

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**

**Proposed Criteria for Prioritizing Activities under Project “Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (TUPNR)” for the Period 2015-2018**

1. **Introduction**

The SADC Secretariat and SADC Member States are receiving support from the Federal Republic of Germany through implementation of the “Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Project (TUPNRP) in the SADC Region”. This project is planned to run for 6 years and executed by the German International Cooperation (GIZ). The design of the TUPNRP foresees two phases of implementation. It allocated Euro 5.7 million for its first phase that runs from June 2012 to May 2015. The second phase will have Euro 8 million and will run from June 2015 up to May 2018.

The objective of the TUPNRP is to improve the implementation of SADC protocols and strategies for sustainable natural resource management by regional and national actors.

The main progress made under the first phase of the TUPNRP to date includes the following:

* Establishment of the SADC TFCA network;
* Training of Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) staff in climate change adaptation;
* Support implementation of part of the SADC Fire Management Programme
* Financing 4 pilot sub-projects focusing on cross border collaboration in community based fire management in the following TFCAs: Malawi-Zambia (Nyika), Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Namibia-Angola, Mozambique-South Africa (Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP))
* Financing 3 pilot sub-projects focusing on cross border income generation in in the following TFCAs: Malawi-Zambia (Nyika), Lubombo TFCA and /Ai/Ais Richtersveld TFCA
* Financing 2 pilot sub-projects focusing on cross border climate change adaptation in the following TFCAs: Maloti-Drakensberg and Western Indian Ocean (WIO)
* Development of guidelines for concessioning in TFCAs
* Development of regional trainings on Climate Change Adaptation in TFCAs as well as on Integrated Fire Management with a special focus on TFCAs.
1. **Project Evaluation**

Given the fact that the first phase is approaching its end in May 2015, a Project Progress Review (PPR) commissioned by the GIZ took place between the 21st of March and the 4th of April 2014. The PPR had the objective to review and assess the achievements of the TUPNRP and to contribute to its future design. The focus of the PPR was to jointly learn from experiences made and deriving recommendations for the next three years of project implementation.

Additionally, the GIZ pilot project approach was assessed based on an evaluation of four of the nine pilot projects (two fire management projects and two income generation projects) were in August and September 2014 by a group of post-graduate students for its effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impacts.

The PPR involved discussions that resulted in concluding that the implementation of the project was overall positive. However, few constraints were identified, e.g.: With regard to the method for the selection of sites for pilot projects the PPR noticed that the project adopted the recommendation by the SADC Member States (approved by the meetings of the Technical Committees on Wildlife and Forestry) to generate and select local initiatives through a call for proposals rather than pre-selecting a limited number of TFCAs by the project. Due to the time and efforts required for this tender procedure to materialize in promising pilot projects the implementation of this part of the project was delayed by about six months. Several interesting initiatives innovating cross-border action on fire-management, income generation and climate change adaptation were selected and some have started implementation. Whereas they seem likely to inspire replication and adaptation by other TFCAs, their small-scale (a maximum of Euro 50.000 per pilot project) and time-limited (a maximum of 9 months) nature makes them less usable for vertical up-scaling into SADC standards and guidelines. The large number of pilot sites and their small-scale character also make it difficult for the project to closely accompany the initiatives and provide follow-up support with a view to institutionalization of good practice in individual TFCAs.

The evaluation of the pilot projects showed very similar that of the original objectives for the pilot projects:

* Generation of learning experiences,
* Stimulation & strengthening of cross-border cooperation between local actors,
* Poverty reduction/improved livelihoods,
* Participation of local communities, with special focus on women and youth.

only the first objective could be achieved to a larger extent, the other objectives were not reached due to very restricted time and financial resources for a larger number of pilot projects than originally envisaged.

For the future, focus should be given to the aspects of **stimulating cross-border cooperation on TFCA level** and **the promotion of CBNRM**, as these topics are well anchored in SADC protocols and strategies and can decisively contribute to the implementation of the SADC TFCA programme. However, especially CBNRM should be well prepared, based on the existing experiences and scientific research. It also requires sufficient time to achieve tangible results, usually measured in years and not months.

The team recommends the following principles for designing the implementation of the next phase:

* Build on **existing achievements,**
* **Select a few TFCAs for implementation** of integrated pilot projects which then would receive direct technical advisory services for the whole duration of the project phase (until May 2018),
* **Focus on cross-border cooperation and community involvement in TFCA management through effective CBNRM** including **governance and income generation through sustainable use of natural resources,**
* **Engage stakeholders** **with influence on policies and strengthen champions** on different levels,
* **Involve the TFCA Network** and **stakeholders within TFCAs in the project’s steering structure,**
* **Target on establishment of reliable processes,**
* Use **existing knowledge and work on learning loops.**

Like many other projects the TUPNR project faces the limitation of funds to implement all the important activities to support the development of the TFCA in the SADC region. Therefore it is necessary to be pragmatic by finding ways of ensuring that the exiting limited funds are directed to the sites and activities that will contribute to reach the objectives of the project and the SADC TFCA programme.

1. **Process and Criteria to Select Support Project Sites**

Given the fact that there is limited funding and that the project has to create an impact in supporting the development of the TFCAs there is a need to identify up to three TFCAs through sound criteria before the project starts in order to ensure that its implementation is smooth and can kick off at the beginning of the project phase.

Besides the selected TFCAs all other TFCAs will benefit from the TUPNR project through the participation in the TFCA Network and Human Capacity Development activities designed to benefit all TFCAs.

In order to select the three TFCAs that will receive technical and financial support a three tier process is proposed. **First**, all SADC TFCAs that work either based on signed treaty or have a signed MoU will be assessed according to the three following categories:

(1) conditions for cross-border collaboration between all TFCA stakeholders,

(2) conditions for cross-border CBNRM projects (contributing to human development goal), and,

(3) the relevance of the TFCA to contribute to global and regional biodiversity objectives (contributing to conservation goal).

It is the objective of this first step to preselect, based on the proposed criteria, up to **six** TFCAs that are relevant and able to implement cross-border CBNRM projects. At this step GIZ/SADC will also look at the best possible way to distribute the technical and financial support to a maximum number of MS.

**In a second step**, the short listed 6 TFCAs will be asked to send a request letter for receiving support from the GIZ programme in the next phase, which will show the interest of the TFCA in receiving long-term support (2015-2018) by GIZ. The selected TFCAs will also be asked to share concrete needs or project ideas for CBNRM which could be taken up by the GIZ support project.

The selection committee will then use the request letters and the needs list or project ideas as well as additional criteria (see annex) for the final selection of the TFCAs in **Step 3**. Additional selection criteria will be used to assess the potential to link the GIZ intervention to already existing initiatives, link with other donors and create an intervention that will be likely to have an impact on the whole TFCA and the SADC TFCA system.

1. **Proposed Timelines**

1: SADC Secretariat will circulate the draft selection process via the TFCA Network for comments from MS and other TFCA stakeholders. – Comments until 12 January 2015

2: Finalization of selection concept. A selection committee composed of SADC Secretariat and GIZ will assess all TFCA and select 6 according to accepted criteria. A selection report will be drafted and circulated to SADC MS. – By 16 January 2015

3: The 6 short listed TFCAs send request letter for technical and financial support through GIZ/SADC programme and send draft concept document. – by 23 January 2015

4: Selection of the three TFCAs that will be supported by the GIZ/ SADC project. –by 30 January 2015

5: The final selection will be announced at the next TC meeting for Wildlife. – 26/27 February 2015

**ANEX: Detailed Draft Selection Process and Criteria**

STEP 1: **Assessing the enabling conditions of TFCAs[[1]](#footnote-1) for cross-border CBNRM projects[[2]](#footnote-2)**

**Objective of Step 1**: to classify and short-list up to **6 TFCAs** that allow promising conditions for the implementation of cross-border CBNRM projects.

**Thematic Area 1: Enabling environment for effective cross-border collaboration among TFCA stakeholders (at TFCA and national level) (45%)**

* Institutional arrangements (KPA2) (10%): joint formalized structures, legal entity
* Sound cross-border communication and good working relationship between TFCA Components (10%)
* Joint Planning (KPA 1) (5%): Motivation document, integrated development plan, aligned protected area plans, Integrated Development Plan roll out
* Integrated Management (KPA7) (5%): joint operation strategy and structure, joint operations, technical and financial support by government, etc.
* Champions among the TFCA stakeholders (15%) (seen as acknowledged leadership in TFCA establishment and management, contribution to the regional TFCA agenda, sharing of lessons learnt, etc)

**Thematic Area 2: Enabling environment for cross-border CBNRM in TFCAs (45%):**

* Existing enabling environment for CBNRM(15%): CBNRM is well acknowledged and established as a concept in the participating countries, national TFCA stakeholders show willingness to use subsidiarity principle and acknowledge importance of bottom-up approach for development of inclusive TFCAs
* Committed communities in and around the TFCA that could benefit of their involvement in TFCA management (15%)
* Already existing forms of communication /relationship between communities across borders (5%)
* Already existing forms/structures of participation of communities in decision making and planning in the TFCA (5%)
* Community beneficiation plans and mechanisms from TFCA (KPA 8) (5%)

**Thematic Area/Cluster 3: Relevance of ecosystem for global and regional conservation goals (10%)**

* e.g., TFCA is recognized as CEPF Biodiversity Hotspot, or a WWF Global 200 Ecoregion, or other relevant endemic indices (10%)

**Additional selection criteria for the short list (no direct scoring):**

Objective: Prevent concentration of resources towards one MS

* Categories A and B represented if applicable and possible, so that lessons can be deducted for other TFCAs of the same type
* Not one Member State over-represented
* TFCAs with only limited financial support by donors shall be prioritized

STEP 2: **Short-listed TFCAs send support request letter and needs list or project ideas for CBNRM which could be supported by the GIZ project.**

Objective: Establish the demand and interest of the short-listed TFCAs and receive information on possible support projects from the TFCAs.

STEP 3: **Finalization of the selection process of 3 TFCAs**

Objective: Using the request letters and the needs list or project ideas from the 6 pre-selected TFCAs as well as additional criteria, 3 TFCAs will be selected for support projects that will likely have an impact on the whole TFCA and the SADC TFCA system.

* Ongoing initiatives promoting CBNRM at TFCA level whose results are important for the whole TFCA as well as the SADC TFCA Network
* Potential collaboration with other programmes and donors
* Previous experience related to CBNRM of other implementers and/or the GIZ SADC project in that TFCA (continuity potential)
* Logistical preparedness for receiving technical support
1. The selected TFCAs will need to have a legal basis to receive the support of a technical advisor on the ground, therefor only TFCAs of category A (treaty) or B (signed MoU) are eligible. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The selection criteria are aligned as much as possible with the key performance areas developed by PPF and MS for higher objectivity and comparability between TFCAs in the region. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)