



POLICY BRIEF

on the Transfrontier Conservation Area Programme 2023-2033





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on the

Transfrontier Conservation Area

Programme 2023-2033



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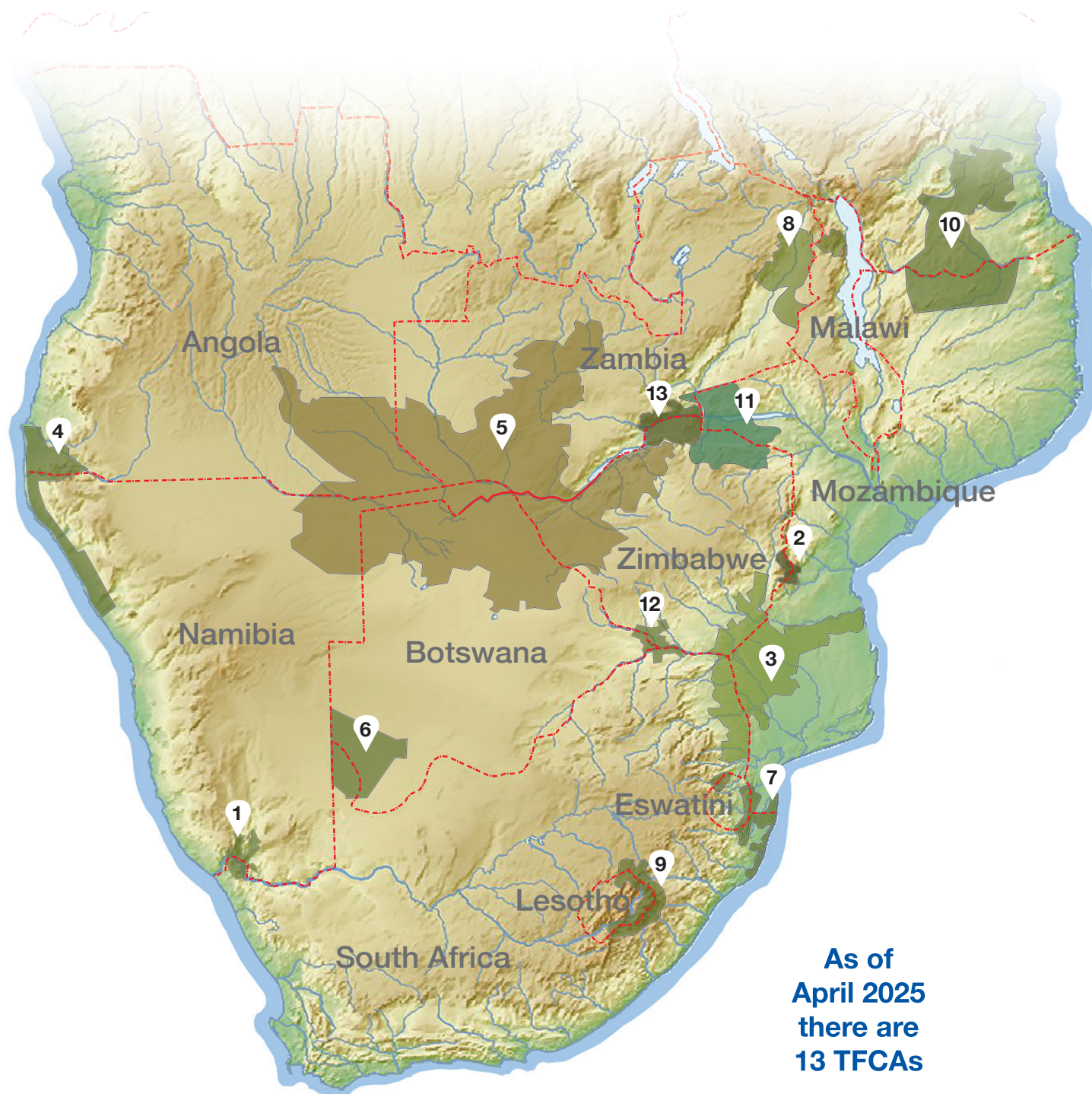
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ACRONYMS



DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FF	Financing Facility
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
TMP/TFMP	Transfrontier Marine Park



Category A (formalised TFCA's)

1. **/Ai/Ais - Richtersveld TP** (2003)
(Namibia/South Africa)
2. **Chimanimani TFCA** (2001)
(Mozambique/Zimbabwe)
3. **Great Limpopo TFCA** (2002)
(Mozambique/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
4. **Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCA** (2018)
(Angola/Namibia)
5. **Kavango Zambezi TFCA** (2001)
(Angola/Botswana/Namibia/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
6. **Kgalagadi TP** (1999)
(Botswana/South Africa)
7. **Lubombo TFCA** (2000)
(Mozambique/South Africa/eSwatini)

8. **Malawi-Zambia TFCA** (2015)
(Malawi-Zambia)
9. **Maloti -Drakensberg TFCA** (2001)
(Lesotho/South Africa)
10. **Niassa-Selous TFCA** (2015)
(Mozambique/Tanzania)
11. **ZIMOZA TFCA** (2024)
(Mozambique/Zambia/Zimbabwe)

Category B (proposed TFCA's)

12. **Greater Mapungubwe TFCA** (2006)
(Botswana/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
13. **Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA** (2023)
(Zambia/Zimbabwe)



About this Policy Brief on the Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs)

**This Policy Brief provides a quick overview of the
SADC TFCA Programme 2023-33.**

It highlights the strategic direction of the programme through its
vision, mission and overall goals for the next decade.

It is intended to be a quick reference and/or checklist for policy
and decision makers, TFCA practitioners and other key
stakeholders involved in the establishment and management of
TFCAs as well as the overall implementation of the SADC TFCA
programme over the next ten years.

TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS

The importance of a transboundary and multi-stakeholder approach to deal with many of the pressing challenges facing the environment and sustainable development is increasingly being recognised. Transfrontier Conservation Areas are unique landscapes and seascapes that are well suited to the collaborative and coordinated implementation of a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the creation of an equitable, carbon-neutral, and nature-positive world.

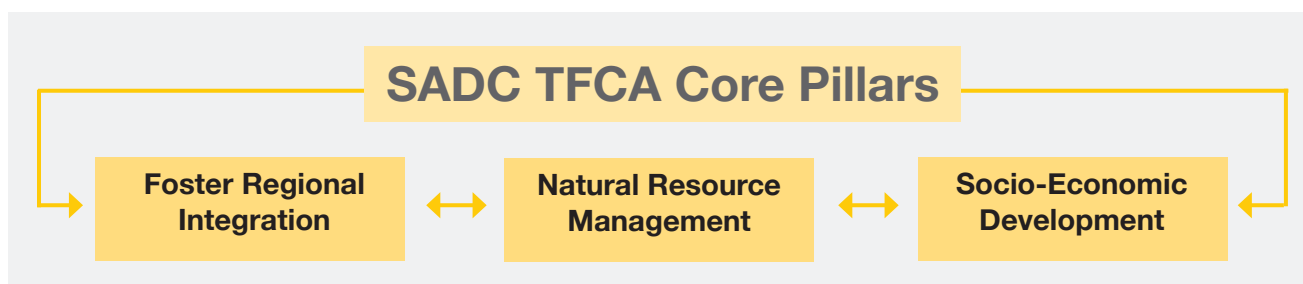
There are more than 220 Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the world, which are at various stages of development and implementation. Sovereign governments started to join hands on the creation of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) from the early 1930s to increase landscape connectivity and improve conservation outcomes in ecosystems that are divided by political boundaries. Approximately one-third of all terrestrial high-biodiversity sites straddle international borders, and the critical importance of transboundary marine conservation areas is also increasingly recognised.

THE SADC TFCA PROGRAMME 2023-2033

Within the SADC region, the importance of TFCAs was recognized and endorsed with the signing of the 1999 Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement. One of the key objectives of the Protocol is the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of TFCAs which are defined in the protocol as “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”.

Whilst the TFCA concept was initially considered to be an arrangement between and among partner states, with time, Member States saw an important role for the SADC Secretariat to mobilise financial and technical resources, as well as to support regional knowledge sharing and collaboration. This recognition led to the development and approval of the 2013 SADC TFCA Programme aimed at facilitating and supporting Member States’ efforts in establishing and developing TFCAs in collaboration with national, regional and international partners, anchored by the following core pillars:-

- (i) fostering regional integration between two or more states to manage shared natural resources and to achieve progress towards legal harmonisation and active cooperation in resolving matters relating to transfrontier conservation in the region,*
- (ii) transboundary management of natural resources and ecosystems;*
and
- (iii) socio-economic development based on the sustainable use of natural resources by communities living in and alongside TFCAs.*



The three pillars of SADC TFCAs

Following the 2021 endorsement, by the Ministers responsible for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism, of a Concept Note that called for the review of the 2013 SADC TFCA Programme, a revised Programme 2023-2033, with the following outlined as its vision, goals, cross-cutting issues and guiding principles, was approved by the Ministers on 22 June 2023:

2023-2033 SADC TFCA PROGRAMME

Vission Statement: *A world-class network of sustainably managed transboundary landscapes and seascapes across and for the benefit of the people of SADC and the world.*

Goal 1:
Integrated and effective management of transboundary landscapes and seascapes

Goal 2:
Improved well-being and livelihoods of people through agriculture, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, tourism and other sectors

Goal 3: Strengthened Governance, Multi-Sector Partnerships and Regional Integration

Goal 4: Long-Term Sustainable Finance for TFCAs secured

Goal 5: Enhanced skills and capacity development and improved knowledge management

Cross-cutting Themes

(i) Climate Change Mitigation, Adaption and a Just Transition
(ii) Transboundary Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Use
(iii) Nature benefiting Local Communities, in particular Women and Youth

Guiding Principles

• Environmental and Social Justice

• Multi-sectoral and inclusive approach

• Accountability and transparency

• Evidence-based adaptive management

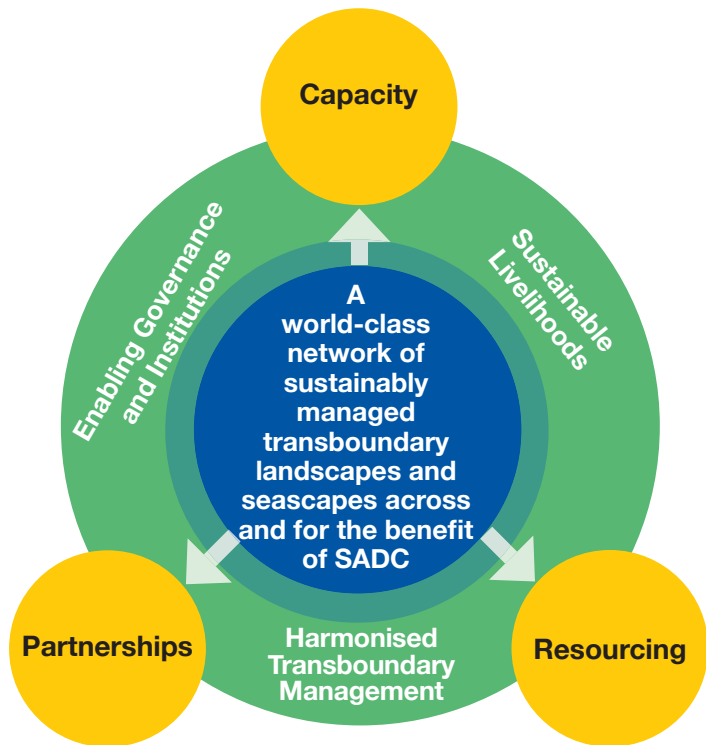
• Harnessing innovation and technology

• Sustainable use of all natural resources

MONITORING & EVALUATION

THE THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change, which derives from the Vision of the SADC TFCA Programme, is aimed at explaining how this vision will be brought about, as well as how it aligns to key results in SADC’s Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).



Theory of Change applied for the SADC TFCA Revised Programme

The TFCA Programme Goals and their Outcomes

The Table below lists the TFCA goals and their respective outcomes as spelt out in the programme.

Goal	Outcome
Goal 1 Integrated and Effective Management of Transboundary Landscapes and Seascapes	1.1 Integrated transboundary land and seascape planning applied in SADC TFCA 1.2 Effective transboundary ecosystem services and species management enabled and strengthened across SADC TFCA
Goal 2 Improved well-being and Livelihoods of People through Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Tourism and Other Activities	2.1 Employment and livelihood opportunities in the Green, Blue and Circular Economies are secured and expanded 2.2 Technical Assistance for enterprise development and expansion for small businesses and cooperatives in the Green, Blue and Circular Economies is unlocked. 2.3 Diverse sustainable tourism products and experiences increase the attractiveness and value of TFCA as tourism destinations 2.3 An effective and sustainable mitigation of threats, conflicts and risks to local communities living in and around TFCA.
Goal 3 Strengthened Governance, Multi-Sector Partnerships and Regional Integrated	3.1 Political will in support of the development of TFCA is strengthened across all spheres. 3.2 Improved harmonisation of policy and legal frameworks for TFCA management 3.3 Multi-stakeholder dialogue on TFCA developments at national and regional levels is established.
Goal 4 Long-Term Sustainable Finance for TFCA Secured	4.1 Capacity to secure sustainable finance for TFCA developed 4.2 SADC TFCA Financing Facility (FF) capacitated and capitalised 4.3 TFCA project pipelines are developed and investment promotion for large public and private investments are undertaken
Goal 5 Enhanced Capacity Building and Skills Development	5.1 The human capital development in TFCA is based on targeted and innovative approaches 5.2 TFCA Joint Research and Development 5.3 Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Continuous Improvement is supported in and across TFCA

The TFCA Categories

The 2013 SADC TFCA Programme had a list of 18 TFCAs in three categories, A, B and C. The revision of the definition of the categories in the revised programme of 2023-2033 has seen the number of TFCAs going down to 12. Two key decisions made by Member States, during the review of the programme led to the number of listed TFCAs going down from 18 to 12:-

- 1 SADC member states decided not to include TFCAs involving non-SADC member states on the list of TFCAs. This would allow them to provide the necessary support, both financial and technical, to member states to enable them to work towards improving the functionality of their TFCAs.

This resulted in the following TFCAs dropping off the list –

Mayombe Forest TPA (former Category B TFCA involving Angola, Congo, DRC and Gabon),

Kagera TFCA (former Category C TFCA involving Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and the

Western Indian Ocean TMP (former Category C TFCA involving Comoros, Kenya, Reunion (France), Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania).

- 2 Partner states are now required to submit, to the SADC secretariat, a jointly signed letter of intent to establish a TFCA for it to be listed as a category C TFCA. This resulted in all the six TFCAs previously listed under Category C dropping out.

Currently there are no TFCAs listed under Category C as no partner states have submitted the joint letters of intent to the SADC secretariat. However, while the current programme (2023-2033) which was approved by the Ministers in June 2023 lists only 12 TFCAs, **ZIMOZA TFCA** between Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, whose Memorandum of Agreement, qualifying it as a Category A TFCA, was eventually signed on 18 July 2024 as a result it is not listed on the programme. However, the map on the inside front cover, does list all the 13 SADC TFCAs.

The TFCA Programme 2023-2033, thus defines the Categories as follows

Category A **Formalised**

These are TFCAs with a legal mandate with clearly defined boundaries and established through a binding Agreement for the development of the TFCA by Member States.

Category B **Proposed**

TFCAs with a signed MoU and with a description of the proposed location. The MOUs provide for an interim arrangement that facilitates negotiations towards the signing of a binding Agreement to formally establish the respective TFCA.

Category C **Conceptual**

These are TFCAs where Member States have an official letter of intent to establish a TFCA, but no binding Agreement or interim MOU is in place.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SADC TFCA PROGRAMME 2023-33

The SADC TFCA Programme will be implemented at three levels:

- The Regional level through the SADC Secretariat.
- The Member State level through individual Member States and their respective Public Sector bodies and agencies.
- The TFCA level through their formally established multi-country governance and operational structures.

The following will be the key roles of these key and lead stakeholders at these three levels:

The SADC Secretariat has the following key roles in the implementation of the programme:

- Providing strategic advisory services to Member States;
- Coordinating policies, strategies and programmes at the regional level;
- Organising consultative conferences and meetings of decision-making structures; and
- Providing professional programme management.

Member States are required to establish appropriate institutional capacity in their respective countries for:

- The cost-effective and impactful implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme and other Programmes relevant to TFCAs.
- The engagement and inclusion of local communities living within or alongside TFCAs in decision-making processes and creating livelihood opportunities.
- The facilitation of the private sector and civil society engagements and partnerships.

TFCAs - Each Category A or B TFCA is governed by an Agreement or MoU that has been entered into between the respective parties. These instruments establish the institutional and operational mandates relating to the specific TFCA, as well as its governance structures. In principle each TFCA has a coordinating authority, which might be a coordinating country, an International Coordinator or a Secretariat.

These three key and lead role-players also have the overall responsibility of coordinating the roles and inputs of various other stakeholders, which include local communities, private sector, civil society/NGOS, International Cooperating Partners and others.

The Costed Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Programme

The TFCA Programme 2023-2033 Costed Action Plan provides a further breakdown of the 5 goals and their associated outcomes into outputs and activities to guide the implementation process. However, only those activities that are the responsibility of the SADC Secretariat in terms of implementation are costed. Implementation of the different activities are also prioritized accordingly over the 10 year period.

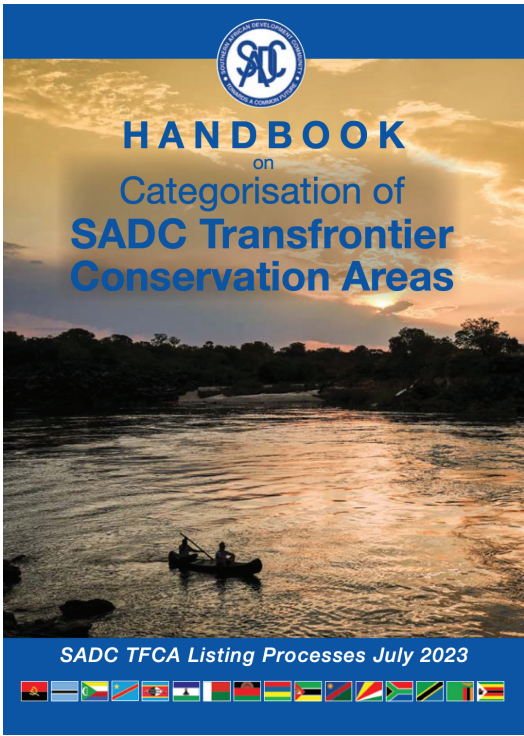
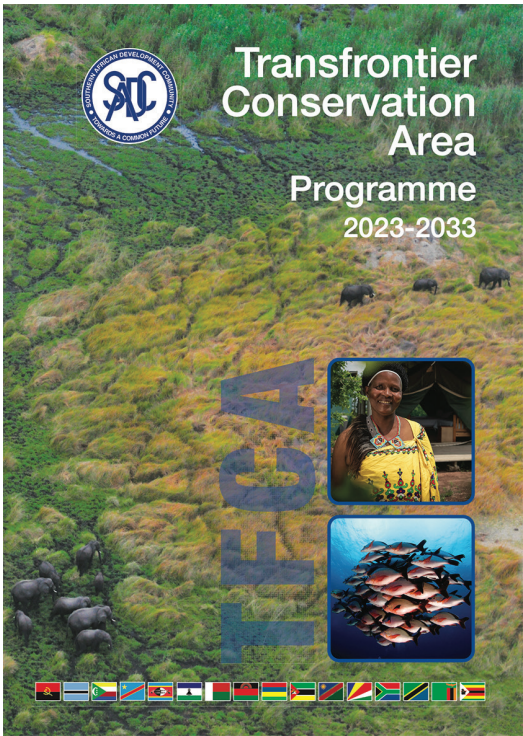
A monitoring and evaluation framework, which is aligned to the overall SADC M&E framework, is currently under development. The framework will be supported with further training for Member States TFCA representatives to ensure more effective monitoring to facilitate adaptive management and reporting in the implementation of the programme.

Unabbreviated Documents

The document you are reading is a highly abbreviated version of the full brochure.

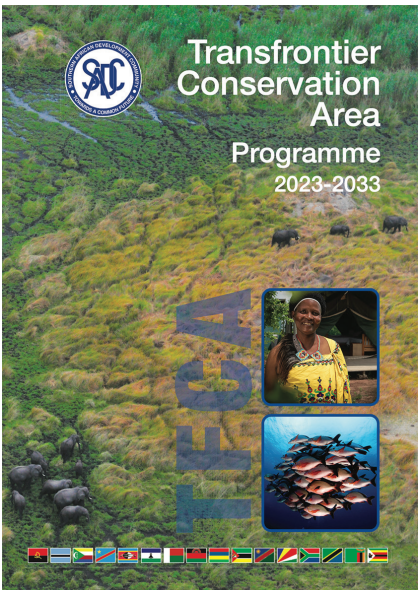
The complete documents — including detailed policy insights, strategic goals, and key action plans — are available in **English, French, and Portuguese.**

- see pages 12 and 13

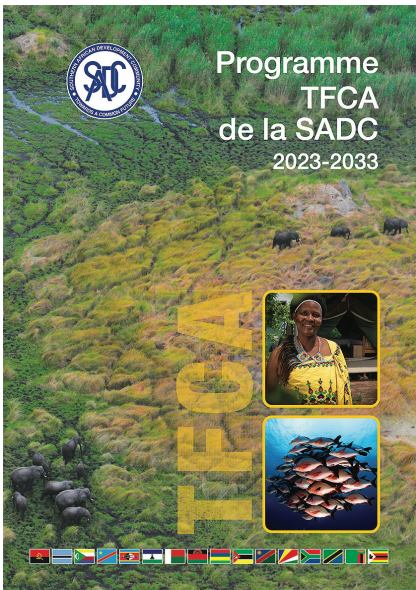


Unabbreviated Documents

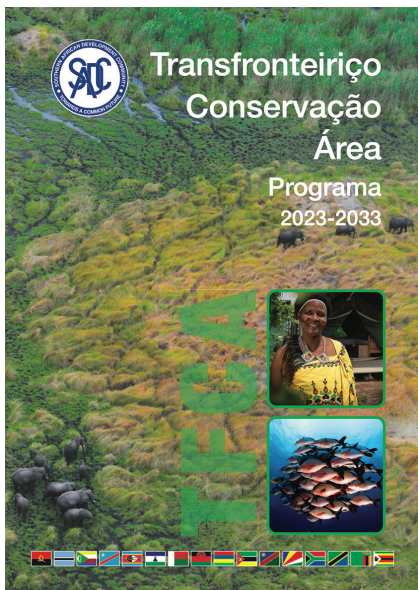
Scan the QR codes to download your preferred version and discover how the SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Programme is reshaping southern Africa’s landscapes and seascapes. These full, unabbreviated documents provide a deeper understanding of how conservation efforts are building a sustainable future across borders..



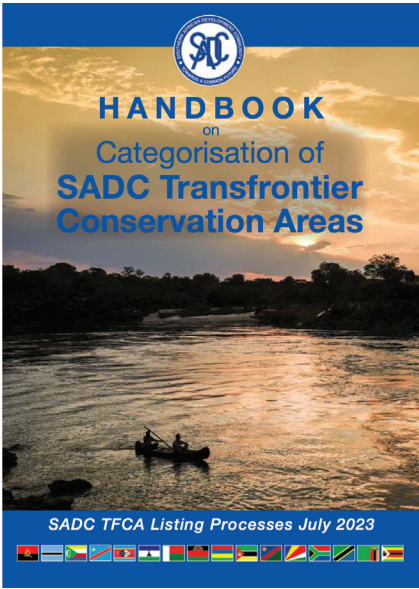
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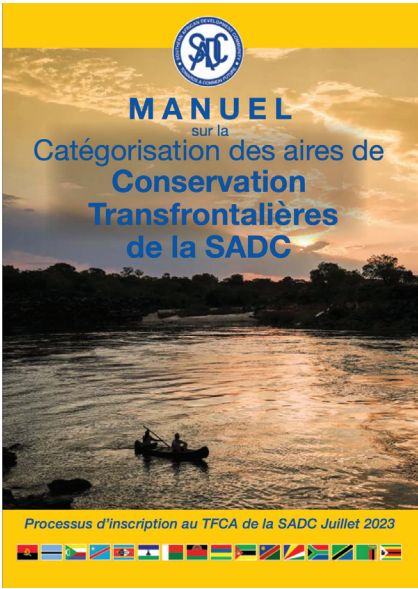
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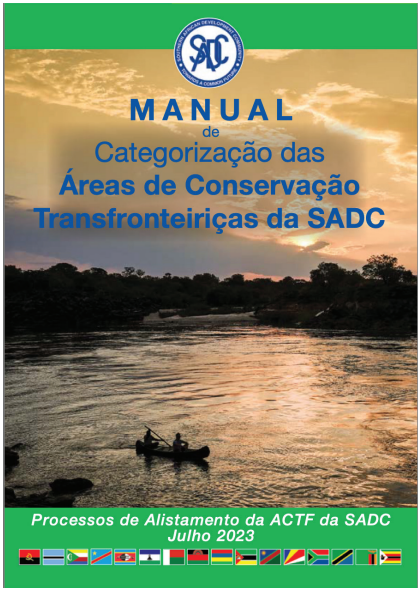
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