



GREAT LIMPOPO TRANSFRONTIER PARK & CONSERVATION AREA - Cooperative Agreement

26 November 2021



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Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTRODUCTION: TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS

- 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
- Benefits of TFCAs:
 - **Restoration of ecosystems and enabling the free movement of wildlife and tourists.**
 - **Development and implementation of joint management tools** (Joint Operation Strategies)
 - Establishment of **joint governance structures enabling participation of relevant authorities.** These are functional and meet on regular basis as per agreed schedules
 - **Synchronization of wildlife management activities and approaches** e.g. game counting, fire management, translocation
 - **Development of critical infrastructure** in TFCAs including roads, tourist access facilities:



REGIONAL CONTEXT Southern African Development Community (SADC)

SADC Treaty

- SADC Treaty aims to promote regional integration of the SADC Region and
- Recognises the value of Member States co-operating in the areas of natural resources and environment.

The SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement,

- Defines a "Transfrontier Conservation Area" as the area or the component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries, and encompassing one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resources use areas.
- The Protocol also includes the principle of cooperation amongst Member States to manage shared wildlife resources as well as any transfrontier effects of activities within their jurisdiction or control.
- Therefore, the Protocol makes provision for the promotion of the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).

OBJECTIVES OF TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS



ECOLOGICAL

- Re-establish key ecological functions previously disrupted by limitations of opposing land uses and management principles across the borders
- Re-establish seasonal migration routes for wildlife
- Harmonize environmental management procedures across international boundaries
- Expansion of conservation estate



SOCIO-ECONOMIC

- Promote growth of the tourism sector specifically cross-border tourism
- Create employment in geographically remote areas with limited employment opportunities thereby serving as nodes for rural development (tourism related SMMEs)
- Promote cultural linkages between countries in the region. People are often linked across borders by kinship, language and culture



GOVERNANCE

- Deepening regional integration and cooperation
- Promote peace and harmony
- Enhance Law Enforcement



6 TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICA & THEIR LEGAL STATUS

TFCA	COUNTRIES	STATUS
Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP)	Botswana; South Africa	Bilateral Agreement Signed 1999. No need for Treaty
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. No need for Treaty
Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GM TFCA)	Botswana; South Africa; Zimbabwe	MoU Signed 2006 - Ministers Draft Treaty to be signed by HOS



South Africa's TFCAs

/Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park
Namibia-South Africa

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
Botswana-South Africa

Greater Mapungubwe TFCa
Botswana-South Africa-Zimbabwe

Great Limpopo TFCa
Mozambique-South Africa-Zimbabwe

Lubombo TFCa
Eswatini-Mozambique-South Africa

Maloti Drakensberg TFCa
Lesotho-South Africa

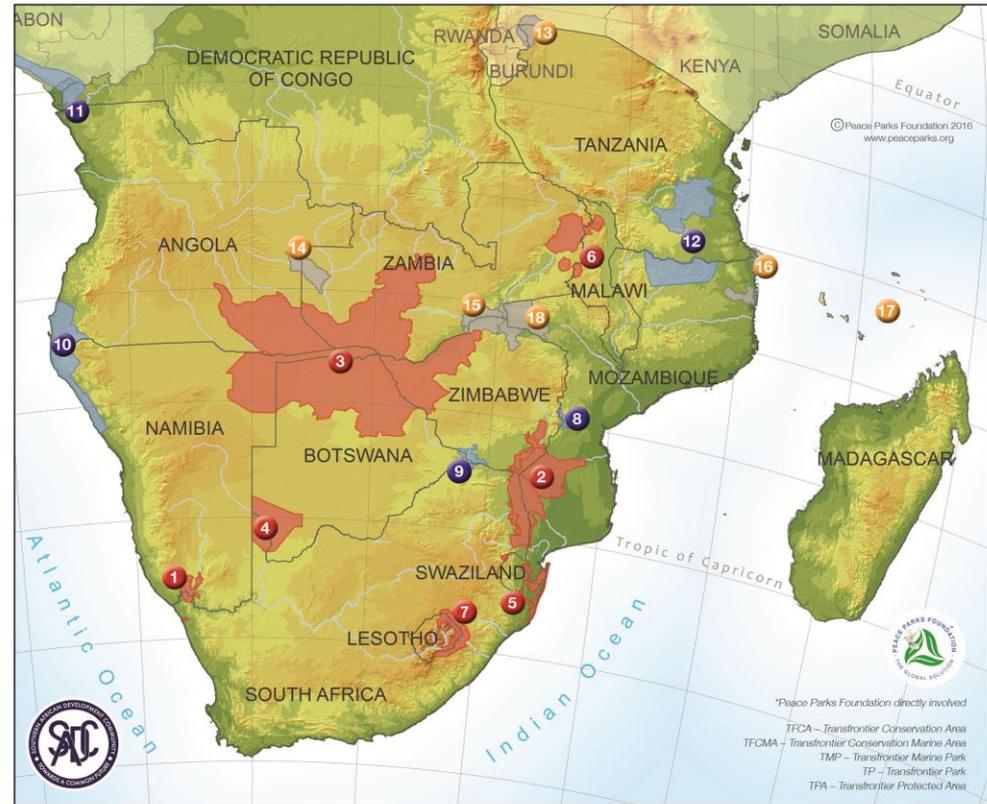


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SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas



Established TFCAs

Treaty Signed

1. **/Ai/Ais - Richtersveld TP***
(Namibia/South Africa)
2. **Great Limpopo TP and TFCa***
(Mozambique/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
3. **Kavango Zambezi TFCa***
(Angola/Botswana/Namibia/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
4. **Kgalagadi TP***
(Botswana/South Africa)
5. **Lubombo TFCa***
(Mozambique/South Africa/Swaziland)
6. **Malawi-Zambia TFCa***
(Malawi-Zambia)
7. **Maloti-Drakensberg TFCa***
(Lesotho/South Africa)

Emerging TFCAs

MOU signed

8. **Chimanimani TFCa**
(Mozambique/Zimbabwe)
9. **Greater Mapungubwe TFCa***
(Botswana/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
10. **Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCa**
(Angola/Namibia)
11. **Mayombe Forest TPA**
(Angola/Congo/DRC/Gabon)
12. **Niassa-Selous TFCa**
(Mozambique/Tanzania)

Conceptual TFCAs

13. **Kagera TFCa**
(Rwanda/Tanzania/Uganda)
14. **Liuvu Plains-Mussumu TFCa***
(Angola/Zambia)
15. **Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCa***
(Zambia/Zimbabwe)
16. **Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCMA**
(Mozambique/Tanzania)
17. **Western Indian Ocean TMP**
(Comoros/Kenya/Madagascar/France/Mozambique/Mauritius/Mozambique/Seychelles/Somalia/South Africa/Tanzania)
18. **ZIMOZA TFCa**
(Mozambique/Zambia/Zimbabwe)

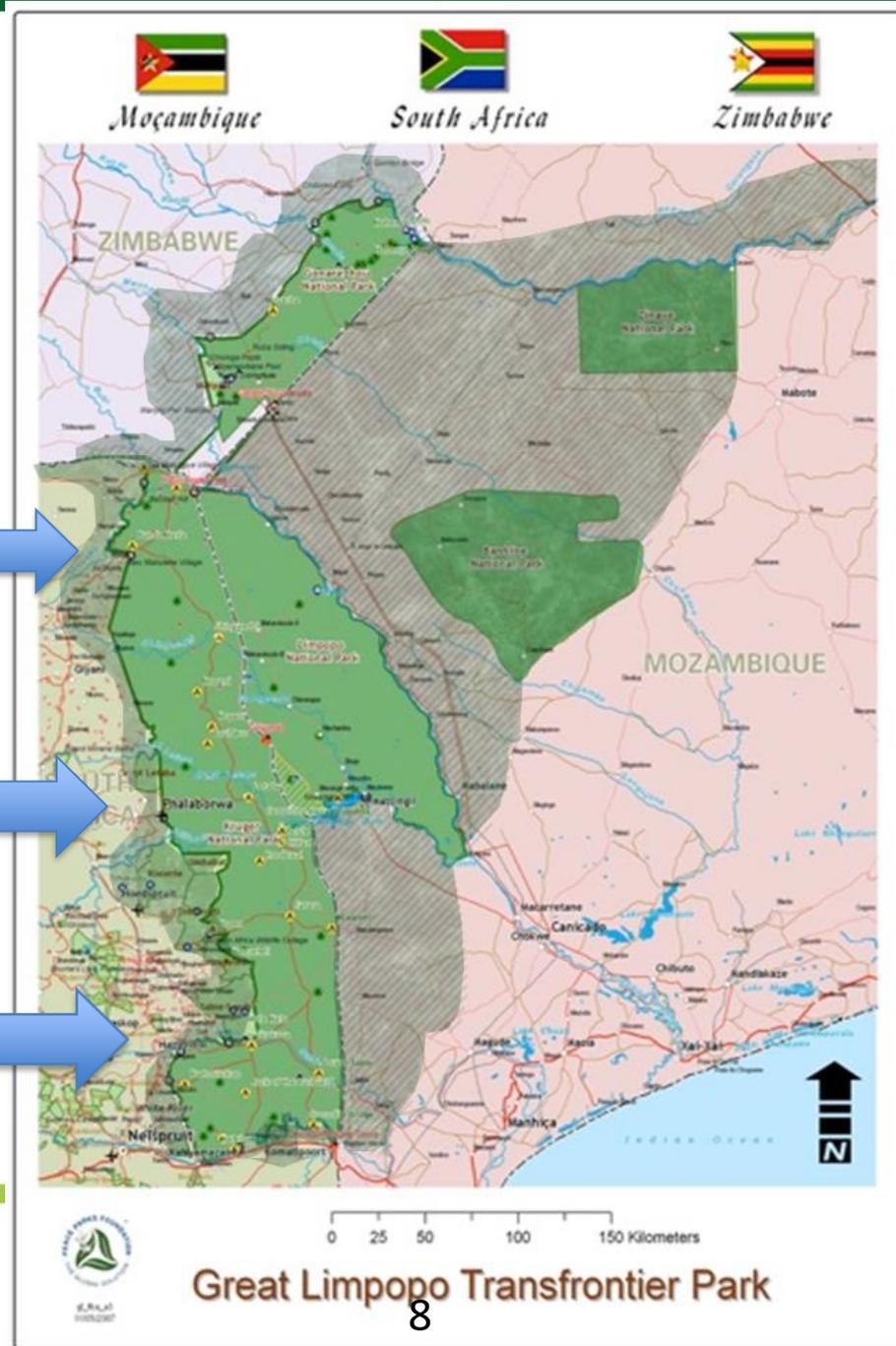
GLTP & GLTFCA

“The area adjacent to the Transfrontier Park, comprising compatible conservation areas but not lending itself to formal integration with the Transfrontier Park, shall be managed as a Transfrontier Conservation Area”

Areas forming part of the TFCA shall include the various privately-owned, state-owned and community-owned conservation areas directly bordering the Transfrontier Park

GLTFCA encompasses different forms of land tenure including state, private and communally-owned land

- *Environmental integration*
- *Social integration*
- *Economic integration*
- *Safety and security concerns addressed*
- *Research and knowledge sharing*



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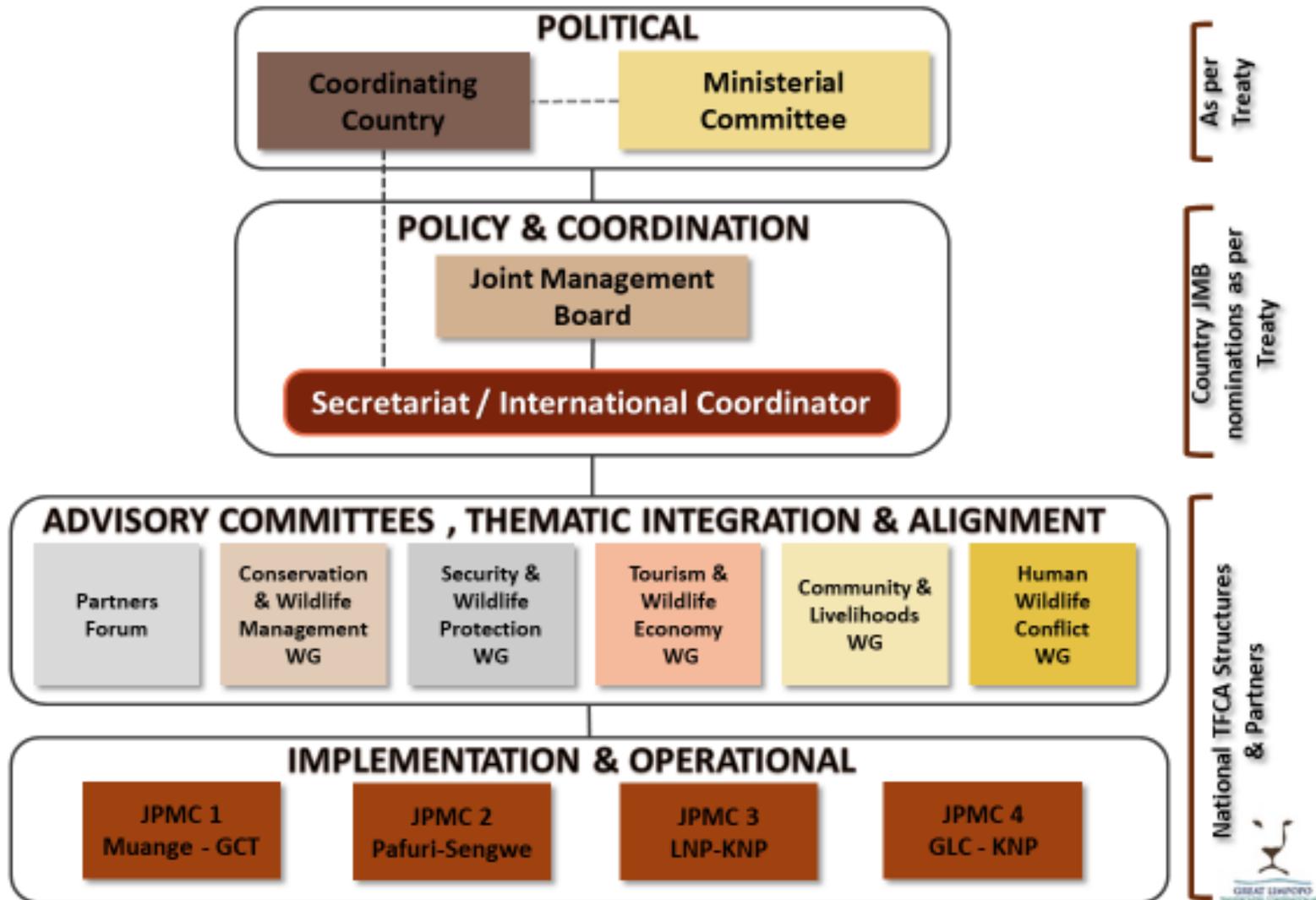
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Treaty Objectives

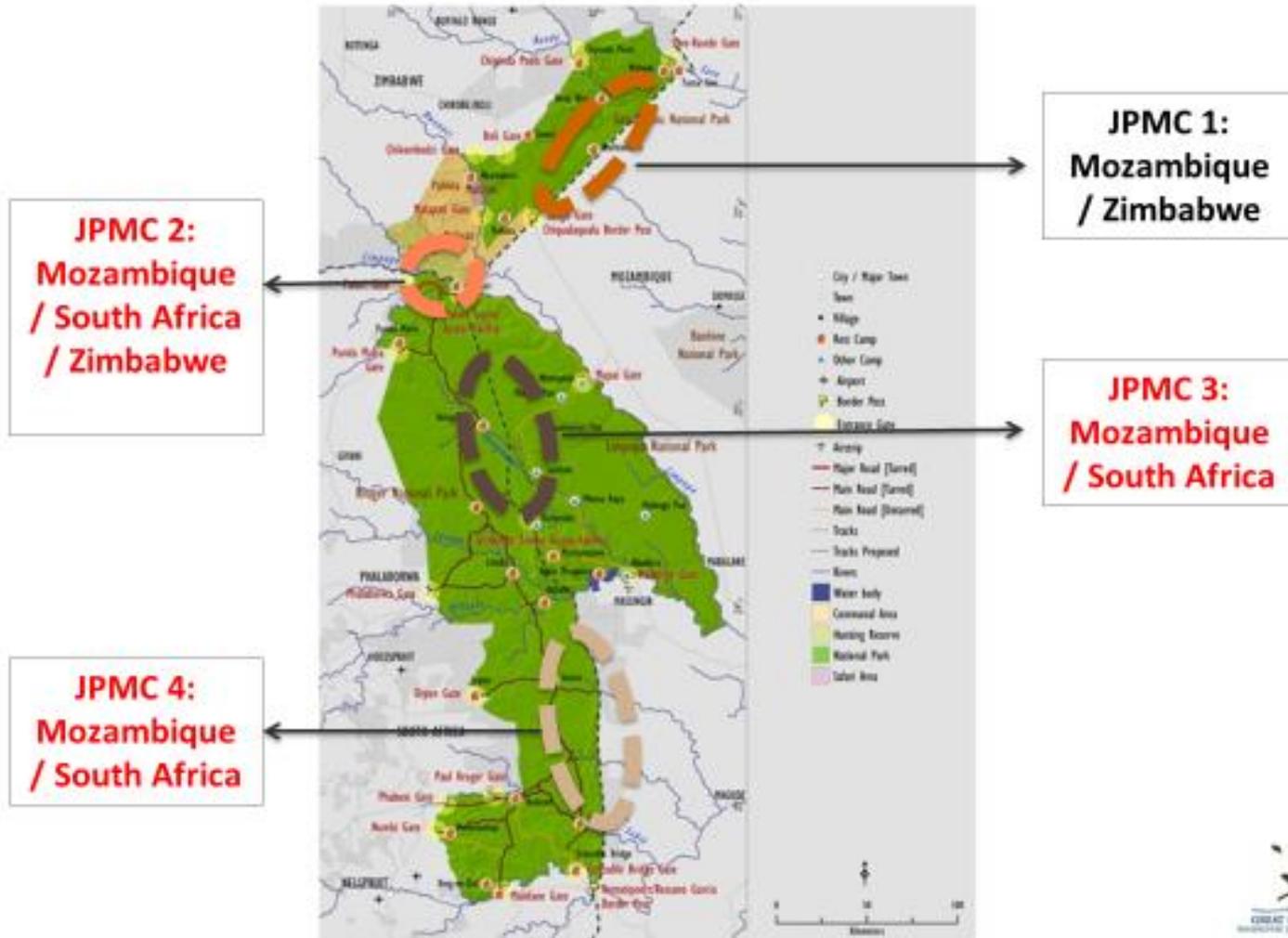
- Foster **trans-national collaboration and co-operation** among the Parties which will **facilitate effective ecosystem management** in the area comprising the Transfrontier Park
- **Promote alliances in the management of biological natural resources by encouraging social, economic and other partnerships** among the Parties, including the **private sector, local communities and non-governmental organisations**
- **Enhance ecosystem integrity and natural ecological processes by harmonising environmental management procedures** across international boundaries and **striving to remove artificial barriers impeding the natural movement of wildlife**
- Facilitate the **establishment and maintenance of a sustainable sub-regional economic base** through **appropriate development frameworks, strategies and work plans**
- Develop **trans-border eco-tourism** as a means of fostering regional socio-economic development
- Establish **mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of technical, scientific and legal information** for the joint management of the ecosystem



Institutional Arrangements - GLTFCA



Institutional Arrangements - GLTFCA

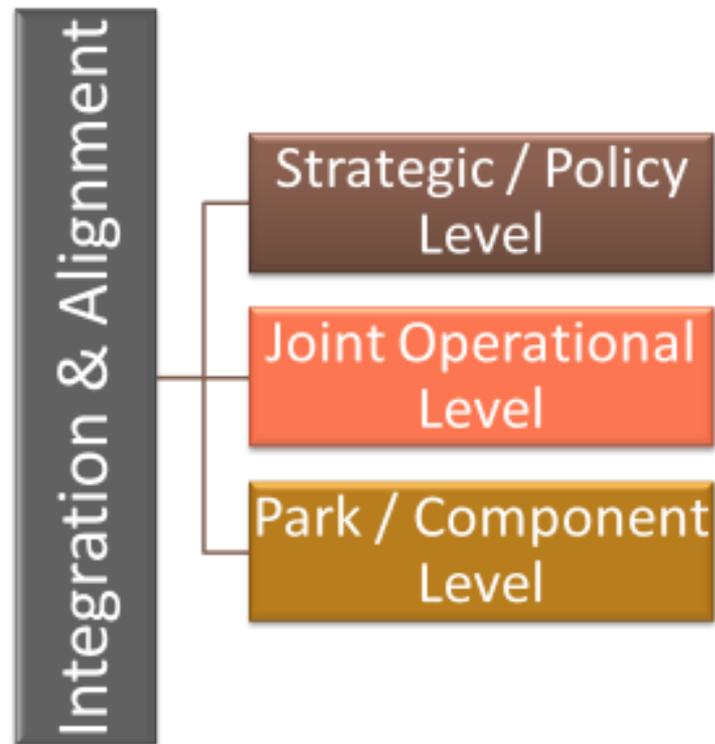


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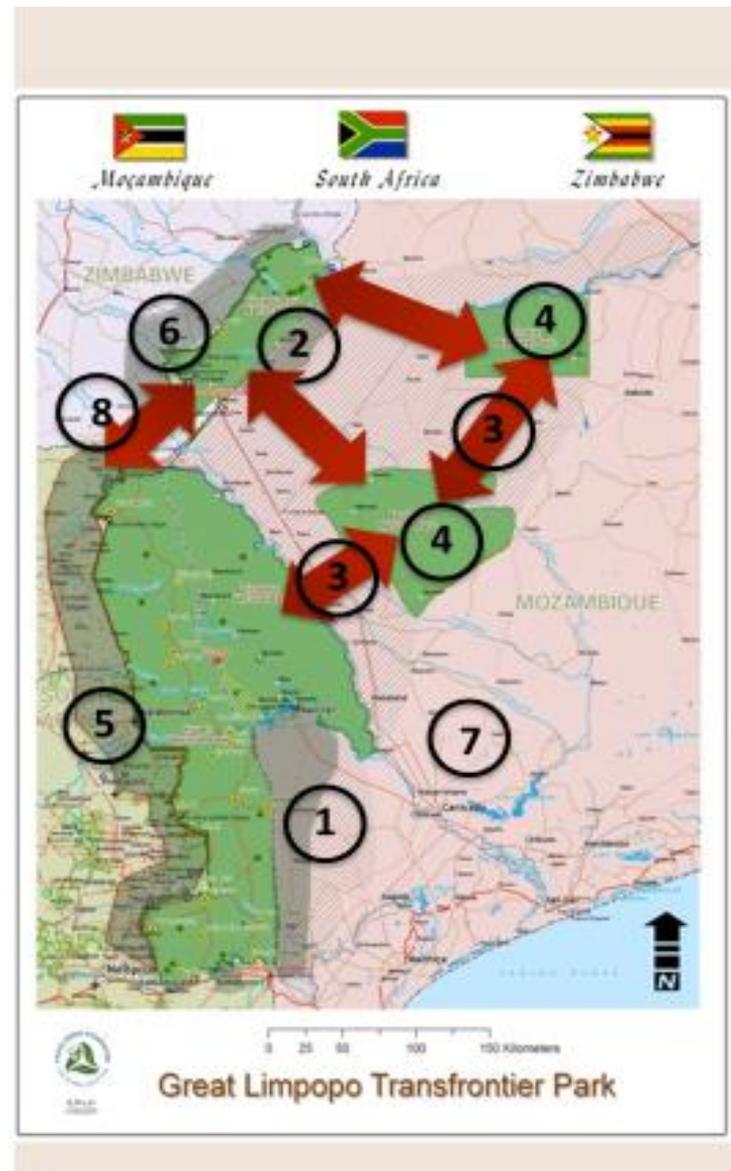


Alignment & Integration – Strategic (High Level) and Operational (Lower Level)



Key focus areas:

1. Formalisation of Greater Libombos Conservancy (GLC) – Moz process to include private and communal areas formally
2. Formalisation of Muange Private Reserve - Moz
3. Corridors between LNP, Banhine NP & Zinave NP - Moz
4. Restoration of Banhine & Zinave NPs - Moz
5. **Greater KNP Strategic development framework integrated area - RSA**
6. GNP Conservancies & CAMPFIRE Areas - Zim
7. Gaza Province Land Use Management Plan - Moz
8. Sengwe-Tshipise Feasibility Study - Zim



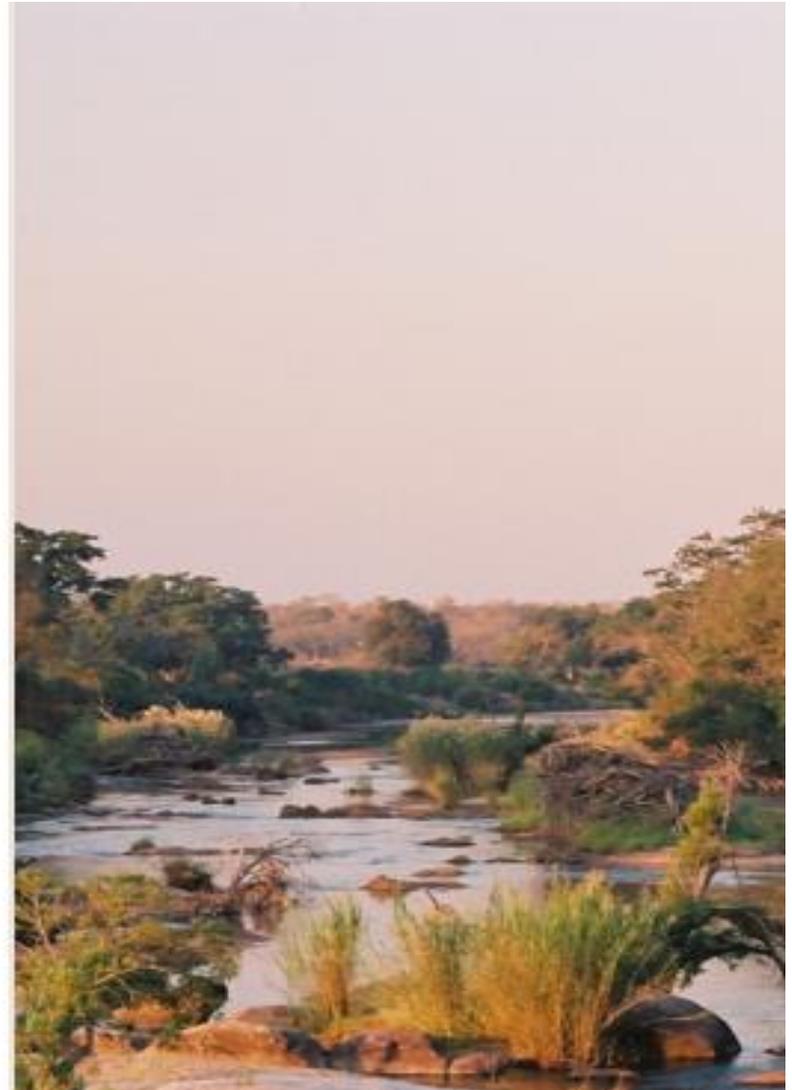
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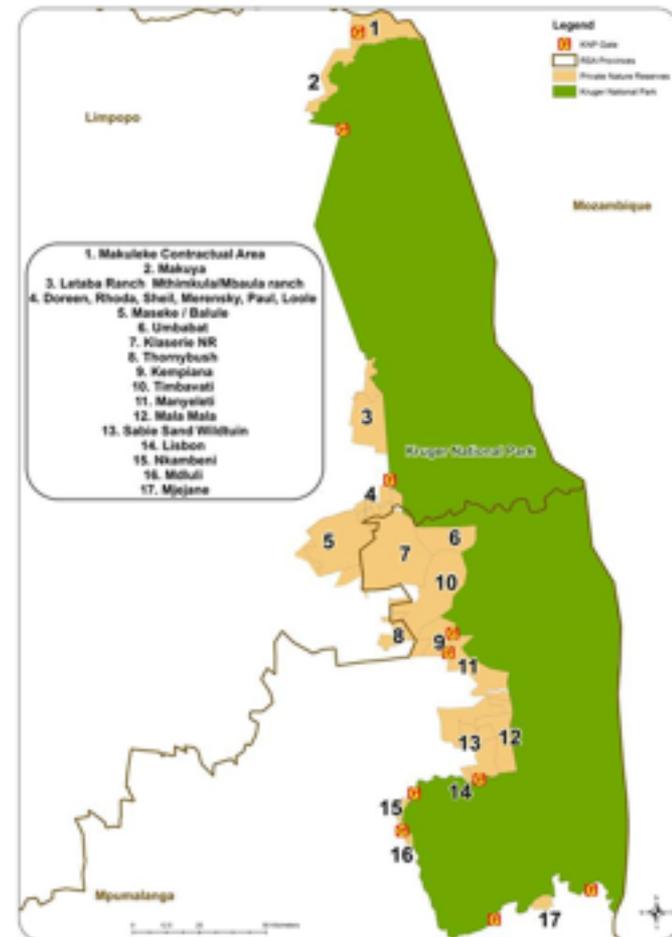
GLTFCA Institutional Reform

- The GLTFCA reform process was operationalised in the past three years on the western boundary of the Kruger National Park (KNP) by SANParks as the lead implementing agency of the GLTFCA for formal inclusion as GLTFCA areas.
- The Greater Kruger consists of a number of reserves located in and around the KNP, including provincial reserves managed by the Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), as well as a number of privately and community-owned Protected and Conservation areas, all broadly falling within the South African component of the GLTFCA.



GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement

- In the early nineties and early 2000, fences were dropped between the KNP and adjacent private, state and community ¹protected areas and ²conservation areas in support of improved ecological services that straddle these areas (including integrated management of catchment services and migration of wildlife along historical migration corridors), to promote compatible land use development and to advance the expansion of the conservation estate, including the associated socio-economic outcomes.
- There were no formal agreements signed with all the private, community and state protected and conservation areas with which fences were dropped, and this retrospective situation is being corrected through the Cooperative Agreement, signed in 2018.



NEMPAA (Act 57 of 2003) requirements

- The GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement doesn't supersede NEMPAA, but indicates that reserves be regularised according to the Act:
- It requires:
 - ✓ Assignment of Management authority (Section 38)
 - ✓ Land to be declared (Section 9, Section 20, 23, 28)
 - ✓ Concurrency and resolutions if land under Traditional authority leadership (DALRRD)
 - ✓ Management plans (Section 39) and Elephant Management Plans to be developed (NEMBA) – management in accordance to the reasons that it was declared



The GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement therefore requires compliance with the following NEMPAA legislation

- Norms and Standards for the Management of Protected Areas in South Africa - GG No. 39878, GN No. 382, dated 31 March 2016
- Norms and Standards for the Inclusion of Private Nature Reserves in the Register of Protected Areas of South Africa - GG No. 41224, GN No. 1157, dated 3 November 2017
- Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves - GG No. 35021, GN No. 99, dated 8 February 2012
- It also requires compliance with NEMBA



DFFE roles and responsibilities in Cooperative Agreement

- Policy and regularisation oversight with PA legislation – rationalisation process and METT assessment
- TFCA representation in terms of the GLTFCA Institutional Reform process
- KNP Land acquisition oversight
- Safety and security aspects through Enforcement unit
- Biodiversity economy and People and Parks programme embedded into the framework



Re-imagining Conservation Areas and the Biodiversity Economy in support of the New Deal for People with Nature

The GLTFCA Co-operative Agreement supports the following long-term outcomes:

- Conservation management optimised, capacity and efficiency of protected areas management agencies improved
- Biodiversity and ecological processes secured and conservation area network expanded
- Sustainable and healthy communities with reduced unemployment, inequality, poverty and human-wildlife conflict
- Significant resources mobilised and optimally invested in conservation landscapes
- Evidence-based decision making strengthened through improved data and knowledge management
- Biodiversity Economy Nodes embedded into the District Delivery Model and operationalised
- Strengthened partnerships and enabled governance structures collaborating effectively
- Conservation compatible economic and land-use planning and management is mainstreamed



GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement Objectives

- Regularised conservation and protected areas in accordance to the legislative framework, NEMPAA 57 of 2003 and the subsequent Norms and Standards.
- Enable an integrated conservation management and development approach that establishes cooperative partnerships amongst the Parties.
- Cooperation in managing landscape-level ecological issues, unlocking sustainable benefits, growing resilient and responsible economic development, and promoting compatible land use practices
- The governance of the entities that constitute the GLTFCA, ensuring that there are appropriate institutional structures in place that enable effective protected area management, resourcing and oversight of the individual protected areas.
- A landscape-level approach to the management of key ecological issues that impact on individual protected areas and the entire open system, which would include issues such as water management, key species management, the ecological application of fire, bush encroachment and invasive alien plant control.



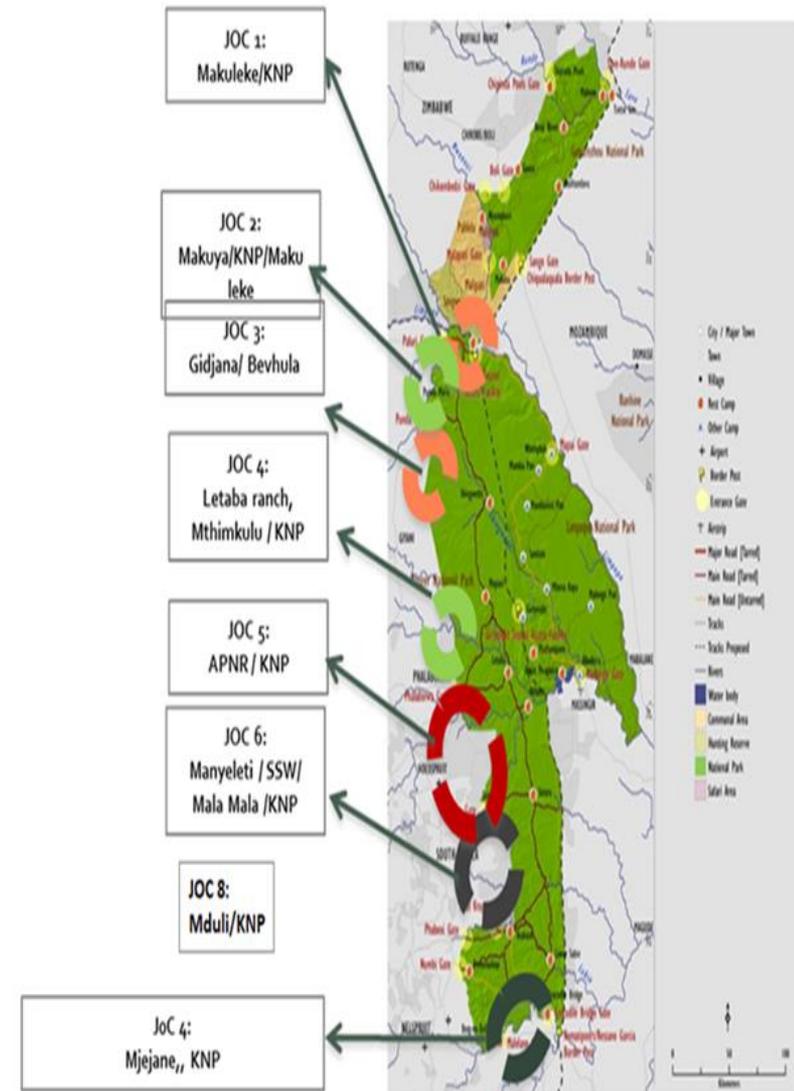
GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement Objectives continued

- The socio-economic benefits of the GLTFCA, which focus on the benefits to the regional and national economies, and socio-economic benefits to the communities within the GLTFCA related to issues such as poverty alleviation, job creation and the development of local capacity.
- Safety and security within the GLTFCA, with a strong focus on wildlife crime and the ability to cooperate and collaborate in addressing joint concerns related to safety and security.
- The inclusion of land into the open system of the GLTP, ensuring that such inclusions do not pose a risk to individual protected areas and the open system in general, and that the ecological and socio-economic benefits of such inclusions are clearly defined and understood.



Cooperative Agreement Institutional Arrangements

- The implementation of the Cooperative Agreement is overseen by the Executive Joint Management Committee (JMC), represented by all Signatories, including SANParks, MTPA and LEDET as the National and Provincial conservation authorities. DFFE is invited to attend.
- A detailed workplan was developed at the JMC level, and the Joint Operational Cluster Committee level (JOCs).
- Resources have been committed in the past three years to build capacity to strengthen governance, for improved conservation, socio-economic and safety and security outcomes, substantial capacity and effort is required to ensure effective risk management, and realisation of the GLTFCA Treaty goals.





GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

This strategy pertains to the whole GLTFCA area. This is a very large area that can be more effectively managed in smaller blocks or nodes. We have identified nine nodes which we believe will allow for more strategic management of the greater area.

These nodes are (not listed in any order of priority):

- Node One:** Crooks Corner node spanning from Mozambique’s Mapai area in the east to South Africa’s Makuya Park / Madimbo Corridor in the west and Zimbabwe’s Malipati Safari area in the north
- Node Two:** Greater Massingir area, including villages in the PNL support zone and all resettlement villages and host communities as well as Massingir town, Mozambique;
- Node Three:** Communities living in and around the Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC), Mozambique;
- Node Four:** The Mpumalanga/ N4 node including community areas to the south of the Kruger National Park from Hazyview to Komatipoort, including all those bounded by the R538 to the west and the N4 to the south, South Africa;
- Node Five:** The footprint included in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve including Phalaborwa and Hoedspruit towns as well as Giyani town, South Africa;
- Node Six:** The footprint included in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, South Africa;
- Node Seven:** The Naivasha node from Chilonga to Boli and Chikombedzi, Zimbabwe;
- Node Eight:** The Save/ Mahenye node, including the corridor between Save, Malilangwe and northern GNP, the Jamanda Community Conservancy in the Mahenye Communal Area and Chiredzi town, Zimbabwe; and
- Node Nine:** The GNP/ Zinave/ Banhine corridor linking Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

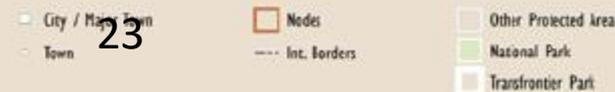
There remains a need to prioritise areas within each node. This will be done by the respective local stakeholders responsible for implementation of the strategy in that node.



Map 1: GLTFCA’s Nine nodes in their Livelihood



ALL NODES



Covid

The impacts of COVID-19 have further exacerbated the situation through the loss of tourism economies and enterprises, jobs, and basic livelihood services that cannot be maintained efficiently, posing further pressure on the Greater Kruger Protected area network. However, funding opportunities through the SADC TFCA Financing Facility have come forth this year with calls for proposals.



Summary Report (Details to be presented by SANParks)

- *A range of new community land inclusion areas at different levels of discussion – Hlomela, Ndindane, Mahlathi, Dixie with current community conservation areas like Awelani being supported.*
- *The broader landscape based Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme (2021) approval by MINMEC, Mpumalanga Cabinet, with a pipeline process with Limpopo Province*
- *Development of the Greater Kruger Socio-economic impact assessment (GKSEI, 2018-19), being reviewed.*
- *Some challenges include but are not limited to: Challenges in terms of consistent cooperative governance and policy processes between multiple Provincial, National Organs of state in the Greater Kruger Open system and the Complexity of governance arrangements within several of the Signatory reserves*
- *Some focus areas going forward include but are not limited to: Strengthen Multi-lateral engagements with the Provincial and National Conservation authorities to unlock barriers and to pursue the consistent application of policies and procedures within the NEMPAA (Act 57 of 2002) Legal framework. Support meaningful community engagement for land inclusion as per Greater Kruger land inclusion guideline, and responsible benefit-sharing opportunities*



Acronyms

GLTP	Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park
GLTFCA	Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
WG	Working Group
JPMC	Joint Park Management Committee
GCT	Gonarezhou Conservation Trust
LNP	Limpopo National Park
KNP	Kruger National Park
GLC	Greater Lubombos Conservancy
JMB	Joint Management Board
LEDET	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
NEMPAA	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (2003)
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
NEMBA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (2004)
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
JMC	Joint Management Committee (Cooperative Agreement)
JOC	Joint Operational Cluster (Cooperative Agreement)
GKSDP	Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme
GKSEI	Greater Kruger Socio-Economic Impact Assessment



THANK YOU!

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Thank You



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