

## Overview

### TFCAs in the SADC Region



STATUS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**SEDIA MODISE**

**TECHNICAL ADVISOR**

**SADC TFCAS**

## Underlying Philosophy of TFCAs



- Nation states ecologically interdependent – man made boundaries can't inhibit natural processes e.g. flow of rivers, movement of animals, circulation of air
- NR along international boundaries are shared estate for which neighbours are liable and from which they should derive equitable benefits

## Evolution of TFCAs

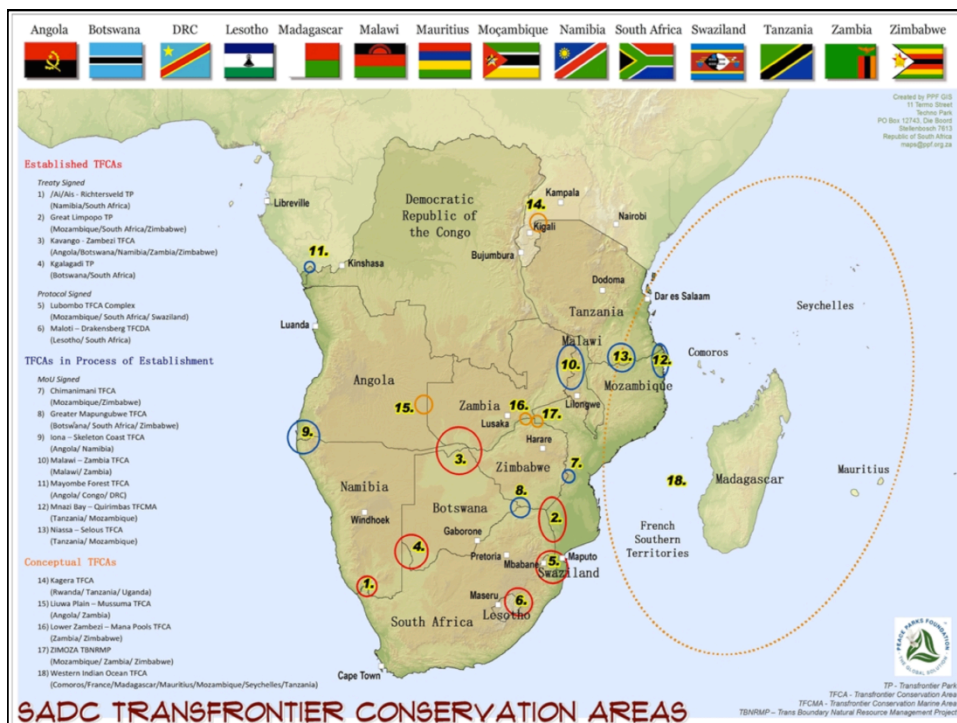
- TFCAs is a relatively new concept - allied terms include TBNRM and Peace Parks
- Glacier-Waterton Transboundary Park between US and Canada (1932) – world renowned
- 227 TFCAs complexes spanning 159 countries worldwide

## Definition of TFCAs in SADC

- TFCAs in the SADC region found in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, 1999
- *“the 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”*

# Instruments for TFCAs in SADC

- SADC Wildlife Policy and Development Strategy, 1997
- SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, 1999
- 18 existing and potential TFCAs in the SADC region



## TFCAs and Conservation Conventions

- Recognized as appropriate vehicles for conserving biological resources along international boundaries – IUCN, WWF, UN, World Bank, etc
- Complement goals and objectives of conservation conventions:
  - African Convention on Nature & NR (1968)
  - UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (1971)
  - Convention on Wetlands (1971)
  - World Heritage Convention (1972)
  - CITES (1973)
  - Convention on Migratory Species (1979)
  - Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
- Conforms to the spirit and intent of NEPAD

## Objectives of TFCAs

- Harmonise the policies, strategies and practices for managing NR along international boundaries
- Enhance the conservation of endangered ecosystems and species
- Promote the integration of regional economies through the development of tourism
- Improve the standards of living of rural communities

## Principles of Establishing TFCAs

- No blueprint – each is unique with specific requirements
- TFCAs transcend international boundaries - Political will and support are essential
- Government and non government planning teams involved in the negotiations
- Negotiations conducted through MOUs and TFCAs established through Treaties or other legal Agreements

## Framework for Developing TFCAs

- **Institutional structures in TFCA documents:**
  - Committee of Ministers – SADC represented
  - Committee of Senior Officials – SADC represented
  - Committee Technical Officers – SADC represented
  - National Committees
  - Ad Hoc Specialist Groups
- **Administrative structures:**
  - Coordinating country
  - TFCA coordinator or Secretariat

## Key Considerations in TFCAs Establishment

- Establishment of TFCAs is a prerogative and decision of the Member States involved
- SADC is a custodian of various protocols, strategies and programmes for realizing the sustainable utilization of NR in the Member States
- Overarching SADC vision for TFCAs on which TFCA visions in the region are anchored:

***“SADC, a model of community centred, regionally integrated and sustainably managed network of world class TFCAs”***

## Role of Governments in TFCAs

- Governments lead the TFCA planning, development and management processes
- Governments provide TFCA support structures at site, district, national and international levels
- Governments create conducive policy and legislative environment for establishing TFCAs
- Governments provide financial resources for TFCAs – as they do in support to various conservation programmes.
- Governments promote harmony and tolerance amongst different role players.
- Governments are the owners of the TFCAs

## SADC Role in TFCAs

- ❑ Promote and market TFCAs as regional conservation and development partnerships to contribute towards the social and economic integration of the region
- ❑ Ensure that TFCA initiatives are aligned to SADC instruments and other international protocols such as those targeting poverty alleviation and community empowerment
- ❑ Generate awareness of TFCAs and solicit technical and financial assistance to support the development of TFCAs
- ❑ Repository of TFCA agreements and to arbitrate in the settlements of disputes

## Stakeholders Engagement in TFCAs

- Pre-requisites for TFCAs - political buy in and social acceptance by local communities and the private sector
- All stakeholders engaged in TFCA planning and decision making processes from onset – KTP experience with animal health authorities
- Local communities pay opportunity costs for living with wildlife resources
- TFCA profile should be raised high and adopted as credible and legitimate land use practice

## Development Partners Role in TFCAs

- Numerous ICPs and conservation NGOs prepared to support TFCAs development
- Common concern for governments about Development Partners - hidden agendas and vested interests
- Role played by development partners should be clearly articulated and well understood
- Development Partners best suited to provide technical assistance for TFCAs establishment – usually add on to work load of officials.

## Challenges Facing TFCAs

- Increasing human population and its ensuing demand on the land resource – encroachment, over use of resources and rapid land transformation
- Failure to reconcile the interests and expectations of stakeholders with divergent views e.g. branding animal species, erect fences along international boundaries
- Difficulties in defining benefits to accrue to the TFCA partners – what is in it for us?
- Disparities in capabilities and capacities of partners – inequalities can inhibit the TFCA negotiations
- Pressure on ecotourism to become new engine of economic growth that will solve all social ills
- Safety and security concerns over the use of TFCAs for fraudulent and illicit activities
- Different approaches in the management and control of animal diseases of economic importance, e.g. FMD, CBPP
- Widespread poverty and poor infrastructure limiting appreciation and social acceptance of the TFCAs



## Opportunities Offered by TFCAs

- Consolidate the integrity of natural ecosystems and restore cultural links severed by colonial boundaries
- Improve the management and use of shared natural resources e.g. watersheds, habitats of animal species with large home ranges
- Reduce the risk of biodiversity loss by extending the areas available to plant and animal species
- Enhance the capacity of conservation agencies to manage NR through sharing experiences and pooling expertise
- Harmonise land use policies and NR management strategies and practises along international boundaries
- Create economic opportunities for rural communities through sustainable development of tourism
- Save costs through joint law enforcement operations, joint marketing, joint research and monitoring activities etc.

## Summary

- Establishing TFCAs is a complex process and daunting challenge – transcend not only territorial areas of Member States but they also cut through portfolio responsibilities of different institutions
- TFCA agreements must always recognise and safeguard the sovereignty and legal rights of the participating states - not redrawing of borders or changing legal systems
- TFCA initiatives must be owned and led by the participating states – external parties can only play facilitating role
- Initiatives must be rolled out by institutions with mandate to lead planning and development processes as per agreements
- Ingredients to successful TFCA establishment are trust, mutual respect, transparency and the equality of partners
- Funds are a major limiting factor in TFCAs establishment
- Participating states to compromise where it is necessary.

## Conclusion



TFCAs offer the SADC region a unique opportunity to integrate the economies of the Member States and have the potential to contribute meaningfully to poverty reduction in rural areas.

THANK YOU