



# Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the Context of SADC

**Deborah Kahatano**

Senior Programme Officer NRM, SADC FANR

[dkahatano@sadc.int](mailto:dkahatano@sadc.int)

# Relevance of Natural Resources for SADC

- Southern Africa is endowed with abundant natural resources, including wild animals, forests, fish and marine life
- >50% of the GDP in the Member States is primarily earned from agriculture, mining, forestry, tourism and wildlife sectors
- Most rural communities directly depend on natural resources for their livelihoods
- The region attracts millions of tourists every year, providing direct and indirect income opportunities for many people (10 tourists create one job)

# Threats to Natural Resources Base

Unsustainable management/ over-exploitation

Climate Change

Weak enforcement of environmental standards  
poaching wildlife

Population Growth

Poverty

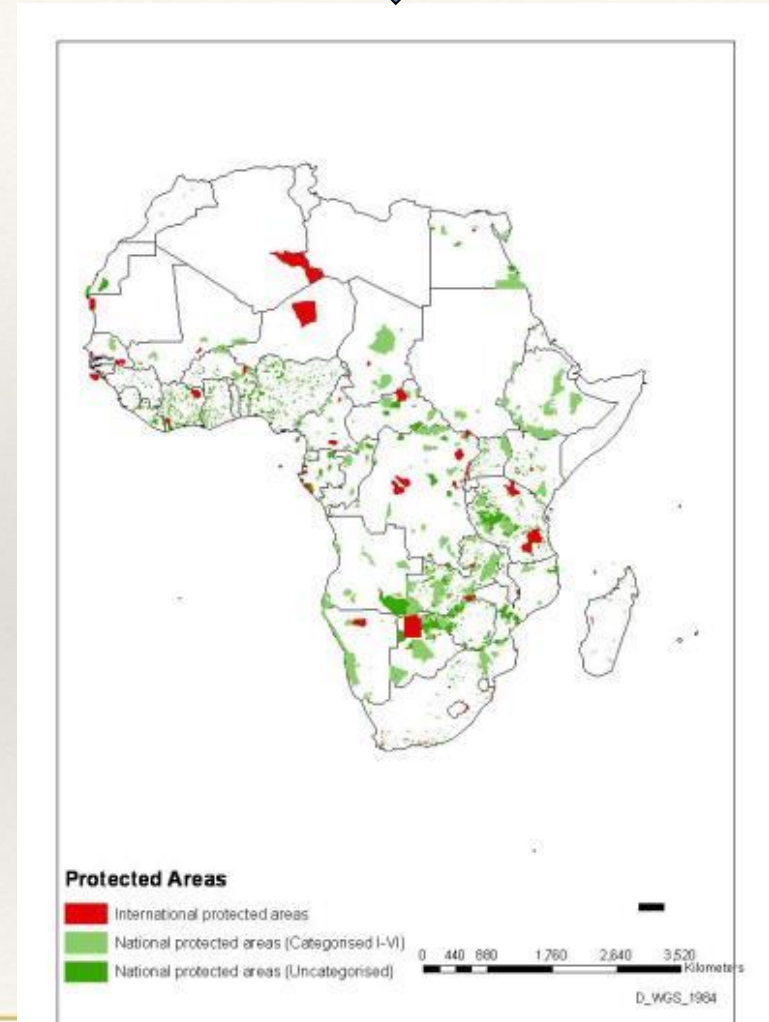




Increasing pressures on protected areas.



Increasing habitat fragmentation.



**How can ecological connectivity between ecosystems be sustained?**

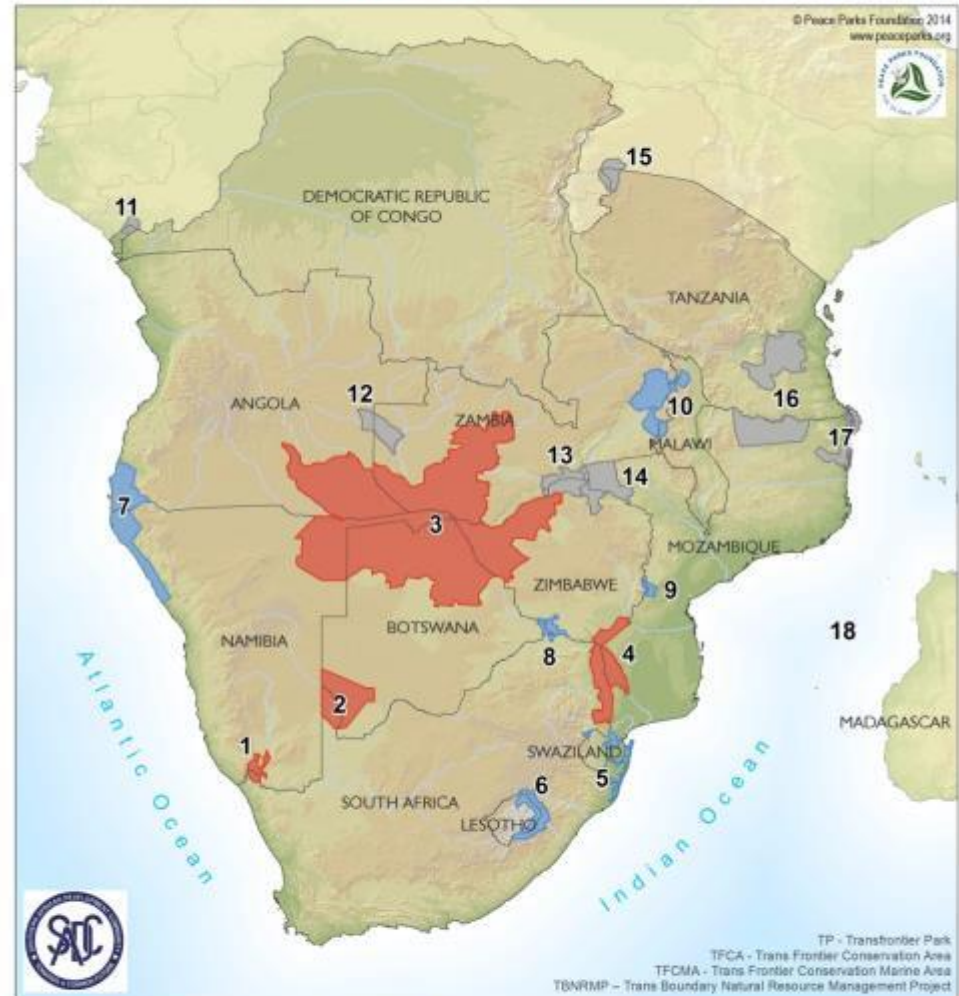
Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) is defined as:

*“an area or component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries, encompassing one or more protected areas as well as multiple resource use areas”*

One major objective of SADC TFCAs is to foster international collaboration and cooperation between the Parties in order to facilitate effective management of transboundary ecosystems

- Harmonization of policies, strategies and practices for managing natural resources along international boundaries of the Member States”

## SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas



### Treaty Signed TFCAs

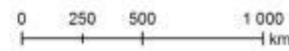
- 1) Avula - Richtersveld TP (Namibia/South Africa)
- 2) Kgalagadi TP (Botswana/South Africa)
- 3) Kavango Zambesi TFC (Angola/Botswana/Namibia/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 4) Great Limpopo TP (Mozambique/South Africa/Zimbabwe)

### MoU Signed TFCAs

- 5) Lubombo TFC (Mozambique/South Africa/Swaziland)
- 6) Maloti Drakensberg TFC (Lesotho/South Africa)
- 7) Inyanga-Skeleton Coast TFC (Angola/Namibia)
- 8) Greater Mapungubet TFC (Botswana/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
- 9) Okavango TFC (Mozambique / Zimbabwe)
- 10) Malawi-Zambia TFC (Malawi/Zambia)

### Conceptual TFCAs

- 11) Malombe Forest TFC (Angola/Congo/DRC)
- 12) Luena Plains-Mussama TFC (Angola/Zambia)
- 13) Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFC (Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 14) ZIMCOZA TBNRMP (Mozambique/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 15) Kagenek TFC (Rwanda/Tanzania/Uganda)
- 16) Inyanga-Setsos TFC (Mozambique/Tanzania)
- 17) Mozaii Bay-Quirimbas TFCMA (Tanzania/Mozambique)
- 18) Western Indian Ocean TFC (Comoros/France/Madagascar/Mauritius/Mozambique/Seychelles/Tanzania)



## TFCAs:

### A paradigm shift for SADC

#### 1. **Connectivity matters:**

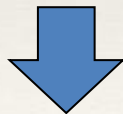
landscape approach

#### 2. **Think regional:**

TFCAs are multi-stakeholder entities that rely on cooperative management

#### 3. **Conservation without people is just conversation:**

TFCAs are local development hubs that create income and benefits to local communities through conservation friendly local economies and tourism

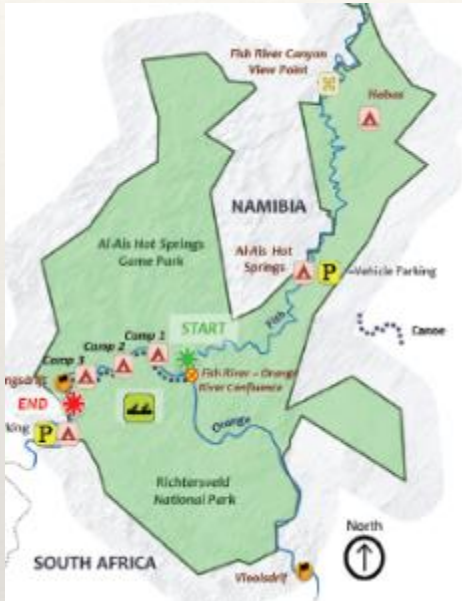


**TFCA = BIODIVERSITY + DEVELOPMENT**

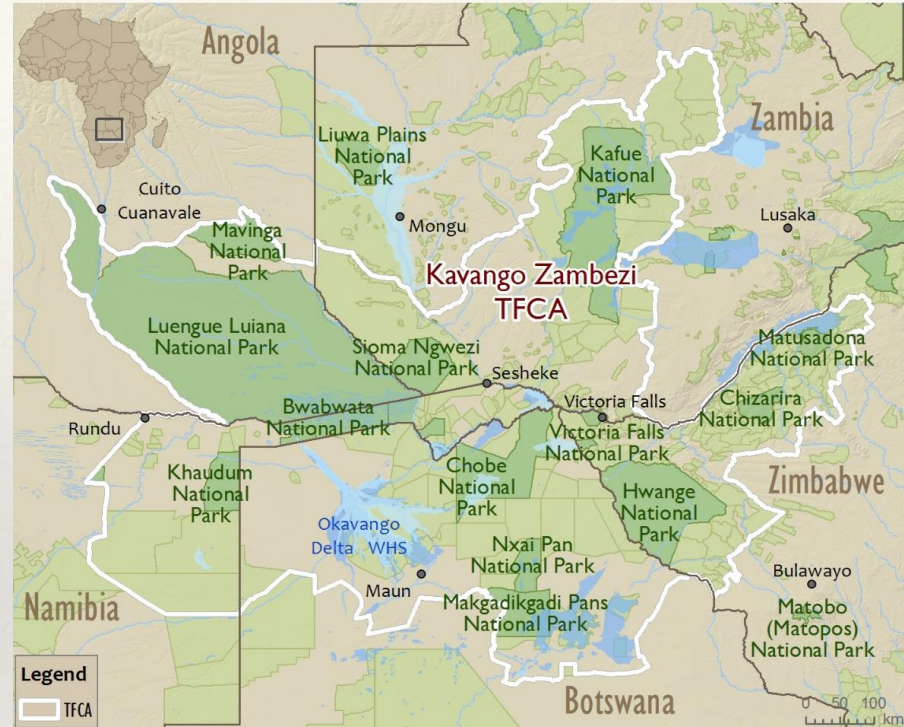
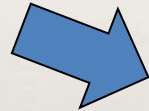


# TFCA initiatives are ecologically defined geographic spaces. They are largely driven by the environment & tourism ministries

## What are TFCAs?



Complexity increases



/Ai-/Ais-Richtersveld  
 Transfrontier Park (TFP): 2  
 countries, adjacent  
 national parks (one land  
 use system), relatively  
 small

Kavango Zambezi (KAZA TFCA): 5 countries,  
 multiple land use types (villages, communal land,  
 national parks, reserves, private land...), 520 000  
 km<sup>2</sup> = larger than Spain, almost size of Kenya

## Enabling Regional Frameworks

- Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP, 2015): Sustainable transboundary NR management identified as key for sustainable regional development and regional integration
- SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement of 1999: “to promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of TFCAs” (Article 4,2(f))
- SADC Protocol on Fisheries (2001)
- SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002)
- SADC Protocol on Development of Tourism (2002)
- SADC Protocol on Shared Water Courses (2015)
- Strategy papers such as the Regional Biodiversity Strategy (2006) and the Regional Forestry Strategy (2010), SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (2015)
- SADC TFCA Programme of 2013



## Benefits of TFCAs for the SADC Region:

- TFCAs are testing grounds/ incubators for regional integration agenda through policy harmonisation, joint management tools, joint governance structures, etc.
- TFCAs play a critical role in the conservation and management of transboundary ecosystems
- TFCAs contribute to the expansion of the Conservation Estate through the extension of a network of well-managed conservation areas
- TFCAs serve as nodes for rural development through conservation friendly land use activities, e.g. ecotourism, conservation agriculture, game ranching
- TFCAs offer unique cross-border experiences and are therefore an ideal platform for promoting tourism growth in the region

# Success Factors

- The success of TFCAs relies on:
  - Effective cross-border cooperation between countries
  - Engagement & participation of communities in TFCA processes
  - In country, cross sectoral cooperation (e.g. customs, agriculture, rural development, tourism, wildlife protection)
  - Improved cooperation with stakeholders (local government, NGOs, Private sector, ICPs)
- Strategic partnerships are critical to close funding & capacity gaps, create ownership at the local level & help to deliver the promise of TFCAs



Thank You!  
Merci!  
Obrigada!