Proceedings of the SACD TFCA Webinar Series titled

20 YEARS OF TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION IN SADC
Contributing to resilience across borders

held from 7 July until 12 September 2020
This document contains the proceedings of the webinar series entitled “20 years of Transfrontier Conservation in SADC Contributing to resilience across borders”, hosted by the SADC TFCAs Network from 7 July to 12 September 2020.

The videos of the sessions can be found on the Network’s YouTube Channel and its Facebook Page. The presentations are available on the SADC TFCAs Portal.

In presenting these proceedings, the SADC TFCA Unit and Steering Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Network Members and Partners.

Special mention should be given to the core collaborating partners:

- **GIZ:** Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (TUPNR) Programme
- **USAID:** Resilient Waters Program, VukaNow Program and Khetha Program (with WWF-SA)
- **IUCN:** East and Southern Africa Office and BIOPAMA Programme
- **The Peace Parks Foundation**
- **The Southern African Wildlife College**

A special note of thanks is given to the presenters who contributed to the proceedings, and to the participants who provided the sessions’ reports in this document:

- **Dr Alexandre Caron** — Research Platform: Production and Conservation in Partnership (CIRAD/UEM)
- **Ms Lara Rall** — Khetha Program (USAID & WWF-SA)
- **Mr Kevan Zunckel** — Consultant and Chair of the IUCN Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
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Please cite as: Bocchino C., Blanken L., Bertzky B., Caron A., Maciejewski K., Rall L., Stevens C., Zunckel K., 2021, 20 years of Transfrontier Conservation in SADC: contributing to resilience across borders. Proceedings of the webinar series held from 7 July to 12 September 2020. SADC, Gaborone, Botswana

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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>AFC</td>
<td>Agriculture and Finance Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHEAD</td>
<td>Animal Health for Environment and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAC</td>
<td>Agência Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (Mozambican National Agency for Conservation Areas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOPAMA</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme (implemented by IUCN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOSEC</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Security (an EU-funded project to the University of Sheffield)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTO</td>
<td>Botswana Tourism Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBNRM</td>
<td>Community-based Natural Resource Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Climate Change Adaptation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIRAD</td>
<td>Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>The Convention on Migratory Species</td>
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<td>COMACO</td>
<td>Community Markets for Conservation</td>
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<td>DEFF</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENTC</td>
<td>Eswatini National Trust Commission</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>The European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FANR</td>
<td>Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Directorate of SADC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FF</td>
<td>Financing Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCF</td>
<td>Green Climate Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environmental Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLTFCA</td>
<td>Great Limpopo TFCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLTP</td>
<td>Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>HWC</td>
<td>Human-Wildlife Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFAW</td>
<td>International Fund for Animal Welfare</td>
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<td>IUCN</td>
<td>The International Union for the Conservation of Nature</td>
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<td>JRC</td>
<td>Joint Research Commission of the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>K2C</td>
<td>Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAZA</td>
<td>Kavango-Zambezi TFCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>KFW</td>
<td>Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Development Bank)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEAP</td>
<td>Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching</td>
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<td>LTFCA</td>
<td>Lubombo TFCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAB</td>
<td>Man and the Biosphere</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDTP</td>
<td>Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICD</td>
<td>National Institute for Communicable Diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECM</td>
<td>Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIE</td>
<td>Office International des Épizooties (World Organisation for Animal Health)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPF</td>
<td>The Peace Parks Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Protected Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>Republic of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>REDD</td>
<td>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RBO</td>
<td>River Basin Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RWP</td>
<td>Resilient Waters Program</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
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<td>SANPARKS</td>
<td>South African National Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAPAS</td>
<td>Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group of the IUCN</td>
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<tr>
<td>TFCA</td>
<td>Transfrontier Conservation Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>Transfrontier Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUPNR</td>
<td>Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (A GIZ Programme)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCMC</td>
<td>World Conservation Monitoring Centre (a UNEP centre based in the United Kingdom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWF</td>
<td>World Wildlife Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZIMPARKS</td>
<td>The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority</td>
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INTRODUCTION

2020 marked exactly 20 years since former Presidents Festus Mogae of Botswana and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa officially launched the first transfrontier conservation area (TFCA) in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Known as the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, the area consists of the Gemsbok National Park in Botswana and the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park in South Africa. This event marked the beginning of a new era for conservation in the region that would be built on transboundary collaboration to protect critical ecosystems, their unique features, and the wildlife they support. Since then, 18 cross-border areas have been listed as SADC TFCAs, out of which 12 have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or treaties.

In celebration of the first 20 years of transfrontier conservation in the region, the SADC TFCA Network Steering Committee organised a series of open online events presenting the evolution of SADC TFCAs, the successes, the challenges, and the contributions made by other regional and international government and non-government organisations, to achieving the objectives of the SADC TFCA Programme, based on its three pillars, see Figure 1.

The webinar series took place weekly from July to September 2020 and was composed of 20 sessions, divided between presentation sessions and round table discussions on priority topics. The contents were provided by practitioners and researchers who are, for the most part, active members of the SADC TFCAs Network established in 2013.

The topics range from governance and management to conservation, law enforcement and coexistence, to sustainable financing and collaboration with other existing international agreement relevant to TFCAs. Importantly, in recognition that TFCAs are tasked to provide a wide framework for sustainable resource management, special sessions were dedicated to transboundary water management and climate change adaptation.

The SADC TFCAs International Collaborating Partners (ICPs) were critical to the creation of the series by providing the necessary human and knowledge resources, , identifying experts and finalising the content with the SADC TFCAs Unit and Steering Committee. This series would never have been possible had the SADC TFCAs Network not developed into a group of experts with the strong desire to work together, to bridge gaps between networks and to support both the Member States and SADC in developing TFCA programmes. It is these programmes that can address the question of integrated sustainable development for Southern Africa’s rural areas and reduce the conflict that decades of unilateral conservation initiatives have generated.
Content
OF THE SESSIONS
The first session of the series was dedicated to a retrospective reflection on how transfrontier conservation began and evolved in Southern Africa. Whilst acknowledging all the foreign countries, NGOs and private sector that contributed to this story, a particular mention was made to the unique role of SADC and its unique role in providing the overarching framework and enabling environment for TFCAs to flourish through collaboration and partnership.

1.1 History of Transfrontier Conservation in Southern Africa
Seth Maphalala, Lubombo TFCA Coordinator, Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC)

The first TFCA in the world was established in 1928 through the Krakow Protocol between Poland and Czechoslovakia, while the first TFCA negotiations in Southern Africa started in 1930 between Mozambique and South Africa, in what is now Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP). The Peace Parks Foundation was established in 1997 to drive TFCA development in the SADC region which embraced the TFCA concept through the SADC Protocol on Wildlife and Conservation and Law Enforcement in 1999. The first TFCAs followed in 2000 with the formation of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, located between Botswana and South Africa, and the Lubombo TFCA between Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa. Two years later, in 2002, the third treaty, between Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe was signed to establish the GLTP. Since then, the SADC TFCA development process has resulted in 18 TFCAs at different stages of development. In 2010, in preparation for the FIFA World Cup, South Africa initiated a marketing facility to enhance tourism in the region, which evolved into Boundless Southern Africa, the marketing wing of the TFCA. The region has also developed the SADC TFCA Programme, the SADC Tourism Programme and the TFCA Financing Facility to enhance the mainstreaming of TFCAs. To harmonise TFCA development, the SADC TFCA unit has established guidelines and facilities for information exchange and sharing of good practice, such as the TFCA Network and Communities of Practice. The SADC TFCA Programme has partnered with several organisations to boost implementation such as the German Development Cooperation (as both GIZ and KfW), USAID, the UK Department for International Development, and the Swedish International Development Agency.
1.2 The SADC TFCA Programme and post 2020 vision
Tawanda Gotosa, TFCA Technical Advisor, SADC Secretariat

The SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) Programme is an innovative biodiversity conservation approach adopted by SADC Member States that places greater emphasis on inter-connectivity of large diverse landscapes with active participation of communities living adjacent to conservation areas. TFCAs are designed to be local development-hubs through biodiversity conservation-friendly local economies, based on tourism. TFCAs have become the model of a landscape approach to conservation that supports community livelihoods and empowerment.

The continued commitment to sustain TFCAs development in the region, is largely based on the lessons learnt and stakeholder input that is well guided by Member States. The current priorities beyond the 20 years of implementation include; continued political commitment and active participation of Member States, increased contribution of TFCAs to local development, biodiversity conservation, marketing and promoting TFCAs as tourism destinations, and capacity building for field staff and communities. There is also a new thrust to utilise the TFCAs model to address global crises such as wildlife crime, climate change, zoonotic diseases and biodiversity loss; and as a catalyst for a post COVID-19 pandemic, green recovery and building of resilient economies.

1.3 Building regional capacity to establish and manage TFCAs
Bartolomeu Soto, Consultant: Division of Environment and Natural Resources, The World Bank

Bartolomeu Soto believes that the enabling keystones of the establishment and management of TFCAs are those intangible aspects of capacity, such as social acceptance of conservation, ‘political will’, institutional cultures, relationship building, and cultural factors that support the protection, management, motivation, and willingness to support conservation and sustainable development. This is reflected in the importance of regional integration through supranational institutional structures, intergovernmental decision-making, or a combination of both. As such, one of the greatest benefits of TFCAs is the increase in capacity among respective national partner institutions to manage resources, and the opportunity they create for donor agencies to help less-developed partner countries. During the formation of the Great Limpopo TFCA (involving South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), Mozambique had considerably less management capacity and financial resources than its transboundary neighbours. Mozambique defined two fundamental considerations at the beginning of the TFCA process: a) the need for rural communities to benefit from new economic activities associated with natural resource utilisation; and b) the need for these resources to be managed on a sustainable basis to safeguard biodiversity and maintain options for the future. As such, Mozambique created a TFCA Programme in 1996, followed by a dedicated TFCA unit in 1997 with the technical and financial resources to ensure the smooth implementation of the Programme. In parallel, the Southern African Wildlife College, located within Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) in South Africa, has been extensively used as the key education centre to develop skills for Mozambicans. Importantly, the private sector invested in conservancies within the Mozambique component of the TFCA, which resulted in an agreement between the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and their association, Licoturismo, (signed in 2017) to integrate them as key stakeholders of the TFCA.
2. ROUND TABLE ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SADC TFCAs

Date: 9 July 2020

Moderator: Dr Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director, KAZA TFCA

Invited experts:
- Prof Lucille Blumberg, Deputy Director of Epidemiology, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (RSA)
- Dr Jo Shaw, Head of Wildlife Programme, World Wildlife Fund – South Africa
- Dr Markus Hofmeyr, Head of Wildlife Programme, Oaks Philanthropic Foundation (UK)

2.1 Summary of discussions

Seth Maphalala, Lubombo TFCA Coordinator, Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC)

TFCAs aim to connect conservation areas, improve ecosystem health, create livelihoods, and foster transboundary collaboration. By applying a One Health framework to the planning and management of TFCAs, they can contribute to the prevention of the spread of zoonotic diseases, including corona viruses such as COVID-19. Where ecosystems are healthy, both wildlife and livestock are less prone to disease transmission and risks can be better managed.

It is crucial that we ensure that transboundary ecosystem health, through integrated and sustainable land use, remains at the top of the conservation community’s agenda. It should also be on the agenda of other sectors such as health, agriculture, and water. Whilst sectors continue to work in isolation, it is evident that the nature of the health threat (COVID-19) is transboundary, so the response should be transboundary too. Learning from TFCAs, we need to bring sectors together to pre-empt future pandemics, address the drivers of pandemics, put in place mitigation strategies, and bring about policy reform where necessary. These include better use of natural resources, better husbandry practices, better farming practices, as well as transparent and clear communication.

However, a common challenge of transboundary collaboration is that while there might be political will and agreement at a transnational level, this does not necessarily translate into action on the ground. To overcome this, overarching frameworks — where countries agree on what is allowed and what is not allowed — can give practitioners the space and flexibility to achieve the objectives of the framework.

We also need to anticipate and respond to the livelihood needs of people in the face of a growing population and poor economic growth in Africa, made worse by the COVID-19 restrictions. We might see an increase in people’s reliance on natural resources, but rather than increasing a law enforcement response, we should promote sustainable natural resource-use practices.
The suspension of international travel and closure of borders resulted in major losses in revenue in the tourism sector, and this could continue given the threat of a global recession. International donors are under pressure to reallocate funding from conservation to other sectors both at home and abroad. This may translate into reduced operational budgets and loss of jobs in protected areas. The business models for conservation areas must be reconsidered with innovative funding mechanisms.

The lockdown period in South Africa saw a dramatic decline in rhino poaching. There are several possible reasons for this: limited movement in and out of parks, closed borders, fewer opportunities for moving illegal wildlife products, reduced opportunities for exports, etc. We need to identify these impacts on the poaching and trafficking chain and explore whether they can be sustained. There are localised reports of an increase in bushmeat poaching and snaring, although evidence is still to be pulled together to see whether there are any clear and long-term patterns.
The second session in the series presented the case for why the transfrontier conservation experience in Southern Africa is so unique and prepared for the improved management of current TFCA and the development of new ones based on the many lessons learned. Beginning with the guidelines developed for TFCA, aligned with the 2014 IUCN Guidelines and the creation of a regional multi-scalar monitoring & evaluation framework, the role of partnership was highlighted in implementing big ideas for information sharing through the online SADC TFCA portal.

3.1 SADC TFCA Guidelines for establishment and development

Kevan Zunkel, Environmental Manager, Zunkel Environmental Services

The Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of TFCA in the SADC Region were developed in close collaboration with the SADC TFCA Network and published by SADC in 2014. A more user-friendly, accessible summary was subsequently published in 2017.

In addition to background and contextual information and building on the principles of ‘benefits beyond boundaries and sustainability, the guidelines include detailed and step-wise approach applicable to the fully integrated and systematic processes necessary to initiate, establish and develop TFCA within the SADC region.

In light of the perception that SADC TFCA largely reflect a regional, opportunistic and top-down approach, which is hugely donor-dependent and lacks objective feasibility assessments, and that there has been little up-take or pro-active implementation of the guidelines; it is recommended that international coordinators facilitate a process of mainstreaming the guidelines into their planning and management and apply the guidelines as a checklist to assess initiation, establishment and management effectiveness; as well as provide critical feedback for the possible revision and updating of the guidelines by 2025.
3.2 The SADC TFCA Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
Dr Clara Bocchino, Independent Consultant, SADC TFCA Network

In 2016, the SADC TFCA Network began an independent process, supported by the GIZ TUPRN Programme, to establish a framework for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the SADC TFCAs Programme. The framework, approved in 2017 by the SADC ministers, aimed at demonstrating how TFCAs add value to the joint management of shared natural and cultural resources to support sustainable development, conservation, and the promotion of regional integration in the Southern African Development Community.

Its conceptualisation is based on the international legal instruments applicable to transfrontier conservation, while its implementation is conceived as an adaptive management cycle. The indicators are directly drawn from the objectives of the SADC TFCAs Programme, but also relate to the indicators present in other relevant M&E systems, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Since the data collection is shared between the SADC Secretariat’s TFCA Unit and the individual TFCAs, it was important that the exercise remained relevant at both regional and national levels, in terms of reporting to international level.

The framework is currently being implemented in three regional TFCAs.

3.3 From knowledge to action for a protected planet: the BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub and the SADC TFCA Portal
Ngugi Kimani, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, and Beryl Nyamgeroh, BIOPAMA Technical Officer and Developer, IUCN ESARO

The Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme (BIOPAMA) is implemented jointly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European commission, and regionally implemented by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD).

BIOPAMA provides tailored support to protected area actors in the region to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources through three main pillars, namely, capacity building, the action component and the creation of a Regional Resource Hub (RRH), which is integral to the success of the programme. The main objectives of the RRH are to support data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting by developing the capacities of organisations and their staff to manage this information and provide policy guidance for better decision making on biodiversity conservation.

Since early 2020, the SADC TFCA portal resides in the RRH. The portal’s focus mirrors the RRH objectives that include working across borders and working between agencies, sharing data and making decisions across broader landscapes and areas. The RRH complements the SADC TFCA portal in that it links the data to targets and uses the data to measure and drive progress leading to better outcomes through better decisions. It also focuses on putting the right information and the right questions into the systems.
4.1 Summary of discussions

TFCAs are large social and ecological areas that require investment from governments, donors and other stakeholders alike. The ultimate responsibility of attracting funding lies with government, who must demonstrate to donors they are able to take the lead when it comes to conserving natural resources by, inter alia, allocating significant budget on a national level. Additionally, solid institutional arrangements must be set-up on a cross-border level to ensure coordination among stakeholders.

The following were identified as critical success factors that increased financial support to TFCAs: (i) high ownership by governments (ii) holistic approach of TFCA development (iii) bottom-up planning processes & ownership, and (iv) development of key protected areas in the landscape. There are, however, still many untapped opportunities to access innovative funding mechanisms and set up effective partnerships between multiple donors and NGOs so as to become less reliant on one or two major donors. It was also discussed that when it comes to the development of TFCAs, certain country components may be less developed than others, which limits opportunities for cross-border activities and implementation of joint management plans. As a result, TFCAs have begun concentrating their funding efforts on those key wildlife areas that are less developed, with a view to developing the TFCA as a whole.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also reminded the conservation community of the potential for the TFCA landscape approach to enhance rural economic development. This also presents a very interesting opportunity to tap into different types of funding, such as through REDD, GCF and the WB. To facilitate that, the alignment of TFCA Integrated Development Plans with National Development Plans, as well as Sustainable Development Goals, is critical.
The third presentation session of the series was dedicated to unpacking aspects of governance and management relevant for TFCAs in the region. The community engagement guidelines have pioneered a shift in governance thinking for transfrontier conservation, which can be adopted in other areas where TFCAs are developed from political constructs. The other relevant tools discussed, although focused on protected areas, provide ways of upscaling the efforts of monitoring and planning at TFCA level, by adjusting the scale and scope of work.

5.1 Community engagement in SADC TFCAs

Michael Murphree, Khetha Program Manager, WWF-South Africa, for Brian Jones, Environment and Development Consultant

The Guidelines for community engagement in SADC TFCAs were developed through a participatory process of engaging with practitioners and local communities in various SADC countries. The development of the guidelines was supported by German Development Cooperation through the SADC/GIZ programme “Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources in the SADC Region (TUPNR)”.

The guidelines provide practical approaches with step-by step actions for how to engage local communities in the planning, establishment, and operation of TFCAs. The publication provides information on principles and best practices, with case studies as examples and links to implementation tools. The guidelines promote a shift in community engagement from consulting the community, to promoting their active participation in planning and decision-making. This requires facilitating community involvement in the development of a common vision and objectives for TFCAs and establishing appropriate mechanism for communities to be involved in decision-making as equal partners with other agencies involved.
5.2 Supporting protected area staff in planning, monitoring and evaluation

Mariagrazia Graziano, Project Officer: Biodiversity and Protected Areas, and Paolo Roggeri, Focal Point on Management Effectiveness, EU Joint Research Commission

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected areas and surrounding communities. It is an initiative of the African Caribbean Pacific Group of States financed by the European Union’s 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). BIOPAMA promotes data sharing, making available the best information and science for better management of protected areas.

Two sets of tools have been developed over the years by the BIOPAMA team:

• The Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) and Protected Area Governance and Equity (PAGE) information and tools
• The Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) and on the BIOPAMA web resource hub, the Reference Information System - https://rris.biopama.org.

IMET is a computer application that can be downloaded free of charge, installed on a PC, and used without Internet access and is also suitable for all protected areas regardless of the management and governance category. The BIOPAMA Reference Information System has a PAME module that provides access to data and information on management effectiveness. It is a thematic resource page for the regional observatories, national ministries and agencies, protected area (staff, and other partners such as donors and NGOs.

5.3 Business plans for parks including governance structures for TFCAs

Richard Davies, Business and Enterprise Development Consultant, PPF

A business plan is an integral part of a broader management plan for protected areas (or possible TFCAs) in Southern Africa. It should provide a strategic framework which defines the purpose, goals and objectives of the protected area, the management attributes needed to achieve this, and what socio-economic or revenue opportunities can be developed. A business plan should look at what funds are currently available and what resources would be made available to each priority of the management plan, for the next year or two, as well as look at the funding needs for the medium to long-term. Business plans should include an activities-based budget, so that all costs involved are considered and planned for. An adjustment to even one activity will impact on the entire budget. Also, this type of budgeting allows one to measure the effectiveness of an activity against the cost of the related resources, and can be crosscut with a more traditional cost-based budget, which will allow one to check the percentage of certain items, such as salaries, and ensure these are not overinflated. The management structure of a protected area is central to determining the development, implementation, and success of a business plan. Many governments in the region are open to public / private partnerships inclusive of several stakeholders. With a business plan and an inclusive long-term governance agreement in place, it becomes a lot more attractive to investors, as they would have input into the governance model.
6 ROUND TABLE ON MANAGING COMPLEXITY IN TFCAs

Date: 23 July 2020

Moderators: Prof. Edson Gandiwa, Dean of the School of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Chinoyi University of Technology, and Michael Murphree, Khetha Program Manager, WWF-SA

Invited Experts:
- Piet Theron, International Coordinator, Great Limpopo TFCA
- Richard Diggle, Business and CBNRM Specialist, WWF Namibia

6.1 Summary of discussions

The following were highlighted as critical success factors relating to the structure and frameworks of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM); (i) having legislation, rights and responsibilities enshrined to the communities on community-based wildlife management (i.e., responsibilities to manage wildlife, human-wildlife conflict (HWC) management, in addition to benefits and returns), (ii) community bodies need to clearly define themselves, establish structures, develop a robust constitution, be legal entities and have well-defined areas to manage, (iii) political will to support the legislation, (iv) a good and stable resource base, and (v) joint venture structures between communities and the private sector.

Challenges related to the complexities of CBNRM were discussed, including: (i) what is meant by rights (of use, rights of exclusion, commercial rights or subsistence use, taking responsibility, rights to enforce or protect the resource base)? (ii) mismatches related to traditional authorities, interest groups, civil rights, governance levels, scale of management – who is given rights and who can enforce it, and (iii) what is being managed; commercial or conservation aspect; and different scales, i.e., commercial and conservation scales that need to be considered, e.g. in terms of participation, representation.

Complexities related to transfrontier conservation included: (i) animal movements beyond TFCAs and borders, (ii) connectivity issues in terms of establishing corridors as a way to reduce pressure on areas with overabundant species and establishing historical animal movements, (iii) landscapes organised as to enhance the wildlife economy, hence, productivity in the landscapes, (iv) beneficiation models for all the stakeholders in the landscapes, (v) addressing issues relating to HWCs and translocation of animals, (vi) ensuring genuine community voices in TFCAs and related structures, (vii) making TFCAs relevant to people.

Other key considerations in planning and managing TFCAs were discussed, including: strategic planning at the landscape level, disaster risk reduction, resilience thinking, scale mismatches, partnerships, and collaborations in TFCAs and effective implementation of plans and frameworks.
The fourth presentation session of the series was dedicated to illegal wildlife trade (IWT): a major threat to Southern Africa’s biodiversity, particularly megafauna such as elephants and rhino. IWT is a complex problem that requires an interagency, multi-sector and transboundary response. While there has been some success in bringing together law enforcement agencies to plan and collaborate, there has been less success in bringing together players from outside the conservation or security sectors: TFCAs create opportunities for broader collaboration and learning across sectors. Communities are key role players in addressing IWT: custodianship can be fostered through community ownership of and/or benefits from natural resources that improve people’s socio-economic wellbeing.

7.1 The SADC LEAP strategy and implications for TFCAs
Richard Davies, Business and Enterprise Development Consultant, PPF

The SADC common agenda is the attainment of the SADC mission to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth to fight poverty in the region and achieve deeper regional cooperation and integration. Southern Africa is a biodiversity hotspot and stronghold for large species, holding nearly 60% of the world’s elephants and lion, 95% of the rhino population and 55% of Africa’s forest cover. These resources contribute to the socio-economic development of the region through employment and wealth creation, food security and the overall improvement of the lives of people. Despite the conservation achievements in the region, wildlife populations have been targeted by criminals for valuable products, at variable scales across the species and Member States, particularly the unprecedented poaching levels of elephants and rhino. In response to the increased levels of illegal killing and trade in wild fauna and flora, SADC — with support from the GIZ TUPNR programme and other partners — developed the SADC LEAP strategy that was approved in 2015 with the overall objective being to significantly reduce the level of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora and to enhance law enforcement capacity in the SADC region by 2021. The strategy was designed to provide a framework for regional collaboration among SADC Member States in implementing actions to minimize wildlife crime and illegal trade, effectively enforce the law, promote sustainable trade and use of natural resources, and reduce the root causes and enablers of wildlife crime.
7.2 Wildlife crime prosecution and adjudication in South Africa and Mozambique: status, challenges and opportunities

Lara Rall, Khetha Program Project Implementation, WWF-SA

In November 2019, the WWF South Africa Khetha Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI), the Mozambican Legal and Judicial Training Centre (CFJJ), and the USAID VukaNow program, hosted a joint Mozambique-South Africa judicial colloquium on wildlife trafficking in Johannesburg. At the colloquium, the judiciary shared their experiences, observations and challenges in adjudicating environmental crimes, including wildlife trafficking, in their respective countries. Some of these challenges include under-resourced courts, outdated legislation, poor collection or presentation of evidence, incomplete affidavits, law enforcement officials missing court dates, and a cycle of repeat offenders.

The judiciary recommended several interventions which include the training of prosecutors on wildlife crime, updating and harmonising legislation across provinces and country borders, improving evidence collection and presentation in court, sensitising all levels of the judiciary to the impact of wildlife crime, increasing translation support to courts, and continuing the strengthening of judicial collaboration and learning across borders.

7.3 Principles and practices for successful conservation

Major Johan Jooste (retired), Project Manager: Environmental Law Enforcement and Security, Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries (RSA)

Africa holds the last caches of wildlife, especially megafauna, on the planet. This is our natural heritage and economic engine in terms of tourism revenue and job creation. The daunting task of protecting our assets requires a sustained and focused effort by all role players on all levels, and addressing all facets of the combatting of environmental crime. Such role players include the state and private sector and is not limited to law enforcement agencies. Whilst we must be firm in our law enforcement endeavours, we need to be mindful that the real long-term solution lies with community ownership and demand management The mechanisms for the required joint planning and execution exist in the African Union apparatus and is defined by the LEAP strategy. This will however not ensure success or victory over the international crime syndicates that are plundering our natural resources. The real action will occur on the day-to-day management of our protected areas and addressing the 101 little issues on the operational level. The GLTFCA concept, structures and processes offer continuity for close cooperation across borders and boundaries. It is up to us to utilise it and to get to the miracles of synergies.
7.4 Rewilding and law enforcement in Mozambique’s components of Great Limpopo and Lubombo TFCAs

Werner Myburgh, Chief Executive Officer, PPF

The Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) operates across 10 TFCAs in the SADC region, focusing its support on KAZA, Great Limpopo, Lubombo and Malawi-Zambia TFCA. The presentation focuses on some of the success stories in the Mozambican components of Great Limpopo and Lubombo. Here, the holistic approach used ensured political commitment, conservation at scale and community development. One of the important elements however is to develop a business case to ensure that conservation initiatives are viable. A total of US$28 million was invested into Banhine, Maputo Special Reserve, Limpopo, and Zinave National Park, complemented with additional major contributions by the BIOFUND, MozBio, KfW and World Bank. The funds were used to re-introduce species, which had been locally extinct (over 12 000 animals have been translocated since 2001), and to secure wildlife by training and deploying rangers, increasing aerial patrols as well as a cross-border collaboration for more effective anti-poaching operations.

One of the major success stories is that for the first time in decades, elephants are moving between the Kruger National Park in South Africa, up to as far as the Zinave National Park in Mozambique.
The LEAP strategy is implemented through a national coordination task force in Malawi that consists of relevant government departments, the military, policy, judiciary, and the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust. The implementation of the LEAP strategy has several challenges, including operational ones. Radio communication is limited to a 3km radius which makes communication between ranger units difficult to track and apprehend poachers. The training of rangers across the landscape is inconsistent. Rangers receive small salaries and are poorly accommodated in the field. There is also very limited budget to facilitate interagency and intergovernmental collaboration. Programmes, such as USAID's VukaNow, are instrumental in bringing stakeholders together.

Wildlife crimes are a major component in the wildlife management for the Malawi-Zambia TFCA and park rangers are supported by the military when poachers threaten the lives of civilians. The task force created through the LEAP programme is a platform to increase information exchange and collaboration amongst different units. However, these should be financially sustainable, perhaps through a LEAP Trust Fund. Increased collaboration and financial security may help curb corruption, despite the vetting and lifestyle auditing conducted.

By enhancing transboundary collaboration, the parties have agreed to assess the countries’ institutional arrangements and identify appropriate procedures to implement the LEAP strategy as a TFCA. Importantly, legislative reform is needed to facilitate the movement of law enforcement officers across the borders and facilitate the repatriation of fugitives. This can be done through Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which as we learnt from the GLTFCA, can also address information and intelligence gathering and formal exchange. At present, data collection and analysis are not centralised but take place at site or landscape level using Cybertracker and SMART.

Community engagement in the TFCA takes place through certain structures, mostly at a district and local level. These structures are used to understand community challenges relating to conservation, such as human-wildlife conflict due to increases in the elephant population and ensuring that revenue from hunting reaches communities. Communities are also consulted through these channels regarding development in their area linked to the development agenda of that district. In Zambia, legislation allows for CBNRM committees and initiatives, which means that communities also participate in the conservation agenda through these structures.

Whilst both countries have illegal logging under control, Zambia experiences some challenges with mining in the TFCA which has a negative impact on the environment.
This session investigated the pathway to sustainability within TFCAs, trying to focus on the local development objective. Following the presentations, discussions focused first on the need to diversify local production and businesses to reduce reliance on tourism. Establishing local markets is not enough - local citizens need to be at the centre of the decision-making process and they need to be capacitated and empowered through long-term participatory engagement. This probably requires a fundamental redesign of the local sustainable use of natural resources, not only focusing on wildlife but also on water, soil, pasture etc, building on the various CBNRM experiences, and paving the way for a CBNRM 2.0. This requires an appropriate regulatory context aiming at a full sustainability cycle.

9.1 Building a sustainability framework for SADC TFCAs

Dr Amanda Mugadza, Lecturer in Public Law, Midlands State University (Zimbabwe)

The key objectives of SADC TFCAs are biodiversity conservation, the improvement of livelihoods, economic development, and regional integration. However, this has not been without its challenges. In particular, the effective exclusion of local communities from the conservation matrix perpetrates both marginalisation from a governance perspective, with aborted or conditional devolution processes, and the poverty trap created by the promise of economic benefits, almost exclusively from the photographic tourism industry.

Striving for sustainability in SADC TFCA is no longer optional and, from a legal perspective, this can only be achieved by incorporating the legal principles of Sustainable Development into the economic, ecological, socio-cultural, and political fabric of TFCAs. These principles should determine the relationships, roles, and responsibilities of the key TFCA actors, and thus be enunciated in the treaty, establishing the TFCAs or in dedicated legal document, when these have already been signed, and should be respected by any land-based economic activity in the TFCA. Additionally, the principles provide a basis for determining the necessary legal tools that the TFCA actors use in the planning, management, and governance of the TFCAs to realise the principal objectives of transboundary conservation in the region. At a minimum, these include command and control tools, incentive-based tools, agreement-based tools, and civil-based tools.
9.2 Conservation agriculture and local livelihood generation
Dale Lewis, Chief Executive Officer of Community Markets for Conservation, COMACO

The Community Market for Conservation (COMACO) project was created as a possible solution to increased human-wildlife Conflict in Eastern Zambia, as a social enterprise to provide alternative livelihood skills and training for small-scale subsistence farmers, including climate-smart and sustainable agriculture. From the pilot project in 2003, COMACO has grown to employ 136 people directly and provide market opportunities to 188 000 farmers, participating in 81 cooperatives. Besides providing a unifying brand, It’s Wild!, the organisations offers four manufacturing plants and 450 bulking points where local farmers deliver their harvest to the cooperative depot for sale to COMACO. It successfully transformed rural communities from potential poachers to successful entrepreneurs. The essential and unique model that has made COMACO more successful than other community-based agricultural projects is the focus on providing access to markets, which many rural people find either difficult or impossible to do alone. While the business grows and people’s lives becomes more secure, the wildlife population, including elephants, has been growing, and deforestation has diminished. The COMACO model is inspirational and could help provide solutions to the many interstitial areas of SADC TFCAs where most people still rely on subsistence agriculture in nutrient-impoverished soil with heavy reliance on water, and where community-based agricultural projects are successful in production, but fall short in the livelihood impact, since they lack access to sustainable markets.

9.3 TFCAs as social-ecological systems: What health?
Dr Alexandre Caron, Research Platform: Production and Conservation in Partnership (RP-PCP) Secretary Coordinator, CIRAD

TFCAs were created 20 years ago in Southern Africa to reconcile conservation and local development objectives. TFCAs provide a framework for a landscape and systemic approach, reconnecting ecosystems and providing an opportunity for a people-centred approach to manage natural resources (NRs). However, the imbalance in biodiversity conservation versus local development, has characterised this first phase of TFCAs, without building on the advances of community-based natural resource management of the 90s. As such, the current trajectory of TFCAs does not seem to be sustainable. In the coming phase, local development should be the priority to secure the long-term objectives of TFCAs. This requires the empowerment and involvement of local communities to ensure the co-management of NRs both within and outside protected areas, with the primary focus on promoting local development. The Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods in TFCAs project funded by EU is presented as a case study in four sites, three countries and two TFCAs to showcase that technological innovation is not enough and often already available: the main innovation is in the process of interactions between stakeholders and in their capacitation and empowerment. TFCAs should be the cradle to develop a CBNRM 2.0.
10 THE LUBOMBO TFCA –SAVING FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN

Date: 6 August 2020

Moderators: Dr Hlatshwayo Motseki, Technical Advisor: Fisheries, SADC Secretariat

Guest Speaker:
- Miguel Gonçalves, Park Warden: Maputo Special Reserve and Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve in the LTFCA, ANAC (Mozambique)

This session investigated the pathway to sustainability within TFCAs, trying to focus on the local development objective. Following the presentations, discussions focused first on the need to diversify local production and businesses to reduce reliance on tourism. Establishing local markets is not enough - local citizens need to be at the centre of the decision-making process and they need to be capacitated and empowered through long-term participatory engagement. This probably requires a fundamental redesign of the local sustainable use of natural resources, not only focusing on wildlife but also on water, soil, pasture etc, building on the various CBNRM experiences, and paving the way for a CBNRM 2.0. This requires an appropriate regulatory context aiming at a full sustainability cycle.

10.1 Building a sustainability framework for SADC TFCAs

Dr Amanda Mugadza, Lecturer in Public Law, Midlands State University (Zimbabwe)

The Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve (PPMR), established in 2009, is part of the first marine transfrontier conservation area in Africa. Although the reserve provides rich biodiversity, the management of the area comes with many challenges, one of these being managing the fisheries effectively and efficiently. To mitigate such challenges, a management plan was put in place which laid out zones: multi-use, restricted, and sanctuaries. Various regulations apply to each zone, but ultimately, industrial and semi-industrial fishing is not allowed, while artisanal, subsistence and recreational fishing are permitted. The initial management plan is currently under revision as there were specific measures that weren’t initially included that have now come to the fore as a result of research conducted by authorities in the Mozambican component of the reserve. Additionally, the co-management of fisheries, along with the communities in the area, has proven successful in various ways and now needs to be improved as both relationships and resources are in constant flux.

One of the main challenges with overseeing the fisheries is the number of players involved in the Mozambican side of the reserve. Each entity has its own marine mandate in the area and thus various MoUs have been signed between the parties to integrate management of the reserve. Even though the organisations try to work hand in hand, it is difficult as stakeholders struggle to understand the relationship between the various departments. Further challenges include the relationships between the South African and Mozambican authorities within the Ponta do
Ouro – Kosi Bay TFCA, a component of the LTFCA. It is therefore imperative that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are developed, not only so that national bodies follow the same rules and procedures, but that international bodies are aware of the best course of action with regards to international fisheries’ management. Additionally, marine rangers need to be trained in marine knowledge and how to carry out these SOPs, as well as be provided with the appropriate technology to carry out their duties.

Importantly, much progress has been made with regards to the development of community livelihoods within PPMR (as well as within Maputo Special Reserve) which are now being managed by the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) in conjunction with the local communities. Such projects include conservation agriculture, tilapia farming, mariculture and the development of skills training for local youth. Such livelihoods provide alternatives to artisanal and subsistence fishing, thus benefiting the fish populations of PPMR.
The sixth presentation session highlighted the importance of TFCAS in building ecosystem resilience that will benefit both conservation and development objectives. As the source of life, water was identified as the critical catalyst for climate change adaptation and regional security with good governance of transboundary aquifers being key to such actions; a factor that the TFCAs can both facilitate and benefit from. In terms of funding, this means that TFCAs can and should devote time to opportunities that are directly related to water and climate change, providing an existing collaborative and ecosystem-based framework for intervention, which can trigger benefits at various scales.

11.1 TFCAs as a catalyst for climate resilience and water security

Dr Kristi Maciejewski, Biodiversity Advisor, USAID Resilient Waters Program

The Resilient Waters Program (RWP) is a USAID-funded regional programme that aims to build resilient communities and ecosystems in Southern Africa by building resilient institutions, developing more robust information systems, and promoting practices that enhance sustainable natural resource management. This can only be achieved through adopting a multi-stakeholder approach and collaborating with a range of stakeholders in the region, including national governments, River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and TFCAs. The footprint of the RWP extends over two river basins, the Limpopo and Okavango River Basin, and includes two TFCAs, the GLTFCA (Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area) and the KAZA TFCA (Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area). Building resilience against climate change and water insecurity in a region relies on using a systems-thinking approach to deal with challenges arising on a local, national and regional scale. TFCAs therefore provide a good entry point to facilitate systemic change as they offer a multi-pronged approach to work across multiple scales, identifying possible solutions and opportunities. This means, establishing climate-smart gardens at a local scale, building capacity at a community level, and diversifying livelihood options to address human wildlife conflict in the region, such as developing a dam zonation plan at national scale to ensure water security; and a transboundary fisheries management plan at a regional scale to conserve fish stocks in the Okavango River Basin.
11.2 Transboundary water governance for TFCAs

Tariro Saruchera, Acting Director Regional Water Programme, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa

Environmental security is achieved through effective governance, more so in watersheds. Water, being a common pool resource, is distinctly characterised by rival consumption and the difficulty of exclusion. As such, the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and the formulation and implementation of water institutions are critical.

TFCAs provide a perfect base for the promotion of effective water governance, and achievement of water security. Like transfrontier conservation, transboundary water management aims at equity and sustainability. In Southern Africa, impetus was given to transboundary water governance by the regional frameworks for water management. While the boundaries of the TFCAs in the region do not precisely coincide with transboundary watersheds, most of them share the same landscapes, for example, KAZA and the Zambezi Basin, and Greater Limpopo and the Limpopo Basin.

This reality calls for an integrated approach in the management of TFCAs and shared river basins. This not only brings efficiency in conservation, but also increases contributes to water and climate security. Therefore, it is recommended that TFCAs and the water management agencies at regional and country levels use an integrated approach to achieve water security.

11.3 Importance of GFC funding-type for TFCA and CCA

Rod de Vletter, Independent Consultant, Phophonyane Falls Ecolodge and Nature Reserve

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) offers opportunities for SADC TFCAs to obtain large-scale funding to achieve their long-term objectives, such as the project proposal to the GCF for US$31.7 million submitted by Eswatini. The project, “Improving climate resilience in the Kingdom of Eswatini through the integrated management of mountain ecosystems”, is targeted for the mountain region in Eswatini – an area that forms a critical component of the Lubombo TFCA and serves as vital ‘water towers’ for the region. The project implementation strategy includes ecosystem-based adaptation, community-based adaptation and landscape level approaches. Globally, there is a trend to integrate these approaches in recognition of the complexity of addressing climate change, and to apply them within a well-defined and meaningful landscape. The successful outcome of the project should result in landscape stakeholders who are strongly motivated and fully engaged in the management of their ecosystems through increased awareness and capacity, and within a vastly improved incentive framework, including innovative financing and equity-promoting mechanisms. The conservation of biodiversity within the Lubombo TFCA landscape will be strengthened through this multidisciplinary perspective, which is likely to be more sustainable than conventional, and more narrowly targeted biodiversity conservation strategies. In response to the proposal, the GCF commented that “The potential role of ecosystem services, supported by biodiversity, is an important and growing focus area for climate change adaptation planning and implementation in the context of sustainable development.”
This event was organised by the RWP responding to the identified need to facilitate collaboration between the water and conservation sectors in SADC TFCA, responding to the Climate Change Adaptation component of the programme. Funded by USAID, with a five-year contract, Resilient Waters was created to enhance the learning and impacts of the Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) programme, also funded by USAID. In this iteration, the programme keeps a regional outlook on how to use water as the catalyst for climate resilience, specifically where transboundary river systems are also under conservation management as TFCA. The principal activity areas, however, are the GLTFCA and the KAZA TFCA, on which this session is focused.

Participants and experts agreed that we have seen climate change in our region for at least a decade, with longer cycles of drought and wet periods. This will trigger increased reliance on groundwater sources, as increased temperature will affect evaporation of surface water. This, in turn, will increase human-wildlife conflict over water, including health implication on disease transmission. River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and TFCA have human development objectives that are already being negatively affected by climate change. The pathway for a solution is through information and data gathering to make more informed decision at the basin/TFCA level, as well as at country/local levels. SADC has protocols in place that oblige countries to share information, especially where large developments are planned. As the RBOs are gathering data on water quality and quantity across borders to help countries make better decisions, the countries party to the basin and the TFCA need to fulfill their agreement on data sharing.

The foundations for the arguments of aligning planning for transboundary river basins and TFCA are therefore geographic, but also rooted in the wider sustainability discourse that underpins the Sustainable Development Goals:

- Transboundary aquifers, rivers and TFCA occur in the same landscapes. Many of the key ‘water towers’ are in TFCA. KAZA and the Okavango commission have an MoU in place to promote joint action and sharing of information.
- Nature-based solutions, which include landscape level conservation areas, can promote water security for both humans and wildlife, reducing the risks of conflict.
- Such an approach would lead to healthy, and hence sustainable, ecosystems.
This session was dedicated to the many facets, forms and impacts of tourism on the region’s TFCAs although the impact of travel restrictions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic loomed large in the discussions. The presentations provided a basis for discussions on how the sector can move forward with a multi-phased approach focusing in the short to medium-term on local users, but still envisioning the resumption of international travel.

13.1 The many natures of tourism in TFCAs

*Mokganedi Ntana, Tourism Development Manager Bobirwa and Selibe Phikwe Region, Greater Mapungubwe TFCA, Botswana Tourism Organisation*

The tourism sector plays a great role in conserving and maintaining ecosystems in protected areas because the assets within these areas are what forms the basis for enhancing visitor experience. Within transboundary tourism’s many faces, the presentation explored lessons from transboundary tourism development within the KAZA TFCA, and how these can be adapted and applied in the development of the Greater Mapungubwe TFCA tourism component. It also provides a snapshot of what TFCAs offer in terms of natural and wildlife areas, their high cultural heritage value, and the framework and extent of the tourism value chain. A highlight of notable successes from the KAZA TFCAs include the development of a Transboundary Tourism Development Strategy, KAZA Brand Guidelines, Transboundary Tourism Product Evaluation Framework, Collaborative Destination Marketing and the rollout of the KAZA VISA initiative, all of which present an opportunity for learning in the development and implementation of transboundary tourism products in the GMTFCA.

The context of work done through the KAZA TFCA tourism working group provides an opportunity for lessons for the GMTFCA and shows the importance of the TFCA institutional structures and the role of various stakeholders (private sector and communities) in building a resilient tourism sector in TFCAs.

13.2 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nature-based tourism

*Dr Anna Spenceley, Chair of the IUCN WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group*

A global online survey was undertaken by the Eurata Consortium on behalf of the European Union, between April and June 2020, to establish the impact of COVID-19 on protected area tourism. Analysis of responses related
to The GLTFCA TFCA and the KAZA TFCA was then undertaken for GIZ and Boundless Southern Africa. There were 136 responses from tourism operators working in the GLTFCA, and 171 from operators working in KAZA. Of these, 17 operators were working in both TFCAs, and many were working in other destinations too. Figures on visitor cancellations due to the pandemic were presented, in conjunction with data on the knock-on impact on local employment and procurement. In both TFCAs, most operators’ immediate concerns related to cashflow, business resilience, consequences for staff (financial, health and security), and environmental crime. Numerous practical measures had been put in place by operators in GLTFCA and KAZA in response to the crisis, but a wide range of financial and technical support was sought to sustain the business, care for workers, and build resilience into operations. Operators mainly sought financial grants of under US$500,000 to support themselves. Information was shared on grants, online appeals and stimulus funds and match-making platforms in development. Technical resources on nature-based tourism and COVID-19 were also discussed.

For further information, see https://annaspenceley.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/covid-19-and-sustainable-tourism/

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13.3 How to reboot the tourism sector in TFCAs in a post-COVID-19 world

Don Scott, owner of Tanda Tula Safari Camps

The question of how to reboot the tourism sector in TFCAs in the wake of COVID-19 was addressed within the context of the Greater Kruger Protected Area (GKPA) as part of the GLTFCA. A geographical overview of the region and the communities economically affected by it, was presented. A study of camp numbers, bed numbers, bed densities and overall revenues showed that the GKPA contributes some US$377 million to the GDP of South Africa, with over 60% of direct spend within a 50 km radius of the GKPA. Whilst private reserves in the area have higher camp numbers, their overall bed numbers are significantly lower than state-owned facilities, allowing them to offer a higher earning potential per bed. A survey of game lodges across South Africa showed significant economic contribution of the sector, but also highlighted the impact that COVID-19 and the resulting travel restrictions were having on the sector. A model for ‘building back better’ in the new economic climate, which focuses on hyper-localised supply chain development, was presented with the potential benefits to local community business environments. It was proposed that access to finance for game lodges could encourage voluntary participation in such a model.
Up until the first quarter of 2020, tourism was a cornerstone of the SADC economy, together with agriculture, mining, and other services. In 2018, the industry reportedly contributed almost 9% to the region’s GDP, creating over six million jobs (6.1% of total employment) due to its cross-sectoral, labour-intensive and ‘low barrier to entry’ nature. While typically resilient, the SADC tourism industry is volatile, facing financial, economic, political, and environmental risks, now exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overall, the tourism sector is the largest market-based contributor to financing protected areas, with the tourism industry in some SADC countries being almost exclusively dependent on natural systems, often with wildlife as the primary attraction. SADC TFCAs and the tourism industry are interdependent: home to impressive natural, wildlife and cultural heritage attractions, TFCAs are an ideal platform for promoting sustainable tourism growth in Southern Africa. Recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be no easy task for the SADC region, for both tourism and TFCAs. COVID-19 may also result in a global recession, potentially influencing tourism as an industry for years to come. Short, medium- and longer-term interventions will be required.

The tourism industry’s collapse has left many protected areas in SADC, including parks, reserves, community conservancies, concession areas and TFCAs, stripped of vital market-based funding needed to manage land, build resilient biodiversity conservation, and reward communities and private landowners for the opportunity costs of coexisting with wildlife.

This discussion with leading Southern African tourism practitioners unpacked the potential, the challenges and the opportunities, against the backdrop of COVID-19, to leverage cross-border tourism and develop the market
to achieve national and regional imperatives such as biodiversity conservation, rural economic inclusion, regional integration, and effective investment promotion. The tourism industry must not only recover, but like many sectors, should become more sustainable as follows:

- Dialogues between public and private sector stakeholders are key to the establishment of an enabling environment for tourism growth and investment promotion in TFCAs.
- Close collaboration between private sector and public sector with respect to tourism development, is required.
- Addressing bottlenecks to cross-border travel / movement by tourists in the KAZA region is imperative. This will not only increase travel to and from the region, but also incentivise further private sector tourism investment in the region.
- COVID-19 guidelines, protocols, and procedures established for the KAZA region need to be harmonised and maximised.
- Lobby for tourism destinations in KAZA TFCA to be removed from COVID-19 travel warning lists in key international source markets, leveraging a COVID-19 low-risk positioning with respect to the types of experiences and products on offer, i.e. nature-based / ecotourism.
15 FINANCING TFCAs AND THEIR PROJECTS

Date: 25 August 2021

Chair: Piet Theron, International Coordinator, GLTFCAs

This session looked at sustainable financing and sustainable finance mechanisms for SADC TFCAs and began with a detailed reflection on sustainable financing options beyond government budgets. To implement innovative funding mechanisms, there are some preconditions or building blocks (e.g., national policy support, tax incentives) to make it a viable option. The SADCTFCA Financing Facility (FF) is a more traditional source of funding, but offers a unique opportunity responding to the regional TFCA programme objectives, with a long-term vision to establish a multi-donor trust fund, alongside the opportunities provided by sectoral grants and funding programmes.

15.1 Sustainable financing options for TFCAs

Dr Candice Stevens, Head: Innovative Funding and Policy, Wilderness Foundation

One of the critical shortcomings of addressing the environmental crisis is the global underspend on environmental efforts. The SADC region is no exception and faces financial shortfalls to effectively address environmental and social challenges. This situation has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis. SADC’s landscapes underpin human health and wellbeing as well as sustainable and resilient economies. The financing and resourcing of sustainable landscapes requires specific attention if landscapes are to reach their full potential environmentally, socially, and economically. Wilderness Foundation Africa’s (WFA) Innovative Finance team is pioneering new conservation finance solutions, mainstreaming successful innovations, and driving cohesion across stakeholders to foster a strategic approach to addressing the financing of sustainable landscapes. To this end, WFA partners with WWF SA to lead the region’s first Sustainable Landscape Finance Coalition. The coalition has established clear processes for the development of landscape finance strategies, including the coalition’s finance solution approach. The coalition supports the delivery of optimal landscape conservation by developing and advancing new finance flows and innovative solutions to provide enduring benefits for biodiversity, people, and economies across SADC.
15.2 The SADC TFCA Financing Facility
Kudakwashe Chigodo, Team Leader: SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas Facilities, IUCN ESARO

The establishment of the SADC TFCA Financing Facility in 2020 is the culmination of a negotiation process involving the German Government (BMZ), SADC Secretariat and Member States to establish a regional fund for TFCAs. The financing facility is a grant-making initiative established to support development of TFCAs in the SADC Region. IUCN ESARO was appointed as the executing agency for the project and a project management unit was established in Pretoria, South Africa. The regional fund is to be financed by various International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) in support of SADC TFCAs. Establishment of the fund is well aligned to Component (2) of the SADC TFCA programme and other SADC regional policies and protocols. The initial phase of the FFs is funded by the German Government through KfW.

The aim of the TFCA FF is to provide the basis for long-term and more sustainable investments in tangible measures that strengthen ecological, economic, cultural, and institutional connectivity within SADC TFCAs. The intention is to leverage additional funds from various partners, including further commitment from Germany, to reach an operational funding volume of approximately €100 million in the medium to long term. The initial phase of the FF is expected to be six years (April 2020 – June 2026), with an initial budget of €12 million, and an additional commitment of €11 million from KfW. The size of individual projects is expected to range between €300,000 - €3 million in the form of large/medium/small grants. The first call for proposals is expected to be published in mid-2021.

15.3 Project funding in TFCAs – overview of various funding opportunities
Lisa Blanken, TFCA Network Advisor, GIZ Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Programme

Finding long-term sustainable funding for TFCAs is challenging. Covering large landscapes across borders with various land-uses, there are many different stakeholders and landowners involved, as well as governments with varying levels of political commitment. However, there are also a wide variety of funding streams. This presentation aims to inform TFCA stakeholders about ongoing and upcoming funding opportunities emanating from programmatic and grant facilities. These include the following:

- **Beyond Tourism in Africa Innovation Challenge**: Global innovation challenge seeking new revenue models to enable communities to derive income from conservation, organised through the Luc Hofmann Institute, African Leadership University, and the WWF Regional Office for Africa.
- **The Darwin Initiative**: United Kingdom (UK) bilateral competitive grant scheme addressing key threats in developing countries (between £50,000 and £500,000 per project).
- **Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund**: UK grant scheme with annual call for proposals to tackle all aspects of the global poaching of, and illegal wildlife trade in, plants and animals (between £50,000 and £600,000 per project).
- **Biodiversity Landscape Fund 2021-2026**: Global fund aimed at addressing global biodiversity loss and poverty, focusing on transboundary landscapes. KAZA TFCA identified as one of the two initial preferred landscapes.
- **BIOPAMA Action Component**: Long-term programme on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States under the EUs 11th European Development Fund. Various calls for proposals of rapid response grants (below €50,000), small grants (between €50,000 and €100,000), and medium grants (between €100,000 and €400,000) will be advertised.
- **IUCN Save Our Species African Wildlife Initiative**: Initiative funded by EuropeAid which targets the conservation of large carnivores in Africa (e.g., lion, leopard, cheetah, Ethiopian wolf, and African wild dog).
- **USAID VukaNow Grant Facility**: Grant facility (between US$30,000 and US$150,000) to fund innovative approaches to combatting wildlife crime in KAZA, Malawi-Zambia and Great Limpopo TFCA, as well as north-west Namibia.
- Global Environment Fund: Financing mechanism of the Environmental Multilateral Agreements. For TFCAs, there are two programmatic directions that are relevant:- The Biodiversity funding stream, which through country or STAR allocations and the National GEF Focal Points, are the main point of contact to submit (cross-country) proposals. The International Waters funding stream is not aligned to the STAR allocations.
- International Climate Initiative (IKI): The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) finances climate (€15-20 million) and biodiversity (€5-20 million) programmes that aim to contribute to meeting the Paris Agreement and Aichi targets. There are annual thematic calls for proposals and actional country-specific funding priorities.
- Climate Resilience and NRM Demo Projects: Call for proposals under the upcoming SADC/GIZ Climate Resilience and NRM (2021-2023) has just closed.
- Blue Action Fund: Global initiative on marine protected area promotion funded through IUNC, KfW, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Swedish government. Next call for proposals is expected in 2021
- BioFund: Multi-donor endowment fund providing funding for 47% of the parks in Mozambique, including areas that are part of Great Limpopo, Lubombo and Chimanimani TFCA
16 ROUND TABLE ON NEW FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR SADC TFCAs IN A POST COVID-19 SCENARIO

Date: 27 August 2020

**Moderators:** Dr Candice Stevens, Head: Innovative Funding and Policy at the Wilderness Foundation

**Invited Experts:**
- Doreen Robinson, Chief of Wildlife at the UNEP Office in Nairobi (Kenya)
- Nils Meyer, Principal Project Manager: LAd5 Governance, Rural Development and Natural Resources at KfW
- Tebogo Matlhare, Programme Officer in the Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Botswana and SADC
- Elisson Wright, Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist: Global Wildlife Program of the World Bank

The round table discussion on financial planning for SADC TFCAs was held with four esteemed panellists who discussed the pressing issue of financing of TFCAs in view of the challenges created by COVID-19 and the subsequent difficulties being faced by so many stakeholders. Dr Stevens shared a message of hope and highlighted available opportunities to access new sources of finance as well as the need to innovate beyond typical funding approaches. The panellists fielded several key questions regarding how the various TFCA facilities can be used to foster a more integrated and coordinated channelling of finance and funds to achieve more impact at scale, such as the reduction of transaction and administrative costs, ensuring cross-sectoral work, as well as how an integrated landscape approach is vital for projects to be managed collectively to ensure that resources are used as effectively as possible. Importantly, funders for TFCAs can catalyse new and innovative finance mechanisms that can assist in plugging the finance gap. Feedback was also provided on the EU Green Deal and how we need to ‘build back better’. The EU Green Deal is still unfolding but offers a change in thinking that incorporates nature-based solutions into government stimulus packages. TFCAs are prime territory for nature-based solutions offering wildlife and conservation solutions with broader social and economic imperatives such as human development.

The session ended with requests from stakeholders for emergency assistance due to the impact of COVID-19, and a list of relief funds was subsequently circulated from South Africa’s Sustainable Landscape Finance Coalition.
Transfrontier conservation exists alongside a variety of legal frameworks that should foster cross-sectoral collaboration. In this session, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was discussed as an example of an international convention supporting transfrontier conservation to achieve its objectives. The Greater Virunga Collaboration was presented as an example of how to achieve collaboration in the face of local conflict. Finally, the Large Carnivore Programme exemplified how collaboration for conservation is achieved by using institutional frameworks as a vehicle to support cross-border research.

17.1 Convention on migratory species in the context of TFCAs

Andrea Dekrout, Programme Management Officer, Terrestrial Species, and Clara Nobbe, Head, Terrestrial Species Team, for the Convention on Migratory Species

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is an environmental treaty of the United Nations. It provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. CMS brings together the states through which migratory animals pass, the range states, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range. CMS complements and cooperates with various international organisations, NGOs and partners in implementing conservation programmes for the benefit of migratory species. These range from landscape-level support programmes to conservation initiatives for animal groups or specific species. The CMS introduced three specific programmes: 1) The Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative which develops conservation programmes for lion, cheetah, leopard and wild dog across Africa. This programme also develops policy guidance and recommendations for range states and organises collaborations with other conservation initiatives and groups, such as IUCN and NGOs. 2) The Giraffe Concerted Effort, which aids in the development of international, regional, and national giraffe conservation strategies. It also supports information exchange and population monitoring. 3) The CMS TFCA Programme to support transfrontier conservation areas across Africa and protect the connected spaces that migratory species need to move and thrive. It supports the formation of TFCAs and the development and implementation of protected areas co-management plans prepared for specific TFCAs.
17.2 Greater Virunga TB collaboration: treaties for mountain gorillas
Dr Elaine Hsiao, Global Challenges Fellow, University of Sheffield: Sheffield Institute for International Development

Inspired by charismatic mountain gorillas, research in the Virunga Massif began in 1959, leading to the recognition that the last remaining specimen of this critically endangered species inhabit a colonially divided ecosystem that requires coordination amongst three states (the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda) to successfully protect. In 1979, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) began to organise antipoaching patrols and education programmes under the Mountain Gorilla Project. In 1991 this project evolved into a trinational initiative, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP). Around this time, rangers from the three countries agreed to coordinate gorilla monitoring across borders - this is considered the informal birth of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC). Formalisation of the GVTC began in January 2004, when the protected areas authorities of the three participating nations (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature in Democratic Republic of Congo, Office Rwandais de Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux in Rwanda, and Uganda Wildlife Authority in Uganda) signed a Trilateral MoU. This was followed in October 2005 by a Tripartite Ministerial Declaration that set forth the objectives of transboundary collaboration – landscape conservation, integrated planning, benefit-sharing, sustainable development through tourism and regional peace – and established a secretariat to implement the existing agreements. The 2015 GVTC Treaty is a political feat of high-level diplomacy to facilitate ‘bottom-up’ transboundary collaboration and is awaiting ratification by the three countries. On the ground, the legal framework comes to life through the transboundary institutions and cross-border activities, which are sometimes integrated with traditional or local mechanisms.

17.3 Large carnivores programmes in the SADC region
Dr Rosemary Groom, Southern African Coordinator, Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs

The Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs (RWCP) operates across the range of both species in Africa. Through a process of global distribution mapping, regional strategies, and national conservation action plans, the RWCP works with governments from range states to strengthen the species’ conservation. Working across several countries and transboundary landscapes inevitably brings a host of challenges when considering the legal frameworks. One must consider national, regional, and local laws, policies and bylaws, land use systems and user-rights as well as cultural norms and practices. Fortunately, several overarching frameworks are in place to help, where issues of policy harmonisation, overarching regulations and standardised guidelines are addressed which is one of the key strengths of many of the SADC TFCAs. For practitioners it is vital to operate within national laws whilst also understanding local politics and cultural context. It’s also key to remember that there may be good laws in place but very little knowledge, understanding or enforcement of them. Of course, legislation can be very useful to conservation practitioners, but you must know it to be able to use it.
18 ROUND TABLE ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TFCAs

Date: 3 September 2020

Moderators: Dr Brian Maguranyanga, Managing Partner & Consultant at M-Consulting Group, Zimbabwe

Invited Experts:
- Dr Clara Bocchino, Independent Consultant, SADC TFCA Network Coordinating Team
- Daniel Marnewick, Key Biodiversity Areas Community Chair, Africa Representative and Regional Focal Point, at BirdLife South Africa

This session was devoted to discussing existing international frameworks of relevance to transfrontier conservation in both a hard and soft legislative context. Each expert gave a short presentation on two relevant frameworks. The discussions revolved around the lack of knowledge on the existence of the Maputo Convention and on the opportunities for the management of TFCAs and interstitial areas offered by KBA and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

The 2003 African Union Maputo Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources: Dr Clara Bocchino

The African continent has a proven track record of pioneering approaches to natural resources management in both colonial and post-colonial times. While it is astounding that for many decades the only African Union Convention regulating the obligations for natural resources management of member countries has been the 1968 Algiers Convention, it is also worth noting that many of its provisions were innovative for that time and are still very much in line with current international trends and agendas that focus on sustainable development. However, the African Union chartered yet another unique course in the preparation of the 2003 Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (signed at Maputo, Mozambique).

This document is the sum of all the international conventions and agendas on sustainable development as progressed from the 1992 Rio Convention. The Maputo Convention is not only ambitious in its conservation goals for the countries and the region, but for the first time, places natural resources management at the core of a development strategy. This pushed all other economic and service sectors to reconsider their modus operandi and dramatically adopt a cradle-to-grave or recycle approach to their production, and a sustainable framework for resource consumption.
It may be for these reasons that many countries, especially those with important extractive industries, have taken time to sign this document, and its entry into force only happened at the end of 2017. Whereas most Southern African countries have signed the treaty, only four of them have ratified the Convention, namely Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, and South Africa.

Spatial prioritisation and area-based conservation in the African region and TFCAs: Daniel Marnewick

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Aichi Target 11 calls on countries to conserve areas of special importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

In 2016, the Key Biodiversity Areas Standard was published. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats. The CBD (CBD 2018) also defined an ‘other effective area-based conservation measure’ (OECM) as, ‘a geographically defined area, other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes, for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services, and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.’

The KBA Standard provides a global currency which African countries can use to identify the most important places for biodiversity. Signatory countries to the CBD should consider meeting their obligations under Aichi Target 11 (and its post-2020 inheritor) by targeting KBAs for the expansion of protected areas and identification of OECMs. These KBAs should also be avoided by developments which are not compatible with biodiversity conservation.
19.1 UNESCO World Heritage sites and TFCAs

Bastian Bertzky, Scientific Project Officer: BIOPAMA, EU Joint Research Commission

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention seeks to identify, conserve, and promote natural and cultural sites of ‘outstanding universal value’. The Convention has special provisions for transboundary and serial sites, and includes many famous conservation areas on its prestigious World Heritage list. World Heritage (WH) listing can provide multiple benefits, including more political and financial support, better branding and marketing opportunities, more public interest, and better protection against harmful developments.

The recent IUCN report on Natural World Heritage in Africa highlighted the important role of transboundary approaches and how several existing WH sites involve SADC TFCAs: The Maloti-Drakensberg Park and Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls are transboundary WH sites, and other WH sites such as the iSimangaliso Wetland Park; Mana Pools National Park, and Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas; and the Okavango Delta, overlap with SADC TFCAs.

There are also opportunities for new nominations and extensions involving SADC TFCAs: The succulent Karoo has long been identified as a gap on the WH list, and there is potential for transboundary extensions to sites such as iSimangaliso, Mana Pools, the Okavango Delta, and Lake Malawi. Existing TFCA mechanisms could help facilitate these transboundary WH initiatives in various ways. Further advice and support is available from IUCN, UNESCO and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF).

19.2 UNESCO biosphere reserves and TFCAs

Marie-Tinka Uys, Biosphere Coordinator, K2C Biosphere Reserve

The purpose of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is to reconcile biodiversity conservation with the sustainable use of natural resources. Sites are listed in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR); remain under the jurisdiction of their states and are organised into regional networks to improve networking and collaboration. Each site enables three complementary functions: conservation (of landscapes, ecosystems, species,
and genetic variation), sustainable development (fostering economic development which is ecologically and socio-culturally sustainable), and logistic support (promoting research, monitoring, education, and training), achieved through a graduated spatial zonation of permissible use. The WNBR currently numbers 701 in 124 countries, 15 of which are located within five countries in SADC.

SADC Biosphere Reserves (BRs) are members of AfriMAB (regional MAB network for sub-Saharan Africa), and South Africa is the current coordinator of the Southern Africa sub-regional network. South African BRs are not legislated and are implemented in a ‘soft law’ spirit through collaboration between the BR management entities and major stakeholders and guided by the Strategy for the Biosphere Reserve Programme (2016–2030). This specifically notes the value of partnerships at multiple scales.

UNESCO’s MAB and TFCA designations have common ground in enabling conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable development of rural communities. Both use an approach of collective impact.

19.3 IUCN other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) initiative

Daniel Marnewick, Regional Conservation Programme Manager, BirdLife South Africa

The Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD, 2018) defined an ‘other effective area-based conservation measure’ as: ‘A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services, and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.’ South Africa undertook the first country-level assessment to determine both the type and extent of OECMs. Of the nine sites assessed in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve case study area, six sites qualified as OECMs, while one of the privately-owned properties remained a candidate OECM, pending improvements in governance and management. The six qualifying sites constituted 60% of the 27,864 hectares assessed. None of these qualifying sites are currently recognised and reported as part of the conservation estate.

This project highlighted several key lessons. Firstly, the OECM framework will facilitate the reporting of South Africa’s conservation estate, nationally and internationally, assisting with formalising conservation areas in South Africa. Secondly, OECMs provide an opportunity to create more interconnected landscapes and seascapes, in combination with protected areas. Thirdly, OECMs facilitate the inclusion of a diverse range of rights-holders and stakeholders who are contributing to area-based conservation. These include previously marginalised groups, land use types, and sectors. Lastly, OECMs can play a role in supporting local economies that are simultaneously safeguarding biodiversity and ecological assets. They offer an opportunity to strengthen governance structures that can attract conservation finance investment.
Mr Dhlodhlo spoke on the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area (MDTFCDA) in Lesotho and South Africa, stating that the overarching initiative preceded the inscription of the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site, thus providing the governance structures and mechanisms necessary to facilitate the process of applying for inscription, as well as subsequent planning, management, and reporting processes. Thus far, the overlapping designations have allowed for an increase in the level of oversight with UNESCO introducing an additional international level. However, given that the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park section of the WHS in South Africa is located in only one of the three participating provinces, i.e., Kwa-Zulu Natal, there is a perception that the other two provinces are receiving less attention within the broader transfrontier conservation context.

Mr Maphalala discussed the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation and Resource Area (LTFCRA) which covers the northern portion of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot in Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa and which facilitates national recognition of the globally significant biodiversity value of the area and cohesion in the transfrontier conservation approach. There is also recognition for cross-border cultural similarities and features (Border Cave) which also provides motivation for transfrontier collaboration. Eswatini recognised the value of seeking Man and Biosphere (MAB) reserve status for their portion of the LTFCRA as this increases the need for community involvement and beneficiation, more than is currently the case with some of the region’s TFCAs. This has created additional opportunities for securing funding support as well as drawing in additional stakeholders. This has also facilitated a move towards planning at a landscape level as opposed to a fragmented approach. The hope is now that Mozambique and South Africa will follow this example and increase the reach of the MAB status to cover the full LTFCRA, thus increasing cohesion between stakeholders in all three countries and the management of influencing dynamics such as livestock management.
Mr Makoni spoke on the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) which includes the northern part of the Kruger National Park and the Mapungubwe National Park and WHS as core areas. The Mapungubwe National Park and WHS buffer zone is recognised as the same for the VBR. The transition zone of the VBR is where much work is done to focus on community engagement and beneficiation. The overlapping designations enhance the profiles of the constituent parts and allow for greater cohesion between these, particularly where it introduces a greater emphasis on a landscape approach to planning, management, data collection and reporting.

The spatial and temporal relationship between the designations will dictate their usefulness or otherwise. For example, and from a spatial perspective, where various designations are completely embedded, their potential for complementarity would be enhanced. Whereas, where multiple designations are fragmented in the landscape, the ability to capitalise on potential complementarities would be more complex and potentially inhibitive. From a temporal perspective, it must be recognised that existing designations may provide a good foundation from which additional and overlapping designations may be sought.
MEET THE
Contributors
LIST OF MODERATORS AND SPEAKERS

Bertzky, Bastian

Mr Bertzky is a geographer and conservation biologist with a master's degree from the University of Cape Town. He has been working on protected areas and World Heritage Sites for 15 years, including at IUCN Headquarters and at UNEP-WCMC, and co-authored the recent IUCN report on natural World Heritage in Africa. For the past eight years, Mr Bertzky has been working at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission on the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme and is the BIOPAMA focal point for Southern Africa.

Blanken, Lisa

Mr Blanken has a MSc in Biodiversity Conservation as well as Public Administration. She has eight years of professional experience working for international development and conservation institutions, including UNESCO and WWF, before joining GIZ in 2015. At the SADC/GIZ Transboundary Natural Resources Programme, she is a technical advisor for transfrontier conservation areas. Her main responsibility lies with the development and coordination of the SADC TFCA network, through which she has developed strong ties with international and regional NGOs and donors.

Blumberg, Lucille (Prof)

Professor Blumberg is Deputy Director for Epidemiology of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), at the National Health Laboratory Service. She is an honorary member of the Department of Tropical Diseases in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria. She has been at the NICD since 2002, where she established the Outbreak Unit, following the 2003 SARS outbreak. She has worked closely with animal practitioners in outbreak, case prevention and management of avian influenza, Rift Valley fever, rabies, Zika virus and COVID-19.
Boyes, Steve (Dr)

Dr Boyes has 19 years of experience working in CBNRM, with a focus on research, exploration and conservation. He is Chairman of the Botswana Wild Bird Trust, a National Geographic Fellow, and is Project Leader of the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project (NGOWP). The NGOWP is a collaboration between the National Geographic Society and the Wild Bird Trust working across the Okavango-Zambezi Water Tower (‘Lisima Lya Mwono Landscape’) in the Angolan highlands, as well as the rest of the Okavango and Kwando River Basins in south-east Angola, Namibia's Kavango Region and Caprivi Strip, and northern Botswana. The primary aim of the project is to gather baseline biodiversity, environmental and socio-economic data to better inform community-based conservation and natural resource management, in partnership with governments and regional secretariats.

Caron, Alexandre (Dr)

Dr Caron is trained as a veterinarian and wildlife ecologist and is currently working for Cirad, a French Research Institution. Originally from France, Dr Caron has spent the last 14 years in Southern Africa, based in Zimbabwe. He is currently hosted by the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique. He is co-ordinating the regional Research Platform ‘Production and Conservation in Partnership.’ His current interests are in sustainability science in TFCAs and how to promote local development in the context of conservation.
Mr Chaila is a veteran marketing executive with more than 20 years’ experience in brand development in the sector. In 2011 he was appointed Managing Director for the Zambia Tourism Board (ZTB), the forerunner to the Zambia Tourism Agency (ZTA), which he has headed up since 2016.

During his tenure first as Managing Director of ZTB and later as Chief Executive Officer of the restructured ZTA, Mr Chaila presided over the rebranding of Destination Zambia from “Zambia the Real Africa” to “Zambia, Let’s Explore.” He was also instrumental in the opening up of new emerging tourist source markets, such as India; the creation of the Livingstone International Cultural and Arts Festival (LICAF); the creation of the Zambia Travel Expo (ZATEX); the positioning of Zambia as one of the top MICE destinations in Southern Africa; and more recently, the successful introduction of Star Grading for Zambia’s accommodation establishments, a project that was 30 years in the making. He is also a fellow of the Zambia Institute of Marketing.

Mr Chidzidzi is the Acting Chief Executive of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA), one of the parastatal organisations falling under the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality. After completing his university studies in 1986 he commenced his career in the tourism industry as an Assistant Research and Planning Officer in the then Zimbabwe Tourist Development Corporation. He left the corporation as Head of the Research and Planning Division to serve in the diplomatic field as Tourism Attaché for Zimbabwe, responsible for Continental Europe, based in Frankfurt, Germany between 1996 and 2001. On his return, he was appointed Marketing and Communication Director for the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority. He has received several awards in Zimbabwe, and is also a resource person for the following: the Diplomatic Training Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe National Defence University, and Africa Tourism Leaders Forum, as well as Africa Tourism Partners MICE Masterclass. He serves on several boards and is Chairman of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation (SMEDCO).

Ms Chigodo is Team Leader for the SADC TFCA Financing Facilities with IUCN ESARO. She has over 10 years’ experience in transboundary natural resources management in the SADC Region, having spent most of her career in the TFCA Unit with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. She has a wealth of experience in conservation of biodiversity, tourism development, programme management, project coordination, community-based natural resources management and stakeholder engagement. She is also a member of the SADC TFCA Network.
Mr Chitepo is an expert in transboundary natural resources management policy and practice, with more than 20 years’ experience of building and leading successful multi-million dollar environmental projects and partnerships with civil society, private sector, national governments (and their regional structures), the United Nations, as well as international donors and cooperation partners such as USAID.

Mr Chitepo has chaired the IUCN Southern Africa Sustainable Use Specialist Group, and serves as a Trustee of WWF South Africa. He is currently Chemonics International's Chief Partnerships Advisor for the USAID Resilient Waters Program, leading a team of regional experts working with SADC River Basin and Groundwater Management Organisations, and TFCAs.

Mr Collins as worked as a local economic development facilitator in Southern Africa for 30 years, specialising in land reform and local economic development linked to natural resources. One of the key areas of his work in the last 10 years has been in establishing community-based partnerships around conservation, renewable energy, and ecotourism projects.

He is currently the Livelihoods and Adaptation Advisor for the USAID Resilient Waters Program and Chairperson of the African Safari Foundation, which advises communities on maximising the sustainable benefits achieved from conservation areas. The work he has done with the community based ecotourism is recognised as global best community conservation practices.

Trained as an ecologist, Mr Davies began his career with the Natal Parks Board at Mkhuze Game Reserve where he was responsible for providing game ranching advice to farmers. Realising that the ecological dimension was only one aspect of wildlife management, he completed a Master’s degree in Business Management and then relocated to Bop Parks where he project managed the development of Madikwe Game Reserve, a new concept of using wildlife for economic development, which was awarded the British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow award (IUCN) for innovative approaches to conservation. As a consultant, he focuses on the conservation business interface, that includes operating parks on business principles and negotiation to realise value from sustainable use of natural resources.
Mr de Vletter is an independent consultant and owner of Phophonyane Falls Ecolodge and Nature Reserve in Eswatini. In 1993, he joined the National Environment Commission in Mozambique as program manager for the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP). He worked for the World Bank as Environment and Natural Resource Operations Officer and task manager for the preparation and implementation of the Mozambique TFCA project, which commenced in 1996. He helped initiate the Eco Lubombo Program (ELP) and the community-owned Mhlumeni Bush Camp in Eswatini. He contributed to Eswatini’s national renewable energy programme and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, ‘Improving climate resilience in the Kingdom of Eswatini through the integrated management of mountain ecosystems’. Mr De Vletter is the current Vice Chair of the Eswatini UNESCO MAB Executive Board.

Ms Dekrout is an ecologist from New Zealand who is currently based in Kenya as the Transfrontier Conservation Areas Programme Manager for the CMS. For over 10 years she has worked across the conservation, development, and humanitarian fields. Ms Dekrout joined the United Nations in 2015 as the Senior Environmental Coordinator for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She also formerly worked with CARE International, in Papua New Guinea, on community-based adaptation to climate change on small atolls and with Cheetah Conservation Botswana promoting community-based conservation and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

The South African Coordinator for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme (TFCA) between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa, under Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Dhlodhlo has twenty years of experience working in transfrontier conservation in the region. He has worked as Programme Officer for IUCN Southern Africa (now ESARO) before supporting the community consultations in Zimbabwe-Mozambique-Zambia (ZIMOZA) TFCA and the Permanent Secretariat meetings for KAZA TFCA. Born and educated in Zimbabwe, he specialised in the USA in Public Policy and Sustainable Development. He is currently reading for his PhD at the University of Cape Town on TFCAs and new regionalism.

Mr Diggle is the WWF CBNRM / Business Lead for the Communal Conservancy programme in Namibia. He has extensive experience in CBNRM having been involved in the CAMPFIRE Programme in Zimbabwe (for the Mazarabani Rural District Council) from the early 1990s. Mr Diggle has spent the past 22 years with the Namibia Community Conservancy - first with IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation) in the Caprivi Region of the Zambezi, and then with WWF in the Namibia office. Mr Diggle has a diverse background having worked in the private banking sector in England and Germany, prior to engaging in community conservation and development.
Gandiwa, Edson (Prof)

Professor Gandiwa is currently the Executive Dean of the School of Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation at Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe. Previously, he served as an ecologist based in Gonarezhou National Park under the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. He has 16 years of experience in applied socio-ecological research, community-based natural resource management, wildlife conservation and capacity building. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science and Health (National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe), an MSc in Tropical Resource Ecology (University of Zimbabwe) and a PhD in Wildlife Conservation and Management (Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands). He is a recipient of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) Working Group Young Opinion Thesis Award, as well as a research award in the Natural Sciences and Environmental sector from the Research Council of Zimbabwe. He is a Member of the Environment Management Board under the Environmental Management Agency (Zimbabwe), an Affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences and a 2014 Mandela Washington Fellow.

Gandiwa, Patience (Prof)

Professor Gandiwa has dedicated her career to natural resource management as the nexus between conservation and socio-economic development. Both as a practitioner working at the African Wildlife Foundation and serving for many years in the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Professor Gandiwa has never neglected her academic advancement and contributions. She joined Zimbabwe’s Transfrontier Conservation Areas Unit as a TFCAs Coordinator in 2013, before being appointed International Coordinator for Greater Mapungubwe TFCA, on secondment to the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), a position she held for four years, serving Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe governments and stakeholders alike. She then moved back to Parks where she currently serves as Executive Technical Advisor/Director responsible for TFCAs and Conventions. In 2019, she was honoured with Professorship by the Academic Union Oxford, UK, as well as being the recipient of three pan-African Awards from CEO Global in 2017, 2018 and 2019. She was appointed (on merit) to the UNDP National Steering Committee for the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) in 2018. Professor Gandiwa is a Trustee for the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust and is a member of various professional and technical advisory bodies within the SADC region.

Gonçalves, Miguel

Mr Gonçalves is Park Warden at Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve and Maputo Special Reserve. Born and educated in Mozambique, he studied Marine Biology at Eduardo Mondlane University and taught mathematics while studying for his degree. Upon graduating in 2001, Mr Gonçalves joined prawn fishing company, Recanto de Chiloane, responsible for quality control, warehouse and fleet management. He was also part of a team involved in the Mozambique Coral Reef Monitoring Programme, With the support of the WWF and his employer, Mr Gonçalves led Mozambique's first trials in turtle excluded devices. He was appointed Park Warden of PPMR since 2008 and has served as Maputo Special Reserve Park Warden since 2017.
Gotosa, Tawanda

Mr Gotosa has over 20 years’ experience in the programming, implementation, and evaluation of conservation work. Most of his professional life has been dedicated to the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, first as a Senior Ecologist, then as Principal Warden, actively involved in the implementation of the CAMPFIRE Programme, animal translocation, wildlife utilisation processes and tourism. He was also a Regional Manager for most of the regions in Zimbabwe, before moving to SADC as Technical Advisor for TFCAs. Throughout his career, he has served as a member on several Committees for Conservation in Zimbabwe and as well as the Reviewing Committee for the Wildlife Management Syllabus for the Zimbabwe Higher Education Council. He has been a part-time lecturer and examiner on Wildlife and Safari Management at the Chinoyi University of Technology.

Groom, Rosemary (Dr)

Dr Groom is a conservation biologist with 18 years of experience working in wildlife conservation in East and Southern Africa. Since 2013, she has held the position of Southern African Coordinator for the Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs – or RWCP for short! Her areas of interest and expertise include working at local, regional, and international levels with a variety of stakeholders on carnivore conservation issues and designing and implementing large-scale field conservation projects which include a strong education and community engagement component. Dr Groom is a member of the IUCN / SSC Canid Specialist Group and is on the steering committee for the KAZA Carnivore Conservation Coalition.

Hlatshwayo, Motseki (Dr)

Dr Hlatshwayo, is currently a Technical Advisor- Fisheries at SADC Secretariat and holds a PhD (Zoology) from University of the Free State (UFS) in South Africa. He previously served as Chief Director- Aquaculture (DAFF, now DEFF in South Africa); Subject Head and Senior Lecturer of Zoology (University of the Free State); visiting Research Associate at the State University of São Paulo and University of São Paulo in Brazil; and visiting Researcher at the University College Dublin (UCD) in Ireland, and Louisiana State University (LSU) in the United States. Dr Hlatshwayo is a member of the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa (AASA) and World Aquaculture Society (WAS). He is a Board Chair for the AquaFish Centre of Excellence at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Chair of the Programme Steering Committee of the EU funded ECOFISH Programme for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region; Chair of the AU-IBAR Working Group on Fisheries MCS, and Member of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Expert Committee.
Hofmeyr, Markus (Dr)

Dr Hofmeyr is a wildlife veterinarian, who graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Pretoria. He has spent 18 years working for South African National Parks (SANParks) in various capacities including Director of Veterinary Services. In this period, he served as the Chairperson of the GLTFCA Veterinary Committee, supporting the Joint Management Board in decision-making on wildlife management and health. He was also involved, as a member of its steering committee, in the Animal and Human Health for Environment and Development (AHEAD) Working Group, the first One Health network in the region supporting the development of a TFCA. Having left SANParks, he commenced field work on rhino introductions in Botswana, and served on the KAZA animal health working group. He has been a member of the OIE wildlife working group since 2018. Currently, he is the programme officer for the wildlife conservation and trade portfolio of the Oak Philanthropic Foundation, based in London (UK).

Hsiao, Elaine (Dr)

Dr Hsiao, an interdisciplinary legal scholar, specializing in transboundary conservation areas, environmental peacebuilding, and indigenous/community conservation, is the Global Challenges Fellow at the Sheffield Institute for International Development (SIID). Currently, she is Co-Chairing the IUCN CEESP Theme on Environment and Peace, under which she established a Task Force on Migration, Environmental Change, and Conflict, and is an Honorary Member of the ICCA Consortium. Dr Hsiao is also a Research Affiliate with the Biodiversity and Security research project and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Rwanda’s Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management. She has a PhD in Resource Management & Environmental Studies from the University of British Columbia’s (UBC) Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) and a JD and LLM in International and Environmental Law from Pace Law School.

Iipinge, Naambo Josephine

Ms Iipinge is the TFCAs Coordinator in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia. She has over 15 years’ experience in community engagement on natural resources management: building institutional governance for Community-Based Organisations, supporting communities in tourism joint venture negotiation, managing human wildlife conflict, and supporting CBOs to ensure compliance requirements are met, while safeguarding equitable benefit. Ms Iipinge gained applied knowledge in establishment, development and management of TFCA s in SADC. She has steered the SADC TFCA Network and has been a member of the Okavango Permanent Commission Steering Committee for more than five years.

Ms. Iipinge is a final year master’s student in Environmental Management at the University of the Free State. Her dissertation explores the roles of local landscape conservation approach in the management of TFCA s in Mudumu North Landscape (KAZA TFCA, Namibia).
Major General Jooste retired from the South African Army in 2006, after 35 years of active service. At the beginning of 2013, he was appointed as Commanding Officer Special Projects at SAN Parks, responsible for all matters related to the anti-poaching strategy, planning, and execution. He subsequently established a Wildlife Crime and Corruption Combatting Coordination Centre at the SANParks head office. He is currently employed by PPF and seconded to the DEFF where he manages a programme to establish wildlife zones in all provinces.

Kahatano, Deborah

Ms Kahatano is an ecologist with vast experience in the field of conservation, natural resource management, agribusiness, and tourism development in Eastern and Southern Africa. At the time of the session, she was working at Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat as Senior Programme Officer responsible for Natural Resources and Wildlife. Her portfolio includes Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs). Ms. Kahatano is passionate about TFCAs and has been involved in different aspects of transboundary natural resource management for more than a decade. She has worked with bilateral and multilateral international development institutions including USAID, UNDP/GEF (The Global Environment Facility) and IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature as well as public and private sectors. She holds a B.Sc. in Zoology and Wildlife Ecology and M.Sc. in Applied Ecology.

Kimani, Ngugi

Mr Kimani works as Geospatial Information Technology Lead and participates in the arrangement of data and applications to provide convenient access for all. He manages the BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub, as well as the SADC TFCA Portal. He is the focal point for BIOPAMA at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Klose, Ulrich

Mr Klose founded WIGWAM Nature Tours & Expeditions in 1991 with the goal of offering sustainable tourism to a wider clientele in the German-speaking market.

For almost 30 years this has been his passion, with the company having developed tours across Eastern and Southern Africa, specialising in transfrontier conservation tourism. WIGWAM has been a representative of the KAZA Project for the German-speaking market on fares, workshops and congresses since 2017 and is an active private sector supporter of the KAZA Project.
Lewis, Dale

Mr Lewis studied elephants in Zambia at a time when the elephant population was being decimated by local poachers, and realised something had to be done. What emerged from his work over the past 18 years, and with the support of his staff, was a business approach that makes conservation profitable. He helped create the model for the social enterprise, Community Markets for Conservation, and serves as its CEO.

Maciejewski, Kristine (Dr)

At the time of presentation, Dr Maciejewski occupied the position of the Biodiversity Advisor for the USAID-funded Resilient Waters Program, which strives to build resilience and water security in Southern Africa. Dr Maciejewski heads up the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Component of the Program, with the objective to enhance the conservation of biodiversity while promoting private sector engagement. With a MSc in Conservation Ecology, PhD in Zoology, and two postdoctoral research fellowships at University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University, she has extensive experience working in conservation landscapes. Her primary research focus is on building resilience in social-ecological systems, which includes sustainable livelihood activities that support the coexistence of wildlife, biodiversity-rich habitats, and people.

Maguranyanga, Brian (Dr)

Dr Maguranyanga is an independent consultant who works in the field of resource policy and behaviour, transformation, development and social dimensions of health and development in East and Southern Africa. He is a sociologist with over 15 years’ experience in social and operational research, strategy, communication for development, resource governance, public health, and community-based natural resource management. He has consulted for IUCN, WWF, UN agencies (UNECA, UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, and UN Women), Oxfam, Resource Africa UK, and government ministries. Dr Maguranyanga holds a PhD from the University of Michigan, and his dissertation focused on transformation and black empowerment in South African National Parks. His areas of interest include resource policy and behaviour, democratization of resource governance and empowerment in Southern Africa.
Makoni, Tonderai

Mr Makoni is the Coordinator for the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, located in the north-eastern part of South Africa and has two TFCAs within its area. He has been involved in biosphere reserve work for the past six years before his appointment as Coordinator in 2019. He has a master’s degree in environmental management and is currently pursuing his PhD focusing on the role of indigenous knowledge and sacred natural sites in biosphere reserve zonation. His passion is to see communities owning, contributing to, and benefiting from conservation initiatives.

Manda, Chizamsoka

Mr Manda has a master's degree in environmental science. He worked in the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife for 22 years in various capacities. During his last posting, which he held for six years, he served as Deputy Director responsible for Conservation Services as well as law enforcement. In 2019 he was appointed as the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) technical advisor working with SADC on behalf of two GIZ projects, namely the SADC-GIZ Transboundary Use and Protection of National Resources Programme, as well as the global GIZ project called Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia.

Maphalala, Seth

Mr Maphalala has over 15 years’ experience in Biodiversity Management, Conservation and Planning after having started off as a Biodiversity Programmes Officer in 2002. He is also an environmental educator and community trainer at national and international level on a range of environment issues including ecology, environmental impacts assessment, disaster management and biosafety. He has served on several boards and was a long standing Chairman on the Executive Board of the Renewable Energy Association of Swaziland (REASWA). Mr Maphalala is a member of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) and current Chairperson of the Lubombo Conservancy Board where his focus is on applying the landscape approach in the conservation and management of natural resources in the Lubombo, a globally significant biodiversity hotspot straddling Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa.

Marnewick, Daniel

Mr Marnewick has over 20 years’ professional experience and leadership in the conservation sector. His understanding of the conservation landscapes comes with a wealth of authority on a range of integrated fields, including habitat protection and management, spatial prioritisation, area-based conservation, grassroots engagement, community development, strategic conservation planning, integration with national priorities, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. He sits on several national and international committees regarding area-based conservation. His current focal areas include area-based conservation targets (Aichi Target 11), Key Biodiversity Areas, Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and Privately Protected Areas.
Matlhare, Tebogo

Mr Matlhare has 11 years’ experience at the EU Delegation in Gaborone, Botswana, where he has been handling the civil society relations portfolio in bilateral cooperation with Botswana, and capacity building for local NGOs. Since 2017 he has handled regional responsibilities on international cooperation for natural resources, liaising with the SADC Secretariat. Under the current portfolio, he handles Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, and Wildlife. Before joining the EU, Mr Matlhare spent 18 years in the civil society sector, working for environmental NGOs and in the governance structures of umbrella NGOs. He remains an active supporter and champion of NGO projects that are NR focused. He is a trained Agricultural Scientist and holds a BSc Agric.

Mavimbela, Sibongile

Ms Mavimbela is the Senior Programme Officer for Environment and Climate Change under the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of SADC. Her portfolio includes the development of legal and regulatory frameworks on Environment and Climate Change; the mainstreaming of Environment and Climate Change in all socio-economic activities; the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the environment and its trends. Current flagship projects include development of a Blue Economy Strategy for SADC; establishing and operationalizing the Great Green Wall Initiative of Southern Africa (GGWI-SADC) and implementing the Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme in the SADC Region, funded by the EU.

McDonald, Brett

Mr McDonald is a Zimbabwean-born entrepreneur with over 30 years’ experience in the tourism industry. During this time he has established 14 tourism products in Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, all of which are somehow associated with water – including houseboats, floating restaurants, day-trip cruisers, or luxury riverfront lodges. He is also the founder and owner of Flame of Africa, which caters for land and water safaris, and fishing with unique and authentic products along the Chobe River and Lake Kariba. He is also the General Sales Agent for Croisi Africa, representing the African Dream, Cascade Island Lodge, and KAZA Safari Lodge.

Having served as a consultant for the United Nations and attached to the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Mr McDonald is the forerunner of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). He also established the Save Hwange Trust, and is deeply committed to the KAZA Collection initiative.
Meyer, Nils

Mr Meyer has spent over two decades with KfW, with the mandate, amongst others, to execute bilateral financial cooperation for the German government. He has vast experience as Senior Project Manager and Policy Advisor for agriculture, natural resources management, biodiversity, climate change, with portfolios in Western and Southern African regions, South-East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2014, he has overseen the Biodiversity and TFCA Programme as well; as projects of German Financial Cooperation with SADC, Mozambique, Zambia, and Malawi. Prior to joining KfW, he worked for six years abroad mainly with NGOs (Cameroon, Israel, Burkina Faso, Congo Basin).

Miguel, Cornélvio

Mr Miguel has been working in wildlife management for approximately 23 years. Currently, he holds the position of Transfrontier Conservation Area Country Coordinator in Mozambique, at the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), under the Ministry of Land and Environment in Mozambique. Prior to this he was a Warden for approximately 10 years of the old Niassa National Reserve, now Niassa Special Reserve, and of the Limpopo National Park, both in Mozambique. Has also worked in the community based Natural Resources Management Initiative, called ‘Tchuma Tchato’ (Our Wealth), along the Zambezi Basin in Tete Province. He has spent most of his time in the transboundary conservation initiatives of Zimbabwe-Mozambique-Zambia (ZIMOZA), Niassa – Selous and Great Limpopo TFCAs.

Molefi, Tracy

Ms Molefi is a Programme Coordinator for the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) Secretariat and is responsible for the overall coordination of the entire OKACOM Programme with specific focus on its implementation. Prior to joining the OKACOM Secretariat, Ms Molefi was the Deputy Director-Water Resources for the Department of Water and Sanitation of Botswana. Earlier she served as National Coordinator-River Basin Organisations, heading the Ministry’s International Waters Unit. In this role, she oversaw, facilitated, and coordinated the programme and activities of the four river basins of Zambezi, Limpopo, Orange-Senqu and Okavango, as well as other water related bilateral and joint commissions that Botswana has formed agreements with other countries. She has served in different capacities on the various structures or organs of these four river basins including being Co-Chair of the Okavango Basin Steering Committee (OBSC) under OKACOM.

She is the member of Kalahari Conservation Society and IUCN’s Communication and Education Commission.
**Mugadza, Amanda (Dr)**

Dr Mugadza is a lecturer in the Public Law Department of the Faculty of Law at the Midlands State University in Gweru, Zimbabwe. Her areas of specialisation are in Environmental Law, including Sustainable Development Law, Natural Resources Law, particularly the law relating to transfrontier conservation areas, sustainable tourism development, climate change law, and related aspects of public international law. Her doctoral research focused on developing a domestic legal framework for sustainable tourism development in SADC TFCAs, using the GLTFCA as a case study. From this study, Dr Mugadza has been particularly interested in advancing the legal tools necessary to promote sustainability issues in TFCAs.

**Murphree, Michael John**

Mr Murphree has 25 years of experience in the field of community based natural resource management. Born in Zimbabwe, educated in Zimbabwe and the USA, he was employed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management (Zimbabwe) in 1987 as an ecologist to work on the community wildlife management programme CAMPFIRE. In 1993 he became the Wildlife Policy Advisor for Mozambique through IUCN, where he worked on the post conflict management of natural resources. In 1996 he was appointed the Executive Officer of the Southern Africa Sustainable Use Specialist Group (of IUCN). He has worked extensively on community based natural resource management projects in Southern and West Africa. He also consulted in Asia and the Middle East with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement, communication, and scenario planning. In 2010, he joined the African Centre for Disaster Studies (ACDS) at the North-West University, where he managed two USAID funded projects, conducted training and skills development programmes, alongside workshop facilitation, scenario planning and trans-disciplinary research in natural resource management as a central component of disaster risk reduction strategies. In recognition of his work in the disaster risk reduction field, Mr Murphree was appointed the Regional Co-Chair Southern Africa for the World Humanitarian Summit.

He retains an active membership with IUCNs Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group and the Resilience Task Force of the Commission for Ecosystem Management. He is currently the WWF-SA Programme Manager/Chief of Party for the USAID-funded Khetha Program that seeks new and innovative ways to tackle wildlife crime while securing wildlife benefits to rural communities in South Africa and Mozambique.
Myburgh, Werner

Throughout his schooling period during school holidays Mr Myburgh volunteered to work for the Kruger National Park. After achieving a B.Sc. in Ecology with honours, he joined the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) in its early years. He served in various positions before he was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2008.

The Foundation and its subsidiaries have 312 full time staff members and an annual average budget of US$30 million. He has been involved in the execution of more than 500 different development projects within TFCAs throughout Southern Africa. He is a Board and Executive Committee Member of PPF and also serves on the Boards of the SA College for Tourism, Southern African Wildlife College (both PPF subsidiaries), Southern African Wildlife College Trust, and is also a member of the Steering Committees of the Limpopo National Park, the Maputo Special Reserve and the Zinave National Park.

Ndadzela, Patricio

An East African trained conservationist with 35 years of experience in wildlife management, Mr Ndadzela is currently IFAW's Chief of Party for the Malawi-Zambia transfrontier project on combating wildlife crime. Prior to joining IFAW he was the Country Director of African Parks in Malawi and was responsible for the restoration, development, and management of Majete Wildlife Reserve. Before that, he worked at the Malawian Department of Parks and Wildlife as Divisional Wildlife Manager.

Nobbe, Clara

Ms Nobbe is a legal specialist who joined the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in 2014. Before taking on the position of Head of Terrestrial Species Team in January 2019, she served as the first CITES-CMS Programme Officer, supporting concerned parties to CITES with the development and implementation of the National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) and the establishment of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative. Prior to joining the CMS Secretariat, she occupied several positions with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 2007 to 2014.

Ntana, Mogkanedi

With a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from the University of the Free State (RSA), Mr Ntana was later nominated to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) through the American Embassy, and completed field studies in Ecotourism, Park Management and Biodiversity Conservation in various states in the US. He joined the Botswana Tourism Organisation eight years ago to oversee the sustainable development of tourism. He was first assigned to Kasane, where he also chaired the KAZA TFCA Tourism Working Group, which serves as an
Ms Nyamgeroh works for IUCN and is the Regional Technical Officer for the BIOPAMA Programme in Eastern and Southern Africa. She is responsible for coordinating and supporting the development and implementation of the Regional Resource Hub (RRH) in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). Her background is in Forestry and GIS & Remote Sensing for Natural Resource Management.

Nyambe, Nyambe (Dr)

Executive Director of the Kavango Zambezi TFCA Secretariat based in Kasane, Botswana, Dr Nyambe is a social scientist with more than 20 years’ experience of applied project and programme work in the conservation sector. He obtained his doctorate in Environment and Development from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2005. He started his career in the mid-1990s as a wetlands officer and later became a Community Wellbeing Specialist with IUCN in the Barotse Floodplains, Zambia. He previously held the following positions: Programme Director (Environment & Development), Centre for Environment & Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Project Executant, Zambezi-Chobe Fisheries Project, Namibia Nature Foundation. Nyambe joined WWF Zambia in 2008 as a Wetlands Officer where he served as Project Coordinator, Conservation Manager and Country Director.

Rall, Lara

As the Project Implementation and Communications Manager for WWF South Africa’s Khetha Program, Ms Rall leads the Khetha Program's support to the judiciary in South Africa to increase their knowledge and understanding of wildlife trafficking. She provides relevant resources and training materials that create opportunities for sharing lessons, experiences and challenges relating to adjudicating wildlife trafficking cases with their counterparts in Mozambique. She has a Master’s degree in Conservation and International Wildlife Trade from the University of Kent, United Kingdom, a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism from Rhodes University and a Bachelor's in Law from Stellenbosch University.
Robinson, Doreen

Ms Robinson has dedicated most of her professional career to environment and development in Africa. She began her vocation in Animal Extension of the United States Peace Corps, then transitioned to WWF and USAID, first as a Biodiversity Advisor and later as Director of the Environment, Rural Development and Food Security Unit in Madagascar. Prior to her current position at UNEP as Chief of Wildlife, she headed the Environment and Energy Unit of the USAID Southern Africa Mission. In this capacity, she financed the Southern African Regional Environment Programme, followed by VukaNow, as well as the Resilience for the Limpopo River Basin Programme, followed by Resilient Waters.

Roggeri, Paolo

A hydrologist in Italy and abroad, Mr Roggeri has been an EU civil servant since 1994 and served on the EU Delegation in Comoros until 1998, then in DEVCO until 2006 where he was responsible for the EU Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programmes. After preparing the 1st MoU between the JRC and the EU RELEX DGs, Mr Roggeri moved to the JRC to coordinate the JRC-DEVCO collaboration. He currently heads up earth observation and biodiversity conservation programmes and is the BIOPAMA focal point for JRC on Management Effectiveness for Central Africa.

Sauchera, Tariro Davison

Mr Sauchera is a water resources management specialist with interest in policy and governance. He has approximately 15 years’ experience in the regional water sector in research, project management and capacity building with a focus on transboundary water governance. He has worked in the region’s major transboundary basins including Zambezi, Limpopo, Okavango, Inkomati and the Pungwe-Save-Buzi. Mr Sauchera has worked with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the World Bank – Water, and the Water Research Commission of South Africa. He currently coordinates the water programme for IUCN ESARO. He holds a BSc in Management, an MPhil in Integrated Water Resources Management, as well as an MSc in Environmental Studies. He has also completed a Post-Graduate Diploma in Water and Sanitation Development from the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development. A published author and reviewer, Mr Sauchera recently co-wrote a book on the Zambezi River Basin.

Scott, Don

Mr Scott has over 15 years of experience in the Aerospace Engineering Industry in Africa, Europe, and the USA, as well as 15 years in the Photographic Safari Tourism industry. His journey with tourism started in 2001 at the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. Dedicated and involved in both community development and conservation through tourism in the region, he sits on the executive committee of the Timbavati Reserve, as well on the Joint Operations Committee for the APNR node of Greater Kruger National Park. He has served on the Greater Kruger task team for Responsible Tourism and Best Practice.
Seepersadh, Aruna

Ms Seepersadh is currently the Director of Transfrontier Conservation Areas Programme in the South African Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. She has 18 years of professional experience in the TFCA arena and has gained extensive knowledge and know-how in the establishment, development, management, and implementation of the TFCA programme. Her understanding within the conservation sector comes with strength in stakeholder engagement, project management, finance, strategic planning, people management, building strategic partnerships and leadership. She holds a Degree in Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Certificates in Leadership, Project Management, Economics and People Management.

Shaw, Jo (Dr)

Dr Shaw has over twenty years’ experience in African rhino conservation. Whilst with TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa, she co-authored, “The South Africa – Viet Nam Rhino Horn Trade Nexus: A deadly combination of institutional lapses, corrupt wildlife industry professionals and Asian crime syndicates”. In September 2012, she established the Rhino Programme at WWF South Africa, implementing a five-point strategic framework for supporting rhino conservation. She participated in the Ministerial Committee of Inquiry into Rhino Horn Trade. She currently heads the Wildlife Programme of WWF SA. She is also African Rhino Lead for the Wildlife Practise in the WWF network and a member of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group, the SADC Rhino Management Group, and the CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group. Dr Shaw has a PhD in Animal Ecology from the University of the Witwatersrand and MSc in Conservation Biology from the University of Cape Town.

Soto, Bartolomeu

Mr Soto belongs to the team of pioneers in the development of transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) in Southern Africa and has been a project manager for the development of Mozambique TFCA Programme from 1996 to 2013. He was instrumental in the development of the Great Limpopo TFCA, the first example of multi-landscape transfrontier conservation in the region. After a short break as SADC TFCA Technical Advisor, he continued with ANAC as Director General and led the institutional transformation process, strengthening the Conservation Law on wildlife crimes and leading the establishment of public-private partnerships in protected areas. He also steered the ongoing resettlement of around 1,000 families from within Limpopo National Park to surrounding areas. A former Country Manager in Mozambique for PPF, he now consults for TWB in the division of Environment and Natural Resources, supporting the MozBio and MozFip projects.
Dr Spenceley is an international tourism consultant with over 20 years international experience and extensive publication and project record.

She is a leading authority in sustainable and responsible tourism with a focus on biodiversity conservation, protected areas and transfrontier conservation areas, certification, indicators, concessions and public-private partnerships, triple bottom line assessments (i.e., economic, social and environmental), value and supply chains, small enterprise development and poverty reduction. Amongst others, she is Chair of the IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS Group). In the TFCA arena, she was the lead consultant on various regional TFCA Tourism Guidelines. She has recently been involved in the EU-commissioned research on the global impact of COVID-19 on protected areas. Specific reports have been developed for both KAZA and Great Limpopo TFCA.

Ms Stevens introduced the first effective biodiversity tax incentive into the South African protected areas network. Together with the South African Government she received the Pathfinder Award Special Commendation for this global innovation. She heads up Innovative Finance within Wilderness Foundation Africa where she works extensively with multiple stakeholders and industry leaders, across different sectors, to ultimately plug South Africa’s finance gap, thus ensuring landscape conservation efforts are scalable and sustainable. She is Co-Chair of South Africa’s first Sustainable Landscape Finance Coalition. She also sits on several national and international committees regarding area-based conservation, financing and resourcing. With a background in both law and commerce as well as experience in protected and conserved area policy and expansion, biodiversity finance, environmental law and policymaking on financial incentives, Ms Stevens is regarded as a global expert in her field.

Ms Stewart joined UNEP-WCMC after graduating with an MSc in Conservation Biology from DICE at the University of Kent in September 2017. Prior to this, she was managing an overseas research project in South Africa, where she explored behaviour and cognition in Cape Ground Squirrels. She has also investigated the factors contributing to the increase in migration of Maasai into the city of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and has a background in both physical and human geography. She leads UNEP-WCMC’s work on territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCA). She works with national partners to support the documentation of ICCAs in the Global ICCA Registry and Protected Planet Databases. She works on the Protected Planet Initiative, which is the global authority on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures data. Her focus is on Southern and Eastern Africa, leading UNEP-WCMC’s work in this region through the BIOPAMA programme.
Tembo, Nasson

With 24 years of experience in wildlife conservation, Mr Tembo started his career with Luangwa Integrated Resource Development Project, under the auspices of the Department of National Parks Wildlife. He later joined the mainstream Department of National Parks and Wildlife, which was later transformed into Zambia Wildlife Authority. He worked in several Protected Areas in different positions in Zambia. He then joined African Wildlife Foundation and worked in Bânhi National Park, Mozambique, before moving to Zambezi Heartland based in Zimbabwe and later to Kazungula Heartland. He is currently Joint Operations Coordinator for the Peace Parks Foundation in Malawi Zambia TFCA.

Theron, Piet

Mr Theron (B Landscape Architecture, MPhil Environmental Science) is a Landscape Architect working in the environmental planning and management field. He has more than 24 years’ experience working on a wide range of natural resource management and social development projects in Southern Africa. His key skills and expertise are focused on planning, managing, and implementing large, landscape level and complex multi-national, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder integrated conservation and rural development projects, which often involve setting up effective partnerships between governments, the private sector, and NGOs. This includes being closely involved in the planning, development, and implementation of five transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) in Southern Africa, which necessitates the setting up of collaborative networks and forums between a variety of diverse sectors including the safety and security cluster, tourism sector, conservation agencies, and rural communities.

Villholth, Karen (Dr)

With more than 25 years of experience in water research and management, Dr Villholth is a Principal Researcher at IWMI (International Water Management Institute). Currently located in the Pretoria office, she leads the groundwater portfolio and coordinates the Groundwater Solutions for Policy and Practice (GRIIPP), a partnership of 30 international organisations supporting development, use and management of groundwater for sustainable development. Her areas of work include research, policy advice, and capacity development on the following key aspects: transboundary aquifers, groundwater irrigation and food security, groundwater resources assessment/modelling, climate change and adaptation, natural/green infrastructure, and groundwater management and governance. With a PhD and MSc from Technical University of Denmark and a MSc from University of Washington, USA, Dr Villholth previously worked for DHI-Water and Environment and Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. She is the editor/author of five books, and more than 70 peer-reviewed journal papers and special issues.
Vorwerk, Roland

Mr Vorwerk has over 20 years’ experience in the tourism industry, starting out as a tourism guide developing tourism products in rural communities and working on various destination marketing initiatives. He is currently the marketing manager of Boundless Southern Africa, a tourism marketing brand for Southern Africa’s transfrontier conservation areas. During his career he has developed close working relationships with stakeholders across the region while finding innovative ways to develop cross-border tourism experiences and promoting tourism to these transfrontier destinations. Prior to this he was the marketing manager for iSimangaliso Wetland Park, which is part of the Lubombo TFCA.

Wright, Elisson

Mr Wright is a Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist at the World Bank. Having joined the Biodiversity Team of the WB’s Environment Unit as a Junior Professional Officer in 2004, he worked in the private sector leading environmental sustainability, climate change, and infrastructure programmes from 2006-2015. In 2015, he returned to the WB to work on the strategic design and implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Global Wildlife Program (GWP): the largest global programme focused on combatting IWT, with US$230 million dollars for 37 national projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and a global coordination. He provides support for biodiversity conservation activities across WB and GEF activities and leads the concept and preparation phase for the Wildlife Conservation Bond GEF non-grant instrument (NGI). He represents the WB on the Technical Group of the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). He authored various publications and has served as a Regional Sustainability Business Line Leader for a Fortune 500 company.

Zunckel, Kevan

Mr Zunckel has 35 years’ experience in conservation and environmental management and holds an MSc Environmental Science degree from the University of Cape Town. He is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), currently chairing its Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, the South African chapter of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIAsa) and the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA). His career began in forestry under the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in the erstwhile Eastern Transvaal. He later joined the Transvaal Provincial Directorate of Nature Conservation where he was involved in flora conservation planning, later to head the team of regional ecologists and their technical staff. He played an active role in the establishment of the Mpumalanga Parks Board (MPB), where he was General Manager: Research and Development. He then moved to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to coordinate the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project. In 2010, he and his wife established their Zunckel Ecological & Environmental Services partnership, which has been in operation ever since.