



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS (TFCAs)

PROGRAMME OF WORK IN PROTECTED AREAS

22/03/ 2016

DEFINITIONS

Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA)

An area that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries where the **natural** and **cultural resources** are **collaboratively** managed by the Governments and/or Authorities involved. The area may include one or more protected areas as well as **multiple resource** use areas.

Transfrontier Park (TFP)

Is an area where two or more protected areas are adjoined and **collaboratively** managed across the international borders

The terms are used interchangeably with TFCAs being the common one

BACKGROUND

International boundaries were set without taking into consideration the ecosystem boundaries as a result they have had the effect of:

- Dissecting natural ecosystems into unsustainable components which are restrictive to the movement of wildlife and tourists; and
- Compromising the well-being and resilience of ecosystems due to incompatible management systems across the borders

TFCAs and TFPs are designed to bring the effect of restoring these ecosystems and their functions as well as enabling the free movement of wildlife and tourists.

LEGAL MANDATE

- The legal foundation for the establishment, development and management of TFCAs is the SADC Protocol on Wildlife and Law Enforcement Article 4, 2 (f): “to promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of TFCAs”.
- All international agreements establishing the TFCAs are based on this Protocol.
- Given the cross cutting nature of TFCAs, the agreements are also informed by other relevant SADC protocols and international instruments that promote international collaboration in the management of shared natural resources.
- In terms of the provisions of South African Constitution DEA has the mandate with the approval of the President to enter into international agreements to establish TFCAs
- The principal signatories to the international agreements on the TFCAs are the Political Heads of Government Departments and/or Ministries

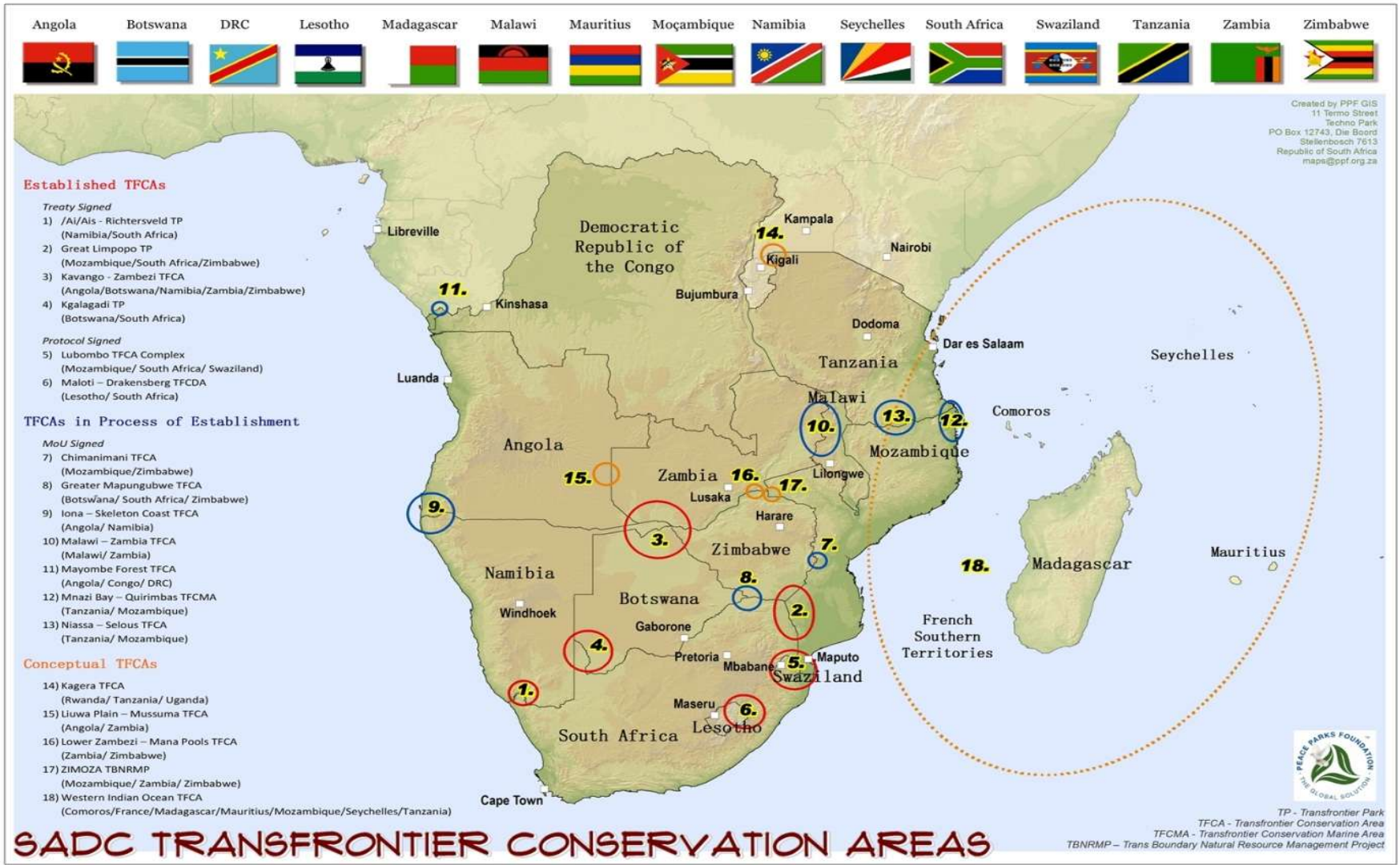


TFCAs IN SADC REGION

- Development of TFCAs started in 1999 with the establishment of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (Botswana and South Africa)
- Since then significant strides have been made across the region to establish additional TFCAs.
- Currently there are **18 TFCAs across SADC region** that are in different stages of development.
- **South Africa** is involved in **6 TFCAs**.
- TFCAs contribute to the Expansion of Conservation Estate through the extension of a network of well-managed conservation areas.
- TFCAs create an enabling environment for collaborative management of shared ecosystems using tools such as Integrated Development Plans and/or Joint Operation Strategies.
- TFCAs provide a platform for coordinating conservation across boundaries and for the development of cross-border tourism. Key and well known tourist destinations in the region are located in TFCAs.



TFCAs IN SADC REGION



Established TFCAs

Treaty Signed

- 1) /Ai/Ais - Richtersveld TP (Namibia/South Africa)
- 2) Great Limpopo TP (Mozambique/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
- 3) Kavango - Zambezi TFCA (Angola/Botswana/Namibia/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- 4) Kgalagadi TP (Botswana/South Africa)

Protocol Signed

- 5) Lubombo TFCA Complex (Mozambique/ South Africa/ Swaziland)
- 6) Maloti – Drakensberg TFCDA (Lesotho/ South Africa)

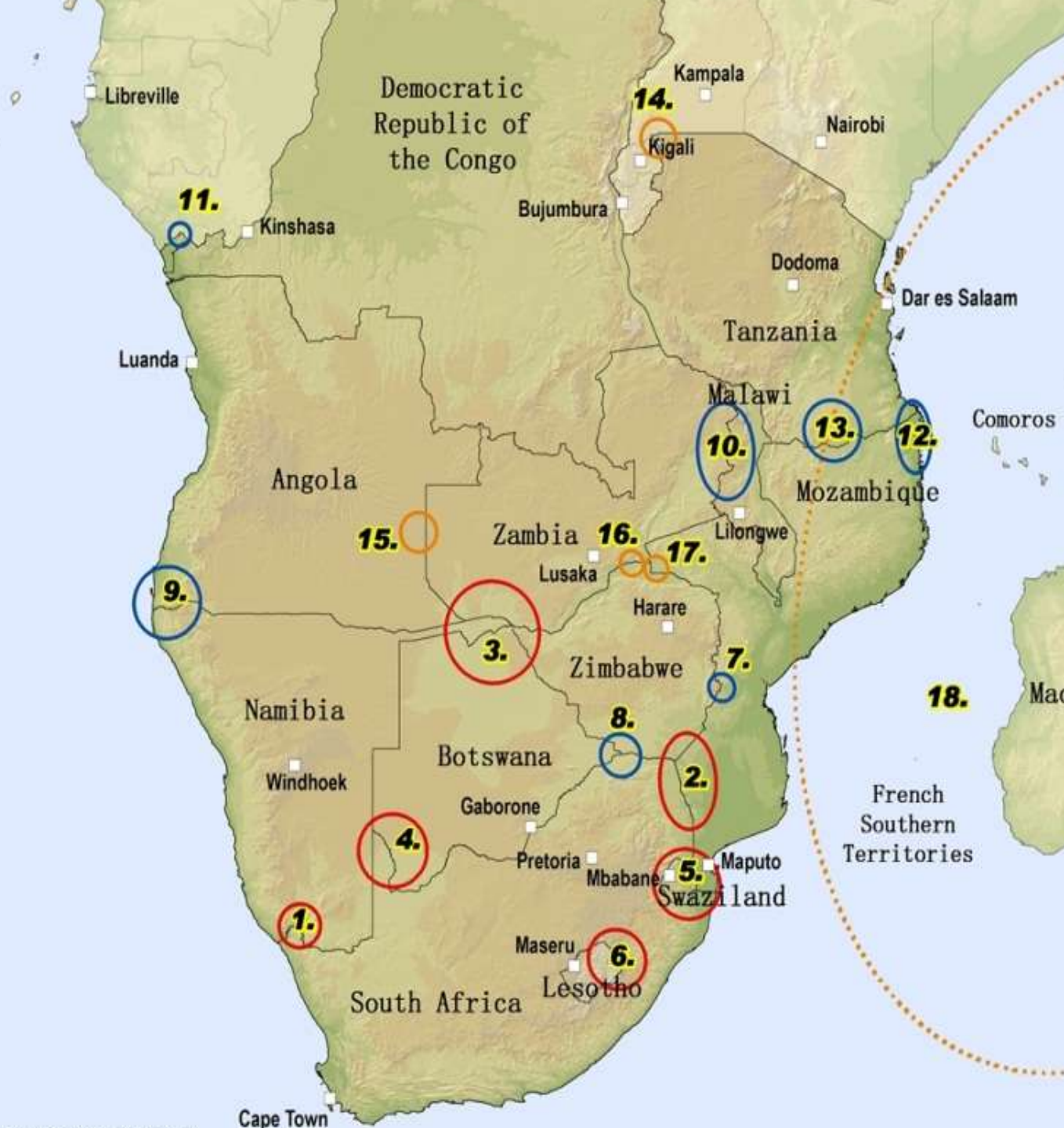
TFCAs in Process of Establishment

MoU Signed

- 7) Chimanimani TFCA (Mozambique/Zimbabwe)
- 8) Greater Mapungubwe TFCA (Botswana/ South Africa/ Zimbabwe)
- 9) Iona – Skeleton Coast TFCA (Angola/ Namibia)
- 10) Malawi – Zambia TFCA (Malawi/ Zambia)
- 11) Mayombe Forest TFCA (Angola/ Congo/ DRC)
- 12) Mnazi Bay – Quirimbas TFCMA (Tanzania/ Mozambique)
- 13) Niassa – Selous TFCA (Tanzania/ Mozambique)

Conceptual TFCAs

- 14) Kagera TFCA (Rwanda/ Tanzania/ Uganda)
- 15) Liuwa Plain – Mussuma TFCA (Angola/ Zambia)
- 16) Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools TFCA (Zambia/ Zimbabwe)
- 17) ZIMOZA TBNRMP (Mozambique/ Zambia/ Zimbabwe)
- 18) Western Indian Ocean TFCA



6 TFCAs INVOLVING RSA

TFCA	COUNTRIES	STATUS
Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP)	Botswana; South Africa	Agreement Signed 1999
Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP)	Mozambique; South Africa; Zimbabwe	MoU Signed 2000 - Ministers Treaty Signed 2002 – HOS
/Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP)	Namibia; South Africa	MoU Signed 2000 - Ministers Treaty Signed 2003 - HOS
Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area (MDTP)	Lesotho; South Africa	MoU Signed 2001 and updated in 2008 - Ministers
Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (L TFCA)	Mozambique; Swaziland; South Africa	Protocol Signed 2002 - Ministers
Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GM TFCA)	Botswana; South Africa; Zimbabwe	MoU Signed 2006 - Ministers Draft Treaty awaiting signing – To be signed by HOS

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

- Ministerial Committee – overall policy guidance and monitoring of TFCA
- Bilateral Technical Committees/ Joint Management Board – developing action plans for TFCA management and translating the directives of the ministerial committees into operational guidelines and policies
- Technical Committees – Established on request to make full use of existing national and regional know-how to address thematic issues e.g. tourism, security, wildlife/livestock diseases, community development etc.
- TFCA Project Coordinator - To promote the efficiency, coordination and accountability in TFCA planning and development process
- Coordinating Party – A country which is on a rotational basis of two years that is held accountable for routine initiation of meetings and achieving overall co-ordination of activities relating to management of activities in TFCAs
- Implementing Agencies: Entities responsible for the management of the country's protected areas and play a leading role in implementing TFCA activities.



IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

- **South African National Parks (SANParks):** The conservation custodian of the state land on behalf of the people of South Africa. They serve as the implementing agency for most TFCA projects
- **Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife:** A Statutory body in KZN province responsible for conservation custodianship. Also serves as implementing agency for Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA and Lubombo TFCA on the South African side
- **Mpumalanga Parks Board:** A conservation body in Mpumalanga province responsible for conservation custodianship on behalf of the province. Also serves as the implementing agency for Songimvelo-Malolotja TFCA between South Africa and Swaziland which is part of the Lubombo TFCA
- **iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority:** for Lubombo TFCA

REGISTERED SUCCESS

- Development and implementation of joint management tools (Integrated Development Plans and/or Joint Operation Strategies)
- Establishment of joint governance structures and effective participation of relevant authorities. These are functional and meet on regular basis as per agreed to schedule
- Dropping of fences in strategic areas to improve free movement of wildlife in the ecosystem range (buffer areas) e.g. Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park
- Synchronization of wildlife management activities e.g. game counting, fire management; **Joint Enforcement Operations (MOU with Mozambique-equipment donations- PPF)(PROMOTING PEACE & STABILITY IN THE REGION)**
- Establishment of Community Conservation Areas and buffer zones
~~Development of critical infrastructure in TFCAs including roads, tourist access facilities:
- Packaging and promotion of investment opportunities in TFCAs: Developed a pipeline of 51 bankable tourism accommodation investment projects in TFCAs and embarked on investment promotion efforts using different avenues. So far 11 projects (valued at ZAR 265 mil) have secured investors
- Facilitation of cross-border tourism through packaging and promotion of products and/or events that offer unique and authentic cross-border experiences in TFCAs e.g. Tour de Tuli and Desert Knights.



CHALLENGES

- Conflicting laws and policies that have a bearing on the implementation of TFCAs across political jurisdiction
- Poor Infrastructure making it difficult to access and move around TFCAs impacting negatively on law enforcement and tourism development
- Disparities in skills, capacities and capabilities of partner countries affecting smooth implementation of plans
- TFCAs are cross-cutting in nature making it difficult to meet interests and/or expectations of various stakeholders e.g. conservation, tourism, immigration, police, customs, veterinary, communities etc.



CONCLUSION

- TFCAs play a critical role in the conservation and management of trans-boundary ecosystems
- TFCAs contribute to the Expansion of Conservation Estate through the extension of a network of well-managed conservation areas.(BEST TOOL TO TAKE TARGET 11&12 FORWARD)
- TFCAs serve as nodes for rural development: They are located in rural areas with limited employment opportunities. Tourism development, investment and rehabilitation of ecosystems in TFCAs create employment thereby contributing to poverty reduction in these areas
- TFCAs offer unique cross-border experiences and are therefore an ideal platform for promoting tourism growth in the region
- TFCAs are key drivers for regional integration and sustainable development
- TFCAs are key DEA contributions to foreign policy and regional integration





THANK YOU!