The Network also intends to broaden membership and involve more community representatives and traditional leaders.

The development of the TFCA Network is guided by the TFCA Network Steering Committee consisting of SADC TFCA Focal Points. In addition four Communities of Practices (COPs) were established in March 2016, which function as expert groups on a) Capacity Building and Training, b) Data Management, c) Monitoring and Evaluation and, d) Tourism. These COPs are consistent of individuals, experts or specialist from other sectors.

Part of the activities of the Network are currently supported by the SADC Regional Project on Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (TUPNR) . The objective of the Project is to support the implementation of SADC Protocols and Strategies for sustainable natural resource management in Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) by local, national and regional actors. The Project is implemented and supported by the Government of the Federal

Republic of Germany through the German International Cooperation (GIZ) in collaboration with SADC Secretariat.

2. ABOUT THE TFCA NETWORK MEETING

Since its inception the SADC TFCA Network has had regular meetings to facilitate learning, knowledge management and collaboration with all their stakeholders. During the SADC TFCA Network Consultative Workshop in March 2016, members provided guidance on the development of a public TFCA website that integrates the existing TFCA Network portal with other existing information systems. Members also called for the development of a standardized SADC TFCA Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

This year another Network meeting will be held in March building on previous work and covering new ground for the SADC TFCA Programme and the TFCA Network stakeholders. The SADC TFCA Network Steering Committee met from the 9th until the 10th of February 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa and decided on the agenda items to be covered, which include the following:

- Establishment of a M&E Framework for the SADC TFCA Programme in close alignment to the overall SADC M&E frameworks;
- SADC TFCA Financing Facility;
- Joint mid-term review of the SADC-GIZ TUPNR Project;
- Performance of the re-launched TFCA portal;
- Report back of the various COPs of the TFCA Network;
- Regional capacity building and training needs in the context of TFCAs; and
- Planning the hosting of the TFCA Conference on Socio-Economic Development during 2017.

The joint mid-term review of SADC-GIZ TUPNR Programme will be a critical element of the meeting. Members of the review team, which includes both GIZ and a SADC representative, will engage with Network members during the meeting to seek their views on current activities, accomplishments, challenges and the Network's future.

In order, to work towards the establishment of a SADC TFCA M&E Framework, a one-day workshop will be held during the Network Meeting on the 23rd of March, facilitated by the consultant that is jointly selected by SADC and GIZ to develop the TFCAs M&E Framework. The consultant participated in the workshop on the SADC M&E Results-based System recently held in Kasane, Botswana, and discussed with the Directorate PPRM on how the TFCAs M&E framework could be incorporated into the overall SADC M&E system.

Lastly an important dedicated session will be held by the German Development Bank (KfW) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to ensure the operationalization of the "Regional Financing Facility for TFCA Development and Protection", funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation. It is intended to engage with TFCA Network Members by discussing comments and inputs received from the TFCA Network Steering Committee.