


LUBOMBO

Transfrontier Conservation and Resource Area



LUBOMBO TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA (LTFCA) AND
LUBOMBO SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (LSDI)

TRILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING
Minutes of Meeting

Date: 28th June, 2008
Venue: Indigo Bay, Bazaruto National Park, Mozambique
Time: 10:00 – 13:00
Chairperson: Honorable Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk (at the request of
Hon. Minister Fernando Sumbana)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mozambican Delegation:

Minister: Fernando Sumbana
Minister: Alcinda Abreau
Fernando Matsinhe
Telmina Pereira
Alcinda Abreu
Bartolomeu Soto
Noemia Matholo
Jorge Chicue
Ana Comoane
Tome Maluana
Matteus Jackson

South African Delegation:

Minister: Marthinus van Schalkwyk (Chairperson)
Mr. Fundisile Mketeni
Mr. Ernest Mokgane
Mr. A. Zaloumis
Mr. Werner Myburgh

Swaziland Delegation:

HRH Prince Tshekedi Dlamini
Wisdom Mdumiseni Dlamini

International Co-ordinator:

Wisdom Mdumiseni Dlamini

1 **OPENING AND WELCOME**

Minister Sumbana opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. He encouraged the delegates to enjoy what the island had to offer. He asked Minister van Schalkwyk to chair the meeting. Minister van Schalkwyk accepted. Minister van Schalkwyk thanked Mozambique for hosting the meeting. He echoed Minister Sumbana's words that the Bazaruto National park was a place of exceptional beauty.

2 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- 2.1 Minister van Schalkwyk asked for items to the agenda. Minister Sumbana asked if it was possible to have 10 – 15 minutes for the group that invested here at Indigo Bay in respect of their social responsibility efforts.
- 2.2 A request made to run the "Boundless Southern Africa" promotional DVD that was used at the Indaba launch.

3 **APOLOGIES**

- 3.1 The High Commissioner of Swaziland extended his apologies on behalf of Hon. Ministers Thandi Shongwe and Absalom Dlamini who were unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances and commitments.
- 3.2 Minister van Schalkwyk noted that his colleagues would be missed at the meeting and welcomed the apology.

4 **BOUNDLESS SOUTHERN AFRICA DVD**

- 4.1 Minister van Schalkwyk asked Minister Sumbana to comment because he was at the launch. Minister Sumbana commented that the launch comprised a very good and effective programme at which Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique, and Swaziland were represented at Ministerial levels. Minister van Schalkwyk could unfortunately not be there because of a commitment in New York related to his other duties relating to his portfolio. Minister Sumbana highlighted sensational singing of the cultural group which was later joined by the Ministers and the audience. Minister Sumbana thanked Minister van Schalkwyk because of the leadership that South Africa showed in arriving at the brand.
- 4.2 Min van Schalkwyk stated that he was awaiting proposals from his officials to take the process further.

5 **ADOPTION OF 5TH FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes were adopted with some spelling and grammatical adjustments.

6 **LSDI ISSUES**

Mr Zaloumis was asked to present the Lubombo SDI. He included in his presentation an overview of the original concept and vision of poverty alleviation through cooperative tourism development and natural resource management.

The importance of Lubombo Road is since completed on SA side has resulted in development (59% increase in tourism beds) and improvement in people's lives. He emphasised that the transport network and border post system is dramatically different; companies like Thompsons Tours are now packaging the Lubombo Route. Getaway and Go magazines have run features on these areas.

6.1 **Access Roads & Borders**

<p><i>6.1.1 Ponta do Oura Road</i></p> <p>Road upgrade to gravel underway +/-40km complete. 35km left (rate of 10 Km per year). At last meeting Ministers committed to jointly seek funding. It is important to take into account cross-border traffic in the feasibility.</p> <p><u>Floor opened for discussion:</u></p> <p>Minister van Schalkwyk asked Mozambique what options had been considered. Minister Sumbana said that this had been discussed and that they are doing everything possible in order to meet the schedule for the programme that has been undertaken. The request was that funds are sought together and the idea would be to package the road for inclusion in the October Investment conference.</p> <p>Mr Zaloumis was asked what advice or decisions are required from Ministers to be able to take this to the next level. Mr Zaloumis said that the viability needed to be assessed for the possibility of this becoming a toll road. The growth in Manguzi is an indicator of the potential growth. The other issue was whether the Ministers of Transport in both countries should not meet to discuss this issue and take it further. When the road was built there was a decision not to toll the SA side. The thinking was that if that section was complete it would facilitate the sourcing of funds for Mozambican section. Minister Sumbana said that they were open to all options and accepted the suggestion that the lead Ministers and the transport counterparts meet.</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Minister van Schalkwyk agreed to arrange the meeting for August before the Investors' conference. Minister Sumbana undertook to liaise with his colleague on the Mozambican side.</p>	<p>SA: 15000</p>
<p><i>6.1.2 Swazi/SA Access Roads: Cecil Mac Pass</i></p> <p>Progress: Pre-feasibility SA side complete. Relevant government departments met & looked at the way forward (refer to Cecil Mac Pass minutes). Task Team established, field visit undertaken. KZNDOT leading pre feasibility study process. Costs will be driven by the type of use (personal versus commercial).</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Need to look at this closely. Discussions with home affairs must also still be initiated. Also consider that SA may not be keen on opening more borders and such may not a high priority border since.</p>	<p>SA</p>
<p><i>6.1.3 Lavumisa/Golela – Lomahasha roads</i></p> <p>Progress: The road has been completed.</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Remove from the agenda since it is complete.</p>	
<p><i>6.1.4 Barbeton-Bulembu/Josefsdaal-Piggs Peak road (R40)</i></p> <p>Progress: Road construction underway SA. Swazi scheduled 2009/2010 pending availability of funds.</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Ministers noted the progress and urged the Swaziland government to ensure completion of their part.</p>	<p>SA</p>
<p><i>6.1.5 Bulembu/Ngwenya/Oshoek (N17) & Louisville to Saddleback</i></p> <p>Progress: Road is crucial for the Songimvelo-Malolotja TFCA. MTPA has had planning meetings with PDOR and discussions are underway.</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Ministers noted progress and encouraged continued discussions.</p>	<p>SA</p>
<p><i>6.1.6 Kosi Bay/ Ponta Port of Entry</i></p> <p>Progress: Design is complete. There was a draft EIA in 1998 and for some reason Public Works did not build. Have been in discussions with Minister Public Works and undertook if they reapply will prioritise.</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Ministers noted the progress and urged for continued efforts to implement the plan.</p>	<p>SA</p>
<p><i>6.1.7 Lavumisa-Golela Port of Entry</i></p> <p>Progress: Designed as two separate border posts with possibility for one stop border post. Swaziland upgrade is underway. SA tender was awarded and will start shortly.</p> <p>Ministerial decision: Ministers noted progress.</p>	<p>SA</p>

6.2.1 LFTCA Security Issues

Progress: Hijackings have been brought under control as evidenced by reduced number of incidents.

Ministerial decision: Ministers Sumbana and van Schalkwyk undertook to continue to cooperate to drive this process.

6.3 Lubombo Tourism Route

6.3.1 Lubombo Tourism Route

Progress: Phase 2 to be implemented. Observed increase in tourism. Seed funding has been obtained to kickstart marketing & product development process linking into the "Boundless Southern Africa" brand and process.

Ministerial decision: Ministers noted progress.

6.4 2010 (Investment Opportunities and Infrastructure Development)

6.4.1 **Ministers approved the list of investment opportunities with suggested additional areas to be packaged for consideration at the October Investment conference.**

6.4.2 High Commissioner had one addition for the Mhlumeni area (in Swaziland) which forms part of the Lubombo Conservancy-Goba TFCA. **Ministers agreed that officials should consider the details and include.**

6.5 LSDI Malaria Programme

6.5.1 LSDI Malaria

Progress: There is a report provided for Ministers. Prevalence has been reduced significantly. US\$18 million has been secured through the global fund. This is being used as a model for Zambezi and Trans-Limpopo TFCA.

Ministerial decision: Ministers noted progress and Swaziland applauded the progress that has been made.

6.6 Way Forward

Actions are summarised under the agenda items above.

7 LUBOMBO TFCA PROGRESS REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES

7.1 Ponta do Ouro-Kosi Bay (Moz/SA)

7.1.1 Key issue is the proclamation of the marine protected area. The process of proclamation is underway and it is anticipated that it will be completed by the end of the year – needed for WHS declaration.

7.1.2 WHS nomination process – a meeting was held in Maputo for inclusion of the area on the tentative list. iSimangaliso is assisting the Mozambique counterparts with the selection of consultants to work on this area.

7.1.3 Questions; Regarding availability of funding - Mr Zaloumis replied – funding in place for consulting work; more funding may be required for the actual listing application; UNESCO assists with US\$20k but more may be required. Min van Schalkwyk concerned that ministers meet again next year and don't want to delay the process. Have about R100k but process could cost up to R500k. Werner Myburgh stated the contribution of Peace Parks in the declaration of the marine protected areas itself as opposed to the WHS listing. Minister Sumbana reiterated the need to come up with a solution that will ensure implementation.

Understands that for first phase there was support from SA. Dr. Soto said that his department can make an application for up to US\$20k – if this does not cover it will supplement with internal funds from Mozambique TFCA unit. If donor funding will be required it will be referred back to the government of Mozambique.

7.2 **Usuthu-Tembe-Futhi (SA/Moz/Swaz)**

- 7.2.1 Key here is creation of link between Swaziland and SA. Objective is to drop fences by next year. Requires securing of FUTI corridor. Proposal for a 10000ha sanctuary on southern part of corridor (map shown). Minister's approval requested. Work is in process including joint aerial-counts.
- 7.2.2 Minister Sumbana – it has been discussed internally involves Ministers of Agriculture and Environment to find the most feasible solution.
- 7.2.3 Dr. Soto explained the type of fencing and options for fencing on western side. Decisions have to be taken internally based on resources and viability of game movement and the development of community game farms to enable this movement outside the Futi corridor. The sanctuary will assist with breeding and wildlife management.
- 7.2.4 Ministers approved concept.
- 7.2.5 On the Swaziland side, work with community for lodge facilities and conservation areas is ongoing and this is to be included in catalogue in November in Sandton. Ministers noted.

7.3 **Nsubane-Pongola (Swaz/SA)**

- 7.3.1 Key deliverable is the dropping of fences in November this year. The Jozini Big-Six development has accelerated the process. 7km of perimeter fencing completed. Donation of game from SA through EKZN-Wildlife is being considered. A proposal a ceremonial fence-dropping event was put forward since it has been a while since Lubombo TFCA last had a high profile event.
- 7.3.2 The thinking is to drop fences and get game to move without having to incur huge translocation costs. Expected that fence will be completed on Swaziland side in November. It would be good for the international fence to be dropped to bring some species across. Wisdom confirmed in first phase looking at common game. In third phase will look at the rare / high value ecological species. In the interim are looking at management plan for these high value species.
- 7.3.3 **Ministers approved** together with suggestion for event in November 2008 pending confirmation of dates after November 22 since Mozambique will be conducting municipal elections.

7.4 **Lubombo Conservancy-Goba (Swaz/Moz)**

- 7.4.1 Key Mlawula Makadzavane complex (Swaziland) – complex is complete but for the water supply which is being addressed. Requested that Ministers be present at official opening. Agreed.
- 7.4.2 Proposed Goba lodge (Mozambique): Has been lack of investment – propose this is packaged as part of conference – **Ministers agreed**.

7.5 Songimvelo-Malolotja (Swaz/SA) (map with link roads presented)

- 7.5.1 Key deliverable is link road between Ebutsini in SA and Malolotja (Swaziland). An application has been made to DEAT's social responsibility

programme through Mpumalanga Tourism Parks. Asking Ministers to note and approve. **Ministers agreed.**

- 7.5.2 Barberton - Bulembu / Josefsdal - Piggs Peak – aimed for 2009/2010 by Swaziland. Requesting Ministers to approve the link road proposal and would like to ask Swaziland to prioritise and accelerate the Bulembu-Piggs Peak road to coincide with the SA progress and be completed for 2010 World Cup. **Ministers agreed.**

8 **LODGE PRESENTATION**

- 8.1 A presentation was also made by Rani Resorts who run the Indigo Bay resort on their community outreach programme. This was followed by a questions and answers session.

9 **SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND WAY FORWARD**

Minister van Schalkwyk handed over to Minister Sumbana. Minister Sumbana thanked Min van Schalkwyk for chairing the meeting in a very efficient and effective manner.

10 **CHAIRMANSHIP HAND OVER TO SWAZILAND/CONFIRMATION OF INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR**

- 10.1 Min Sumbana officially handed over chairmanship to Swaziland. He reiterated the importance of cooperation and team work by all. It was his belief that all the ingredients are in place for continued success.
- 10.2 His Excellency Prince Tshekedi accepted the chairmanship on behalf of Swaziland with thanks and said Swaziland looked forward to a good and productive working relationship. He thanked Mozambique for their hard work over the last three years and looked forward to learning from Mozambique. He then requested the meeting to recognise and applaud Peace Parks Foundation's contribution to TFCAs.
- 10.3 The Hon High Commissioner introduced the new International Coordinator – Wisdom Dlamini who had given an excellent presentation and whose profile was included in the documentation. He emphasised the importance of tourism delivering benefits to African people.

11 **DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT TRILATERAL MINISTERIAL MEETING**

Officials suggested next meeting take place in November. Minister Sumbana requested that the date be set after 17 November after the Mozambican municipal elections.

12 **CLOSURE**
