



Transfrontier Conservation Areas

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL SADC TFCA NETWORK MEETING

Cresta Mowana, Kasane, Botswana

18-21 November 2024



SUPPORTED BY



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
BSA	Boundless Southern Africa
BLF	Biodiverse Landscape Fund
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLN	Community Leaders Network
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COMACO	Community Markets for Conservation
CoP	Community of Practice
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GLTP	Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park
GMTFCA	Greater Mapungubwe TFCA
H4H	Herding for Health
ICP	International Cooperating Partner
IPLC	Indigenous People and Local Communities
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
ISCTP	Iona Skeleton Transfrontier Park
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KAZA	Kavango-Zambezi TFCA
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
KNP	Kruger National Park

KTP	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
LEAP	Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching
LIMCOM	Limpopo Watercourse Commission
LOZAMAP	Lower Zambezi Mana Pools
MDTP	Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member States
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
OKACOM	Okavango River Basin Water Commission
PA	Protected Area
PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
RBO	River Basin Organisation
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAWC	Southern African Wildlife College
TFCA(s)	Transfrontier Conservation Area(s)
TP	Transfrontier Park
TWG	Tourism Working Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
ZAMCOM	Zambezi River Basin Commission

INTRODUCTION

The Annual SADC TFCA Network Meeting was convened in Kasane, Botswana, from the 18th to the 21st of November 2024, and was attended by 100 in-person delegates, and around 30 online participants, members of the hybrid team and interpretation services. Delegates included Member States, ICPs/donors, NGOs and community conservation leadership. On the day before the official commencement of the meeting, the delegates were hosted by the Government of Botswana at a welcome reception and Opening at the Cresta Mowana Cultural exhibition area. The delegates enjoyed Batswana cultural dance performed by a group named Matsosangwao, loosely translated “The revivers of culture”, and later a generous dinner consisting of local dishes under the beautiful Kasane night skies. This was also an opportunity for delegates to network ahead of the official opening of the meeting the next day.



DAY 1 – TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2024

WELCOMING REMARKS AND OFFICIAL OPENING

The proceedings of the day were led by Ms Ndapanda Kanime, Senior Programme Officer at the SADC Secretariat. Ms Kanime encouraged online participants to register their participation by way of introducing themselves and giving details of the organisations they are representing. She then did the roll call for all Member States, to which the representatives confirmed their presence. All SADC Member states were represented except the DRC, Comoros and Madagascar. Ms Kanime also acknowledged the presence of ICPs, CBOs, NGOs, KAZA Secretariat, River Basin organisations being OKACOM, LIMCOM and ZAMCOM, the British Higher Commission, EU delegation to Botswana and SADC, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, GIZ, USAID, the US Embassy in Gaborone, Birdlife, Botswana Tourism Organisation, CARDESSA, Chemonics, FBC Holdings, IUCN, Namibia Nature Foundation, Panthera, PPF, SANParks, TRAFFIC, WWF, Community Leaders Network, Chobe Enclave Development Trust and others.

Having welcomed all representatives, Ms Kanime gave the floor to Dr Cyril Taolo to give welcoming remarks on behalf of the Government of Botswana.

WELCOMING REMARKS

As the host of the meeting, the Government of Botswana, represented by Dr Cyril Taolo, from the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, delivered the welcoming remarks. Dr Taolo observed all protocol, acknowledging the presence of Director Domingos Gove, Director for Food Agriculture and Natural Resources at the SADC Secretariat and all SADC colleagues, the diplomatic community including the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the USAID and well as GIZ, and all colleagues from conservation and community NGOs. He welcomed the delegates to the Botswana component of the KAZA TFCA where the Annual SADC TFCA Network meeting was held. Botswana having volunteered and welcomed the opportunity to host this year's annual meeting, he indicated that there are a number of reasons why this opportunity is exciting for Botswana. The reasons, as stated by Dr Taolo, are as follows:



- i. Botswana sees itself as a champion of regional cooperation, particularly in conservation. The country is eager to engage with fellow SADC Member States to highlight the challenges it faces in conserving its rich wildlife.
- ii. As a mineral-dependent nation, Botswana aims to diversify its economy through ecotourism. Recent Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) meetings in Maputo and Johannesburg, along with the SADC TFCA Programme, emphasize the need for sustainable local funding of conservation. These issues were also discussed during the KAZA Heads of State Summit held in May 2024 in Livingstone, Zambia.
- iii. Local community resilience is crucial. The KAZA Minister's committee, including Botswana, endorsed the livelihoods diversification strategy and climate change-focused risk assessment strategy. They hope to extend this approach to other SADC Member States and TFCAs.
- iv. Human-wildlife coexistence is a pressing issue for Botswana, especially in the Chobe region, where the elephant population matches the human population. Measures to manage human-wildlife conflict, including compensation schemes and mitigation strategies, were discussed at the welcome dinner. Delegates will visit Chobe enclave villages to understand this recognized problem.
- v. Discussions on integrated development planning were addressed. Botswana has demonstrated land-use planning through a national spatial plan and encourages other member states to follow suit.
- vi. This meeting also serves as preparation for the SADC TFCA Heads of State Summit planned for May 2025 in Zimbabwe. Botswana hopes partners will assist with the planning and preparation of this important event.

With these remarks, he welcomed all delegates to Botswana and encouraged them to actively engage and participate in this meeting.

REMARKS

Upon the conclusion of the official opening, Ms Ndapanda opened the floor for remarks from the SADC Secretariat, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the EU Delegation to Botswana and SADC, and the UK High Commission.

Mr Domingos Gove, Director for Food Agriculture and Natural Resources at the SADC Secretariat

Mr Domingos Gove welcomed all Member States and delegates to the meeting. He also thanked delegates for making time to attend the Network Annual meeting from their very busy schedules. He further commended the Government of the Republic of Botswana for hosting the SADC TFCA Network Annual Meeting for 2024 and their support. Mr Gove thanked the financial support provided by the Government of Federal Republic of Germany (GIZ), EU Delegation in Botswana, USAID, FAO among other ICPs. He also thanked the KAZA Secretariat for their full support during the preparation for the event.

He called for faster action, resource mobilization, and improved communication among delegates. However, he acknowledged challenges such as slow progress in moving identified TFCAs to category A and limited coastal/marine TFCAs in the region. Despite challenges such as El Nino-induced drought, human-wildlife conflicts, and the implementation of various TFCA programmes, Mr. Gove highlighted the network's achievements, including raising over \$100 million in sustainable funding for TFCAs over the last six years.

Mr. Gove wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.

Ms Simone Goertz, The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Ms Goertz also welcomed all delegates and indicated that Germany has a long-standing with the SADC's water division, focusing on transboundary water management and natural resources and transboundary water management. The rich ecosystems in the SADC region are of global significance and provide critical livelihoods for local communities. The recent drought has amplified the need to address human wildlife conflict in TFCAs, where land use is often mixed.

Ms Goertz also commended the network for going into a well-recognized knowledge platform resolutions to discuss challenges across TFCAs across the region. In conclusion, Ms Goertz highlighted that the more the network develops joint interventions and strong partner institutions that can sustain the development work beyond project cycles, the better the impact of the network's work.

Ms Filipa Corte-Real, EU delegation to Botswana and SADC

Ms Corte-Real observed all protocol and expressed her happiness for being present at the meeting. She indicated that it is her second time participating in the SADC TFCA network annual meeting, with the first time being in Maputo in 2023. Ms Corte-Real informed the meeting that the EU has kicked off the start of their official support to the SADC TFCA programme through the EU NaturAfrica since April 2024 through the signature of a contract

with GIZ supporting the project called the “Joint NaturAfrica/C-NRM project”. Through the NaturAfrica initiative, the EU will provide support in the restoration, protection and sustainable management of a network of transboundary landscapes which are biodiversity hotspots in the SADC region, whilst creating decent income and jobs for the local population who live in and around the protected areas. In Southern Africa, the EU has earmarked EUR 33 million to support the sustainable management of a number of TFCAs, for the benefits of people and nature, fully aligned with the objectives of the SADC TFCA Programme. Ms Corte-Real also indicated that in the first phase of their programme, the EU will target 6 TFCAs (KAZA, Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools, ZIMOZA, MAZA, Chimanimani, and Greater Limpopo). In a second phase (after 2024) the support will be expanded either towards other TFCAs or through consolidation of the support ongoing in the existing ones. In conclusion, Ms Corte-Real indicated that the EU remains committed to supporting conservation efforts in Africa in line with the EU’s political commitment taken at the CBD and CITES.

Ms Geeta Uhl USAID

Ms Uhl thanked the programme director for the opportunity to give remarks. Ms Uhl highlighted that the delegates are all already in this room and online on this day attending the TFCA annual meeting because they know how important Transfrontier Conservation Areas are - for biodiversity, water security, climate resilience, local economies, and people. Ms Uhl indicated that USAID has a long history of addressing transboundary environment and energy issues in Southern Africa and supporting SADC institutions and priorities over the last 15 years and the organisation is happy to be able to continue this partnership and support, namely through 3 new projects:

- i. USAID’s Southern Africa Countering Wildlife Crime project will align with and support SADC’s Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy.
- ii. The Resilient Cities Limpopo project will focus on access to water, sanitation, and plastics and waste services - with municipalities in the greater Limpopo landscape and river basin;
- iii. USAID has also just started a new project to bolster private sector finance for nature and conservation in Southern Africa and recently launched a call for Concept Notes for scalable approaches for Investing in Nature in this region, especially in TFCAs. They want to build on work that is already underway so she encouraged delegates to approach her for a chat if they would like to coordinate.

Finally, Ms Uhl extended an enormous thanks to the host, the Government of Botswana, the organizers, the SADC Secretariat, the facilitators and interpreters. She noted that these events take an immense effort and is thankful for the opportunity to come together every year to learn from each other and collaborate on the way forward.

Mr Mark Ssimakule - UK High Commission

Mr Ssimakule, having observed all protocol, pointed out that the United Kingdom, like Botswana, has a new government. He indicated that Foreign Secretary David Lammy in his speech on the 17th of September 2024, noted that action on the nature and climate crisis are central the work of all the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Offices (FCDO). The UK’s focus is on establishing equal partnerships, and meetings like the SADC TFCA network

meeting are important for them to better understand the needs and priorities of their partners, further highlighting that they are very much in listening mode.

Mr Ssimakule pointed out that transboundary cooperation in the protection of biodiversity hotspots is important to the UK. As such the UK's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs established the Biodiverse Landscapes Fund (BLF), a £100 million UK Official Development Assistance programme which aims to support countries to reduce poverty, tackle and adapt to climate change, through protecting and restoring and sustainably managing nature, mobilising nature finance, empowering local communities and supporting sustainable livelihoods. The BLF was inspired by the KAZA TFCA and KAZA Partner State cooperation and aims to restore landscapes and deliver long-lasting protection through sustainable management practices. The BLF will fund activities until 2030 in six of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots to help create a world free from poverty on a liveable planet.

In closing, he stated that with Ministerial support and approval, and in the presence of the Botswana Government and the SADC Secretariat, they signed an MoU to cooperate towards the implementation of the BLF in KAZA on the 5th of November 2024. This is a major milestone for Defra and the UK, and they look forward to the next steps with KAZA Partner States.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening for the TFCA Network Annual meeting was delivered by the SADC Chair, Zimbabwe, represented by Ms Nothando Moyo. In her official opening, Ms Moyo indicated that the SADC TFCA Network Annual meeting is a meeting that gives the Member States and partners an opportunity to learn from each other, share knowledge and experiences about the TFCAs as well as to come up with innovative ways of addressing challenges being faced in the SADC region in as far as the implementation of the TFCA programme is concerned. She also emphasized that the TFCAs play a crucial role in promoting biodiversity conservation, fostering regional cooperation, and enhancing sustainable development in our region. It is through collaborative efforts and shared responsibilities that we can effectively address the complex challenges facing our natural ecosystems.

She also encouraged all delegates to remain committed in advancing the objectives of the TFCA Network and to take advantage of this platform to engage and come up with impactful actions that will contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable development of Southern Africa. Ms Moyo remarked that the government of the Republic of Zimbabwe wishes to assure Members States, TFCA Practitioners, Partners and other stakeholders of their commitment to catalysing the processes at all levels for our shared goals to be realised, positioning the SADC region to its rightful place as a global leader in advancing sustainable Conservation and development beyond borders. The objectives of this Network can only be achieved if we pull together in solidarity and as a united front. Together, we can conserve our shared natural and cultural resources for generations to come and build a brighter and more sustainable future for everyone. Finally, the Chair thanked the government of Botswana for hosting this event and all ICPs for supporting the meeting. She declared the 2024 Network Annual Meeting officially opened.

After the official opening of the meeting, the Programme Director, Ms Kanime, called the SADC TFCA Network Coordinator, Mr Steve Collins to play a video of the SADC TFCAs. The video showcased the value of Transfrontier Conservation areas for both biodiversity conservation and the benefit to the communities that live in alongside TFCAs.

Mr Collins also presented an outline of the programme for the annual meeting. The programme is attached to this report as Annex A.

TFCAS: A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Ms Kanime continued to facilitate the programme, introducing Mr Poniso Shamukuni, the Chairperson of Chobe Enclave Development Trust to give a community perspective of TFCAs. Mr Shamukuni gave a presentation on the Chobe Enclave community leader's experience of coexistence in the context of KAZA TFCA

The Chobe Enclave community leader's experience of coexistence in the context of KAZA TFCA

Mr. Shamukuni greeted all delegates and provided background information on the Chobe Enclave Development Trust (CEDT), a Community Based Organization (CBO) established in 1994 under the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) policy. The Trust comprises five villages: Mabele, Kavimba, Kachikau, Satau, and Parakarungu.

The Objectives of the Trust are to:

- i. Manage land on behalf of the community for sustainable ecotourism development.
- ii. Provide vocational training to the community in tourism.
- iii. Assist the Botswana government in supervising natural resource use.
- iv. Equitably share benefits from natural resource use among community members.

He noted that the achievements of the trust include 30 years of improving the lives of the Chobe Enclave community by developing sustainable tourism products, including Ngoma Safari Lodge and Linyanti Bush Camps which has led to permanent employment opportunities for 200 people. In addition, community initiatives like boreholes, mobile clinics, slaughter slabs, brick molding projects, and food security through an 8-tractor fleet have come through the Chobe Trust.

The main challenges facing the local residents are:

- i. Human-wildlife conflict.
- ii. Illegal hunting/poaching.
- iii. Veld fires destroying habitats annually.
- iv. Illegal fishing methods leading to over-harvesting.
- v. Border crossing at ungazetted points.

Mr Shamukuni indicated that he is proud that the community trust has been part of Transboundary Natural Resource Management through the creation of Transboundary Community Management Committees with Salambala and Bamunu conservancies in Namibia for joint resource management.

In conclusion, he thanked KAZA TFCA, the Botswana government, the US government, the German government, and all stakeholders for their support, highlighting the importance of listening to local voices as true custodians of natural resources.

Questions:

The Programme Director commended the Chobe Enclave Development Trust for their work and opened the floor for questions.

Question 1: How does the Chobe Enclave handle those people who are affected by wildlife? Is there any compensation or consolation? And if there is, what procedures do they use?

Question 2: As communities we are going through sustainability constraints when it comes to management of these community water management areas. Does the Chobe Enclave have a sustainability plan? Apart from the tourism benefits that they are getting, do they have any plan that whatever happens, they can still stand?

Question 3: Financial governance is often the big challenge for community-based organizations. You are generating huge amounts of income. What are your mechanisms to ensure that decisions around how those resources are used are made in a way that everyone is happy?

Response

Mr Shamukuni agreed that there are challenges in managing finances as a CBO and the need for sustainable income streams. He mentioned that they have the advantage of a Trust and an Accountant, who ensures that all money accrued in each financial year are secured and used effectively by Village Development Committees. Mr Shamukuni also highlighted the need for diversification of income streams through non-consumptive tourism (e.g. camps) and the Botswana government's support. He also addressed the issue of compensation for wildlife attacks, stating that the CBO's Constitution is not yet amended and does not specify how to compensate victims. Additionally, the Botswana government has difficulties in assisting wildlife-injured individuals, but the CBO is working on a constructive plan to assist their people.

THE ANGOLAN HIGHLANDS WATER TOWER: THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY RIVER BASELINES

Dr John Hilton and Dr Rainer von Brandis, from the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project which include the Wild Bird Trust, presented some of their work that started in Botswana and focuses on river health and river systems. The project started in Botswana and has now registered non-profit entities in both Angola and in Namibia.

The project has been conducting river baselines since 2010 in Botswana, particularly in the Okavango Delta. In 2014, when the Okavango Delta obtained its world heritage status, they turned their eyes to the source of the rivers in Angola. By 2015, they had conducted a mega transect along those large rivers, where they have been surveying all the rivers of the Okavango Basin using 4 pillars, which begins with science and exploration, following on with storytelling. In the process of conducting these river baselines, they have learned about the people, cultures, traditions, and knowledge systems that exist around these rivers.

The team uses various traditional crafts, including fiberglass mokoros, inflatables, canoes, and dugout-style canoes to conduct the river base lines. They have completed 23,000 kilometres of river transects, with the Okavango Delta transect, which they started in 2010, repeated 14 times. In 2015, they completed a 121-day transect from the source of the Okavango River, the Cuito River source, in Angola. The film "Into the Okavango" documenting their journey, is available on various streaming platforms. They discovered 154 new species in the Angolan Highland Water Tower (AHWT), highlighting its biodiversity and water security value.

The team produces technical reports and scientific publications, with 54 peer-reviewed publications so far. They conduct thorough hydrological and meteorological analyses and collaborate with interested parties while adhering to data-sharing agreements with various governments. They operate in 10 of the 16 SADC countries and several TFCA. They have started a project in the Zambezi Basin, expanding their work across Africa, focusing on river baselines, data collection, and community engagement.

They also provide 25 full scholarships for students working on similar problems and conduct symposiums for degraded rivers like the Kavango, involving community leaders, NGOs, and ministries to address issues. The team collects comprehensive data, including environmental DNA (eDNA), microplastics, pharmaceuticals, heavy metals, and pathogens, making it open access through a dashboard for public use. Dr Rainer von Brandis, Research Director for the Okavango Wilderness Project, shared plans for next year, including work in Kafue National Park, Kariba, and the Zambezi Basin.

Ms. Leonissah Munjoma from ZAMCOM asked for clarification on the presenter's mention of various Zambezi sources since they are aware of its known source, suggesting it be presented to ZAMCOM's governing bodies for discussion. She expressed interest in the Luangwa area section and inquired if funding for the upcoming work there is secured within the next two years, noting the importance of learning from past experiences like the Okavango project.

Response from Dr Hilton and Dr von Brandis:

The Zambezi has multiple defined sources: the Lungwe-Bungo for its furthest distance, the Zambian source for the most northerly, and the Angolan water tower for the main water discharge. We'd welcome the opportunity to present our data to your governing bodies and share copies with you.



On the Luangwa, they attempted it this year, but low water was an issue. They will try again in March 2025, funded by the Wilderness Project, with research permits secured.

THE SADC TFCA PROGRAMME: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

Ms Kanime gave feedback on the outcomes of the last SADC TFCA Annual Meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, in November 2023, and what has been done so far, since the last meeting.

The TFCA Programme, approved by Ministers for Environment, Natural Resources, and



tourism in 2023, was launched by the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration in March 2024 during the Technical Committee on Wildlife meeting in South Africa. Member States were requested in Maputo to indicate their interest in hosting the next TFCA Annual Meeting, with Botswana volunteering to host this 2024 meeting in Kasane. At this meeting, a volunteer will be needed to host the 2025 TFCA Annual Meeting.

Updates were provided by the TFCA Focal Points on their TFCAs' progress, successes, constraints, and plans for the 2025 year. A recommendation was made for the SADC Secretariat to partner with ICPs to facilitate a joint meeting between the River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and TFCAs by February 2024. A task team representing the RBOs and TFCAs was proposed to discuss further collaborations. A concept note was drafted in March 2024 meeting in Kasane, which included representatives from the Infrastructure Directorate and RBOs. This is still ongoing.

Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia signed the MOU for the ZIMOZA TFCA, marking a significant achievement. The next step is for the three countries to implement the action plan developed during the signing. Progress was also made on the Liuwa Plains-Mussuma TFCA between Angola and Zambia, with a draft MOU presented during the October 2024 meeting, aiming for finalization and signing at the 2025 SADC TFCA Conference and Summit.

The successful KAZA Summit in Livingstone, Zambia, was noted, with the SADC Secretariat hoping to learn from the experience. The East African Community (EAC) visited the SADC region, particularly KAZA, to learn about TFCAs and their cooperative law enforcement efforts to combat poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and community engagement in nature conservation. The EAC invited the SADC region to visit EAC members to learn about their TFCAs.

The roadshows to raise awareness for the TFCA Programme implementation and other natural resource strategies, covering forestry, fisheries, and wildlife tourism have begun. The SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with GIZ, conducted roadshows in Zimbabwe and Zambia, engaging with governments, communities, researchers, and NGOs to create awareness about regional natural resource strategies and programmes approved by the Council of Ministers. These roadshows have been successful and will continue in 2025 depending on funding from GIZ.

Furthermore, Ms Kanime informed the meeting that with support from GIZ, the Secretariat sourced funds to revise the TFCA M&E Framework. GIZ is in the process to appoint the consultant to develop/revise the framework in order to have the SADC TFCA M&E Framework validated before the Ministerial meeting scheduled for June/July 2025 for approval.

Ms Kanime also informed the meeting that the Task Team members for the preparation for SADC TFCA Conference and Summit has been established and convened the meeting with

different ICPs for resource mobilisation. She further indicated that the conference and Summit will be hosted by the Government of Zimbabwe.

She also indicated that SADC Secretariat received a letter from the Republic of South Africa to invite Member States for the upcoming 2nd Southern African Mountain conference which will be held from the 17-20 March 2025 in South Africa. The invitation letter was sent to all Member States to attend the conference.

2025 Annual Network meeting

Ms Seepersadh proposed that South Africa host the next Annual Network meeting in 2025, and that ideally it should take place in the Kruger National Park.

REGIONAL ICP PROGRAMMES: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

Ms Filipa Corte-Real - EU NaturAfrica

NaturAfrica, a Team Europe initiative supported by the EU and Member States, spans 45 countries in East, West, Central, and Southern Africa, covering 6 terrestrial biomes and 4 coastal and ocean areas. It includes over 35 transboundary national landscapes, home to about 65 million people, and involves 69 EU programmes (6 multi-regional, 17 regional, and 46 national) amounting to around 2.1 billion euros by 2025.

Aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework and African Union strategies, NaturAfrica promotes a people-centred landscape approach through conservation, livelihoods, and governance. The project for 2021-2024, has a global envelope of 160 million euros and focuses on 6 TFCAs in Southern Africa: Kgalagadi, KAZA, Great Limpopo, MAZA, Chimanimani, and ZIMOZA.

The programme includes agreements with GIZ for 4 million euros, support to the SADC TFCFA Financing Facility managed by IUCN, and specific landscape components. Ongoing negotiations with different partners for these landscapes ensure alignment with EU rules. Key actions involve improving conservation, livelihoods, and governance at both local and regional levels.



Ms Lisa Blanken – Project Manager, GIZ - Joint Action NaturAfrica/C-NRM

The Joint Action NaturAfrica/CNRM programme, supported by the German Federal Ministry For Economic Cooperation and Development and co-funded by the European Union since

April 2024 focuses on improved governance and coordinating capacities for TFCAs. The project aligns with the TFCA Programme, Tourism Programme, Wildlife-based Economy Framework, and LEAP Strategy. It has three outputs, including knowledge management and efforts on policy development, institutional strengthening, and dialogues at regional and TFCA levels.

Their initiatives involve climate-smart agricultural projects in Lubombo, MAZA, and Greater Mapungubwe, supported Herding4Health (BMZ-funded), and strategic assistance on TFCAs like the Great Limpopo Tourism Strategic Framework. They have formalized new TFCAs, supported SADC on regional developments, and worked on a SADC Business Council for tourism to enhance private sector engagement.

Highlighted activities include partnerships for KAZA Tracks for Africa map, knowledge management, peer-to-peer learning exchanges, skills enhancement for CBOs and governments, and addressing human-wildlife conflict. They are also working on Integrated Development Plans, feasibility studies, and translocation guidelines while continuously supporting tourism market development and private sector participation.

Mr Thapelo Motebo - USAID CWC Programme

There is a new USAID supported initiative aimed at countering wildlife crime in Southern Africa. Previously, several activities were conducted in regions such as northern Zimbabwe and Namibia, as well as within KAZA, focusing on learning and sharing to address wildlife crime. Although many of these activities concluded last year, the Khetha programme remains ongoing and focuses on the GLTFCA. If you have any ideas to share, the Khetha programme colleagues are open to suggestions.

The new initiative is being implemented by Chemonics and seeks to protect biodiversity from wildlife crimes in Southern Africa. The initiative has four main goals. Firstly, to improve coordination, collaboration, training, and sharing among different stakeholders. This will involve strengthening existing and new learning networks and platforms. Secondly, to strengthen the criminal justice sector by building capacity within the judiciary and supporting the SADC TFCA Network in implementing the LEAP Strategy. Thirdly, to reduce and build resilience against corruption by strengthening law enforcement entities and independent counter-corruption bodies. Lastly, to increase community support for and participation in combating wildlife crime, adopting a human-centred approach to ensure local communities are engaged and supportive.

Mr Nils Meyer – KfW

For the SADC region, significant funding goes to Member States for TFCA-related activities, with programmes in DRC, Madagascar, Namibia, and Tanzania. Malawi and Mozambique focus on consolidation. The TFCA Financing Facility is a major growth area, with new commitments to KAZA TFCA, GLTFCA, and MAZA TFCA's northern component, while future support will come through regional facilities.

An important funding opportunity is the Blue Action Fund for marine coastal areas and the Legacy Landscape Fund, featuring many pilots and a new IPLC window. Notable funds include the Eco Business Fund for private sector agriculture, Crop Trust Fund for agro-biodiversity

(starting in Zambia), and Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives at the African level. The Tourism Infrastructure Fund focuses on post-COVID recovery plans. Innovations and new developments also address marine biodiversity and human-wildlife conflict schemes, along with new financing mechanisms.

Key partnerships with the SADC Secretariat and participation from ICPs and donors present significant opportunities. A focus on environmental and social safeguards is essential due to recent crises highlighting risks. Progress is evident in many regional programs, including MAZA and the TFCA Facility, with monitoring, governance, and management of protected areas and TFCAs.

The Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) topic stemming from the Montreal COP holds potential, with the Legacy Landscape Fund introducing a new funding window for IPLC.

THE SADC TFCA FINANCING FACILITY: FEEDBACK ON PAST AND UPCOMING CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Ms Kudakwashe Chigodo delivered a presentation on the SADC TFCA Financing Facility, giving feedback on past and upcoming calls for proposals.

Overview of the TFCA FF

- It is a regional fund designed to support development of TFCAs in the SADC region.
- It was established in 2020, with initial phase to run for 6 years.
- The German government has committed €44m to the TFCA FF.

The Financing Facility is guided by the SADC TFCA Programme of 2023-2033, in the thematic areas of species, habitat and people. The FF also funds any proposals from emerging TFCAs who still need support to have dialogue amongst themselves to come up with new TFCAs.



SADC TFCA Financing Facility Funding Mechanisms

- Covid-19 Response Grants
- First Open Call for Concepts 2021
- Gonarezhou Infrastructure Project
- Zambian Window
- Second Open Call for Concepts 2023

Second Open Call for Concepts 2023



COVID-19 Response Grants

This was the first funding mechanism where the FF tested the systems. The FF successfully implemented this mechanism. Out of the 2 million, 1.7 million was spent in total, because these grants have closed. The official COVID-19 grants knowledge brief to demonstrate the results that achieved through this mechanism was hosted on the 5th of December 2024.

- €2 M allocated; €1,7M disbursed
- 11 Small Grants funded
- 8 SADC Member States benefited
- 9 TFCAs supported

First Open Call for Proposal

- Nine (9) committed projects (€ 6,702,831)
- Six (6) active grants worth (€ 4,224,831)
- Organisations with active grants: SANPARKS, PPF, CITW, WWF Namibia, TAWA, WCS Moz
- Three (3) proposals pending final approval with the donor (WWF Tz, TLC, IFAW)
- 4 TFCAs benefiting (KAZA, GMTFCA, GLTFCA, Niassa-Selous TFCA)

Gonarezhou Infrastructure Project

Progress to date:

- € 1,250,000 disbursed to grantee

- Consultants appointed to support construction activities (Architect, Supervising Engineers)
- Procurement of construction machinery and equipment
- Construction equipment testing and commissioning
- EIA for construction activities obtained
- 7 km of new road opened; another 7km envisaged before the rainy season

The IUCN has spent time over the past 4 years to develop a good system, and it comprises of 21 sets of documents and tools that are available for all of us to use. These will now be launched to public platforms. These tools will also be loaded on the SADC TFCA portal. You will also find them on the IUCN Grants Management portals.

Lastly, the training programme for Wildlife Rangers and Managers was officially launched in May 2024. The IUCN is busy with recruiting a consultancy that will assist with reviewing the training needs assessment which was conducted more than 10 years ago. This will be communicated in January 2025 and will need help to review the training needs assessment and be able to reflect on whether there are any new topics that are emerging since 10 years ago that need to be incorporated for us to be able to design a new arrange a training programme for TFCAs.

SIGNING OF THE MOU BETWEEN KAZA AND ZAMCOM

The 100 delegates at the SADC TFCA Annual Meeting witnessed the historic signing of an MOU between KAZA and ZAMCOM which highlighted the importance of integrated natural resource management in the face of climate change and development pressures. The SADC Secretariat, with support from the SADC/GIZ Transboundary Water Management (TWM) Programme and the Joint Action NaturAfrica/Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management (C-NRM) Programme, facilitated the signing.

Conservation areas in the Zambezi basin are crucial for ecological conditions, biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience. These elements are of interest to both TFCAs in the basin and ZAMCOM, which face interlinked challenges. Increasing pressures from agriculture, hydropower, urbanization, and ecosystems strain water resources, leading to environmental degradation, climate change, deforestation, and overexploitation. The MoU aims to address these challenges by fostering synergies between ZAMCOM and the TFCA Secretariat, recognizing the interconnectedness of water and biodiversity. Key benefits include integrated resource management, climate resilience, economic opportunity, knowledge sharing, and capacity building commitment to sustainability. This collaboration supports regional and global development priorities, including the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Patrice Kabeya from SADC Secretariat Water Unit, in the Directorate of Infrastructure, highlighted the importance of an analytical, integrated approach to advance the regional agenda. He read the joint statement on behalf of ZAMCOM and KAZA TFCA, which will be shared on the TFCA portal. Representatives of KAZA TFCA and ZAMCOM formalized their collaboration through the MoU, signalling a new era of regional cooperation in Southern Africa.

The key objectives of the MoU are:

1. Integrated Resource Management: Aligning water resource management with biodiversity conservation goals.



2. Knowledge Sharing: Facilitating data exchange and technical expertise for evidence-based decision-making.

3. Community Development: Enhancing livelihoods by integrating conservation and sustainable development.

4. Climate Resilience: Developing joint strategies to address climate change impacts on water and ecosystems.

Dr Nyambe Nyambe (left) representing the KAZA Secretariat and Mr Felix Ngamlagosi (right) representing ZAMCOM

Field Visit

To conclude Day 1 of the Annual Meeting, delegates were taken to the Chobe Enclave on busses sponsored by the Government of Botswana. While one group of delegates departed for the field trip, another group went to pay a courtesy visit to the Chief and joined the rest of the delegates later. The field trip to the Chobe Enclave gave delegates a view into some of the community projects within the KAZA TFCA, giving participants a first-hand view of how local communities coexist with wildlife in an important conservation corridor, as well as steps being taken to better manage their rangelands. See some pictures below.



DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER – COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE WORKSHOPS

On Day 2 of the Annual Meeting, two rooms were allocated, where the meeting delegates could participate in the communities of practice workshops. The two workshop rooms were allocated as follows:

ROOM 1

CBNRM AND RESILIENT RURAL LIVELIHOODS (GOAL 2)

This session, facilitated by Mr Kule Chitepo, started off with 3 presentations from 3 speakers who addressed issues concerning CBNRM and rural livelihoods.

Mr Chitepo kicked off the session by painting a picture of what livelihood issues look like in



the SADC TFCAs space and the provisions made for these in the SADC TFCA Strategy, including a toolkit for community engagement. Mr Chitepo pointed out that as practitioners in TFCAs, we need to have conversations on whether we have used these tools, interrogate how useful and applicable these tools are, and engage how they can be improved, if they need to be. This helped set the scene for the presentations that were given on these issues by the 3

presenters. In the end, delegates would need to decide on what to do moving forward in terms of putting a structure together such as a Community of Practice to assist practically in these issues.

Presenters

Mr Daniel Marnewick – IUCN, Southern Africa Regional Office

Mr. Marnewick coordinates area-based conservation in the region and presented on OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures). He defined OECMs as a global framework for understanding area-based conservation outside protected areas, originating from the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2010, Target 11 aimed to achieve 17% terrestrial and 10% marine coverage, later including conservation outside protected areas.

OECMs are defined areas, other than Protected Areas (PAs), that achieve positive, long-term biodiversity conservation with associated ecosystem functions, services, and locally relevant values. They can be governed by government agencies, private actors, Indigenous peoples, local communities, or shared arrangements.

Differences between Protected Areas (PAs) and OECMs:

Protected Areas: Primary conservation objective, promoting long-term biodiversity conservation.

OECMs: Effective biodiversity conservation regardless of primary management objectives. OECMs can apply to terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine systems, aiming to conserve important biodiversity areas.

The IUCN's regional strategy recognizes contributions from marginalized groups like IP&LCs, creating connected landscapes for sustainable financing and biodiversity economies.

- Opportunities presented by OECMs include:
- Increase ecological representation and connectivity.
- Support ecosystem functions, livelihoods, and climate change mitigation.
- Enhance local governance recognition.
- Promote biodiversity conservation integration into spatial planning and sectoral practices.

The IUCN is supporting OECM dialogues in Africa that;

- Recognize IP&LCs' contributions.
- Create effective, connected landscapes for conservation and sustainable use.
- Add hectares for each country's contribution towards GBF Target 3.
- Enable sustainable financing and biodiversity economies.

The IUCN WCPA established the OECM Working Group for Africa to:

- Support recognition and strengthening of OECMs.
- Map available expertise.
- Identify Africa-specific resource needs.
- Determine training needs.
- Increase WG visibility.
- Identify funding needs and opportunities for the WG strategy.

Mr Marnewick encouraged the delegates to join the World Commission on Protected Areas as a commission member, then join the Working Group, because there is a need to build this regional level of expertise that can translate this global guidance and make it regionally relevant.

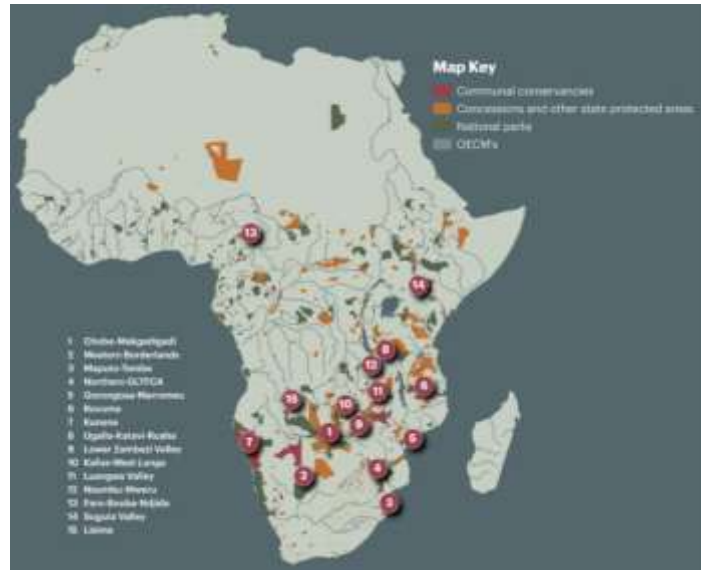
Ms Harriet Davies-Mostert, Director of Impact, Conserve Global

Ms. Davies-Mostert acknowledged her colleagues Musa Mbatha, Emidio Sumbane, and Lotus Khoza for their groundwork. She highlighted Conserve Global's project in Mozambique, the Moai Community Conservation Association, and discussed Africa's poverty and food security challenges. The latest Living Planet Report shows a 76% decline in species and habitat since it started. Biodiversity is essential for rural populations and global well-being.

Maps showed how the savanna biome overlaps with agricultural areas, driving habitat loss. Africa has a network of protected areas, including 800 national parks covering 850,000 square kilometres, and additional areas like hunting blocks and community conservancies make up 1.7 million square kilometres, with many people living in these areas playing roles in the wildlife economy.

Conserve Global, founded in 2020, works through local entities to conserve large landscapes outside national parks, focusing on two core pillars: effective management of hunting blocks and support for community conservation areas.

They have identified 15 priority landscapes and currently have six projects in Africa, including two in Mozambique. A map was displayed showing 800 national parks in sub-Saharan Africa, that is, 850,000 square kilometres of formal national parks. In addition to these, is a set of hunting blocks, community conservancies, WMAs, GMAs, Katadas that make up 1.7 million square kilometres. Two thirds of sub-Saharan Africa's protected area state occurs in these other areas, the non-national parks. Many of these areas that are outside of national parks have people living in them, which means that they can play different kinds of roles in the wildlife economy. Conserve Global are working in the 15 Landscapes show on the map above.



Landscape 3 is the Mwai Community Conservation Area in Mozambique covers 10,000 hectares with six villages. It consists of sand forest, swamps, floodplains, and the Futi River. Challenges include habitat transformation, human-elephant conflict, bushmeat poaching, and deforestation. Key activities are perimeter fencing, conflict mitigation, enterprise development, and governance training.

Lessons and recommendations:

- Learning exchanges are valuable.
- Move at the speed of trust to reach consensus.
- Follow up and deliver; trust is fragile.
- Expand the model elsewhere in Mozambique with government support.
- Community conservation can drive rural development, including health and education services.

Some key project milestones



Many role-players and partners, including among many others:



Dr Rodgers Lobilo, Chairman, Community Leaders Network, Zambia

The Community Leaders Network, is a regional initiative of communities, representing community structures. That we believe represent the voices over 5 million plus people across 12 SADC States. who are the legitimate custodians of more than 500,000 square kilometres of valuable natural resource assets in Southern Africa. We believe that we are the people who sit within these landscapes that includes TFCAs and we have a legitimate voice.

CLN vision

Resilient local communities in southern Africa whose rights to manage natural resources on their land are respected nationally and internationally.

Mission

To strengthen national community-based natural resource management programmes such that southern African local communities influence policies and decisions that affect their livelihoods at all levels of governance.

Purpose

To amplify the voices of local communities through participation and influencing in policy negotiation, development, and implementation processes. This ensures informed decision-making at all levels (which includes TFCAs) that reflect local communities' needs and rights to manage and benefit from their natural resources.

Slogan

“TAKE BACK CONTROL” - Changing the narrative and funding mechanism

They would like to reassert ourselves as communities, because they are the people who live with these elephants. They live in this landscape, so we would like to push an agenda where we change the conservation narrative so that communities are not just on the periphery but at

the centre. The households in these landscapes should be at the core of any decision that we make in these landscapes.

Origins of the Community Leaders Network

Founded after the 2019 African Wildlife Summit in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Community leaders recognised the need for one united voice to address community rights over natural resources in Southern Africa. Formally constituted on October 22, 2021, in Windhoek, Namibia. The CLN operates as a voluntary association under Namibian common law.

SADC- wide community participation in CLN and the National Community Associations

- ACADIR Angola
- NGONGO Botswana
- Big Game Parks Eswatini
- PEWA Lesotho
- National Defenders Madagascar
- ReGeCom Mozambique
- NACSO Namibia – (CC F Alliance Namibia)
- CASA South Africa
- CMWA Tanzania
- CBNRM Forum Malawi
- CBNRM Association Zambia
- CAMPFIRE Zimbabwe

Why the CLN matters

- Sustaining Livelihoods: 70% of our rural population depends on natural resources for daily livelihoods.
- Legacy of Stewardship: Our generations of knowledge, skills, and experience in Natural Resource Management date back to pre-colonial times.
- CBNRM's Successes: Proven to increase wildlife populations and enhance rural livelihoods. This leads to improved governance and promotes participatory democracy.
- Global Contribution: We are critical in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the CBD 30x30 conservation targets in Southern Africa

CLN challenges

- Limited rights over natural resources, leaving us vulnerable to poverty and resource depletion (soils, water, forests, grasslands, wildlife).
- The impact of the climate crisis hit our communities the hardest.

- Disenfranchisement results from a weak policy framework and powerful external groups that dominate the conversation, ignoring the realities and concerns of rural communities.
- Without ownership, they lack incentives to manage natural resources sustainably.
- For the world to recognise that the community's role in managing ecosystems is vital.

Decision makers in the SADC region to recognize our vital role in managing these ecosystems to uphold our rights as custodians of natural resources and the value of our contribution by giving us a formal and legitimized voice within the TFCA structures. They need some kind of working groups, where communities we can be part and parcel of that process. We need to build a future where conservation and community thrive hand in hand.

Community of Practice:

The delegates agreed that they see value in creating a CoP. Dr Lubilo of the CLN offered to lead the creation of this CoP. There were a number of recommendations from the presenters and delegates on the issues that need to be considered for the CoP,

Recommendations:

- The CoP will function at the SADC regional level that looks at these issues of community, and how they are integrated with the various policies that are coordinated by the Secretariat.
- Delegates need to think about how they should be broken down thematically (sustainable finance, economic benefit chains, scientific issues related to biodiversity).
- Recommendations from various different experts and from custodian level need to be captured up, to the highest level (regional, policy level). Members need to consider how this can be done.
- The CoP needs to look at some of the community issues that are part of the work that is being done in the communities already.
- The CoP could be useful to share information, share lessons.
- The CoP needs to provide technical guidance in a regional context.
- Describe what long-term looks like in the context of our governance structures in Africa.
- Consider what Indigenous knowledge in terms of identifying biodiversity values look like in the African context.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE WATER SYSTEM (GOAL 1)

This session was facilitated by Dr Eddie Riddell (LIMCOM). Three presentations were given by:

Dr Patrice Kabeya, SADC Secretariat

Dr Eddie Riddell, LIMCOM

Mr Gwinyai Muti, International Coordinator, GLTFCA

The structure of the session started with setting the scene from the SADC Secretariat, followed by a scene setting in terms of climate change for the region, and then a case study example in the Limpopo in the GLTFCA.

The broke delegates broke out into 2 groups. Each of the 2 groups had TFCA representatives and RBO representatives and then other partners in the groups. The groups held discussions on how to use regional standards and making sure that they are efficient with our resources and then identified potential projects that they can undertake. The first deliberation was on whether to set up a community of practice at the SADC level. Both groups decided that a CoP is not the way to go, but they can build on the clusters that are emerging already at a sub-regional level, then feed that back to the SADC level. SADC would then provide the strategic guidance in terms of what it means for climate change, in a bottom-up approach essentially. Another point made was that each of those structures that were set up at a cluster level would have to have some form of formalization. The group would then develop the Terms of Reference (ToR). A generic terms of reference as shared which the group would adapt for those clusters and then move with those clusters.

The proposal was to start with 2 clusters, the southern region and the northern region; the Limpopo, and then the KAZA OKACOM, ZAMCOM region, and then through that, encourage the emerging RBO TFCA partnerships that are starting to come our way in the region. The group will work on formalizing this, and then aligning it with the existing regional protocols available in terms of the strategic action plans and so forth.

Joint working group establishment (TFCA-RBO, CoP Clusters)

- There is a foregone conclusion that there should be a collaboration between TFCA's and RBOS. KAZA-ZAMCOM and KAZA-OCACOM have set the scene.
- These partnerships are ongoing between the RBOs and TFCA even though there are no formalities, formalisation required.
- CoP to be established as knowledge sharing platform. The CoP will be wider than the RBO-TFCA cluster,

Membership – technical, voluntary, ToRs (draft)

- **Highest level**
 - o **TFCA-RBO**
 - Membership – TFCA Coordination Units, RBOs Coordination, local and district government authorities (to support their efforts in integrated water services planning)
 - ToRs
- **2nd level**
 - o **CoP**
 - Membership – Communities, NGOs, CBOs, Traditional Leaders, government entities, the private sector, civil society.
 - ToRs

Data information sharing through:

- Learning exchanges

- Symposiums
- WaterBlitz
- Awareness
- Research

3 priority activities for 2025

- Joint planning between TFCAs and RBOs (also look into systematic planning, have maps showing which project are implemented where to address challenges and promote resilience of these ecosystems.
- Fisheries
- Integrated Catchment management
- Community climate smart agriculture
- Nature-based solutions and socio-economic initiatives, sustaining livelihoods
- Water supply – (mitigating Human wildlife conflict)
- Joint surveys (hydrocensus), address pollution, collect data on the quantity and quality of water
- Awareness events

Rationale

- Regional standards – e.g. Joint Basin Survey teams, intersection opportunities (e.g. ecotourism/research tourism)
- Resourcing, Efficiencies, Project Identification

Recommendation

- There is no need to establish a CoP at the SADC level. There is a need to strengthen what exists and establish a relationship amongst those that do not have such arrangements yet.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE (GOAL 2.4)

This workshop was facilitated by Mr Leo Niskanen of the IUCN.

Outline of the session:

- Overview of HWC as per SADC instruments
- Presentation on integrated and holistic approaches
- Panel with examples from SADC TFCAs – AHEAD programme and Ecoexist in KAZA
- Review of the ToR for CoP

Summary of main outcomes

- Agreement on need to address the issue in an integrated and holistic manner, approached from a rural development challenge perspective

- Cross-sectoral approaches are key and can build on, and learn from, models such as the Water, Energy and Food nexus, the One Health approach, among others
- Specifically in terms of reference for the community of practice, the group reviewed a draft ToR. Some key issues that emerged:
 - The membership of the CoP should include a wider group of stakeholders than just HWC professionals – e.g. local community representatives and other key stakeholders reflecting the complex nature of the issue that ranges from technical on the ground issues to policy in many different realms
 - While the CoP would draw its membership from the Network, we should be open to invite others from outside the network to share different perspectives and experiences
- It was recognised that there are a number of communities of practice and specialist groups already actively looking at HWC issues, so there is a need to ensure that the CoP identifies these and links to them, rather than trying duplicate efforts/reinvent the wheel
- Issues that the other network CoPs are focusing on, including CBNRM, sustainable finance, and M&E are also relevant in the context of HWC – so there needs to be cross-fertilisation of ideas between the communities of practice
- The CoP should ideally meet biannually, one of the meetings potentially held in conjunction with the Annual Network meeting, the other virtual or physical, depending on resource availability
- The HWC and Coexistence CoP should feed information to other important existing and planned SADC platforms and structures, including e.g. Technical Committee on Wildlife, SADC ICP forum, SADC business council, etc.
- In particular, there is an opportunity to link the work of the CoP to the SADC LEAP Working Group, which includes a focus on HWC, and which will be discussed at an upcoming Members' meeting in Johannesburg in December 2024.
- The ToR will still need further revision to incorporate the above points, including the outcome of the discussions about the LEAP strategy in December
- The session was not able to identify volunteers to lead the core group at this stage.

ROOM 2

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING (GOAL 5)

This workshop was facilitated by Karine Nuumbila and Takudzwa Gwitira of Malisaili

The participants in this session discussed the following:

- **What is already being done and by whom?**

Here, they mentioned and discussed various institutions that offer various relevant trainings that contribute towards skills development and capacity building at different levels. Amongst the institutions mentioned are:

- SAWC
- UNISA
- PPF
- Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust
- NGOs (WildCru, EcoTraining, FSC Africa, etc)

What capacity building courses and resources are missing?

- Leadership training
- Training for political leaders
- Conservation tech based training

Ms Kudakwashe Chigodo IUCN and TFCA FF case study

- Training targeting rangers and managers
- Does training recognise the skill level that is there (e.g. illiterate rangers).
- The training institutions don't have sufficient capacity to absorb all the training needs

Q&A and comments

- Are there opportunities for people to benefit from the funding?
- Focus of training has been on field rangers and not on managers - concerning. Managers need more training. Managers also need to better understand what their rangers are being trained in.
- There is a management effectiveness training tool that could be better used. Rangers need upskilling - they need to graduate from being rangers to becoming something else
- What do we mean by capacity building?
- Rangers of 1960s are different from today - though some fundamentals remain that should be observed and enhanced
- Change in context of PAs ref. Communities
- Practical skills missing for rangers
- Landscape problems - water quality etc that are not part of the rangers' responsibilities - open the box beyond wildlife management, on the job training
- Rangers' work is limited by their age - capacity limitations eventually and need to develop ways to absorb them to take on other functions

- Human rights mechanisms need improvement
- Is there funding?
- Need to get to the root cause of the issues - what is the 80% - being agnostic about 'management' and not focusing only on the technical skills but also the skills you need to scale, governance, value-chains that have to be included in all capacity development to ensure sustainability. With regards to rangers, work is needed with governments on culture and recruitment - e.g. complementary skills needed on human rights, so in recruiting for character instead of practical skills. Consider what Resolve does - their criteria. Look for core values. Need engagement with governments - rangers and law enforcement are necessary but we need to shift the culture. This is an important capacity piece.
- Too many calls and webinars - we are all inundated, so how can we make this very simple and easy, e.g. helicopter hub who has used WhatsApp business to match pilots looking for jobs with opportunities and become a hub for lessons learned etc - a well-managed hub of WhatsApp groups. Capitalise on tools that everyone is already uses - not another portal etc.
- Get people on call together every now and then informally (not death by PPT) to prompt discussions.
- Keep it pragmatic and easy, informal and allowing for ease of participation

How can we work better together?

- Involving other sectors within the TFCA landscape and different industries in assisting those on the ground to be better equipped
- All TFCA players should undertake a collective approach training to appreciate the contributions of the different
- Improving our communication amongst all the stakeholders
- Need for a coordinated approach for working together- at all levels especially those on the ground and the actual people executing the work.
- Create a database from each stakeholder on what they are offering and what their schedules are so all can feel welcome.
- Important to understand and appreciate each other's strength and weaknesses-
- TFCA to do joint planning with other sectors such as water, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, land management, finance, trade, tourism private sector



- Knowledge exchange platforms to share success stories
- Community of practice on capacity building
- Aim to formalize more policies to guide ranger training standards in the SADC region.
 - o Establish guidelines around best practices. Context specific.
- Celebrate successful case studies (such as highlighting ranger of the year etc). To be done at SADC TFCA Level.
- Identify challenges that are obstructing collaborations in training - regional discussion groups.
- Provide political support to streamline regional training (relating to restrictions and regulation per country).
- Grant based incentives (and more open data and privacy policies) to encourage collaboration and encourage organizations to work together and spread the impact of the funding received. Expand the impact.
- Regional wildlife legislation. To be able to assist rangers to work and be effective across the region and borders. Applying the same standard across the region. There is a great impact on training and rules of enforcement.
 - o Wildlife Crime
 - o Fire Fighting

What can we do together?

- Exchange programmes/ training/ visits (community and conservation)
- Theoretical training/ knowledge of laws and science
- Ensure multiple stakeholders are involved, excited, bought into TFCA vision.
- Joint planning and activities
- Establish networking platforms
- Build on the existing ranger insurance policies to increase care and support. Needs to be able to be flexible based on the country and context through which is being applied.
 - o Ranger Protect - is it accessible and does it have hospital plans etc.
 - o Park Doctors - facilitator?

Are there other TFCA thematic groups we should work with?

- Engaging fishery platforms in the establishment of marine TFCAs
- We actually need to work with all the groups- need to be more collaboration and information sharing.
- Need the full set of stakeholders
- Land authorities

- Foreign Affairs
- Marine sector (where applicable)
- National Planning Commissions
- Water Affairs
- Within the TFCA there are various thematic groups, however, the ff thematic groups may be required at a SADC level - these are those focusing on water, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, land management, finance, trade.
- M&E and Learning
- Integrated Land use planning groups
- Capacity Building (would need to link across to all the thematic groups)
 - o Conservation Technology Based Facilitator and Implementer (New division of the group?)
 - Standardisation of software used for specific activities.
- Skills Development
 - o Practical training
 - o Career Development (linked to Tourism, Community)

How will this be organised?

- The SADC thematic areas will have to provide a bird's eye approach in the consolidation of the various initiatives
- For marine TFCAs to be established the SADC TFCA and Fisheries Unit must strategize coming in from the council of Ministers
- We need a coordinated fashion- there needs to be a key coordinator.
- The coordinator can link all the different groups and share resources and ideas and trainings.
- The coordinator can link all the different groups and share resources and ideas and trainings.
- Using WhatsApp groups more efficiently and effectively, potentially with sub-groups/themes to ensure that discussions are more targeted - with this then potentially feeding into a portal for record keeping.
- Exchange on case studies/lessons/experiencing - but also
- SADC/TFCA identities (cards/other) for rangers to enable fluid/seamless operations across borders
- Work with existing and/or emerging thematic working groups. The idea is not to reinvent the wheel, however address gaps in terms of thematic groups that exist.

How would you share information?

- SADC TFCA Portal (it has to be updated)
- Whatsapp group
- Quarterly updates/ online newsletters
- Exchange visits
- Through TFCA portal.
- Train the trainer's approach.
- More inclusive WhatsApp groups sharing progress in each group.
- Shared information on a feedback loop-what has come out of the training.
- Need better information sharing mechanisms as well as SOPs/protocols across borders specifically. NB need to be operationalised.
- Through documenting meeting proceedings - physical and virtual platform meetings.
- Thematic group reports and case studies
- Whatsapp Groups
- Workshops aimed at facilitating networking

Who would like to be in the organising committee?

- Ms Lya Docteur - Seychelles
- Ms Robyn Hartley - Great Plains Foundation
- Ms Jeremy Hancock - Southern African Wildlife College
- Ms Asimbongeni Dhlodhlo
- Ms Phillip Kuvawoga
- Ms Joyce Loza -
- Michael Molaodi

Next steps

- We need a funder, a government entity, coordinator, specialists or experts on any of the relevant trainings in the capacity training field.
- Establishing a community of practice/taskforce to facilitate this
- Ms Aruna Seepersadh, Dr Nyambe: Stakeholder mapping, organise an inception meeting with partners (30 June 2025)

Proposed names for the CoP?

- Conservation skill up and skill share

- Capacity building for the future
- Capacity building development group
- Capacity and skills for all in the TFCAs
- Capacity development
- TFCA cooperation strategy
- SADC TFCA Skills and Capacity Building Hub and Drivers of a coordinated knowledge platform

TFCA INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING (GOAL 4)

This workshop was facilitated by Ms Candice Stevens of the Sustainable Finance Coalition

Some of the key items that came out of this session was the decision around supporting a Community of Practice for sustainable finance for TFCA which the Sustainable Finance Coalition is able to provide. There are plans to give a grant to the SFC to have a dedicated TFCA Sustainable Finance Coordinator, which will hopefully be in place from early next year. That Coordinator role will be able to support this Community of Practice with as much information, knowledge sharing access to resources on sustainable finance.

Importantly, the inventory of finance solutions which the coalition has launched as an online interactive platform is already available and it is open source to all TFCA stakeholders and contains a wealth of information on finance solutions. In addition, one of the key decisions around supporting a sustainable finance CoP was dedicated webinars on individual finance solutions and being able to have robust discussions on those which will be facilitated through the Coalition's dedicated Coordinator.

There were several other more practical steps in terms of information dissemination and



sharing, which the CoP will begin to action. Importantly, there is a request for a dedicated sustainable finance day to be tagged onto specific TFCA events to allow for the unpacking of the individual finance solutions that are up and running in individual countries and landscapes that form part of

the TFCA system, and how those can be replicated from one jurisdiction to another. The Sustainable Finance Coalition is happy to hold that space and provide the capacity and knowledge support on a CoP.

Importantly, the focus on getting individual finance solutions, many of which are in implementation across different countries and landscapes and ensuring that those can be scaled up and replicated within the TFCA space and being able to then dovetail that with RBOs.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (GOAL 5.3)

This workshop was facilitated by Ms Lisa Blanken of GIZ

A total of 7 different presentations were made starting with past efforts to establish a SADC-wide TFCA M&E system including the presentation of the Performance Assessment Tool and the previous M&E framework. There were presentations of different M&E systems with examples from livelihood monitoring in communities within KAZA and the IUCN assessment to measure the effectiveness of conserved areas (so called “Green list”) which is a comprehensive system to establish certified, internationally recognized “Green listed” areas. So far 2 are certified in the SADC region (both in Zambia) and more assessments are currently underway. The last set of presentations were about the EU NaturAfrica initiative and their continental M&E Framework and about existing digital tools and remote sensing methods which have a great potential to improve the monitoring of landscapes.

Discussion points:

- Appreciation of PAT – Tool with the scoring system which is user friendly
- Consideration of users of data and what it is being used for
- Need to create simple systems which are user friendly
- A possible community of practice needs a clear direction and roadmap
- “Backstopping team” for the development of the SADC TFCA M&E Framework has already been established

ToRs will be shared with all participants who attended the session and interest for a Community of Practice will be assessed again.

On the evening of Day 2, the delegates were hosted to a dinner and movie night sponsored by the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project. They also played a film showcasing the Okavango, which falls under the KAZA TFCA.

DAY 3 - THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2024

PROGRAMME OUTLINE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Programme Director, Ms Ndapanda Kanime, called on Mr Steve Collins to give a detailed outline of the day’s programme as well as to make some announcements.

After the programme outline and announcements, Ms Kanime gave the floor to the UK High Commissioner in Botswana, Mr Giles Enticknap, to give some remarks as he could not attend the first day of the meeting.

REMARKS BY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER

The UK High Commissioner Mr Giles Enticknap, introduced himself as the newly arrived British High Commissioner. He observed protocol, then thanked the SADC TFCA Network for engaging with the UK, describing the Network as an incredible Community of Practice working across the TFCAs. He expressed a sense of privilege to be amongst such learned, dedicated, and committed colleagues doing incredible work.

The Commissioner highlighted two main points. Firstly, the UK's new government prioritizes climate and nature. Understanding Botswana's challenges and those in the KAZA region is crucial. The UK government is committed to forming new, innovative partnerships to address issues like human-wildlife conflict, climate change, and nature degradation.

Secondly, forming new collaborative and innovative partnerships is a key focus. The Commissioner assured that the UK government is open to ideas, thoughts, comments, and suggestions on what the UK can do in Botswana and the region. Drawing from the state of the nation address, the UK is excited to work with Botswana's new government on shared priorities related to climate and nature challenges. He looks forward to learning and listening.

THE SADC TFCA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AND SUMMIT 2025

Ms. Kanime highlighted that the Ministers of Environment, Natural Resources, and Tourism approved the Revised SADC TFCA Conference and Summit Concept Note in June 2023 and recommended that the conference and summit to be held in May 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

A Task Team was formed to facilitate preparation and logistics. The conference and summit are scheduled for 18th to 23rd of May 2025. Invitation letters were sent to Member States and ICPs. Furthermore, Ms Kanime indicated that the Task Team members have started drafting the programme and budget during meetings held in June and October 2024. The Government of Zimbabwe will finalize the budget, considering quotations from both Victoria Falls and Harare due to cost differences.

Ms. Nothando Moyo TFCA Focal Point from Zimbabwe presented the quotations from the Elephant Hills in Victoria Falls and from the Rainbow Towers in Harare. The conference will host 700 delegates for the first four days and 1000 delegates during the summit. Costs include venue hire, car hire, vehicle stickers, advertising, a cocktail event, interpretation services, and equipment. Hosting the summit in Victoria Falls will cost \$630,000 for five days, while Harare's budget is \$386,280. Ms. Moyo called upon ICPs, Member States, and attendees to guide the Government of Zimbabwe on proceeding with these budgets.

Ms Kanime opened the floor for comments, inviting Member States to give their input.

In his comment, Mr Gove indicated that the decision or the proposal for this process started in a meeting of the TFCA network and then went through all the structures. The Member States, through the Ministers, the Council of Ministers, approved this meeting. It will therefore be critical that Member States react to the decision they have taken to have this meeting, and then the partners may join them. The SADC Chair, Ms Moyo, made a submission that as the host country, whilst they are at an advanced stage in terms of preparing for this event, they would appreciate if they can be assisted in terms of finalizing this budget as this is just a draft from their side.

Mr Thulani Methula, a representative from Eswatini in his input to the budget presentation, indicated that seeing as there are 2 proposed venues, he thinks a decision has to be reached on which is the preferred location between Harare and Victoria Falls. As Member States, they can then make further input as guided by the SADC Chair. He also added that in terms of finalizing the budget, we need to decide on the venue.

It was then proposed for the venue to be moved to Harare as it will be cheaper compared to Victoria falls, but this was left to the Task Team with guidance by the government of Zimbabwe to discuss it further for considerations including the number of participants from 1000 to 500 participants.

Mr. Domingos Gove emphasized the importance of continuing engagement with partners. Information, including the concept note, should be shared with ICPs within the next week to ensure everyone is on board and integrated with relevant strategies. Given the significant budget difference and limited resources, Member States, starting with Zimbabwe, should indicate their contributions, showing commitment to their decision.

Ms Kanime indicated that they have taken note of all the points raised during the discussion including the proposal to reduce the number to around 500 delegates.

DAY 2 DISCUSSIONS REPORTBACK

The outcomes of the 6 meetings held on Day 2 where discussions were held on forming more focussed Communities of Practice were given. Representatives of each group gave feedback to the plenary. Details of each group discussion are above under the Day 2 section of this report.

Below we noted their responses to the question of whether the SADC TFCA Network should form more focussed Communities of Practice.

CBNRM and Resilient Rural Livelihoods – There should be a CoP formed to facilitate knowledge exchange, and the group nominated a few delegates to be part of initiating the formation of a CBNRM CoP.

Climate Change and the Water System – There is no need to establish a CoP at the SADC level, we need to strengthen what exists and establish a relationship amongst those that do not have such arrangements yet.

Human Wildlife Conflict - There is an opportunity to link the work of a HWC CoP in the TFCA network to the SADC LEAP Working Group, which includes a focus on HWC, and which will be discussed at an upcoming Members' meeting in Johannesburg in December 2024. There is no need to have two CoPs across SADC.

Skills Development and Capacity Building – There should be a TFCA Capacity building CoP established.

TFCA Investment and Sustainable Financing – There is a need for a CoP given the complexity and critical need for ongoing resources to support the work of TFCAs being established. The existing Sustainable Finance Coalition volunteered to drive the process of establishing and facilitating the CoP.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning – ToRs for a planned SADC TFCA M&E Framework will be shared with all participants who attended the session and interest for a Community of Practice will be assessed again during the process of establishing the framework.

SADC TFCA PANEL 1: TFCA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANS

This panel was facilitated by Mr Michael Molaodi, TFCA Focal Point in Botswana. The panellists were:

- Mr Nils Meyer (KfW) Portfolio manager for SADC TFCAs: KAZA, Malawi, Zambia and the regional funds.
- Ms Aruna Seepersadh, Director for Transfrontier Conservation Areas, Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa.
- Mr Thulani Methula TFCA focal Point and Director of National Parks, Eswatini
- Ms Rose Mdendemi, TFCA Focal Point and Principal Game Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania

Mr. Michael Molaodi: In Botswana, we say that reaching the well requires using the footpath. Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) are this footpath to our goal. Rose, please tell us why we need TFCA IDPs and their importance.

Ms. Rose Mdendemi: IDPs are crucial for coordinating activities among stakeholders. In Tanzania, a Technical Committee and consortium developed the IDP with government and donor support. The first bilateral meeting with Mozambique was in 2023 and involved submitting the IDP to the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Michael Molaodi: Thulani, how do you ensure stakeholder participation to avoid discord among different stakeholders?

Mr. Thulani Methula: Mozambique and Tanzania have developed an IDP together. The Lubombo TFCA's IDP, involving South Africa and Mozambique, includes River Basin stakeholders and focuses on community aspects, aligning national priorities and ensuring synergy among the tripartite countries.

Mr. Michael Molaodi: Aruna, how do we ensure IDPs are integrated into National, District, and Municipal Plans?

Ms. Aruna Seepersadh: IDPs unpack national priorities and stakeholder engagement mechanisms, fostering collaboration. They help integrate TFCA programmes into local governance, ensuring cohesive efforts in conservation, tourism, and community development.

Mr. Michael Molaodi: Nils, with Member States having limited resources, how do we attract ICP assistance for IDP development?

Mr. Nils Meyer: Germany partners with the SADC Secretariat and Member States to address the finance gap in conservation, including planning, infrastructure, and training. Strategic investments and strong partnerships are crucial for effective TFCA planning and accountability.

Mr. Michael Molaodi: Have there been challenges in developing IDPs or ensuring government ownership?

Ms. Aruna Seepersadh: Financial challenges exist, but partnerships with NGOs and governments help. Stakeholder workshops and mapping processes are essential for inclusive planning.

Mr. Phera Ramoeli: How do we ensure IDPs include input from RBOs for joint planning and management?

Dr. Nyambe: IDPs aim to harmonize policies and practices across sectors, ensuring inclusive, participatory processes. MOUs with RBOs help avoid duplication and fragmentation, leveraging better synergy in achieving mandates.

SADC TFCA PANEL 3: TRANSBOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

Dr Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director of the KAZA Secretariate facilitated this panel made up of the following Member State TFCA Focal Points,

- Ms Monika Shikongo, TFCA Focal Point, Namibia
- Ms Anesu Ugano, Programme Officer, Chimanimani and ZIMOZA TFCA
- Ms Martha Zumbo, TFCA Focal Point, Angola
- Ms Muriel Simukonda, TFCA office, Republic of Zambia

Dr. Nyambe Nyambe: I would like each panellist to share insights on transboundary biodiversity monitoring and evaluation, emphasizing the role of communities and NGOs.

Ms. Muriel Simukonda: The KAZA Elephant survey was a successful initiative, providing data on elephants and large herbivores. Community involvement and partners were critical. We consolidated information on collared elephants, published data, and received contributions from partners like Elephant Connections and WWF.

Mr. Anesu Gono: Zimbabwe conducted transboundary surveys in Lower Zambezi Mana Pools, Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, and Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Park, supported

by AWF and Zimbabwe Parks. Partnerships with ICPs and NGOs in TFCAs, such as the EU, AWF, and WWF, were vital.

Ms. Monika Shikongo: Namibia implements in-country monitoring systems within its communities and national parks, including game guards and community resource monitors. These systems are crucial for informing key decisions and contributing to biodiversity protection.

Dr. Nyambe: Thank you, panellists. Let's hear reflections on the cost implications of this monitoring work from the panelists.

Ms. Monika Shikongo: Monitoring at the community level is costly, requiring training and financial resources. Annual game counts and aerial surveys need fundraising from different organizations. Collaboration among partners, NGOs, and governments helps manage costs and ensure effective systems.

Ms. Muriel Simukonda: Collaboration between Zambia and KAZA has been instrumental, with bilateral surveys and standardization of methods, resource mobilization, capacity building, and information sharing.

Ms. Aruna Seepersadh: Biodiversity monitoring should include activities like alien plant clearing. Joint planning and budgeting are essential for long-term success, as seen in the Turtle Monitoring Programme in Lubombo TFCA.

Dr. Nyambe: Wild Bird Trust, National Geographic, please share a synopsis of your work.

Dr. Rainer von Brandis: We work with local partners and ministries, providing open-access data. We are building an online data repository for wider access, except in cases where governments prefer data sensitivity.

Dr. Nyambe: As we conclude, I would like to highlight the KAZA impact monitoring tool and the ministerial approval of the M&E position. The role of communities in M&E is crucial, demonstrated by ground counts of wildlife in the Cuando Wildlife Dispersal area.

Question (Asi Dhlodhlo, online): Are there plans within stakeholders in TFCA to collaborate on data and M&E?

Response by Ms. Aruna Seepersadh: Non-sensitive data will be shared, and agreements will be signed for research purposes. M&E frameworks are being revised and will build on past experiences.

SADC TFCA PANEL 2: MARINE TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION AREAS

This panel was facilitated by Ms Aruna Seepersadh, the Director for Transfrontier Conservation Areas, Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa

Panellists:

- Mr Cornelio Miguel, TFCA Coordinator, Mozambique
- Ms Lya Docteur, Seychelles Parks Authority
- Ms Shomba Sauba, National Parks and Conservation Service, Mauritius

The session focused on exploring the development of Marine Transboundary Areas (MTAs) and Transboundary Marine Protected Areas (TMPAs), emphasizing the importance of fostering collaboration among sectors like fisheries, conservation, and the blue economy. It also examined the roles of regional organizations such as WIOMSA, the Nairobi Convention, and other agreements in supporting marine conservation efforts. Three guiding questions structured the discussion:

1. What is currently in place?
2. What is possible?
3. How do we create Marine TFCAs?

Mauritius: Current Efforts and Opportunities

Ms. Shomba Sauba highlighted Mauritius's rich marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves. Conservation efforts include:

- The Blue Bird Initiative: Focused on creating large-scale MPAs within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to protect coral reefs and manage fisheries.
- Legal Protections: Two Marine Parks and multiple fishery reserves safeguarded under law.
- Collaborations: WIOMSA has provided research support, capacity building, and assistance in policy-making to balance marine ecosystem protection with the socio-economic needs of coastal communities.

Mauritius participates in the Nairobi Convention, which facilitates access to resources, scientific knowledge, and technical support, addressing biodiversity conservation and pollution from land-based sources. Regional agreements such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission regulate sustainable fishing practices and ensure ecological and economic sustainability.

The Mauritius-Seychelles Treaty for joint management of a 400,000 km² extended continental shelf is another key initiative. The treaty emphasizes sustainable and ecologically respectful resource management in the shared seabed area.

Challenges and Solutions for TMPAs

Ms. Lya Docteur from Seychelles stressed that TMPAs require collaboration between fisheries and conservation sectors. While fisheries contribute significantly to Seychelles' economy, conservation efforts lack equivalent recognition and funding. Key steps to overcome these challenges include:

- Stakeholder Engagement: Foster dialogue to address conflicts between industries and find common ground.
- Community Education: Raise awareness about sustainable fishing practices, especially since many livelihoods depend on fisheries.
- International Collaboration: Strengthen partnerships beyond local efforts.
- Securing Funding: Conservation is resource-intensive, necessitating innovative funding solutions and cross-sector cooperation.

Mauritius and Seychelles recognize the potential for regional collaborations to connect ecosystems such as coral reefs and seagrass meadows across EEZs. Platforms like the Indian Ocean Rim Association and Indian Ocean Commission could support TMPA policy advocacy.

Mozambique's Perspective

Mr. Cornelio Miguel highlighted that while Mozambique's focus has historically been on terrestrial TFCAs, the national TFCA Programme now includes seascapes. Mozambique's coastline spans 2,700 km, with one-third of the population relying on coastal livelihoods. Key initiatives include:

- Strengthening inter-ministerial collaboration between sectors like conservation and fisheries.
- Engaging local communities in marine conservation efforts through existing Marine Community Conservation Areas and seven coastal protected areas.
- Promoting regional synergies and international partnerships to enhance marine conservation.

The role of SADC

Panellists identified significant opportunities for SADC to assist in the development of Marine TFCAs. Suggestions included:

- Technical and Capacity Support: SADC could help island states like Mauritius and Seychelles with the expertise needed to draft and implement legal frameworks and governance structures for TMPAs.
- High-Level Advocacy: Engaging the Council of Ministers to allocate resources to environmental sectors in Member States.
- Seed Funding: Conceptual agreements or letters of intent between states could secure access to the SADC TFCA Financing Facility.

Insights and Recommendations

Mr. Domingos Gove underscored that experiences from terrestrial TFCAs could inform marine conservation efforts. Countries must take ownership of the process, starting with bilateral conversations at TFCA meetings. Challenges include overlapping priorities (e.g., biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, oil, and gas), requiring Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) to manage these complexities.

Ms. Lisa Blanken emphasized the importance of initiating conceptual agreements to accelerate TMPA development. Such agreements, while not legally binding, could help access funding and foster collaboration.

Path Forward

- Shared Conservation Goals: Develop joint management plans and harmonize regulations to create consistent conservation practices.
- Marine Spatial Planning: Allocate areas for conservation, sustainable fisheries, and ecotourism.

- Sustainable Financing: Identify funding mechanisms to support long-term TMPA management.
- Public Awareness: Engage communities and stakeholders to build support for marine conservation.

This session highlighted the potential for regional partnerships and multi-sectoral collaboration to advance marine conservation while addressing economic, ecological, and social priorities.

SADC TOURISM PROGRAMME: TOURISM IN TFCAS AND BOUNDLESS SOUTHERN AFRICA

At the end of the panel, the Program Director Ms Kanime, thanked the panellists and called the colleagues from the SADC Tourism Unit at the SADC Secretariate to give presentations on tourism in TFCAs and Boundless Southern Africa.

Ms Marygoreth Mushi, PO Policy and Market Development

Ms Mushi's presentation outlined tourism in TFCAs. The primary framework is the SADC Treaty of 1992, focusing on tourism as an economic activity and conservation. The SADC Regional Integrated Strategic Development Plan of 2020-2030 includes five pillars, with tourism under industrial development and market integration.

A significant goal is to enhance cooperation and regional coordination in tourism, supported by the Protocol on Development of Tourism of 1998 (amended in 2009) and the SADC Tourism Programme 2020-2030. This programme's major goals include:

1. Access and flow of visitors.
2. Marketing and promotion of tourism.
3. Developing tourism in TFCAs.
4. Improving visitor experience and satisfaction.
5. Maximizing tourism partnerships.

She emphasized the development of tourism in TFCAs, with strategies focusing on marketing, investment, and rural economic inclusion. The unit is developing a tourism market strategy and promoting cross-border routes and itineraries. They plan to profile investment opportunities in TFCAs, promote cross-border tourism products, and include local communities in tourism activities.

They have set up three SADC Tourism Working Groups to implement the Tourism Programme 2020-2030, focusing on access and experience, the development of tourism in TFCAs, and tourism reputation and policy harmonization. The unit emphasizes collaboration across various clusters and sectors.

Mr Nicholas Tucker

Mr Tucker presented C-NRM Tourism component, supporting Boundless Southern Africa (BSA) in SADC. He emphasized the role of tourism in conservation and creating socioeconomic opportunities in southern Africa. Tourism, if managed responsibly, can generate funding for conservation, raise global awareness, and create opportunities.

Ms Tucker's presentation focused on BSA's objectives to promote Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) as key tourism destinations, aligned with the SADC Tourism Programme 2020-2030. BSA showcases the unique offerings of TFCAs at international trade shows and supports through brochures, videos, press trips, social media campaigns, and media libraries. They have prepared suggested itineraries for self-drive tourists and support cross-border events in TFCAs.

BSA focuses on nine TFCAs: /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld TP, Great Limpopo TFCA, Greater Mapungubwe TFCA, KAZA TFCA, Kgalagadi TP, Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA, Lubombo TFCA, Malawi-Zambia TFCA, Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA. They assess tourism readiness using the "five A's of tourism" theory:

1. Access: ease of reaching destinations, border crossings, air access, tours, information.
2. Accommodation: amenities, options for different budgets, service levels, booking systems.
3. Attractions: museums, parks, landscapes, local communities, cultures.
4. Activities: cultural, adventure, nature/wildlife, MICE.
5. Amenities: facilities, services, medical facilities, safety, security.

Mr Tucker highlighted the potential of tourism in southern Africa, noting that globally, tourism contributes around 10% to GDP. In southern Africa, it's 8%, with tourism contributing more to GDP than manufacturing and banking combined. Despite its growth, Africa's tourism share is small and declining, showing huge potential for job creation benefiting communities and conservation.

Mr Tucker invited delegates to share ideas for collaboration. He concluded that BSA is a support structure for TFCAs and Member States, open to opportunities and collaboration.

Questions

Ms. Candice Stevens asked about the status of the Uni Visa and potential sustainable finance solutions for it, and if there were any planned tourism fees or levies linked to Boundless Southern Africa (BSA).

Ms. Mushi provided an update on the SADC Tourism Uni Visa: they have developed a revenue sharing model, a collection and sharing model, and draft legal instruments, all pending approval. Unfortunately, a recent meeting to approve the legal instruments was postponed due to a lack of quorum.

Mr. Nick Tucker noted that in South Africa, there are no current plans for a unified tourism levy due to varying levies in different TFCAs. He suggested opening discussions on financial solutions.

Ms. Joyce Loza praised the sustainability of jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities in national parks and community tourism establishments. She highlighted the focus on community tourism development.

Ms. Aruna Seepersadh pointed out the relevance of aligning entrance fee structures across TFCAs to ensure equal shares and competitiveness.

Ms. Mushi emphasized respecting Member States' sovereignty in setting fees but encouraged collaborative efforts to make the region more accessible and competitive through concepts like Uni Visa.

A final comment stressed the opportunity for communities to participate in the tourism economy in TFCAs as a critical component.

TFCA NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS

In his update, Mr Steve Collins touched on the following:

The TFCA Network's portal is being updated, and a new website will be launched in January or February 2025. Delegates can check the progress at www.tfcanetwork.co.za and are encouraged to provide necessary information for the site. The team is collaborating with Peace Parks to access their database and make the site a comprehensive knowledge hub. The website was showcased, displaying its user-friendly interface. Members can still post news, which will now be archived after two weeks. They will need to re-apply for membership as many members are inactive.

The portal will no longer have an intranet; all information will be public and mobile-friendly. Links to other organizations' websites, like Boundless Southern Africa, will be included. Information from ICPs will be added, and old information will be archived. The TFCA Network WhatsApp group with about 460 members will also be archived. Members are encouraged to use the website repository for useful information. Mr. Collins emphasized maintaining the website's relevance and encouraged members to report any issues.

OFFICIAL CLOSURE OF 2024 MEETING

In the closing remarks by SADC Chair Zimbabwe, represented by Ms Moyo, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the delegates for their active participation and invaluable contributions. She emphasized that their engagement was crucial in shaping the discussions and outcomes.

Ms. Moyo highlighted the network's collective commitment to advancing the objectives of TFCAs. She encouraged delegates to apply the knowledge and experiences gained to their respective TFCAs and to continue implementing the actions from this meeting to achieve a more integrated, prosperous, and sustainable SADC region.

Ms. Moyo reminded delegates of the SADC TFCA International Conference and Summit in Zimbabwe in May 2025, marking the 25th anniversary of the TFCA Programme. This event will enhance discussions and strengthen regional commitment to conservation and sustainable development. She also praised South Africa for offering to host the 2025 SADC TFCA Annual Network Meeting.

Ms. Moyo thanked Botswana for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements and acknowledged the invaluable support of the government and international cooperating partners, which made the meeting a success. She wished everyone safe travels and looked forward to seeing them in Zimbabwe for the 2025 Summit.

TFCA FEEDBACK PRESENTATIONS

The various TFCAs were requested to submit updates on the activities that have taken place within each TFCA in the period October 2023 to October 2024. Of the 12 TFCAs, 9 TFCAs had updates and these are:

- Great Limpopo TFCA
- Kavango-Zambezi TFCA
- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
- Lower Zambezi mana Pools TFCA
- Lubombo TFCA
- Malawi-Zambia TFCA
- Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA
- Niassa-Selous TFCA
- Zimbabwe-Mozambique TFCA

The following is an overview of the common themes across the TFCA that provided updates.

- There have been a number of activities implemented to **promote cross-border tourism** including the development of brochures, logos and promotional videos for some TFCAs. There are plans in place to develop these marketing materials for more TFCAs.
- Implementation plans have been developed for the **Tourism Working Groups**.
- Amongst the future plans for TFCAs, there is a strong desire towards socio-economic development and therefore, **a need to conduct learning exchanges focusing on socio-economic development initiatives**.
- Various TFCAs are in different stages of developing **Integrated Development Plans**. Those that are not working on IDPs have put in place other strategic documents that aid in the planning and implementation of activities within TFCAs. Support is needed from the SADC TFCA Network to develop more of these strategic documents.
- In terms of support by the SADC TFCA Network, TFCAs expressed the need for more opportunities for **information sharing, knowledge exchange, collaboration, the facilitation of sustainable financing opportunities** and activities and marketing for TFCAs.
- **The most common challenge amongst the TFCAs is limited financial resources** to support the development of TFCAs, a need for capacity building, a need to give attention to socio-economic aspects of the TFCAs as well as human-wildlife conflict.

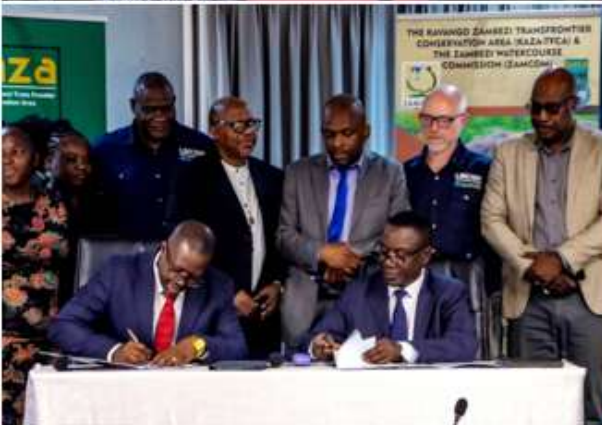
ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made during the course of the 3-day meeting.

- Given the importance of community involvement in TFCA programs and the urgent need to improve rural livelihoods in TFCAs, a Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Community of Practice should be formed in 2025. The Community Leaders Network will be part of the team driving the process of setting the CoP up.
- Without skilled professionals from regional technical advisors, to rangers, to community involvement facilitators we will not be able to create the TFCA vision of regional co-existence of people and nature. Given the need to improve human capacity and professional development in the sector, a Capacity Building Community of Practice should be formed in 2025.
- There is a need for a Sustainable Financing CoP given the complexity and critical need for ongoing resources to support the work of TFCAs. The existing Sustainable Finance

Coalition with support from ICPs will drive the process of establishing and facilitating the CoP.

- The formation of a HWC and LEAP Community of Practice should be discussed at the December 2025 meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Wildlife.
- The 25th Anniversary Conference and Summit should be used to increase high level political support for TFCAs and enable the implementation of the 2023-2033 TFCA programme.
- The 2025 Annual Network meeting should take place in South Africa hosted by the Government of South Africa.
- Marine TFCAs should be established within SADC. There is a need to the SADC TFCA and Fisheries Unit to strategize how to get support for Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas from the two sectors Ministries across SADC countries with ocean resources.
- The joint work and collaboration between TFCAs and RBOs was welcomed and should be encouraged in future. The suggestion by the working group that there should be two clusters of TFCAs and RBOS established one for the Southern rivers and TFCAs and one for the northern ones in SADC. The SADC secretariate was asked to facilitate this process.



ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING 2024 IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

Institution / Organisation	Name
SADC Secretariat	
Director	Domingos Gove
SPO Wildlife	Ndapanda Kanime
SPO Water	Dr Patrice Kabeya
PO Tourism	Marygoreth Mushi
Member States	
Angola	Marta Zumbo
Botswana	Matshelo Makondo
Botswana	Michael Moalodi
Comoros	Not attending
Eswatini	Thulani Methula
Lesotho	Retselisitsoe Paul Tsolo
Malawi	Matthews Mumba
Mauritius	Shoma Sauba
Mozambique	Cornelio Miguel
Namibia	Apollinaris Kannyinga
Namibia	Jose Kaumba
Namibia	Shikongo Monika
Seychelles	Lya Docteur
South Africa	Aruna Seepersadh
Tanzania	Rose Mdendemi
Zambia	Muriel Simukonda
Zimbabwe	Anesu Gono
Zimbabwe	Nothando Moyo
TFCAs/RBOs	
KAZA Secretariat	Dr. Nyambe Nyambe
KAZA Secretariat	Boniface Madieletsa
GLTFCA	Gwinyai Muti
Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA	Joyce Loza
LIMCOM	Eddie Riddell
LIMCOM	Sergio Siteo
OKACOM	Phera Ramoeli
ORESCOM	Michael Ramaano
ZAMCOM	Leonissah Munjoma
ZAMCOM	Felix Ngamlagosi
Community Network/Youth	
Community leaders Network	Rodgers Lubilo
Community leaders Network	Birga Kalomoh
Community leaders Network	Mohamedi Kamuna
Chobe Enclave Development Trust	Poniso Shamukuni
Donors / ICPS	

UK DEFRA BLF	Mark Ssemakula
British High Commission	Giles Enticknap
EU Botswana and SADC	Filipa Corte Real
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Gaborone	Simone Goertz
GIZ (BW) Country Director	Christoph Schmidt
GIZ	Lisa Blanken
GIZ	Rabson Dhlohlo
GIZ	Rorly Sherwen
GIZ	Mara Gellner
GIZ	Boitumelo Ntota
C-NRM	Steve Collins
C-NRM	Nick Tucker
C-NRM	Tribute Mboweni
USAID - Southern Africa Environment	Geeta Uhl
USAID - Southern Africa Environment	Thapelo Motebo
USAID	Kirstin Siex
US State Department - Gaborone	Phatsimo Kwenane
NGOs/Implementing Partners	
AHEAD / Cornell University	Shirley Atkinson
AHEAD / Cornell University	Nidhi Ramsden
African Parks	Francis Mapenga
African Parks	Jean Labuschagne
African Parks	Kyle Hinde
Birdlife Zimbabwe	Julia Pierini
Botswana Tourism Organization	Jonathan Camm
CCARDESA	Dr. Jerome Queste
CCARDESA	Bridget Kakuwa
Chemonics	Kule Chitepo
Conserve Global	Harriet Mostert-Davies
EcoExist Trust	Anna Songhurst
Ecosystem Solutions for Africa	James Bradley
Flaura and Fauna International	Claudia Suca
Frankfort Zoological Society	Ephraim Lombe
Great Plains Foundation	Robyn Hartley
IUCN ESARO	Leo Niskanen
IUCN - TFCA FF	Kudakwashe Chigodo
IUCN OECM	Daniel Marnewick
Maliasili	Karine Nuulimba
Maliasili	Takudzwa Gwitira
Namibia Nature Foundation	Britta Hackenberg
National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project	Rainer von Brandis
Peace Parks Foundation	Bartolomeu Soto
SANParks	Reuben Ngwenya
SANParks	Mphadeni Nthangeni
Sustainable Finance Coalition	Candice Stevens
TRAFFIC	Maliki Wardjomto

The Wild Bird Trust	John Hilton
The Wilderness Project	David Garrett
WWF Kheta South Africa	Faranani Lulambe
WWF Mozambique	Lucia Cambula
WWF Mozambique	Márcio Tomás
WWF Mozambique	Musa Shikwambana
WWF Kheta South Africa	Martha Themba
WWF Namibia	Edwin Muradzikwa
WWF Tanzania	Rob Harris
Makuleke Contract Park	Aubrey Maluleke
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit	Kedisaletse Selume
Logistics team	
Government of Botswana	Tuduetso Nkunyane
Government of Botswana	Onalenna Mkgachane



Programme for the SADC TFCA Network Annual Meeting – Cresta Mowana, Kasane. 18-21 November 2024

ANNEXURE A: FINAL PROGRAMME 2024 ANNUAL TFCA MEETING

Arrival Day – Monday 18th November 2024

18:30 to 21:00 Welcome Reception and Opening at the Cresta Cultural exhibition area hosted by the Government of Botswana

Day 1 – Tuesday 19th November 2024

Time	Theme	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600190053?pwd=kmaTWbD8nCa0oa2hTabak0RLzqGwY7.1	Lead / Speakers	Comment/ Speaker/ Case Study
8:00 - 8:30	Arrival and Registration			
8:30 – 8:45	Introductions	Who is in the room and online?	SADC Secretariat	Ndapanda Kanime Virtual participants introduce on the Zoom chat.
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome		Government of Botswana	Dr Cyril Taolo





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9:00 – 9:30	Remarks	SADC Secretariat - Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany - EU Delegation to Botswana and SADC - USAID - UK High Commission	SADC Secretariat	Domingos Gove
9:30 – 9:45	Opening by SADC Chair	Overview and aim of the meeting	Government of Zimbabwe	Nothando Moyo TFCA Focal Point
9:45 – 10:00	Outline of the programme		TFCA Network Coordinator	Steve Collins / Michael Maolodi
10:00 – 10:30	TFCAS - A Community Perspective	The Chobe Enclave community leader's experience of coexistence in the context of KAZA TFCA	Chairperson Chobe Enclave Development Trust	Poniso Shamukuni
10:30 – 11:00	TEA			
11:00 – 11:40	The Angolan Highlands Water Tower	The importance of 21st century river baselines	National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project	John Hilton and Rainer von Brandis
11:40 – 11:50	The SADC TFCA Programme	Regional Developments and updates. Feedback on outcomes of last meeting.	SADC Secretariat	Ndapanda Kanime, SPO NR&W and Wildlife
11:50 – 12:15	The SADC Tourism Programme	Tourism in TFCAs and Boundless Southern Africa	SADC Secretariat	Marygoreth Mushi, PO Policy and Market Development Nick Tucker





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12:15 - 12:50	Regional ICP Programmes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU NaturAfrica 2. Joint Action NaturAfrica / C-NRM 3. USAID CWC Programme 4. KfW 	Facilitator – Nothando Moyo, Zimbabwe TFCA Focal point	EU – Filipa Corte Real GIZ – Lisa Blanken USAID – Thapelo Motebo KfW – Nils Meyer (online)
12:50 - 13:00	The SADC TFCA Financing Facility	Feedback on past and upcoming call for proposals	IUCN	Kudakwashe Chigodo
13:00 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>			
14:00 – 14:40	Signing of the MOU between KAZA and ZAMCOM	SADC Secretariat KAZA ZAMCOM	SADC Secretariat	Dr Patrice Kabeya Dr Nyambe Nymabe Felix Ngamlagosi
14:40	GROUP PHOTO			
15:00	<i>TEA</i>			
15:30	Depart Chobe Enclave Field Trip	CBNRM, livelihoods and Human wildlife Co-existence	Government of Botswana / KAZA	
19:00	Return from field trip			





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Day 2 – Wednesday 20th November

Communities of Practice Kick off Workshops

	ROOM 1	Focus	Lead		ROOM 2	Focus	Lead
8:00 - 8:30	Arrival/Registration	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600190053?pwd=kmaTWbD8nCa0oa2hTabakORLzqGwY7.1			Arrival/ Registration	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82710476049?pwd=ktOdVAKOOMxON4qkSOYZGZWcOFI0k.1	
8:30 - 10:30	CBNRM and Resilient Rural Livelihoods (Goal 2)	Wildlife-Based Economy Community inclusion Livelihoods Diversification strategies	Kule Chitepo - Chemonics		Skills Development and Capacity Building (Goal 5)	Existing courses Professional Development Gaps not being addressed NGO capacity building TFCA Research	Karine Nuumbila - Maliasili
10:30	TEA				TEA		
11:00 - 13:00	Climate Change and the Water System (Goal 1)	RBO/TFCA interface Vulnerability DRR and FEWS Freshwater monitoring	Eddie Riddell - LIMCOM		TFCA Investment and Sustainable Financing (Goal 4)	Resourcing TFCA Coordination Community Project funding Carbon and reforestation /Bonds / Debt for Nature swaps	Candice Stevens - Sustainable Finance Coalition
13:00	LUNCH				LUNCH		
14:00 – 16:00	Human-Wildlife Coexistence (Goal 2.4)	IUCN Landscape Initiative Planning non-conflictual animal translocations	Leo Niskanen - IUCN		Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (Goal 5.3)	Assessing the impact of TFCAs Common indicators SADC TFCA Assessment Tool PAT Tool	Lisa Blanken - GIZ

18:00 – 21:00 National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project Dinner and Movie Night





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Day 3 – Thursday 21st November

Time		Items	Lead/Facilitator	Comments
8:00 - 8:30	Arrival and Registration	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600190053?pwd=km aTWbD8nCa0oa2hTabak0RLzqGwY7.1		
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome back to plenary		SADC Secretariat	
8:45 - 9:30	SADC TFCA - Panel 1	TFCA Integrated Development Plans – planning sustainable rural development and mixed land use recognising transboundary natural resource management – challenges and opportunities	Facilitator – Michael Moalodi – TFCA Focal Point Botswana	TFCA Focal Points (Eswatini, South Africa, Tanzania) Nils Meyer, KfW
9:30 - 10:15	TFCA Panel 2	Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas – What exists? What is possible? How do we create them?	Aruna Seepersadh – South Africa TFCA focal point	TFCA Focal Points (Seychelles, Mauritius, Mozambique)
10:15 - 10:45	TEA			
10:45 - 11:30	TFCA Panel 3	Transboundary Biodiversity Monitoring. Examples of TFCA work done. Lessons learnt.	Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, KAZA Secretariat	TFCA Focal Points (Angola, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
11:30 - 12:00	Establishment of Communities of Practice / Specialist groups	Outcome of the 6 meetings held on day 2	Steve Collins Rapporteurs	
12:00 - 12:30	The SADC TFCA 25 th Anniversary Conference and Summit 2025	Preparations and plans	SADC Secretariat Government of Zimbabwe	
12:30 - 12:45	TFCA Network Communications	Public Website/ TFCA Portal / Whatsapp group	TFCA Network coordinator	Steve Collins





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12:45 - 13:00	Closure		SADC Chair - Zimbabwe	Nothando Moyo TFCA Focal Point
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH			

15:30 -18:30 Networking Boat Cruise to Chobe National Park

Sponsored by the FAO led Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme

