

Highlights of SADC-German Cooperation

German Cooperation support to Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in the SADC region

Outlook Towards The Next Decade

Even though much has improved and been achieved we are in for a long journey, and many aspects still need further attention and scaling of lessons learnt. Communities being custodians, guardians or beneficiaries of natural assets, play a pivotal role in the development of TFCAs. This means that communities not only have to participate in the processes of developing the TFCAs, but also need gainful activities and returns on their conservation efforts and investment.

The conditions for investments are not without its challenges. While on the one hand, the funding of TFCAs to implement the existing TFCA development plans is still insufficient, on the other hand, available funds are not easily absorbed by TFCA structures and partners. Spending efficiency and transaction costs need to be improved. Funds from Governments and more so international funding, fluctuate in volume and time.

Additional funding mechanisms are, therefore, needed to allow long-term planning security and sustainability. The SADC TFCA Financing Facility funded by Germany is an important step in this direction. Germany also initiated the Legacy Landscape Fund in 2020 as an independent charitable foundation to guarantee global long-term conservation funding for nature, climate, and people. Being a long-term

process, TFCA development as a catalyst for regional integration will continue. Internet will provide better access to public and private services. Well managed public and private parks, biodiversity and wildlife management areas will conserve an important part of the global biodiversity heritage. The rich biodiversity forms the basis for a thriving, more sustainable tourism sector embedded into local supply chains. The SADC Region is becoming an internationally renowned destination. In short, the TFCA vision is worth pursuing.



↑ Victoria Falls, KAZA TFCA.

The vision of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), as outlined in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) TFCA Programme 2023-2033 is to develop a world-class network of sustainably managed transboundary landscapes and seascapes across, and for the benefit, of SADC.

This implies effective governance and management, socio-economic development, financial sustainability, climate resilience and regional learning and integration. TFCAs are therefore bold conservation initiatives due to their size, complexity and ambition.

2025 marked exactly 25 years since Botswana and South Africa officially opened Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, the first TFCA in the SADC region. German Cooperation has supported the TFCA approach since its inception and has invested more than 270 million Euros into TFCAs in the region by putting both, people and nature, centre. Today, 13 TFCAs are listed, 11 of which are formalised through the signing of an Agreement. TFCA development has only been

possible through political commitment of the SADC member states, in close collaboration with many partners.

The German government has supported SADC TFCAs from as early as 2002. In 2012, SADC and Germany initiated a joint, regional Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme (SADC/German TUPNR). The Programme implements activities at regional and local TFCA level together with SADC Member States with a wide range of implementing partners. Together with its partners, the programme supports the implementation of the revised SADC TFCA Programme 2023 – 2033, the SADC Tourism Programme 2020-2030, the SADC Climate Change Strategy, the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy and the Wildlife-based Economy Strategy Framework. Currently, the SADC-German Programme is providing support to all 13 TFCAs either through the financial or technical cooperation, with an emphasis on Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA, Great Limpopo TFCA (GLTFCA) and Malawi-Zambia (MAZA) TFCA.



Implemented by





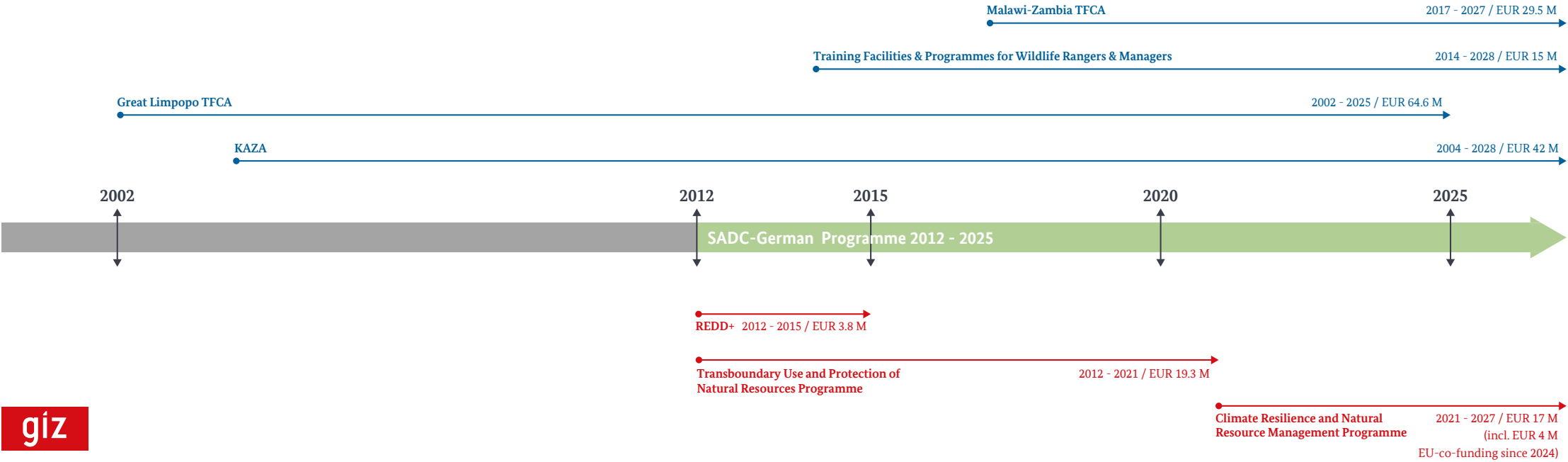
↑ Conservation agriculture, Great Limpopo TFCA

Successful conservation at the TFCA landscape relies on developing integrated approaches that deliver tangible economic development for the people, while conserving the natural resource base.

German Cooperation support focuses on four essential pillars:

1. Establishing functional and representative cross-border institutional arrangements and governance structures for effective cross-border management
2. Establishing and securing ecosystem connectivity within the landscape to build overall ecosystem health and resilience to external threats
3. Building strong incentives that foster community engagement and co-existence between people and wildlife in the landscape through Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) approaches and the promotion of wildlife-friendly businesses and land-uses
4. Acting against the immediate threat of poaching and illicit wildlife trade through more effective, cross-border law enforcement and anti-poaching strategies and measures

↴ **Timeline of regional GDC support for TFCAs** - The Programme is jointly implemented by two of Germany's implementing agencies, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) – Financial Cooperation and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) – Technical Cooperation



Overall, the SADC/German joint, regional Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme has seen many successes but also encountered some challenges.

To overcome them, regular exchange and collaboration are essential to creating mutual understanding and trust. There also is a need to agree on the basic conditions (policies, strategies, programmes, TFCA governance structures, guidelines etc.) for TFCA development and to follow up by distributing the financial means and investments.

The success will create many viable outcomes and benefits for remote rural communities such as higher and diversified income as well as better resilience to the effects of climate change.

Key Partners

The SADC/German joint, regional Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme is implemented in cooperation with the SADC Secretariat's Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate as a political regional partner as well as with other directorates like the Directorate of Infrastructure on matters related to integrated water management and the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (ORGAN) on matters related to tourism and LEAP. In addition, Germany cooperates with key partners directly involved in TFCA development. These include the national governments of SADC Member States through their ministries responsible for environment, forests, wildlife and tourism and related public institutions like the departments of wildlife, local governments and National Tourism Organisations (NTOs), as well as TFCA coordinating structures and Boundless Southern Africa, the regional marketing initiative for SADC TFCAs.

Germany funds many non-state actors who play a significant role in the success of the activities being implemented. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a globally recognised institution in the field of nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. It is also the Project Executing Agency of the SADC TFCA Financing Facility as well as of the Training Facility for Wildlife Rangers and Managers. Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) is the implementing agency for activities in Great Limpopo, KAZA, Malawi-Zambia and Greater Mapungubwe TFCAs and implements self-funded programmes in TFCAs across the region. The inexhaustible list of other important non-state

actors includes the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Conservation International (CI), the African Parks Network (APN), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) and Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergent (COSPE).

Activities related to capacity building and training have amongst others been implemented in collaboration with the SADC Centres of Specialisation, the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) and the College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka. And above all, the day to day activities on the ground are implemented in cooperation with the traditional authorities and local community trusts, conservancies, CBOs, Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) such as the African Leadership Network (ALN), Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) associations, community resource boards – community representative and governance structures, democratically elected and accountable to their local constituencies, as well as numerous staff in protected areas, private or community-owned game reserves, game management areas and the private operators in the tourism industry.

Germany welcomes the European Unions's start of the NaturAfrica programm which will support TFCAs in the SADC region with 33 million Euros. NaturAfrica already joined the German Technical Cooperation project (CNRM) in 2024.

Highlights of the 25-year cooperation:

- Formalisation of new TFCAs (e.g. 2011 KAZA, 2015: Malawi-Zambia, 2023: Lower-Zambezi Mana Pools, 2024: ZIMOZA).
- 2008: Launch of the Boundless Southern Africa brand for tourism market development.
- 2011: Establishment of the KAZA Secretariat.
- 2013: Endorsement of the first SADC TFCA Programme and 2023

endorsement of the revised SADC TFCA Programme.

- 2013: Establishment of the SADC TFCA network improves multi-stakeholder exchange and collaboration with over 800 members.
- 2015: Endorsement of the SADC LEAP Strategy and 2023 Endorsement of the revised SADC LEAP Strategy.
- 2020: COVID-19 support to KAZA, MAZA and Great Limpopo.
- 2020: Establishment of the SADC TFCA Financing Facility with more than 50 MEUR.

- 2020: Establishment of the Legacy Landscape Fund.
- 2024: Launch of the Training Facilities and Programmes for Wildlife Rangers and Managers.
- 2024: EU's NaturAfrica Flagship Initiative comes on board with cofounding of Germany's Technical Cooperation (4 million Euros).
- 2024: KAZA Heads of State Summit ensures high visibility and political will and KAZA Cross-border Elephant survey.