



State of KAZA Symposium 2016

Where have we come from, where are we now, and where are we going?

31 October – 2 November 2016, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

1. Context

The Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) is Africa's largest conservation landscape and the world's largest transfrontier conservation initiative. It represents a bold commitment on the part of the five countries; Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, who have entered into a partnership to conserve biodiversity at scale and to market this biodiversity using nature-based tourism as the engine for rural economic growth and development. In meeting its vision of establishing a world class TFCA and tourism destination in the Okavango and Zambezi river basin regions of the five countries, KAZA has as its primary purpose, the management of shared natural and cultural heritage resources to derive equitable socio-economic benefits. Harmonisation of strategies, practices and policies together with promotion of coordinated transboundary partnerships and investments are crucial to achieving this.

It is now 10 years on since the signing of the KAZA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the five partner countries on 7 December 2006 at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and five years since the signing of the KAZA Treaty in Luanda, Angola on 18 August 2011, both crucial milestones in its path to establishment. It is thus a timely juncture to (i) reflect and highlight the progress made against set objectives in the Treaty, (ii) consider the elements of success that can be replicated, (iii) acknowledge challenges that KAZA has faced in meeting its promise thus far and identify mechanisms to mitigate these, (iv) assess the impact of KAZA's establishment on the people and biodiversity within its borders, and (v) map the way forward.

This assessment shall be profiled through a comprehensive State of KAZA Report, which will be strongly augmented and informed by a complementary State of KAZA Symposium.

To this end, the **State of KAZA Symposium is being organized and hosted by the KAZA partner countries, through its Secretariat, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 31 October to 2 November 2016** with technical, logistical, organisational and financial support being offered by partner organisations, specifically the AHEAD Programme, Peace Parks Foundation and WWF-Namibia.

2. Objectives of the State of KAZA Symposium 2016

The symposium will seek to:

1. Celebrate KAZA's 10 years of existence and showcase its achievements;
2. Demonstrate progress towards attainment of the objectives of KAZA as listed in the Treaty and its impact thus far;
3. Highlight what is working well and why, and possibilities of replicating these successes;
4. Highlight what is not working well and why, and possible remedial actions;
5. Harness recommendations for future direction; and
6. Provide a platform for engagement and collaboration for KAZA stakeholders.

3. Objectives of the KAZA TFCA

The objectives of the KAZA TFCA as listed in the Treaty (2011) are to:

- i. Maintain and manage the shared natural and cultural heritage resources and biodiversity of the KAZA TFCA to support healthy and viable populations of wildlife species
- ii. Promote and facilitate the development of a complementary network of Protected Areas within the KAZA TFCA linked through corridors to safeguard the welfare and continued existence of migratory wildlife species
- iii. Provide opportunities, facilities and infrastructure that shall transform the KAZA TFCA into a premier tourist destination in Africa made up of a range of independent yet complementary and integrated sub-regional tourism development nodes
- iv. Facilitate tourism across international borders in the KAZA TFCA
- v. Develop and implement programmes that shall enhance the sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage resources to improve the livelihoods of local communities within and around the KAZA TFCA and thus contribute towards poverty reduction
- vi. Facilitate a healthy and competitive economic environment which promotes and enables public-private-community partnerships, private investment and regional economic integration
- vii. Share experiences and pool resources and expertise across international borders in areas including indigenous knowledge, tourism management, border control, technology and renewable energy to facilitate development
- viii. Promote and facilitate the harmonisation of relevant legislation, policies and approaches in natural and cultural heritage resources management across international borders and ensure compliance with international protocols and conventions related to the protection and sustainable use of species and ecosystems
- ix. Build capacity for and within the KAZA TFCA through training, enterprise development and mentoring programmes thus increasing the skills and knowledge associated with the management of natural and cultural heritage resources and facilitate stakeholder participation in the KAZA TFCA planning and development processes
- x. Promote and facilitate the harmonisation of relevant legislation, policies and approaches in the area of transboundary animal disease prevention, surveillance and control within the KAZA TFCA
- xi. Promote fundamental and applied scientific and multi-disciplinary research in order to increase the knowledge base for the KAZA TFCA
- xii. Mainstream emerging environmental issues and social paradigms such as climate change and HIV/AIDS in the overall development of the KAZA TFCA

4. Symposium Approach

KAZA is a complex landscape beset with a kaleidoscope of stakeholder groups comprising a multitude of development, social and environment sectors, representing government, civil society (local, national and international NGOs and community based organisations), academicians, private sector and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs). It is these same stakeholders that are expected to participate in the Symposium.

Stakeholders from various sectors will be invited to **collaboratively** present on their activities within the KAZA TFCA, demonstrating the contribution of these towards stated objectives through either verbal or poster presentations. Approximately 200 people are anticipated to attend the Symposium from the region and further abroad.

The structure of the Symposium will also be guided by the KAZA Master Integrated Development Plan (MIDP), a five-year strategy produced through a rigorous participatory process in 2014 to steer development of the TFCA at a regional level. Day one of the Symposium will offer collaborative insight from the KAZA partner countries on the key thematic areas identified in the MIDP: (i) Integrated Natural Resource Management & Land Use Planning; (ii) Tourism Development; and (iii) Community Development, Alternative Livelihoods and Governance.

Day two and day three will allow a range of topics to be investigated under integrated, concurrently running sessions as indicated in the table below. A combination of oral and poster presentations, and panel discussions in plenary and parallel sessions will be utilised to extract qualitative and quantitative data to feed into the State of KAZA Report. The final session of the Symposium will allow reflection on the achievements demonstrated, lessons learned and recommendations for the KAZA structures and stakeholders as they move forward.

Table 1: Summary Programme – State of KAZA Symposium 2016

Day	Session	Thematic Area:
31 October 2016 Day One	I	10 Years On – Achievements & Challenges
1 November 2016 Day Two	II	Benefits & Ownership – Institutional, Governance & Policy Change in Natural Resource Stewardship in KAZA
	III	Maintaining & Restoring Ecosystem Integrity in the Face of Development
	IV	Landscape Level Conservation – Myth or Reality?
	V	Converting Natural Resources from Liabilities to Assets
2 November 2016 Day Three	VI	Natural Resource Stewardship, Strong Protected Areas & the Reality of the Poaching Crisis
	VII	Understanding Baselines, Measuring Impacts & the Realities of Data Management in the Context of TFCAs
	VIII	Where Have We Come From, Where Are We Now, and Where Are We Going? Achievements, Lessons Learned & Recommendations for the KAZA TFCA

5. Follow-on Workshop: “Towards Implementation of Commodity-Based Trade of Beef in KAZA: Opportunities for Integrating Livestock Agriculture & Wildlife Conservation”

On **November 3-4**, immediately following the Symposium at the same Victoria Falls venue, the above-mentioned workshop shall be held under the auspices of the KAZA Secretariat, in

collaboration with the AHEAD Programme and FAO, and with support from The Rockefeller Foundation and the Planetary Health Alliance. Please note that this workshop has space limitations and specific invitations will be sent out separately.

One of the objectives of KAZA as listed in the Treaty (2011) is to “promote and facilitate the harmonisation of relevant legislation, policies and approaches in the area of transboundary animal disease prevention, surveillance and control within the KAZA TFCA.” However, within KAZA, wildlife and livestock production are in conflict due to the prevalence of animal diseases – especially foot and mouth disease (FMD) – that can be transmitted between wildlife and livestock. The workshop will bring together stakeholders from the livestock and wildlife sectors to discuss important opportunities associated with key 2015 changes to international disease management standards pertaining to beef trade – ones that facilitate an approach to beef production that is more compatible with wildlife conservation, and which would thus be a ‘win-win’ for sustainable and diversified land uses and livelihoods. The working meeting will focus on the important implications of this new enabling environment for harmonizing sectoral interests, as per OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) guidelines, including discussion of new, practical approaches to foot and mouth disease risk management that don’t completely rely on landscape-fragmenting fencing.

Table 2: Summary Programme – KAZA-AHEAD-FAO Workshop

Day	Session	Thematic Area:
3 November 2016 Day One	I	Overview: Towards Implementation of Commodity-Based Trade of Beef In KAZA: Opportunities for Integrating Livestock Agriculture & Wildlife Conservation
	II	Setting the Scene: New Policy Opportunities and the Potential for Optimizing Livelihoods through Wildlife <i>and</i> Livestock
	III	Regional Perspectives and Experiences with Commodity-Based Trade
4 November 2016 Day Two	IV	Which Way, Markets? Lessons Learned from around the World
	V	Progressing Implementation of Commodity-Based Trade of Beef and Building Stronger Bridges between the Agriculture and Wildlife Conservation Sectors (incl. breakout working groups)
	VI	Summary and Next Action Steps