

# Implementation challenges for the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and Conservation Area.

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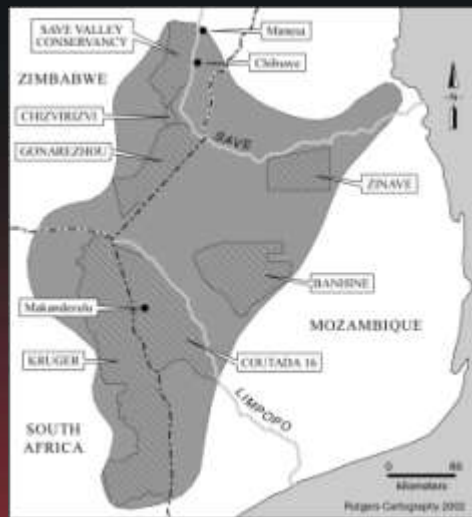
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## GLTFP and CA: question of scale?



- GL Transfrontier Park
- GL Transfrontier Conservation Area



## Why TFP and CA?



Biodiversity conservation

Generate direct and indirect income

Foster rural development

## GLTFCA – ART. 4 Transfrontier Park Objectives



The objectives of the establishment of the Transfrontier Park shall be to

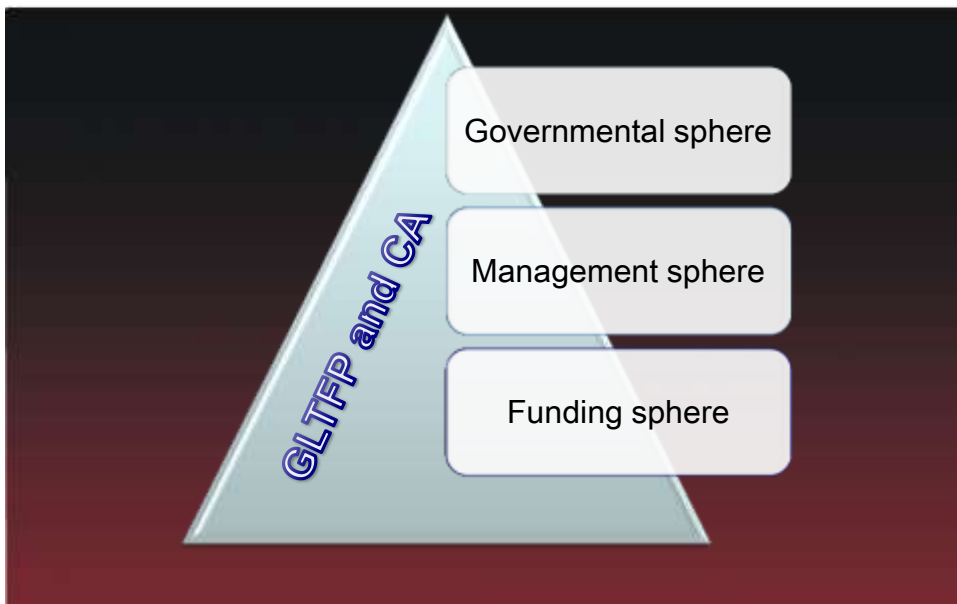
- a) foster transnational collaboration and co-operation among the Parties to facilitate effective ecosystem management in the area comprising the Transfrontier Park;
- b) promote alliances in the management of biological natural resources by encouraging social, economic and other partnerships among the Parties, private sector, local communities and non-governmental organisations;
- c) enhance ecosystem integrity and natural ecological processes by harmonising environmental management procedures across international boundaries and striving to remove artificial barriers impeding the natural movement of animals;

## GLTFCA – ART. 4 Transfrontier Park Objectives



- d) develop frameworks and strategies whereby local communities can participate in the management and benefits of natural resources that occur within the Transfrontier Park;
- e) facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a subregional economic base by way of appropriate development frameworks, strategies and work plans; and
- f) develop trans-border eco-tourism as a means for fostering regional socio-economic development.

## Implementation challenges



## 1. Governmental sphere



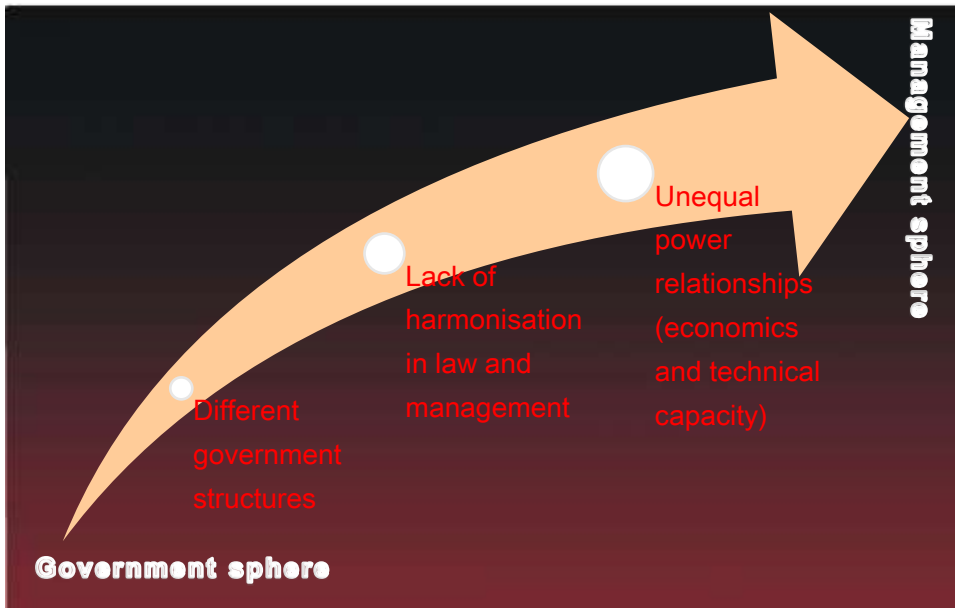
- The fundamental principle of a TFP and CA is to create a space for conservation that is geographically shared by the countries involved.
- The creation of a TFP and CA theoretically implies *losses* to the national governments:
  1. Exception to national laws and regulations on natural resources management and conservation practices in order to achieve a joint management plan that focusses on the area as a whole;
  2. Will to cooperate amongst government and integrate policy and legislation beyond conservation (i.e. security, immigration, socio-economic development)
  3. Loss of sovereignty of the territory, as well as of policy development, and law creation and enforcement.
  4. Taming of departmental conflicts generated by conflicting national legislation for resources management and law enforcement

## 1. Government sphere



- In the GLTFP and CA, such *losses* – perceived as political liabilities by the individual states – have not been accepted.
- The path towards achieving an integrated conservation space have been felt in all key components:
  - Conservation and veterinarian management (wildlife and environmental health)
  - Tourism management
  - Law enforcement
  - Human security (human health) both within the GLTFCA and in the broader national sphere
- The most vivid example is the Limpopo Tourism Access Facility

## 2. Cross-cutting challenges

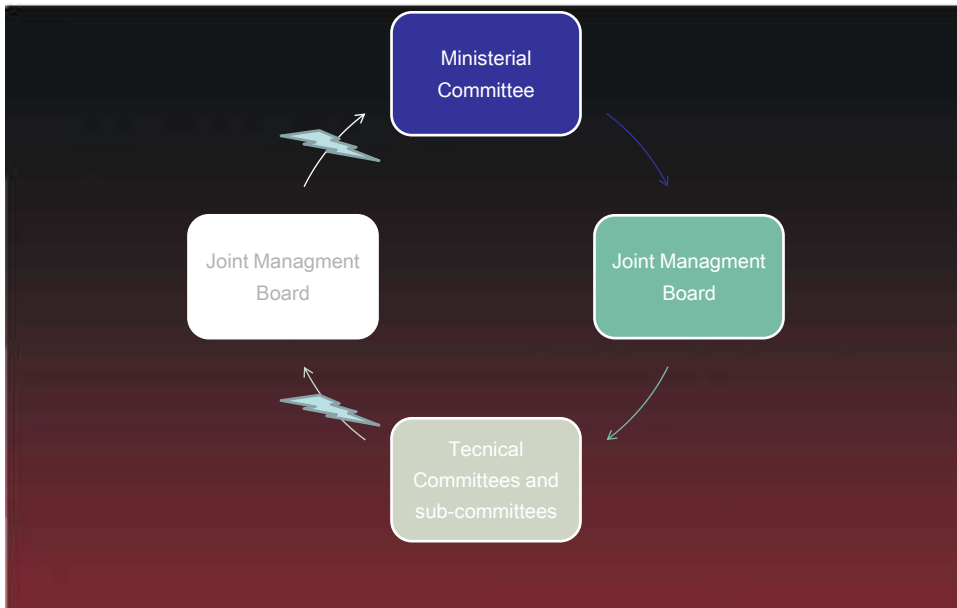


## 3. Management sphere



- The management of the GLTFP and CA reflects the challenges listed in the governmental sphere in that, following the format of other regional TFP and CA, it is based on:
  - A management that is funded on the Ministerial Committee and governmental decision-making through the JMB;
  - A broken decision-making cycle, whereby the Technical Committees and sub-committees should inform management, but the information is not integrated ;
  - A top-down decision-making structure which discounts rural communities as key stakeholders for the success of both the TFP (poaching and disease-spread prevention) and the CA (socio-economic development, One health).

### 3. Decision-making cycle: broken steps



### 4. Funding sphere



- The role of international donors, such as cooperation agencies and funding institutions, and (I)NGOs has been a key driver for the implementation of the GLTFP and CA.
  - Coutada 16 v. Limpopo National Park
- The price paid by the GLTFP and CA includes:
  - Decline in state capacity for management
  - Decline in state capacity for long-term planning
  - Decline in state capacity for joint decision-making
  - Increase reliance on external donor/project funding
  - Increase reliance on academia to inform the implementation process.

## Impact on rural communities



- The interstitial areas of the GLTFCA are inhabited by a considerable amount communities, who maintain cross-border socio-economic network, derive most of their livelihoods from natural resources, have had a recent history of displacement due to wars and, to some extent conservation
- The establishment of the GLTFP and CA has exacerbated conflict against conservation as the proposed land use. Such conflict is due to the type of legislation enforced as a direct result.
  - The laws are prohibitions, not enabling a cooperation for conservation
  - Erosion of rights over access and use of natural resources
  - Difference in government institutions in the three countries
  - Difference in basic management of the territory
- The top-down communication channels have played a key role in isolating rural communities
- Community-based committees have no forum for participating into the debate (scale mismatch)

## GLTFP and CA: risks in maintaining the current arrangements



- Declining in finances for the implementation, due to:
  - Misuse of funds available
  - Lack of inter-departmental cooperation
  - Unsustainable reliance on external funding
  - Failure to understand and accept the real costs of the project
- Increased conflict, resulting in non-compliance, with rural communities, due to:
  - Failure to reach participated consensus
  - Failure to attend to the created expectations
  - Increased isolation of the periphery (political and economical)

...so what?

MOVE FROM THEORY AND JARGON TO PRACTICE: DO WE REALLY WANT THE GLTFP AND TFCA? OR IS JUST A MARKETING TOOL?

The challenges highlighted reflect policy and law related questions which impact the decision-making and management spheres, in the following fields of law:

1. MoU and Management Frameworks
2. Realisation of environmental rights
3. Realiation of socio-economic rights
4. Environmental Governance
5. Local Governance
6. Human security
7. Conflict resolution and law enforcement
8. State law vs Customary law in NRM

Policy support directions for AHEAD

