



SADC TFCAs International Conference

Harare International Convention Centre, May 19-21, 2025

SADC TFCAs : 25 Years of Collaboration for Regional Integration and Sustainable Development



Implemented by:



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SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas International Conference



Implemented by:



Conferência Internacional de Áreas de Conservação Transfronteiriças da SADC Conférence Internationale sur les Aires de Conservation Transfrontalières de la SADC

HARARE, REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, 19 - 20 MAY 2025

SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas - 25 Years of Cooperation for Regional Integration and Sustainable Development
Aires de conservation transfrontalières de la SADC : 25 ans de coopération en faveur de l'intégration régionale et du développement durable
Áreas de conservação transfronteiriças da SADC - 25 anos de cooperação para a integração regional e o desenvolvimento sustentável



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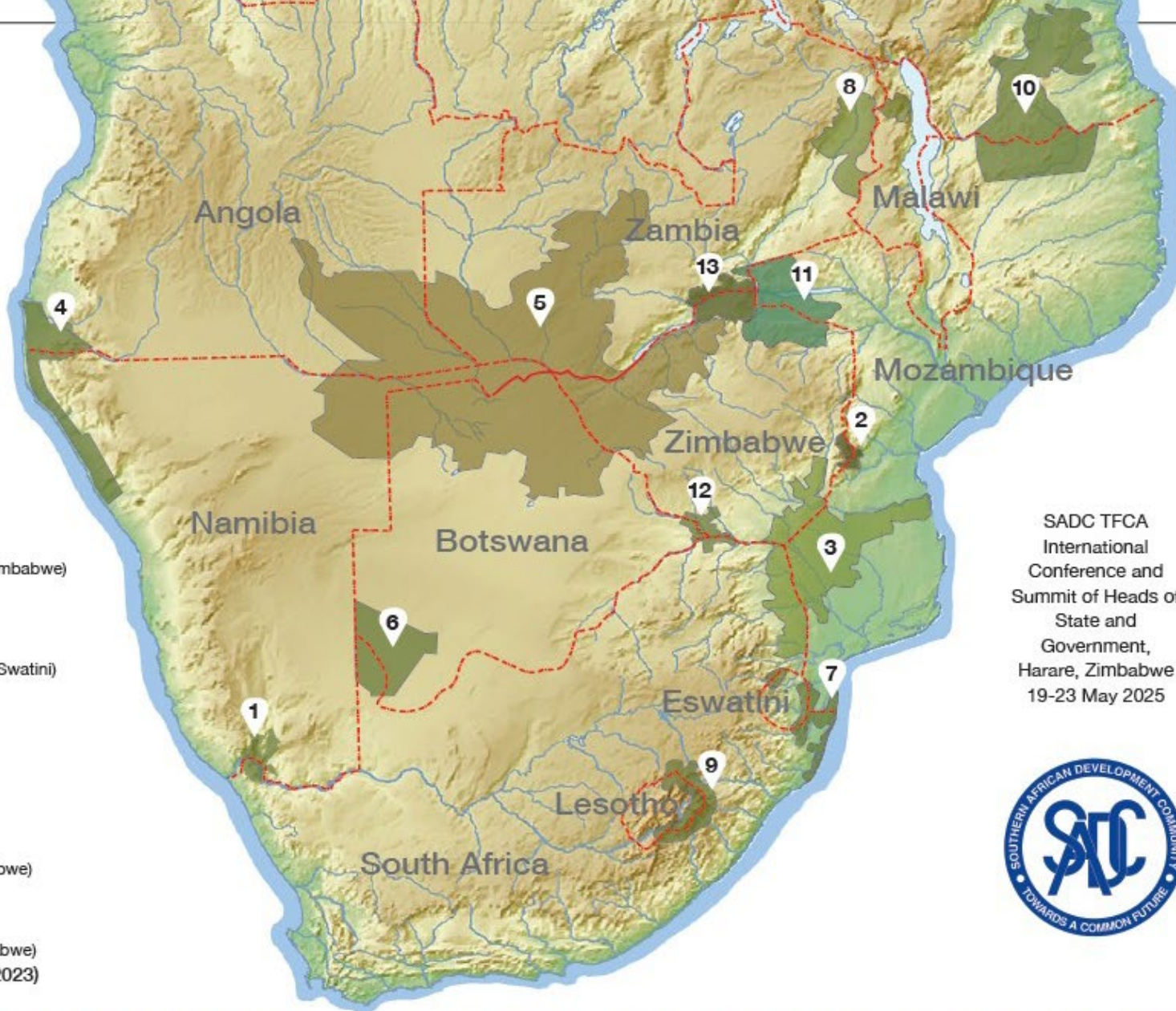
25 years of Transfrontier Conservation in Southern Africa

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SADC TFCAS: 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





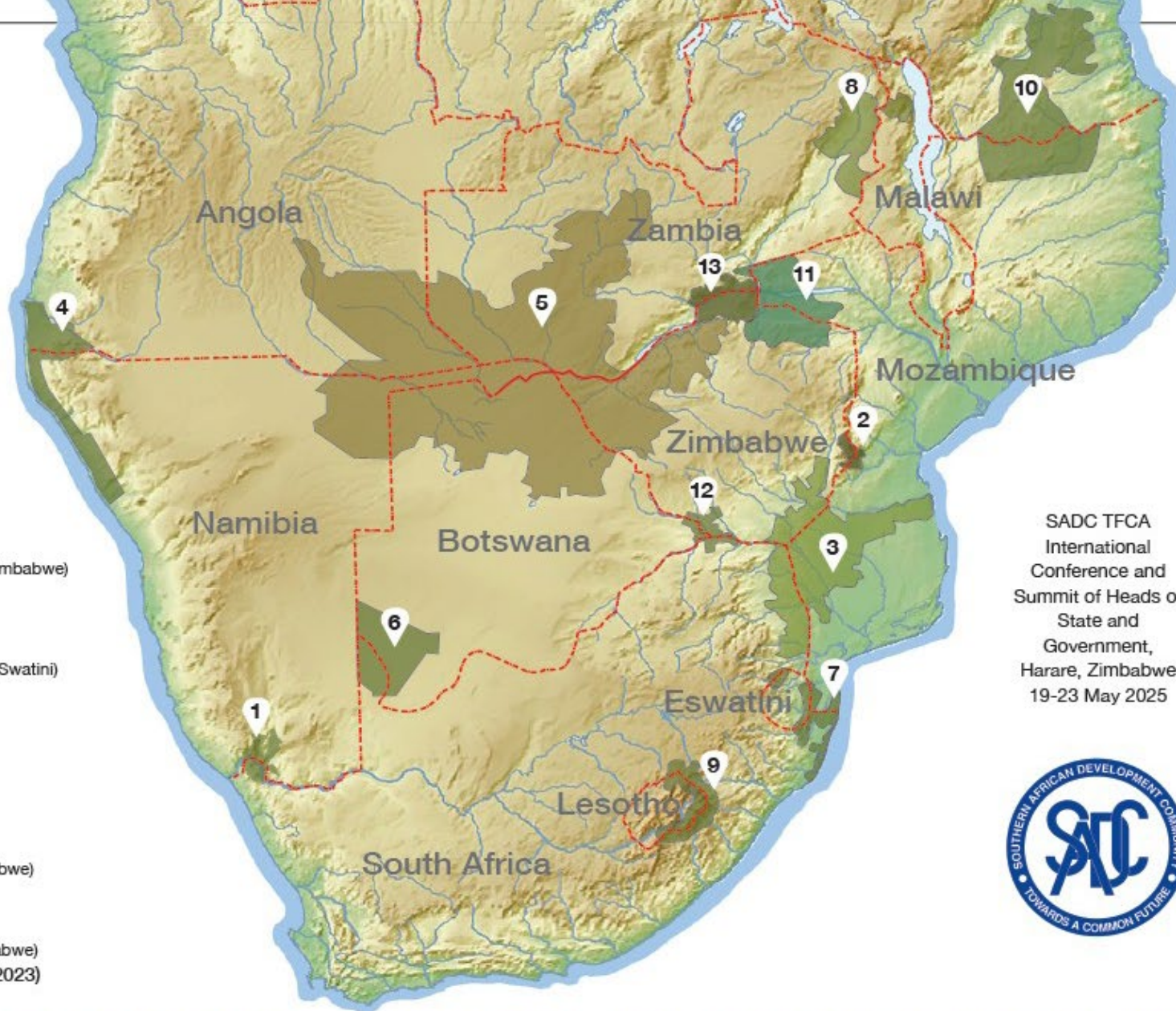
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Welcome and opening remarks

Ambassador Tadeus Chifamba
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Environment, Climate and Wildlife,
Republic of Zimbabwe



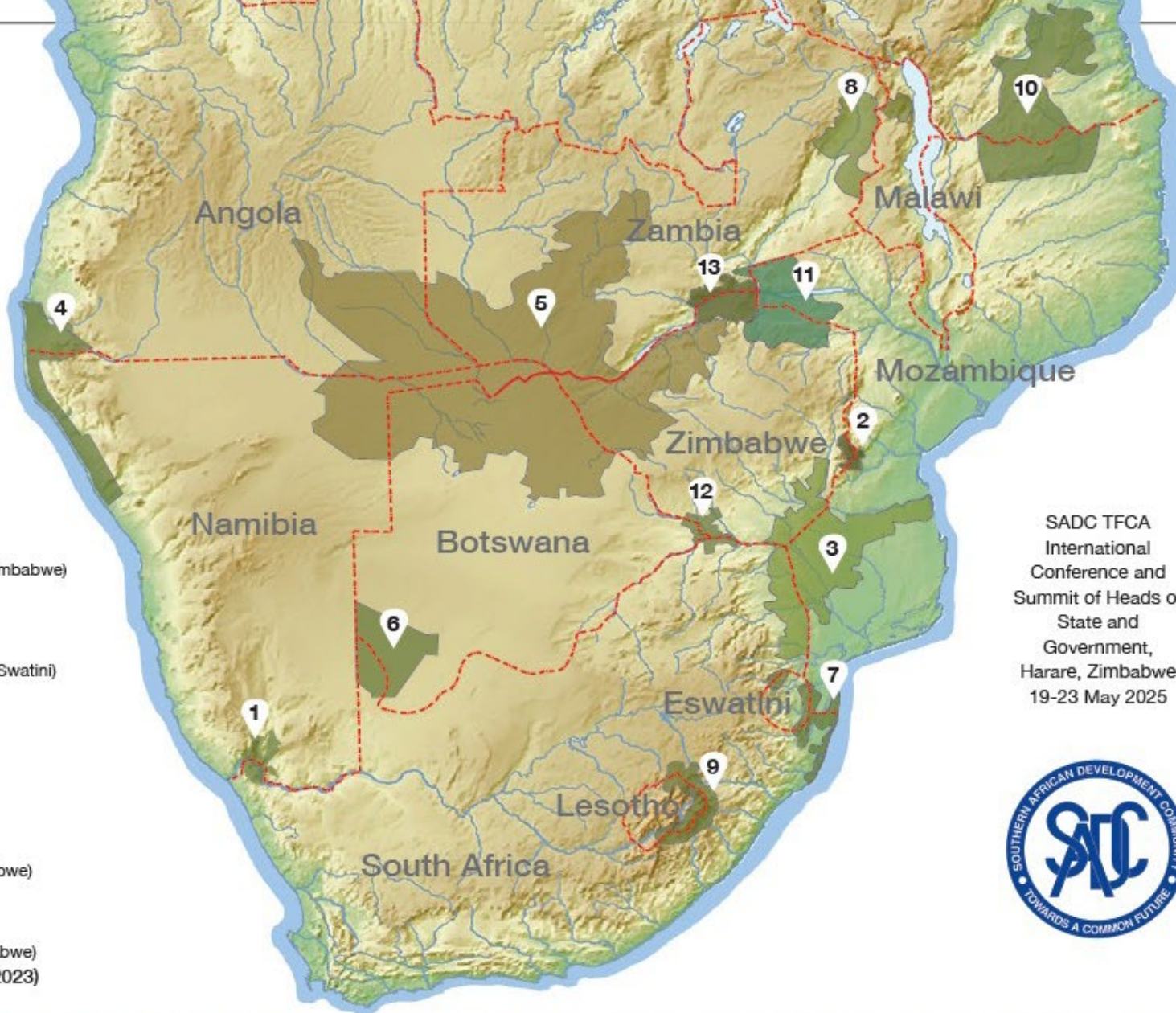
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Remarks by International Cooperating Partners





Federal Republic of Germany

Ambassador Udo Volz, Ambassador to the
Republic of Zimbabwe





The European Union

Mr Bernard de Schrevel – Team Leader
for Natural Resources





World Wildlife Fund for Nature

Mr Itai Chibaya – Country Director, WWF





Peace Parks Foundation

Prof Andrew Nambota





Keynote Address

Mr Domingos Gove
Director, FANR, SADC Secretariat





Objectives of the conference

Prof Edson Gandiwa
Director General
ZimParks





TFCA Website Launch & 25 Years of TFCAs Video





RELAUNCH

<https://tfcaportal.org>



VIDEO

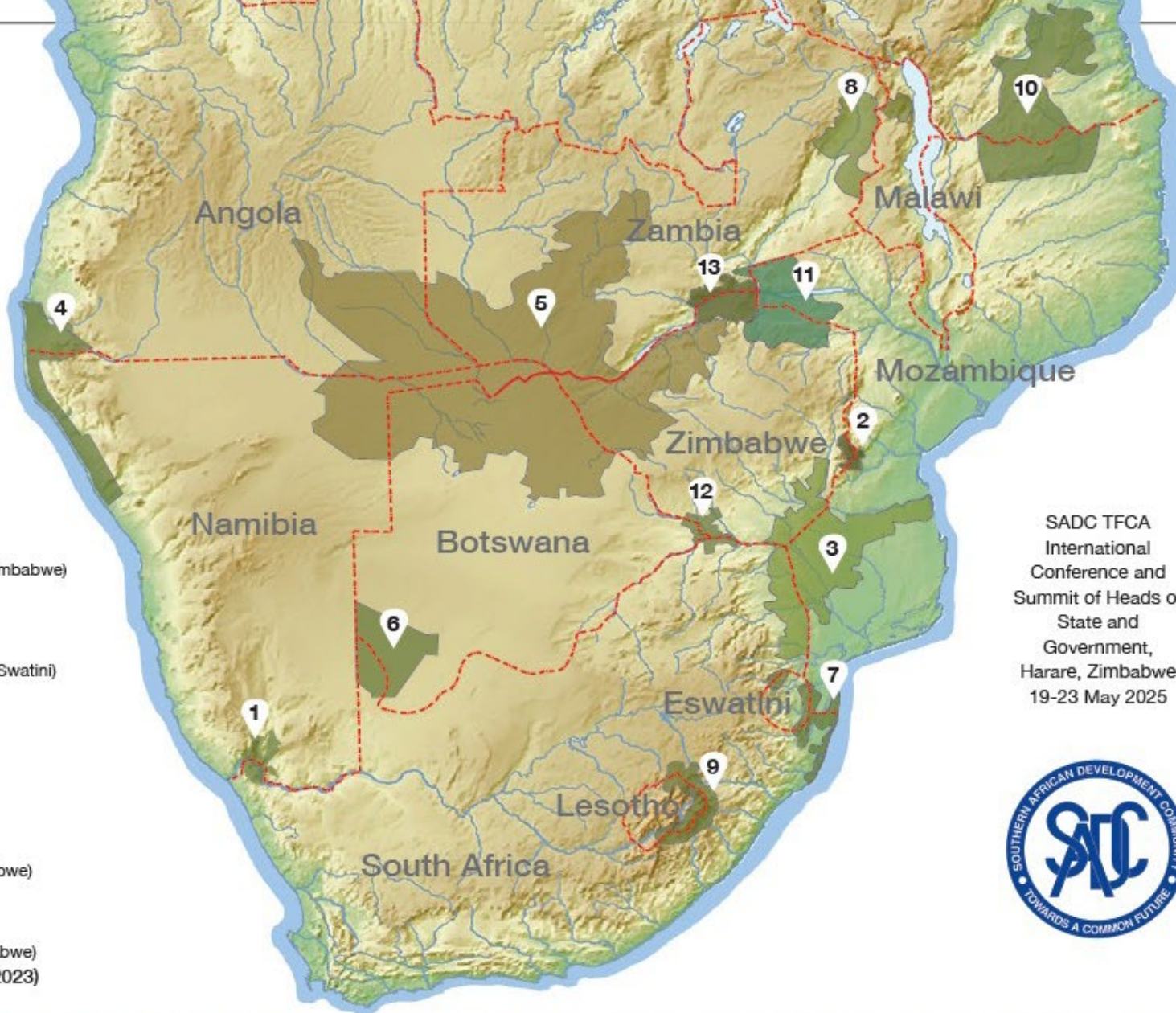
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Group Photo & TEA

We will reconvene at 10:30



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TFCAs enabling improved rural livelihoods

Facilitator: Professor Never Muboko -
Director Scientific Services, ZimParks





TFCAs enabling improved rural livelihoods

Presenter

Mr Matthews Mumba, TFCA Focal Point Malawi

Panellists

- Mr Aubrey Maluleke – Makuleke community
- Ms Rebecca Snyder – COMACO
- Mr Rodgers Lubilo – Community Leaders Network
- Ms Sue Goatley – Wilderness Zambezi





Improving Community Livelihoods in Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs)



Presenter: Matthews Mumba (TFCA Focal Point-Malawi)
21st May 2025

Introduction



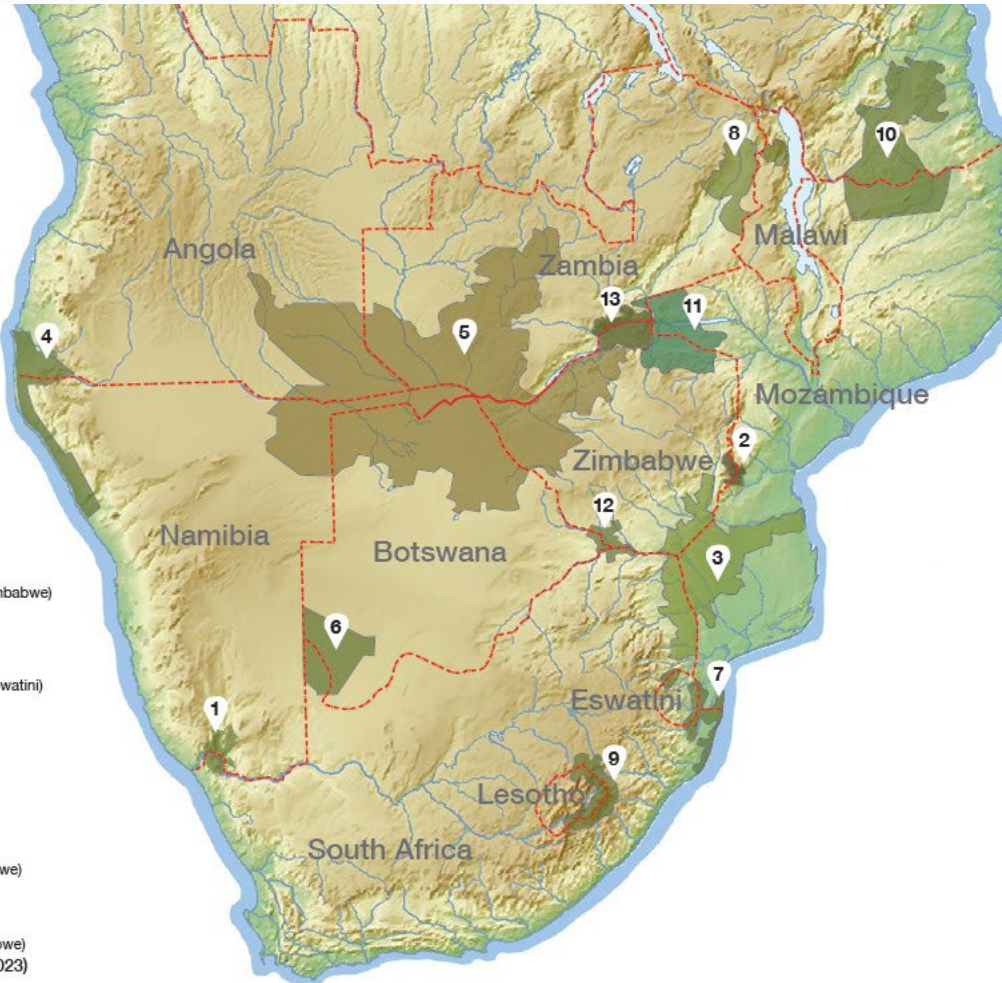
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- TFCAs span across multiple countries to promote biodiversity, eco-tourism, sustainable resource use.
- They aim to improve community livelihoods while conserving natural ecosystems.
- This presentation highlights:
 - o How livelihoods have improved
 - o Key challenges
 - o Role of political buy-in

How Community Livelihoods Have Improved in TFCAs

1. Eco-Tourism & Employment

- Job creation: guides, lodge staff, craft sellers
- **Example 1:** The Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe) boosted tourism revenue for local people.
- **Example 2:** Malawi Zambia (MAZA) TFCA: Fence attendants & ranger scouts contributed to 65% of wildlife crime arrests in Nyika National Park.
- Cash for work for communities around PAs has also provided both income and skills
- Aligns human development with conservation

Local Enterprise development and support



- Jannet Matota from the Namibian NGO - IRDNC advises Namibian "conservancies" on how they can generate more revenue.
- For example, with high-quality handicrafts: 60 percent of the income goes to the producers, 40 percent to the local authority.

Community employment and Ownership



Sustainable Resource Use

2. Sustainable Resource Use



- CBNRM enables sustainable hunting, fishing, harvesting.
- Great Limpopo TFCA: Trophy hunting supports local incomes.
- Promotes biodiversity and economic alternatives to illegal use.

How Community Livelihoods Have Improved in TFCAs

3. Cross-border Trade and Infrastructure

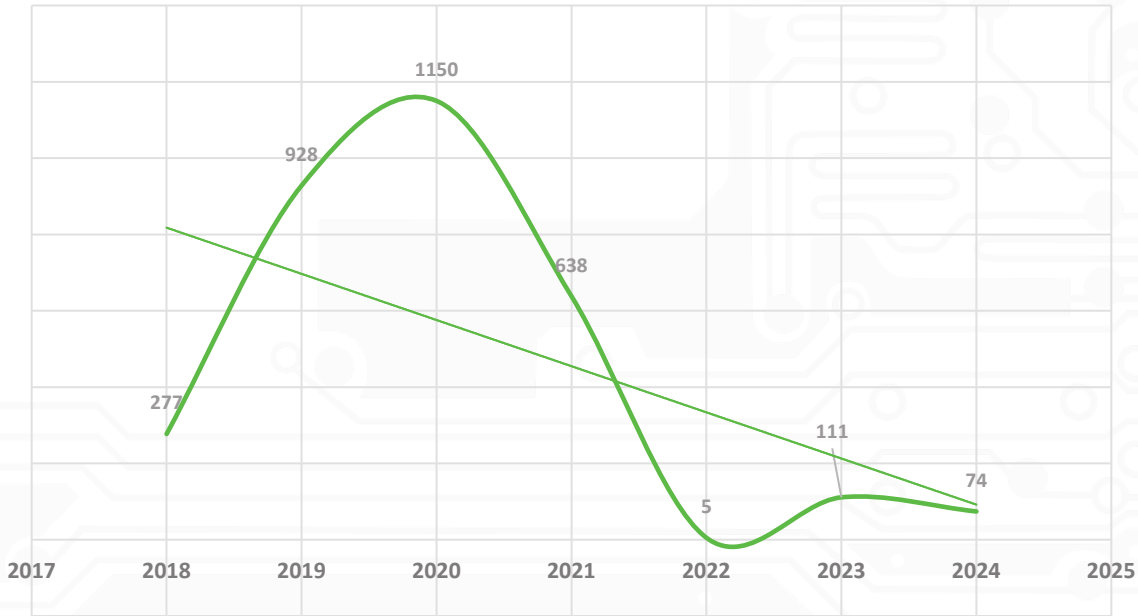
- Improved roads and relaxed border restrictions ease access to new markets for local traders and farmers
- **Example 1:** The Lubombo TFCA (Mozambique, South Africa and Eswatini) enabled trade in agricultural goods.
- **Example 1:** The MAZA TFCA- Nyika-Vwaza block HWC has reduced by up to 80% due to fence construction and maintenance.
- **Strengthens local capacity and trust**

Alternative Livelihoods

4. Alternative Livelihoods

- Support for beekeeping, irrigation, livestock, and conservation farming.
- For instance; MAZA TFCA: Funded by German Government through KfW, EU, PPF and IFAW support transformed livelihoods.
- Benefit communities in Kasungu-Lukusuzi landscape and Nyika-Vwaza-Chama block.
- Increased number of communities adopting Climate Smart Technologies & agroforestry- 22,390 HHs reached.
- Increased number of farmers practicing farm diversification-17,269 HH

HEC REPORTS FOLLOWING FENCE CONSTRUCTION IN VWAZA



Livestock pass on beneficiary,
Dawson Gondwe graduating
from goats to cattle

Alternative Livelihoods



How Community Livelihoods Have Improved in TFCAs

5. Enhanced governance and community involvement

- Promoted partnerships in conservation efforts
 - **Example 2:** MAZA TFCA: Co-Management Agreement signed in 2023 between Malawi govt and PPF – a model for shared conservation efforts
 - Partnership for people and nature
 - Aligned with MDGs related to water provision and sanitation (improving access to clean water & safe sanitation for all).

Governance and Partnerships

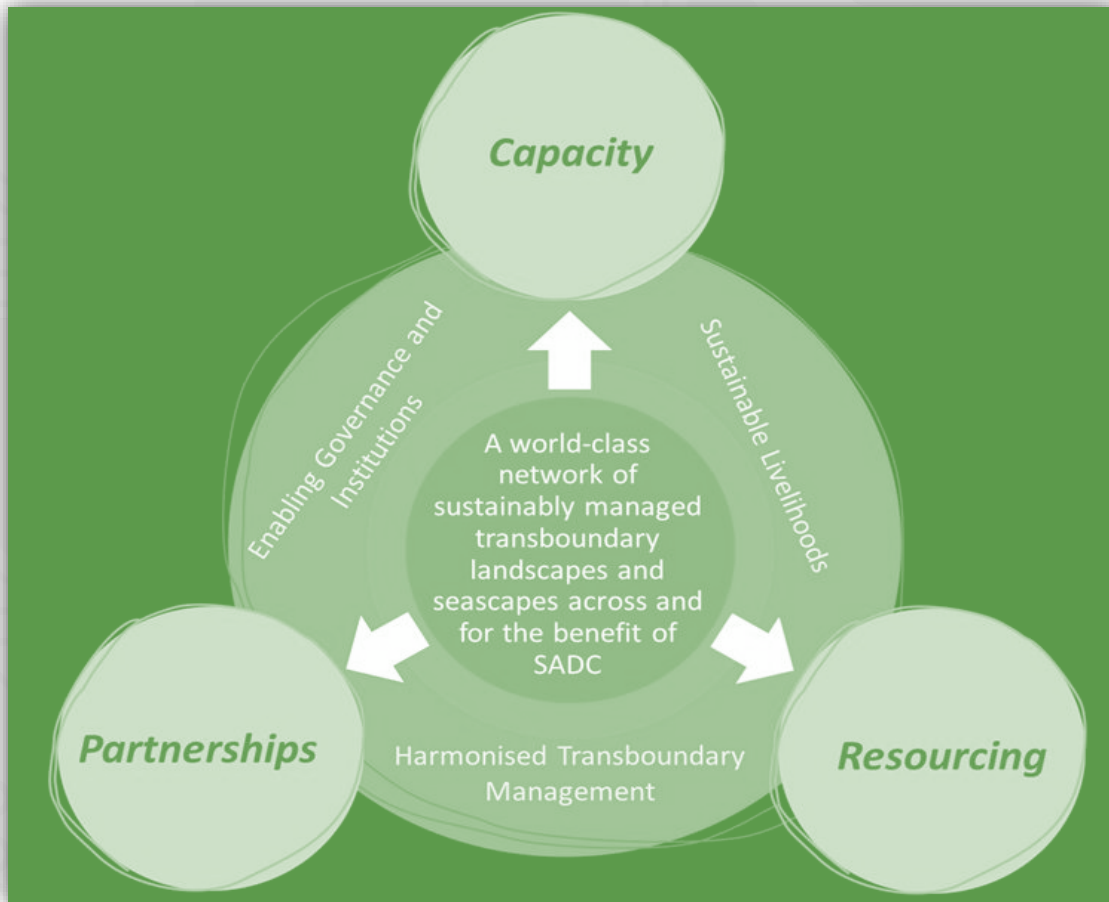


Enhanced community participation and partnerships.
MAZA TFCA: 2023 co-management agreement with PPF.
Supports Malawi Vision 2063's environmental goals.

Governance and Partnerships



The 2023-2033 SADC TFCA Programme



- Shared natural and cultural resources are sustainably co-managed and conserved
- TFCAs recognized as a foundation of
 - i. economic development,
 - ii. human well-being and
 - iii. improved resilience of people living within and around TFCAs

Lessons Learned

- Community involvement is essential.
- Visible benefits strengthen conservation commitment.
- Timely HWC response builds trust.
- Inclusive, context-specific strategies work best.

Key Challenges

1. Human-wildlife conflict
2. Limited community participation
3. Weak governance
4. Land access and displacement

More Challenges

- 5. Policy inconsistencies
- 6. Funding gaps
- 7. Climate impacts
- 8. Mining pressure
- 9. Accessibility issues

Political Support as a Solution

- Legal frameworks to ensure benefits and rights.
- Harmonize cross-border policies on tourism and conservation.
- Inclusive planning and eco-livelihood investments.
- Conflict mitigation schemes like insurance and compensation.

Conclusion

- Community-centered TFCAs improve livelihoods and conservation outcomes
- Political will, fair policies, and regional collaboration are essential
- Tangible benefits turn communities into conservation allies
- Long-term success relies on inclusive and sustainable approaches
- Community empowerment = Vehicle for effective environmental stewardship
- Community benefit = Community support = Conservation success

Acknowledgement



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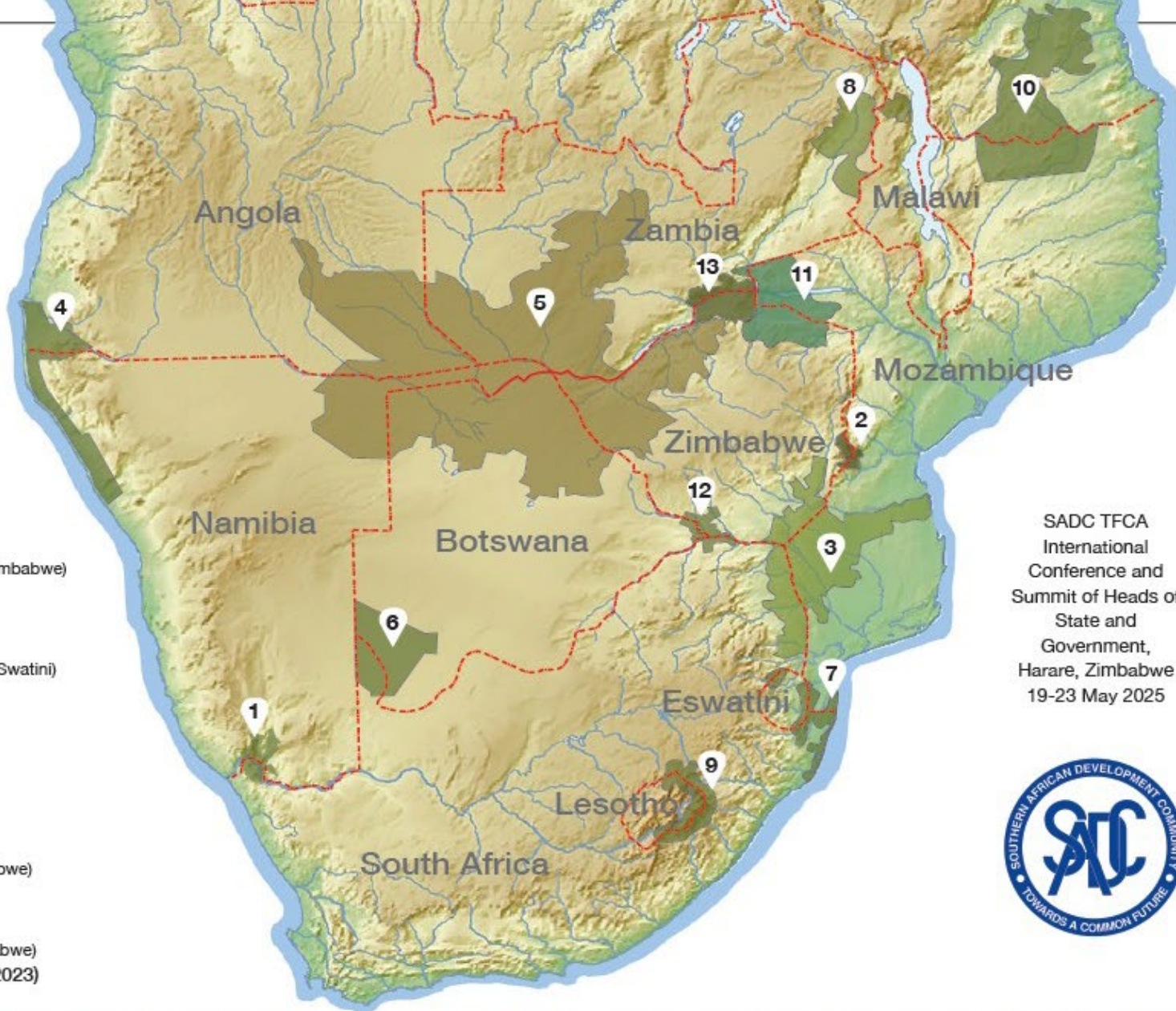
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Lunch

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TFCAs Facilitating better Transboundary Biodiversity Management

Facilitator: Dr Nyambe Nyambe –
Executive Director, KAZA Secretariat





TFCAs Facilitating better Transboundary Biodiversity Management

Presenter

Dr Mwape Sichilongo, International Crane Foundation

Panellists

- Mr Rueben Ngwenya – Sanparks, South Africa
- Dr Fortunata Msoffe – MNT, Tanzania
- Mr Samson Chibaya - ZimParks, Zimbabwe
- Mr Kenneth Uiseb, MEFT, Namibia





TFCAs Are Enabling Transboundary Biodiversity Management

MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE MORE

**MWAPE SICHILONGO
REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN FLOODPLAINS PROGRAMME
INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION**



19-23 MAY 2025, HARARE. ZIMBABWE



Key messages

- ▶ Integrated transboundary landscape management
- ▶ Facilitating cross-border biodiversity management and implementation
- ▶ Strong political
- ▶ Need to be strengthened in context





Objective of TFCAs

Holistic objectives anchored on biodiversity

- ▶ Clear institutional arrangements – MOUs and Treaties
- ▶ Community and stakeholder engagement
- ▶ Cross sectoral planning
- ▶ Protected areas as core zones
- ▶ Long term financing critical



Goals

GOAL 1: Integrated and effective management

GOAL 2: Improved well-being and livelihoods

Goal 3: Strengthened governance, multi-sector partnerships and regional integration

GOAL 4: Long-term sustainable finance

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





Strengthening TFCAs

- ▶ Financing
- ▶ Coordination and facilitation
- ▶ Resource protection and management
- ▶ Investment and financial resources
- ▶ Fragmentation and degradation

Other relevant issues

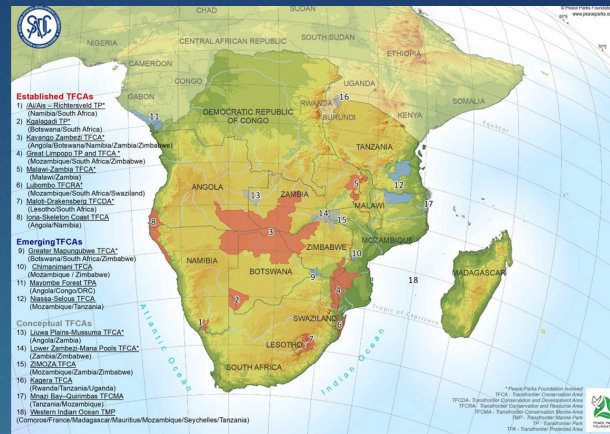
- ▶ **Conventions** – Biodiversity, Wetlands, Climate and others
- ▶ **Complexity** – scale, representation, shared risks, boundaries, knowledge, climate, socioecological realities, habitat loss
- ▶ **Alignment** – stewardship, acceptance, governance, equity, benefits



SADC-TFCA Programme 2023 –2033

► Co-developed with stakeholders

- Vision of the SADC TFCA Programme
- SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

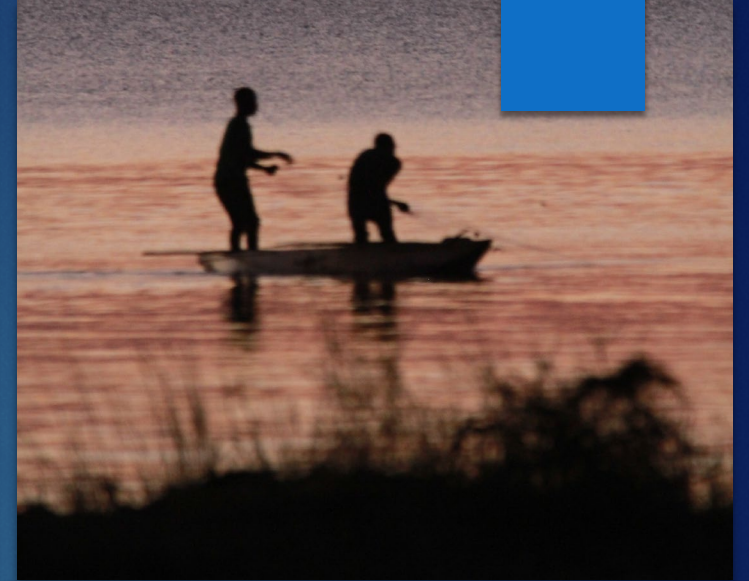


At the back of our minds

TFCAs are vital for sustaining biodiversity and fostering regional cooperation. Strengthening governance ensures long-term ecological and socioeconomic benefits.

► More than

- Protected areas for wildlife and forests
- Fences and fines
- Laws and policies
- *People and their culture, nature and the future, ecology and the economy, resilience and sustenance of society!*





At the back of our minds

- ▶ **Governance** – participation, regulation, equity, inclusivity, transparency and accountability. We must see success in resource protection and embrace science and appreciate the contiguous distribution of some resources – elephants.

▶ Ecological and socioeconomic benefits

- ▶ Legitimacy which powers TFCAs; the legacy we desire and the future we must and are co-creating

The logo for the African Protected Area Congress (APAC) is displayed in a stylized, lowercase font. The letters 'a', 'p', and 'a' are dark green, while 'c' is bright yellow. The letters 'n' and 'c' are a lighter shade of green. To the right of the text is a colorful illustration of African wildlife: a red elephant with large tusks, a green acacia tree, and a blue silhouette of a person sitting on a rock next to a blue fish.

apac

African
Protected Area
Congress –
Kigali

- ▶ Empower the custodians of nature in Africa
- ▶ People at the centre of equitable conservation
- ▶ Economic value of protected areas
- ▶ Integrated approach - *natural solutions to the biodiversity and climate change crises*

Thank you





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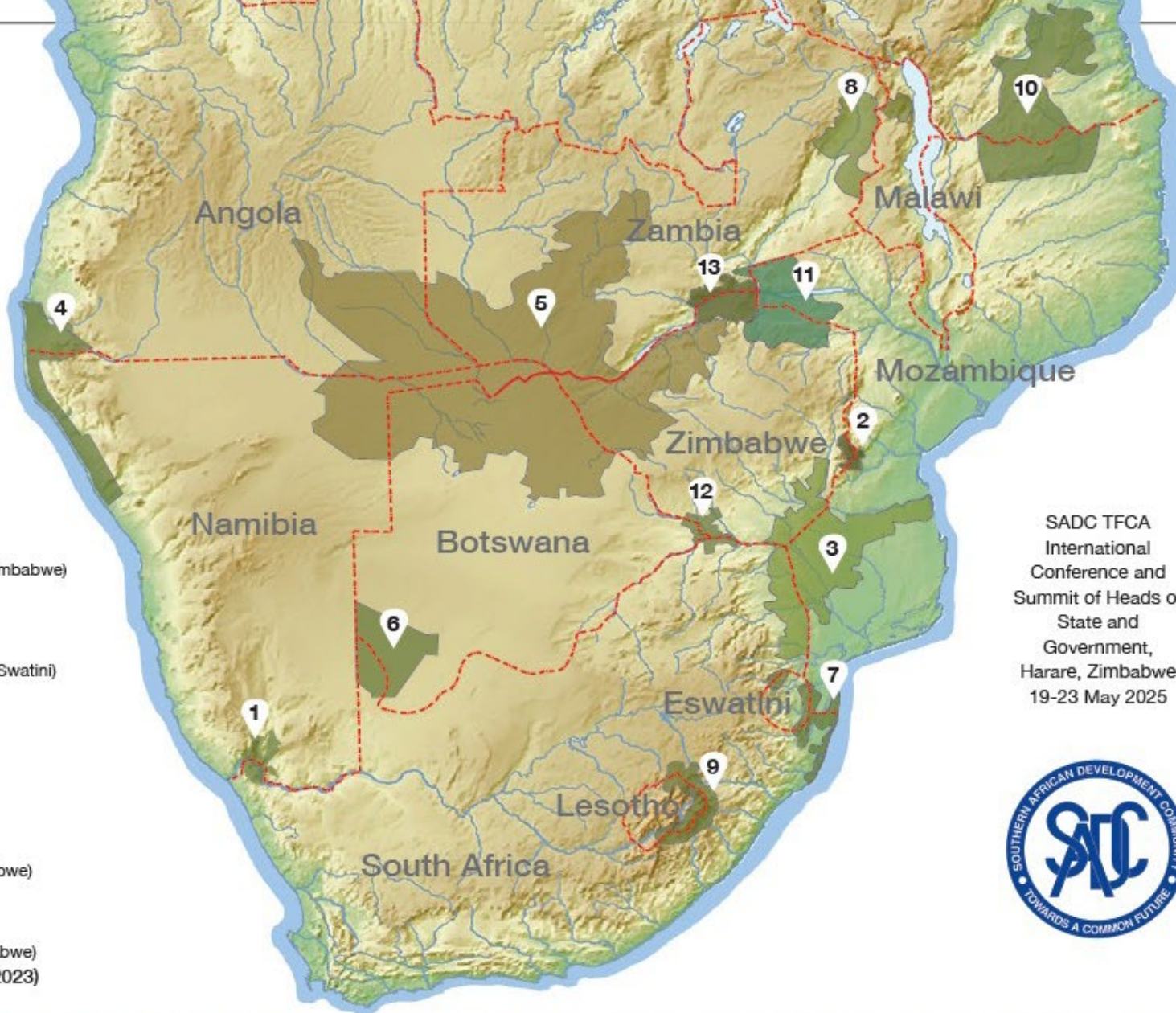
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- 5 Kavango Zambezi TFCA (2011)
520 000 km²
(Angola / Botswana / Namibia / Zambia / Zimbabwe)
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SADC TFCA
International
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Harare, Zimbabwe
19-23 May 2025



SADC TFCAS: 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Tea Break

We will reconvene at 15:00



SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas International Conference



Implemented by: **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

KfW

Conferência Internacional de Áreas de Conservação Transfronteiriças da SADC
Conférence Internationale sur les Aires de Conservation Transfrontalières de la SADC

HARARE, REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, 19 - 20 MAY 2025

SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas - 25 Years of Cooperation for Regional Integration and Sustainable Development
Aires de conservation transfrontalières de la SADC : 25 ans de coopération en faveur de l'intégration régionale et du développement durable
Áreas de conservação transfronteiriças da SADC - 25 anos de cooperação para a integração regional e o desenvolvimento sustentável



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Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas

Facilitator: Mr Valison Kiady
RAKOTODRAVONINALA –
Madagascar TFCA Focal Point



Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas in SADC

Presenter

Dr. Milali Machumu , Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA)

Panellists

- Dr Markus Bergener - TRAFFIC
- Ms Katrina Hilundwa – SADC Secretariat
- Ms Lya Docteur – Seychelles TFCA Focal Point
- Ms Maria Sardinha, Benguela Current Convention (Virtual)





Establishing Transboundary Marine Protected / Conservation Area (TBCA)

Milali Machumu - WIOMSA

A Presentation made during the Conference & Summit of SADC – TFCA:
19th - 23rd May, 2025: Rainbow Towers Hotel, Harare - Zimbabwe

Presentation outline

- ❑ TBCA concepts & definitions
- ❑ Why and how SADC could establish transboundary marine protected/conservation areas?
- ❑ What has been tried in the past, and what is working?
- ❑ How to go about establishing marine TBCA?
- ❑ What are the key problems/challenges with their establishment/management?
- ❑ What political support could help unlock the TBCA processes?

Concepts and definitions of TBCA/TCFA

- ❑ The clause 'Trans-frontier Marine Conservation Area (TFCA)' is used to describe a protected area spread/across between two or more countries, with defined linkages between them.
- ❑ A TFCA is an area comprising two areas, which border each other across international boundaries and whose primary focus is management/conservation of ecological systems and associated biodiversity.
- ❑ An effective TFCA includes not only physical connections between Trans-frontier sites (e.g.; extended ecosystems, currents, migrating species, exchange biota, long larval life stages); but also institutional and managerial arrangements and most importantly coordinated TFCA planning.
- ❑ TFCA promotes joint management of shared resources (e.g., forests, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs crossing borders).
- ❑ Needs common policies and practices to ensure consistency of management and protection.
- ❑ Promotes increased coordination, communication, and shared learning across governments and stakeholders.



Why TBCAs?

- ❑ TFCAs are developed with the aim of collaboratively managing shared natural and cultural resources across international boundaries for improved biodiversity.
- ❑ They are important tools in promoting the conservation of biodiversity and endangered ecosystems.
- ❑ TFCAs can contribute to the welfare and improvement in the standards of living of rural communities through the development of tourism and tourism related products.
- ❑ Manage shared natural resources, improve well-being of local communities and other stakeholders and promote regional integration.
- ❑ Ecological systems and migratory species ignore political borders/boundaries (nature knows no boundaries).
- ❑ They significantly contribute to ecological, socio-economic and cultural benefits.
- ❑ Facilitate both biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development in shared ecological region spanning international borders.
- ❑ Ensuring adequate mixing of the gene pool to maintain natural genetic characteristics of the population.
- ❑ Ensuring protection of unique, endemic, rare and threatened species.
- ❑ TFCAs is vital in reducing threats to International relations and Diplomatic co-operation among countries in the region.
- ❑ Contributes to the Blue Economy by promoting sustainable resource management, protecting marine ecosystems, and fostering regional cooperation

TFCA Development in SADC

- ❑ The SADC Member States have demonstrated their commitment to the conservation of biodiversity by signing the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement in 1999 and ratifying it at the end of 2003.
- ❑ Article 4(f) of this Protocol commits the SADC Member States to “promote the conservation of the shared wildlife resources through the establishment of TFCAs”.
- ❑ In this protocol, a TFCA is defined 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 resources use areas”.
- ❑ In this context, it can be said that the establishment, development and management of TFCAs forms part of broader aims of trans-boundary ecosystem management, integration of conservation with development, promoting regional cooperation and socio-economic development in the Southern African.

TFCAs in SADC

❑ To-date there are about 20 TFCAs in SADC, most of them are terrestrial TFCA.

No	Name of TFCA	COUNTRIES	STATUS
1.	/Ai/ Ais – Richtersveld Transfrontier Park	Namibia & South Africa	Category A: Treaty signed August, 2003
2.	Iona – Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area	Angola & Namibia	Category A: Memorandum of Agreement signed May, 2018
3.	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Botswana & South Africa	Category A: Treaty signed April, 1999
4.	Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area	Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia & Zimbabwe	Category A: Treaty signed August, 2011
5.	Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park	Mozambique, South Africa & Zimbabwe	Category A; Treaty signed December, 2002
6.	Malawi – Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area	Malawi & Zambia	Category A: Treaty signed July, 2015
7.	Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area	Mozambique, South Africa & Eswatini	Category A: Treaty signed June, 2000
8.	Maloti – Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area	Lesotho & South Africa	MoU signed June, 2001
9.	Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area	Botswana, South Africa & Zimbabwe	Category B: MoU signed June, 2006
10.	Chimanimani Transfrontier Conservation Area	Mozambique & Zimbabwe	Category B: MoU signed June, 2001

TFCAs in SADC Cont'd...

11.	Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Protected Area	Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo. Gabon & Republic of Congo	Category B: MoU signed July, 2009
12.	Niassa – Selous Transfrontier Conservation Area	Mozambique & Tanzania	Category B: MoU signed March, 2007
13.	Liuwa Plains – Mussuma Transfrontier Conservation Area	Angola & Zambia	Category C: Conceptual TFCA
14.	Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools Transfrontier Conservation Area	Zambia & Zimbabwe	Category C: Conceptual TFCA
15.	Zimbabwe – Mozambique – Zambia (ZIMOZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area	Mozambique, Zambia & Zimbabwe	Category C: Conceptual TFCA
16.	Kagera Transfrontier Conservation Area	Rwanda, Tanzania & Uganda	Category C: Conceptual TFCA
17.	Mnazi Bay – Quirimbas Transfrontier Conservation Marine Area	Mozambique & Tanzania	Category C: Conceptual TFCA
18.	Western Indian Ocean Transfrontier Marine Park		Category C: Conceptual TFCA
19	Kenya – Tanzania Transfrontier Marine Conservation	Kenya & Tanzania	Category C: Conceptual TFCA

How to go about establishing marine TFCA?

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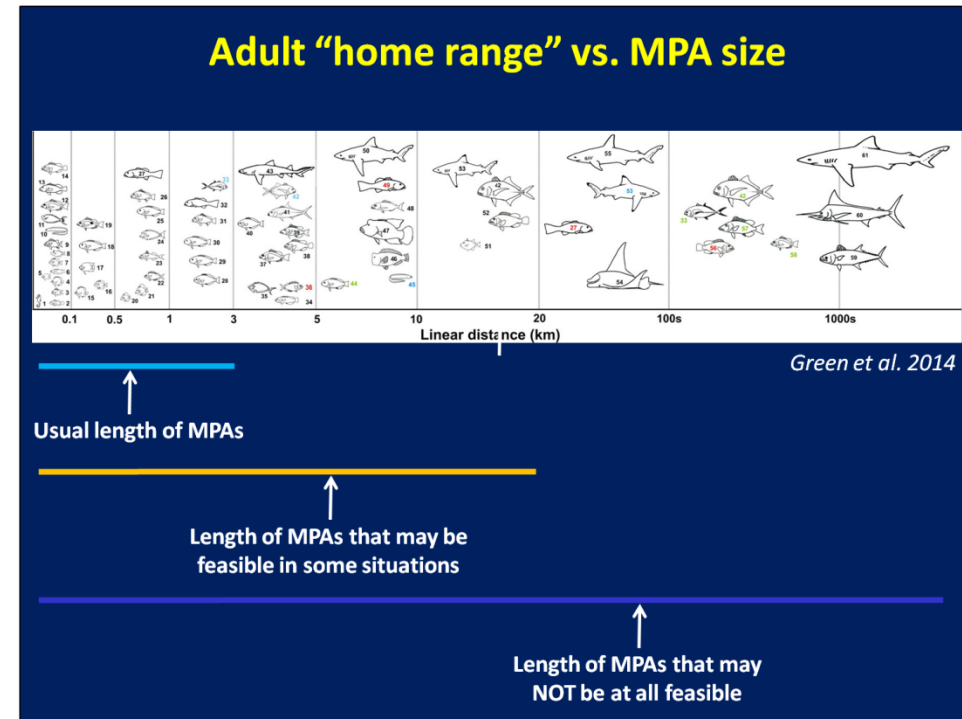
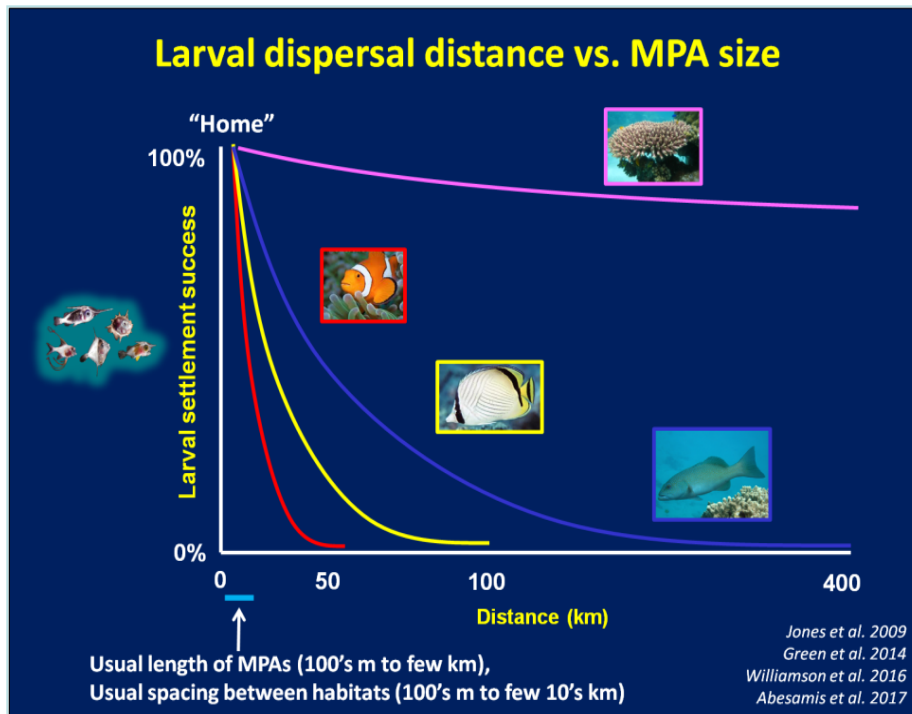
❑ Marine Protected Area Networks – What are they?

- ❑ MPAs – sea areas **fully** or **partially** protected from extractive activities
- ❑ Address fisheries management & biodiversity conservation simultaneously
- ❑ Not a “magic bullet” or “cure all” (just a subset of EAFM tools, mandates)
- ❑ MPA Networks - systems of MPAs that protect a **sufficient proportion (15-30%)** of fish/other populations during **vulnerable life stages** (juveniles and adults)

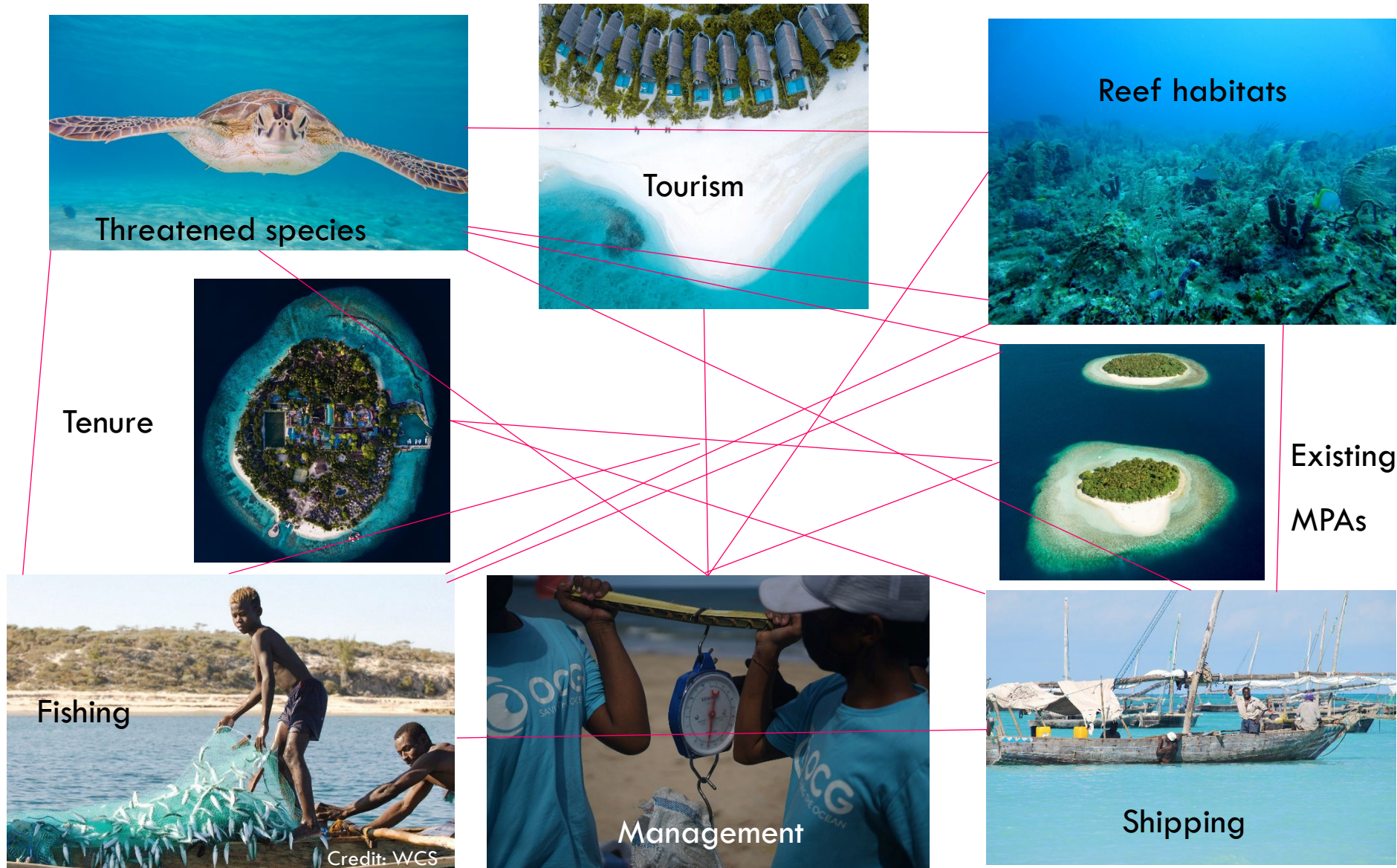


Ecological Considerations for MPA Networks

- ❑ **Size, spacing and location** of MPAs to ensure connectivity, spread risk and avoid threats, increase resilience
- ❑ Protecting **15-30% in core zone** MPAs helps to ensure sustainability
- ❑ Better fisheries management outside of MPAs is essential if 15-30% not attained or if MPAs unlikely to benefit species (e.g. many pelagics)



Planning for Multi-objective MPA Networks



Systematic Conservation Planning

MPA Design key questions

☐ What to protect?

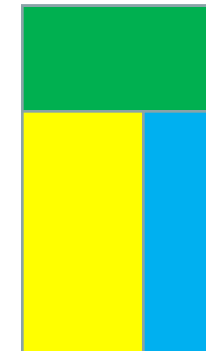
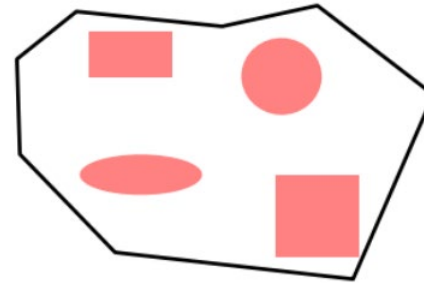
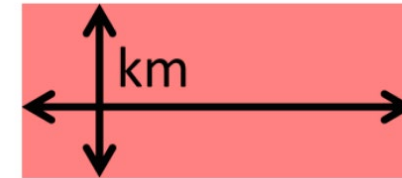
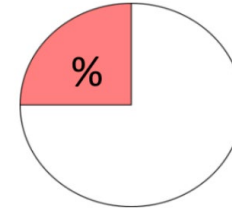
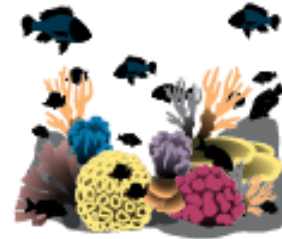
☐ How much area to protect?

☐ How big individual protected areas should be?

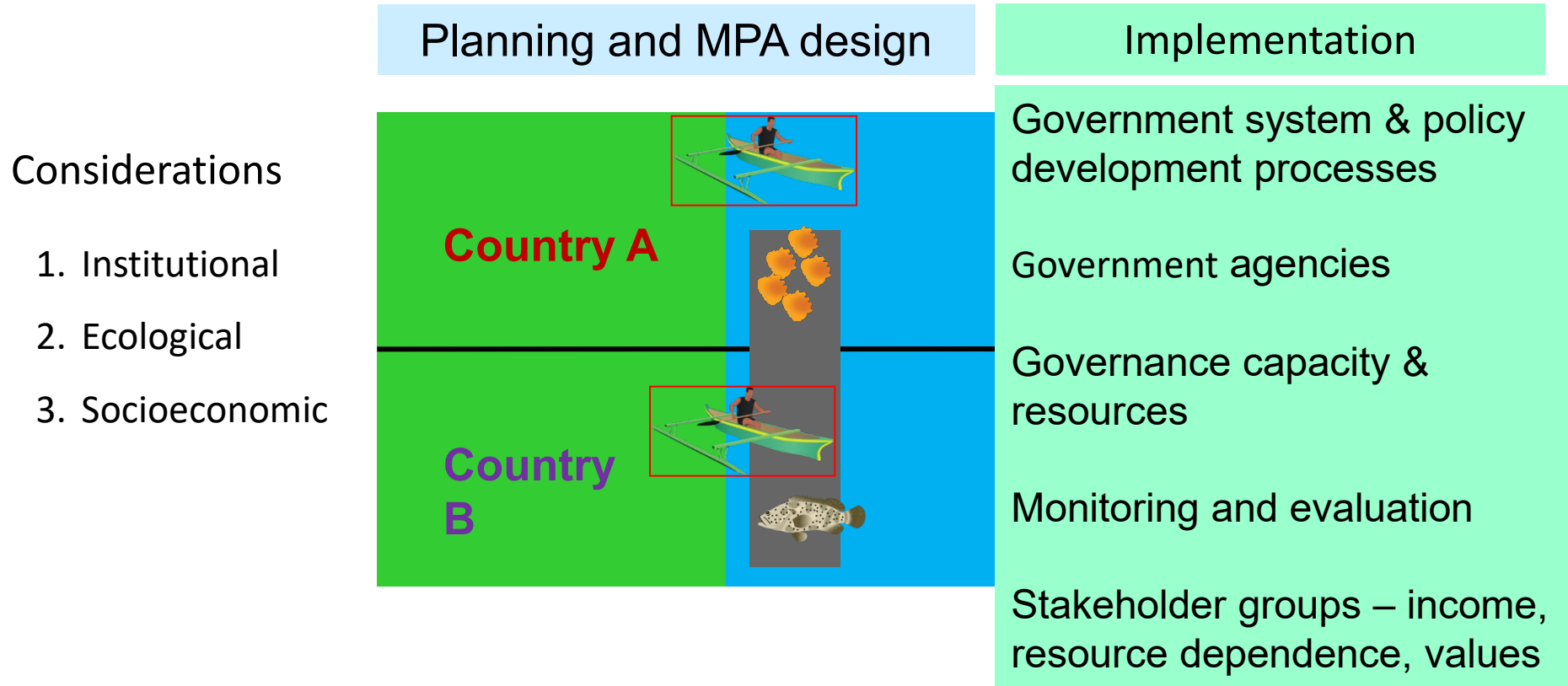
☐ Where to protect?

☐ When to protect?

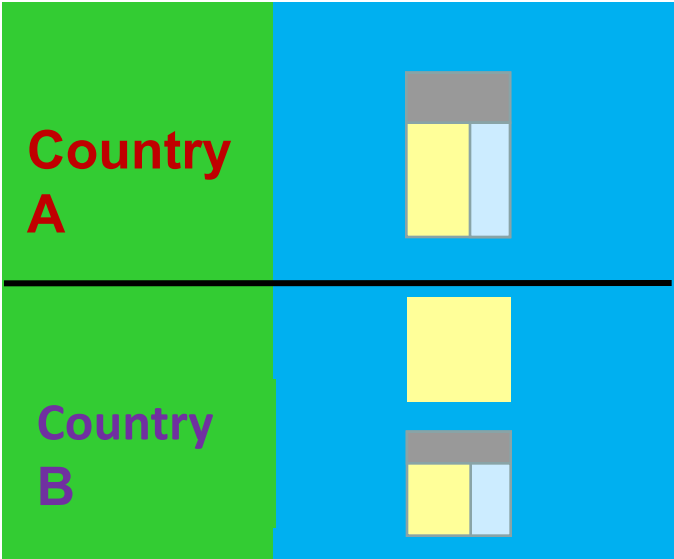
☐ How to protect?



Considerations for Planning & Implementation of the TBCA



Main Planning Scenarios

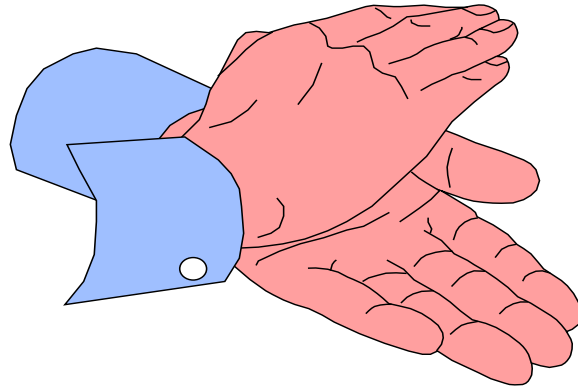
Scenarios	Planning and MPA design	Implementation
1. Transboundary		Share responsibilities and resources
2. Pseudo-transboundary		Separate but common policies and practices
3. Decentralised		Devolved governance with strong community engagement

The Key Problems/Challenges with TBCAs

- ☐ Harmonizing institutional and legal frameworks;
- ☐ Addressing knowledge gaps;
- ☐ Developing site specific management approach;
- ☐ Political commitment;
- ☐ Effective community and other stakeholders engagement;
- ☐ Management effectiveness;
- ☐ Establishing sustainable financing;
- ☐ Growing population pressures;
- ☐ Poaching and illegal activities;
- ☐ Resource use conflicts; and
- ☐ Species and habitat loss.

Political Support that could help to unlock the TBCA Establishment and Management Processes

- ❑ Political support needed to address existing problems/challenges, include:
 - ❑ Harmonising the pertinent legal and policy frameworks within and between Member States.
 - ❑ Reducing the knowledge and skill gaps among managers, administrators, communities and operators in all areas relevant for TFCA development.
 - ❑ Developing site, species and biome specific conservation approaches and viable land-use concepts.
 - ❑ Engaging a broad range of stakeholders, in the TFCA development processes, through inclusive planning, beneficiation, livelihood alternatives and better representation in TFCA governance and management structures.
 - ❑ Investing in basic economic and social infrastructure such as roads, border crossings, education and health facilities.
 - ❑ Expanding the focus from wildlife conservation to embracing all aspects of transboundary natural resource management in TFCAs.
 - ❑ Allocating a reasonable budget for carrying out conservation activities in the TFCAs.



Thanks for your Attention

Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas in SADC

Facilitator: Mr Valison Kiady RAKOTODRAVONINALA
– Madagascar TFCA Focal Point

Presenter

Dr. Milali Machumu , Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA)

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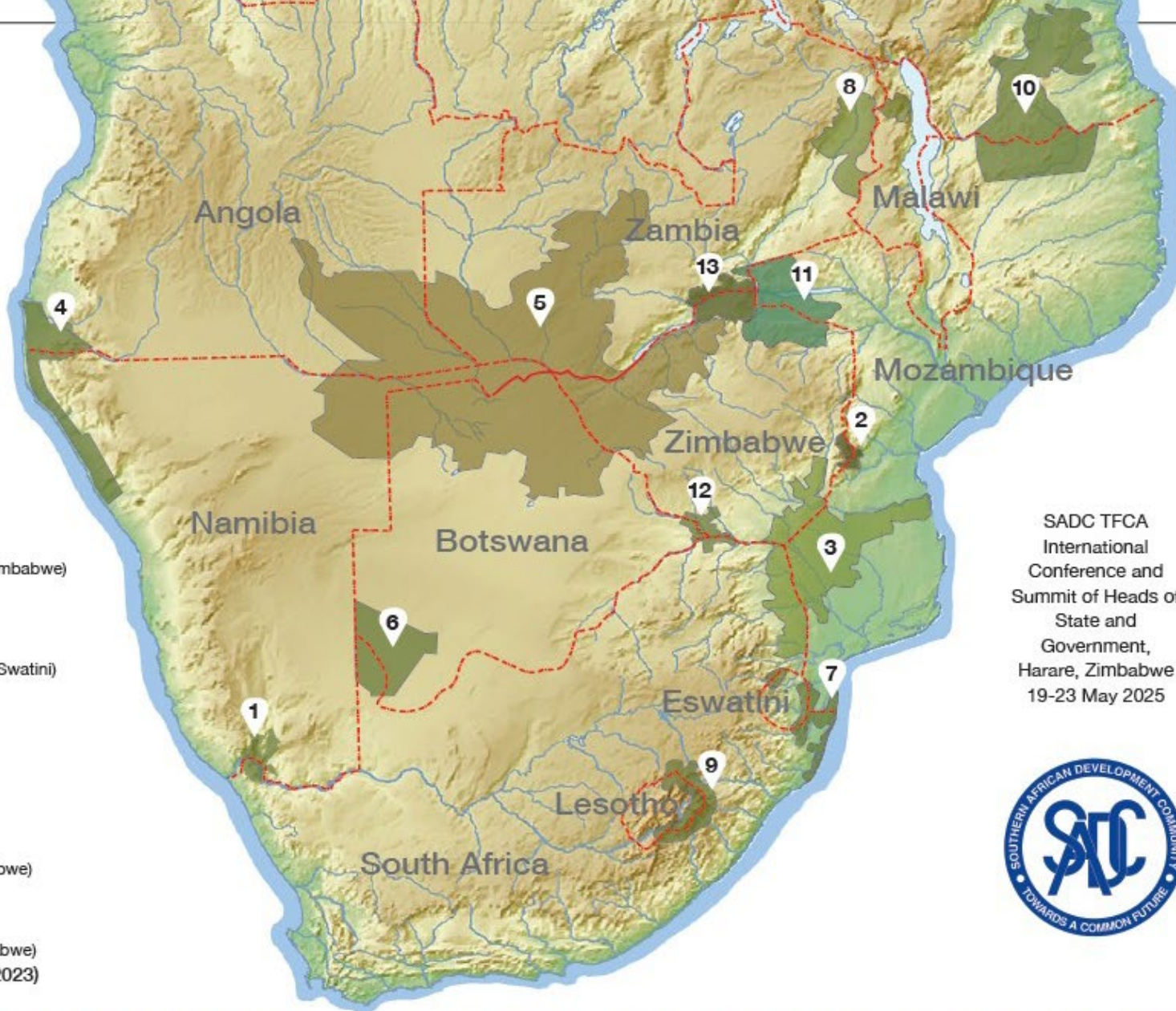
25 years of Transfrontier Conservation in Southern Africa

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SADC TFCAS: 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





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SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Programme

Facilitator: Mr Cornelio Miguel –
Mozambique TFCA Focal Point



SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching

Presenter

Dr. George Wambura – SADC Secretariat

Panellists

- Ms Tessa Cooper- TRAFFIC
- Mr Bennett Kahuure - Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia
- Mr Moemi Batshabang - Director-Wildlife and National Parks, Botswana





SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Programme

Overview of Multi-Agency Cooperation in SADC TFCAs

Dr. George Wambura, Programme Officer - Wildlife

SADC TFCA Conference (Harare, 19–21 May 2025)



1. Introduction to the LEAP Strategy (2022–2032)

SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching

(LEAP) Strategy 2022–2032: Its goal is to “*significantly reduce wildlife crime by 2032*” while strengthening law enforcement and governance.

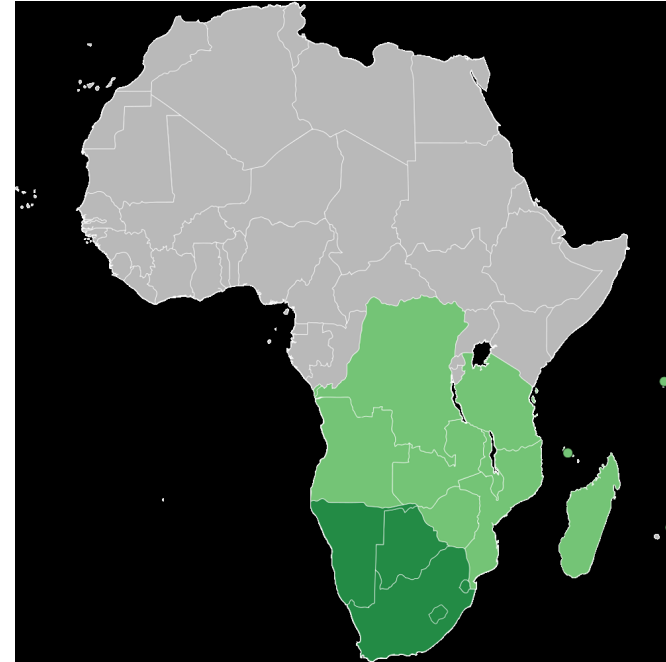
Strategic pillars: (1) professionalize protected-area and TFCA management; (2) promote sustainable use of natural resources and community-based approaches; (3) strengthen national anti-trafficking operations, prosecutions and legislation; and (4) strengthen transnational/regional collaboration

Key Components: cross-border partnership and data-sharing

Key Focus: Encourages multi-agency task forces and platforms (judiciary, police, customs, environment, communities) to work in concert.

Approach: Implement LEAP across TFCAs via joint patrols, intelligence sharing and harmonized laws.

Scope: 16 countries, including **all TFCA corridors**



2. Multi-agency Collaboration in TFCAs

Rationale: No single agency or country alone can tackle transnational poaching networks.

Multi-agency: brings together wildlife authorities, police, customs, border forces, and communities- to address complex wildlife crimes **across borders and jurisdictions**.

Role of TFCAs: TFCAs serve as natural platforms for cross-border cooperation:

- Joint anti-poaching patrols,
- share intelligence, and
- pursue suspects across boundaries under joint agreements.
- SADC TFCA Network and existing protocols, multi-agency teams have conducted joint operations that *transcend political boundaries* for greater impact.

Achievements : Joint patrols and operations in TFCAs (KAZA): *reduced cross-border poaching incidents* in those shared ecosystems - through improved coordination; INTERPOL-led regional operations and information exchange (SADC-TWIX).

Challenges: Coordination barriers:

- differing national procedures and occasional siloed efforts.
- limited funding and capacity to fully participate in cross-border operations.
- Legal and bureaucratic hurdles (e.g. slow extradition or mutual legal assistance processes)
- trust deficits between agencies can impede real-time collaboration.



3. Regional Highlights: Data and Member State Examples

Overall Progress: authorities have reported *significant declines in poaching*-roughly a **50% reduction in poaching of key wildlife species** - after scaling up patrols and intelligence operations.

Regional Enforcement Metrics: Data from the **2023 LEAP implementation review** - achievements and variations among countries.

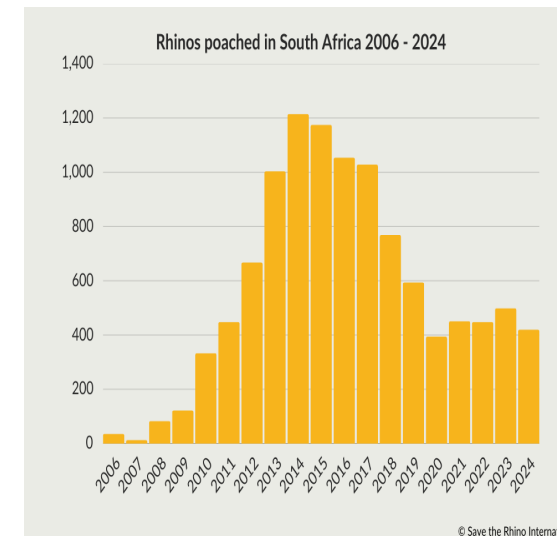
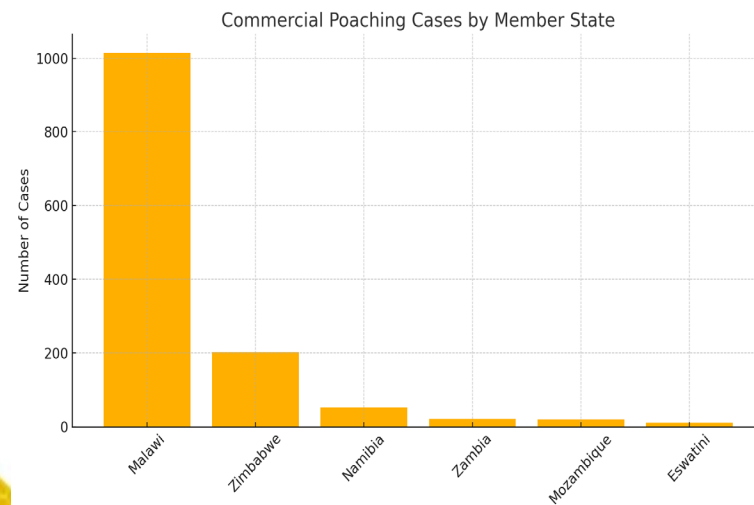
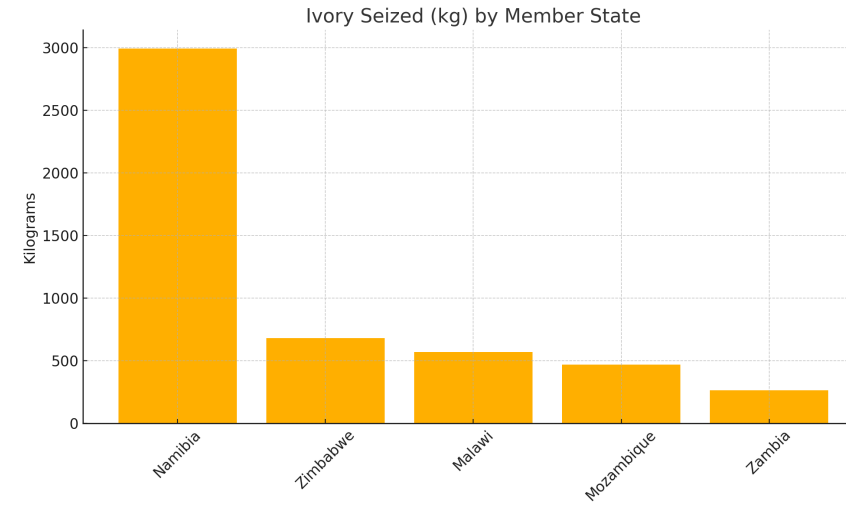
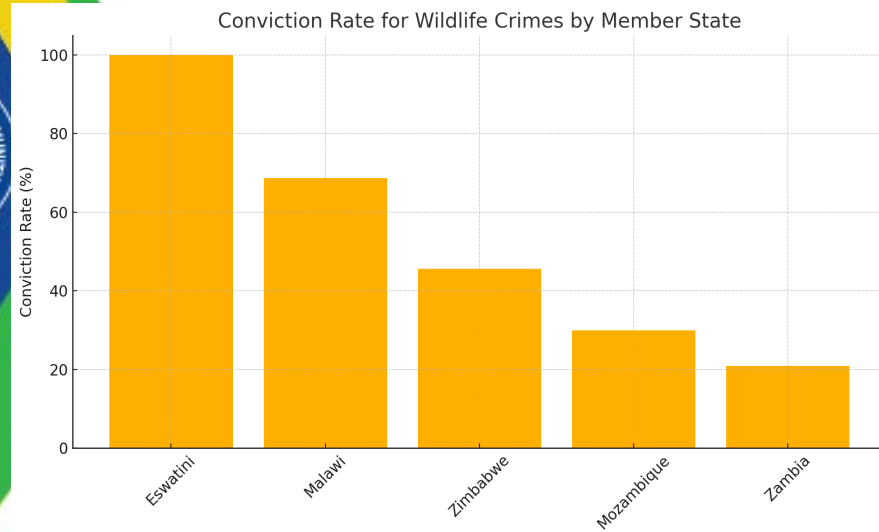
Malawi: recorded the highest number of poaching cases among SADC states in the past year, indicating active enforcement and reporting.

Namibia: led the region in the quantity of illegal ivory seized, reflecting strong detection and intelligence work.

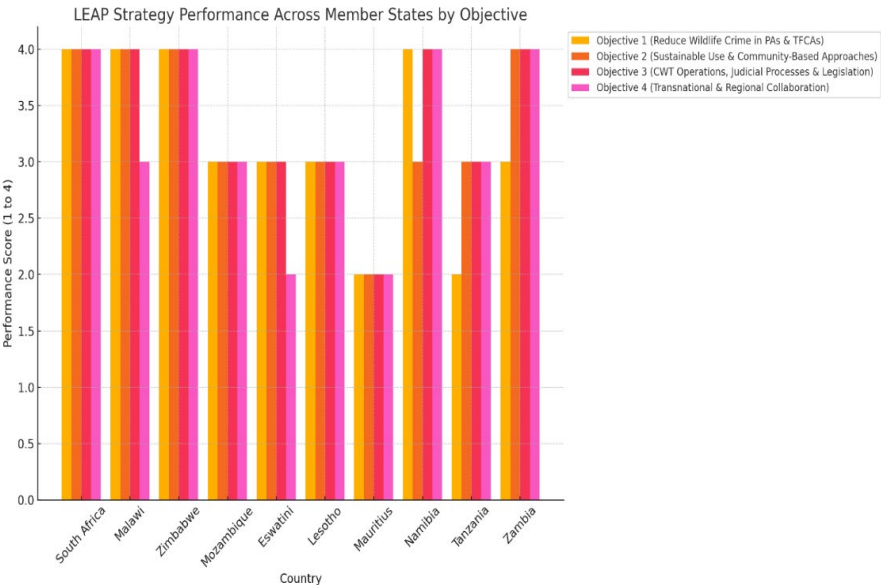
Conviction rates: for wildlife crimes have improved in many jurisdictions – notably, Malawi attained a **68.7% conviction rate** for prosecuted wildlife cases, and Eswatini achieved a remarkable over 90% conviction rate, underscoring effective prosecution and judicial engagement. (*Visual charts*)



3. Regional highlights: Virtual Charts



3. Regional highlights: Virtual Charts



Objective 1
Reduce Wildlife Crime



Objective 2
Sustainable Use & CBN



Objective 3
CWT & Legislation



Objective 4
Regional Collaboration



3. Regional Highlights: Data and Member State Examples

Namibia: *Cross-border operations, effective **CBNRM** and information-sharing (**SADC-TWIX**)* as keys to success.

Zimbabwe: ***Institutionalized** the LEAP Strategy domestically by integrating it into the Department of Wildlife and Parks Management and informing its National Wildlife Strategy. Zimbabwe presented **strong enforcement data** (arrests, seizures, prosecutions) indicating active implementation. Financial constraints remain to be a key challenge.*

Malawi: Showcased significant improvements through *decentralized enforcement*. By empowering **community scouts** and **conducting judicial outreach** (training for prosecutors and magistrates), Malawi strengthened law enforcement at **grassroots** and **court**. This contributed to its high **68.7% conviction rate** and increased seizures of high-value species like pangolins and ivory file. Malawi reaffirmed its **commitment** to **multi-agency cooperation**.



3. Regional Highlights: Data and Member State Examples

South Africa: Advances in *integrated strategy and training*.

- *National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking (NISCWT)*
- Judicial reform – including specialized prosecutorial training and wildlife crime courts;
- Actively participates in transfrontier initiatives (e.g. cross-border patrols with Mozambique and Zimbabwe in the Greater Limpopo TFCA and with neighbors in KAZA) to tackle poaching that spills across its borders.

Mozambique: Recent steps to build its enforcement capacity.

- it has *digitized law enforcement systems* for wildlife (introducing modern data management for park patrols and crime records)
- undertaken extensive ranger training.
- passed new wildlife conservation legislation, tightening penalties for poaching and trafficking.
- need for *greater institutional capacity* – more trained staff, equipment, and funding – to fully stem trafficking, especially in remote areas.

Zambia: Presented a *structured, data-driven* approach.



4. Successes and Innovations in Anti-Poaching

Information Sharing – SADC-TWIX: leading to **improvements in seizure reporting and transboundary alerts**.

Legal Reforms & Prosecution: Several Member States have strengthened their legal instruments against wildlife crimes

Cross-Border Operations: Multi-country enforcement operations have been a standout success of the LEAP Programme. Through frameworks (KAZA and Great Limpopo TFCA).

Technology & Intelligence: Embracing technology has been a game-changer in many areas.

- Advanced surveillance tools like **drones** and **remote sensor cameras**
- **Several countries have deployed** software - **digital law enforcement monitoring system** – for instance, **SMART** and **EarthRanger**.
- **Tracking collars** on elephants, rhinos, and other key species
- **Intelligence-led policing** is also on the rise: *dedicated Wildlife Crime Units* and *intelligence analysts* in countries like **Tanzania**, **Botswana**,

Community and Partnerships: **social innovation** in the form of greater community involvement in anti-poaching. Programs training community scouts (**Malawi** and **Zambia**).



5. Challenges and Gaps

Data Fragmentation: lack of a *unified data system* for wildlife crime across SADC.

Resource Constraints: *Insufficient resources* remain a major gap in fully implementing anti-poaching programs.

Inter-agency Coordination: Gaps in coordination both *within countries* and *between countries*. Some countries, National wildlife authorities, police, and customs do not yet have smooth coordination mechanisms. Some countries noted that structured cross-border collaboration is still *inadequate or ad-hoc*.

Corruption and Weak Prosecution of Kingpins: A cross-cutting challenge is the presence of corruption and the uneven prosecution of high-level offenders.



6. Way Forward: Priorities and Call to Action

Strengthen Regional Coordination (TIG): TIG will enhance information flow, monitor progress, and ensure accountability for regional actions. It will also address cross-cutting issues like human-wildlife conflict in tandem with anti-poaching efforts.

Unified Data & Information Systems: Need to develop a more **unified wildlife crime data portal** to tackle data fragmentation.

Mobilize Sustainable Funding:

- Member States are urged to increase national budget allocations for anti-poaching units and cross-border operations – treating wildlife crime as a serious security issue.
- Regionally, SADC to continue work with ICPs to mobilize funding aligned with LEAP priorities.
- Capitalize on Innovative financing (trust funds, public-private partnerships, conservation fees)



6. Way Forward: Priorities and Call to Action

Deepen Multi-Agency Collaboration in TFCAs:

- *standard operating procedure, regular joint trainings and exercises for rangers and enforcement officers;*
- *formal cross-border agreements/MOUs*
- Strengthening the TFCA Network and perhaps creating dedicated transboundary anti-poaching task teams under the LEAP TIG could institutionalize these efforts.

Holistic Approaches – Communities & Corruption:

- awareness campaigns;
- anti-corruption measures mainstreaming: collaboration with anti-corruption commissions, corruption risk assessments for wildlife sectors, and whistleblower mechanisms.
- protect the integrity of our enforcement;
- empowering communities, we build a grassroots line of defense and ensure sustainable development gains from conservation.

Political Will & Regional Unity – Call to Action:

- SADC Member States and partners must reaffirm their highest level of *political commitment* to eliminating wildlife crime.



6. Key Message to SADC TFCA Summit

Wildlife crime threatens not only our biodiversity but our sovereignty, economies, and security. TFCAs have emerged as frontlines for multi-agency anti-poaching operations—showcasing the power of collaboration across borders. To secure and scale these gains, we call upon the summit to:

1. **Mandate the full operationalization of TFCA-based multi-agency enforcement platforms**, including cross-border task forces and joint command structures.
2. **Adopt a SADC Wildlife Crime Protocol or Legal Cooperation Mechanisms** to harmonize penalties, extradition procedures, and asset seizure laws across Member States.
3. **Prioritize investment in ranger welfare, training, and equipment**, recognizing rangers as critical front-line defenders of our regional heritage.
4. **Empower communities as co-guardians**, by integrating local scouts, informants, and traditional leaders into anti-poaching strategies.





THANK YOU

MERCI

OBRIGADA

ASANTENI SANA





SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching

Facilitator: Mr Cornelio Miguel – Mozambique TFCA Focal Point

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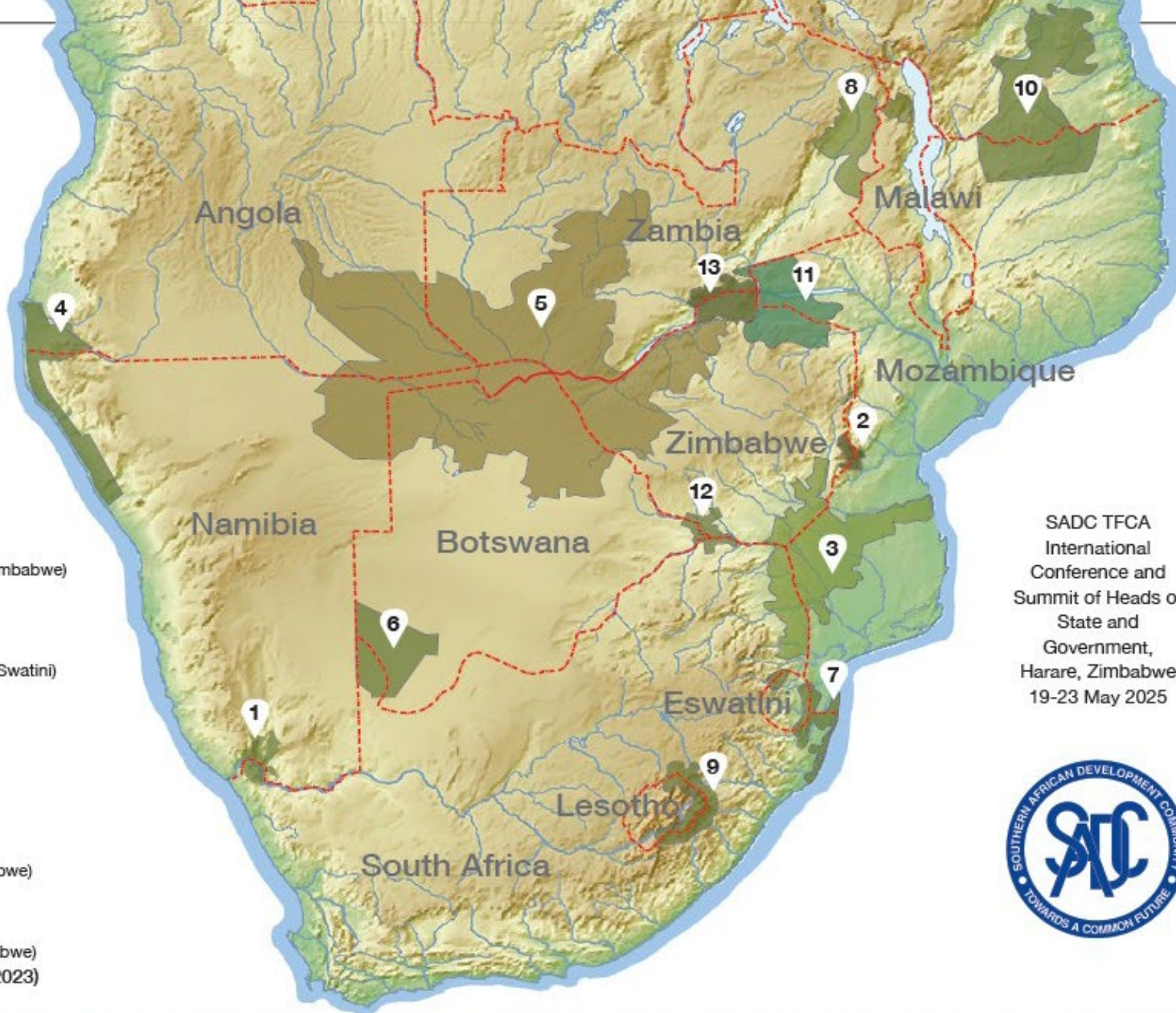
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(Mozambique / South Africa / Zimbabwe)
- 4 Iona - Skeleton Coast TP (2018)
47 698 km² (Angola/Namibia)
- 5 Kavango Zambezi TFCA (2011)
520 000 km²
(Angola / Botswana / Namibia / Zambia / Zimbabwe)
- 6 Kgalagadi TP (1999)
35 551 km² (Botswana / South Africa)
- 7 Lubombo TFCA (2000)
11 169 km² (Mozambique / South Africa / eSwatini)
- 8 Malawi - Zambia TFCA (2015)
31 792 km² (Malawi / Zambia)
- 9 Maloti - Drakensberg TFCDA (2001)
14 740 km² (Lesotho / South Africa)
- 10 Niassa - Selous Ecosystem (2015)
154 000 km² (Mozambique / Tanzania)
- 11 ZIMOZA TFCA (2024)
29 859 km² (Mozambique / Zambia / Zimbabwe)

Category B (proposed TFCA's)

- 12 Greater Mapungubwe TFCA (2006)
5 910 km² (Botswana / South Africa / Zimbabwe)
- 13 Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA (2023)
17 745 km² (Zambia / Zimbabwe)



SADC TFCA
International
Conference and
Summit of Heads of
State and
Government,
Harare, Zimbabwe
19-23 May 2025



SADC TFCAS: 25 YEARS OF COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





SADC TFCAs International Conference

Harare International Convention Centre, May 19-21, 2025

SADC TFCAs : 25 Years of Collaboration for Regional Integration and Sustainable Development



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Day 1 Closing



Closed
We will reconvene at 9:00am
Tuesday



SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas International Conference



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Conferência Internacional de Áreas de Conservação Transfronteiriças da SADC
Conférence Internationale sur les Aires de Conservation Transfrontalières de la SADC

HARARE, REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, 19 - 20 MAY 2025

SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas - 25 Years of Cooperation for Regional Integration and Sustainable Development
Aires de conservation transfrontalières de la SADC : 25 ans de coopération en faveur de l'intégration régionale et du développement durable
Áreas de conservação transfronteiriças da SADC - 25 anos de cooperação para a integração regional e o desenvolvimento sustentável



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