

SADC TFCA CONCEPT NOTE

World Parks Congress 2014 / Sydney

1. Background information

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will hold the VI World Parks Congress (WPC) on 12-19 November 2014 in Sydney, Australia. The WPC is a landmark global protected areas¹ meeting held every ten years. The series of IUCN WPC that started in 1962 have influenced and tracked perspectives on the role of protected areas in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The theme for the forthcoming WPC is **Parks, People and Planet: Inspiring Solutions**. The congress is expected to:

- Articulate the vital role of protected areas in conserving nature while delivering essential ecosystem services;
- Position protected areas within goals of economic and community well-being; and
- Demonstrate how this can be achieved in practice.

The SADC Member States adopted a Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA²) Program that has the following vision: *“SADC, a model of community centered, regionally integrated and sustainably managed network of world class transfrontier conservation areas”*.

The genesis of TFCA’s development within the SADC region can be traced to the signing of the International Treaty between Botswana and South Africa in 1999 which led to the establishment of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Since then significant strides have been made across the region to establish additional TFCAs. Currently there are 18 TFCAs that have been established and/or identified for development throughout the region, for example the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP), the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA)TFCA, the Lubombo TFCA, the Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA and the /Ais/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP) just to name a few. Among these, some have made significant progress in the implementation of their respective goals and thus contributed significantly to the SADC TFCA vision.

The progress in TFCA development in the region is attracting special attention worldwide, especially due to their contribution to the expansion of Conservation Estate through the extension of a network of well-managed protected areas; promoting conservation and development, by managing shared ecosystems as integrated units while using nature-based solutions to support socio-economic development (e.g. sustainable tourism); and the integration of biodiversity conservation in the regional development planning.

¹ “A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values, [...] such as national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas, nature reserves and privately owned reserves.” (IUCN, *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*).

² “Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) are defined as relatively large areas, straddling frontiers between two or more countries and cover large-scale natural systems encompassing one or more protected areas. TFCAs involve a unique level of international co-operation between the participating countries, particularly issues related to the opening of international boundaries and within each region.” (RSA Government, <http://www.dfa.gov.za/foreign/Multilateral/inter/tfcas.htm>).

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During the V World Parks Congress in Durban in 2003, the IUCN Transboundary Protected Areas Network was launched as part of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). The network integrates more than 200 professionals. Most TFCA practitioners in the SADC region are part of the Network. In addition, the Great Limpopo Trans frontier Park (GLTP) was awarded the prize of best stand at the IV World Parks Congress, establishing a record of quality, which raises the bar for the presentation of TFCAs during the V WPC.

Given these facts, it is important to consider an active participation of the SADC TFCA at the VI WPC, with a very strong preparation. The SADC region will contribute through a variety of methods that will aim to share with the rest of the world the experiences and achievements of TFCAs in the region as well as the future TFCA plans, which are completely aligned with the VI WPC theme.

2. Rationale for Participation of SADC TFCA's in the VI WPC

As mentioned earlier, the theme for the forthcoming WPC is **Parks, People and Planet: Inspiring Solutions**. IUCN intends to use this theme to showcase protected areas as contributing to the growing challenges that the earth is facing in regard to sustainable development, by positioning parks and protected areas firmly on the economic and community well-being agendas.

The Southern African region has a unique opportunity to demonstrate that the TFCA concept is an inspiring solution to conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable development and cares for protected areas and people, putting the people at the center. TFCAs are inspiring because they:

- Support the idea of regional integration and furthers peace and security through cross border management of natural resources;
- Manage large ecosystems that are located in areas considered marginal for rain-fed agriculture at the border of the participating countries, bringing alternatives through the integrated management systems increasing efficiency, and rationalizing ecosystem management demands with transboundary management responses;
- Contribute to overcome the socio-economic marginalization associated with relegation to boundary areas, turning these areas into new centers of economic sustainable growth;
- Empower local communities, who are participating and benefiting from biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources based generating activities;
- Support public private partnerships in business involving the private sector and local communities and impacting in the local people livelihoods;
- Address climate change by adopting the integrated ecosystem approach on the planning and management and preparedness of all relevant stakeholders.

3. Mode of Participation of SADC TFCA's

3.1. SADC TFCA Exhibition stand

The World Parks Congress Exhibition is being held in the Sydney Olympic Park dome, alongside the meeting rooms where Plenary and Sub-plenary sessions will be held. SADC has received exhibition

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confirmation for 3 x 9m2 exhibition booths. These are semi-circle shell scheme structures, and the exhibition fee includes the printing of two upper panels (with art-work supplied). We have enquired if it is possible to arrange for a plasma screen to be mounted on the stand , and also what furniture is supplied. The booth provides a very limited opportunity to creatively present one's message.

The three booths that have been allocated to SADC are numbers 71,72 and 73. This row of booths is situated across from the IUCN Bookstore Café.

The SADC will use the space to show-case all 18 TFCAs under theme of World Parks Congress: Parks, People, Planet – Inspiring Solution (one semi-circled booth for Parks, one to represent People and one for topics concerning Planet). Activities and Project within TFCAs will be assigned into those three themes to exhibit and showcase relevant information within the SADC TFCAs. Since various SADC countries are expected to send delegates to the WPC, invitations will be handed out to those SADC participants so the stand will work as a hub for meeting of all SADC participants.

The stand will exhibit material and collateral (brochures, merchandise, information booklets, videos, regional giveaways), focusing on the progress in the following themes: (1) Policy Development for implementation of the TFCA's (2) Community-Based Natural Resources Management (3) One Health (Veterinary, Human and Wildlife diseases interface) (4) Tourism (5) Climate Change issues (6) Cross-Border Management issues (7) partnerships.

3.2. Exhibition of a Video and Footage on TFCA's

Boundless Southern Africa has produced a 90 minute film on 7 TFCAs following the 2009 expedition. The purpose of the expedition was to raise awareness about Boundless Southern Africa as the joint marketing initiative to TFCAs and to promote 7 TFCAs that straddle the borders of nine SADC countries as tourist and investment destinations. This movie will be presented in one of three side events organized by SADC.

Furthermore, various organizations involved in managing the Southern African TFCAs have a valuable collection of images and video which could be used for promoting TFCAs at the World Parks Congress. We are considering to hire a firm that will collate existing still footage and videos on TFCAs and select the most suitable ones for this event. The firm is expected to use the existing video and images to represent all 18 TFCAs in the SADC region equal and informative. The firm may also be required to re-package the information in a user friendly format.

3.3. SADC TFCA contributions to Congress Streams

The SADC TFCAs will engage with various streams at the congress in a variety of ways, including leading themes, make presentations, facilitation of discussion sessions, providing panelists, etc. Discussions on specific contribution will be pursued with the stream leaders of each of the stream. The streams identified as most relevant are:

- Reaching Conservation Goals
- Responding to Climate Change

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- Supporting Human Life
- Enhancing the Diversity and Quality of Governance
- Improving Health and Well-Being

So far the representatives from SADC have secured presentations on the streams regarding the Reaching Conservation Goal, Enhancing the Diversity and Quality of Governance and Improving health and well-being.

4. Capacity requirements

The following services have to be provided for a successful attendance at WPC:

- to create a concept for three exhibition booths that are situated alongside each other that integrates the above mentioned elements harmoniously and that teaches the subjects of TFCA's
- Renting 3 Exhibition booths as per the allocation provided
- Renting three plasma screens for each of the three booths, to be able to show footage of TFCA related work under the three broad WPC themes of Park, People and Planet
- Assistance during the fair (Hostess staff)
- uniform or event t-shirts for exhibition stand staff
- As giveaways we will print an individual designed logo on Southern Africa Wildfruit® dried marula. Therefore, we need information on import regulation (e.g. products produced within TFCA's)
- Design and equipment tailored to present the theme of World Parks Congress (Parks, People and Planet: Inspiring Solutions) combined with core elements of TFCA (united and diverse Southern Africa; regional collaboration and cooperation in conservation of ecosystems, landscapes, biodiversity and shared wildlife resources management; Cross-border tourism.
- People from the organizing team and/or the region dedicated to managing of stand on rotational basis. 3 seem to be a reasonable number.