**SADC TFCA Network**

**Training & Capacity Building Community of Practice**

11 April 2016

1. ***Background***

The aspiration to establish a Community of Practice (CoP) on Training and Capacity Building specifically in the context of TFCAs is an outcome of the SADC TFCA Network meeting, held from 2 – 4 March 2016 in Kruger National Park, South Africa. Training and capacity building have been acknowledged to have an important role in the continued development of TFCAs in the region (SADC TFCA Programme, 2013), as well as in their future success for conservation and development. The TFCA-concept is complex and does not only encompass technical and environmental aspects, but is also very closely linked to geographical, cultural, political, historical, economic, and social dimensions. Under the first phase of the SADC/GIZ TUPNR, some training measures were developed and piloted in the fields of integrated fire management, REDD+, climate change adaptation, law enforcement and CBNRM, specifically targeting TFCAs. A study undertaken by KfW in 2012, identified to some extent the training needs for wildlife managers and rangers in TFCAs. Despite this and the continued training offered in the various fields of conservation to TFCA staff and other practitioners in the SA

DC region, there still remains a need to build capacity in rural communities and, for the professionals to understand existing and current training needs in the TFCA context, to be forward looking, and consider what role training and capacity building can play in addressing the challenges that the region and specifically the TFCAs will face in the next fifty years, such as climate change, increasingly threatened livelihoods, and the risk of increased conflict over limited resources.

1. ***Imperative***

It is vital that some sort of regional assessment be made as to which are the training needs in the context of TFCAs. Beyond the need for technical and managerial training, it may also be interesting to look at innovative and affordable training ideas that focus on TFCA unit building and improved cross-border collaboration. More difficult still, is the vital imperative to reach out to and build capacity in the rural communities living in TFCAs and whose livelihoods are being progressively reduced by local and global drivers, be they natural or anthropological.

1. ***Mission***

This CoP will report to the SADC TFCA Network Steering Committee. The mission of the CoP will be to create a better understanding and awareness of the needs and opportunities of training and the contribution that training can make in addressing bigger TFCA challenges, and mobilising energies (and resources) to address these.

1. ***Objectives***

* To develop a better understanding of the training needs in and around SADC TFCAs;
* Linke initiatives involved with training assessments
* To develop a better understanding of capacity building and outreach needs for rural communities in SADC TFCAs;
* To establish an improved overview over existing training capacity (actors, programmes, etc.) in the SADC-region, building on the database created by IUCN BIOPAMA;
* Help match training need with training capacity
* To arrive at a basic training plan/strategy for the region, including some innovative and forward-thinking proposals that also look at less traditional approaches such as coaching, peer-to-peer learning, twinning, facilitation of problem-solving and stakeholder dialogue.
* To prepare a strategy that puts training more on the agenda of TFCA decision-makers and funders;
* Development of a continuous training/development strategy
* To prepare a strategy for progressively including rural communities in the implementation of SADC TFCAs;
* To look at mobilisation of funds for trainings, other than traditional ranger training.
* Mention has also been made of the idea to support inter-TFCA learning by e.g. facilitating twinning processes or peer-to-peer learning. Utilising the network portal for online trainings is also an opportunity so far not exhausted.
* To look at ways of obtaining long term support & funding for a few key areas in a TFCA that can then be used both as an example and a learning by doing training site,
* To find a way to introduce a monitoring system that measures actual training impact especially in the mid to long term,
* Contribute to maintaining training standards (possibly linked to monitoring system).

1. ***Membership***
2. All members with a strong interest in training, and willing to dedicate a bit of time into the collaborative realisation of the CoP objectives
3. The group should have a minimum of 3 active members (excluding ICPs) to be deemed viable and worthwhile
4. ***Mode of operation***
5. The CoP will meet virtually via the network portal, skype or email.
6. Where possible (funding dependent), in-person meetings can be arranged independently or alongside other relevant SADC TFCA meetings.