



# TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS PROGRAMME

**Portfolio Committee**  
**4 March 2022**



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& the environment

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 (1992)

- 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 (1999)

- 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 resource use areas.
- The Protocol also includes the principle of cooperation amongst Member States to manage shared wildlife resources as well as any trans frontier 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).



## REGIONAL CONTEXT continued...

- **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources of the African Union (AU), also known as the Maputo Convention (1968) revised and adopted in March 2017,**
  - **provides a legal framework for the establishment of mechanisms for transboundary management of natural resources such as Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in Africa**
  - **It states that whenever a natural resource or an ecosystem is transboundary, the Parties concerned shall undertake to cooperate in the conservation, development and management of such resource or ecosystem and**
  - **that if the need arises, set up interstate commissions for their conservation and sustainable use.**



# LEGAL MANDATE

- The foundation for the establishment, development and management of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) is the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Wildlife and Law Enforcement Article 4, 2 (f): “to promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs)”.
- In terms of the provisions of South African Constitution, the DFFE and has the mandate with the approval of the President to enter into international agreements to establish 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







# SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas

## South Africa's TFCAs

**/Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park**  
**Namibia-South Africa (2003)**

**Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park**  
**Botswana-South Africa (1999, revised 2010)**

**Greater Mapungubwe TFCA**  
**Botswana-South Africa-Zimbabwe (2006)**

**Great Limpopo TFCA**  
**Mozambique-South Africa-Zimbabwe (2001)**

**Lubombo TFCA**  
**eSwatini-Mozambique-South Africa (2002)**

**Maloti Drakensberg TFCA**  
**Lesotho-South Africa (2001, revised 2008)**



### Established TFCAs

- Treaty Signed*
- /Ai/Ais - Richtersveld TP\***  
(Namibia/South Africa)
  - Great Limpopo TP and TFCA\***  
(Mozambique/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
  - Kavango Zambezi TFCA\***  
(Angola/Botswana/Namibia/Zambia/Zimbabwe)
  - Kgalagadi TP\***  
(Botswana/South Africa)
  - Lubombo TFCA\***  
(Mozambique/South Africa/Swaziland)
  - Malawi-Zambia TFCA\***  
(Malawi-Zambia)
  - Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA\***  
(Lesotho/South Africa)

### Emerging TFCAs

- MOU signed*
- Chimananimani TFCA**  
(Mozambique/Zimbabwe)
  - Greater Mapungubwe TFCA\***  
(Botswana/South Africa/Zimbabwe)
  - Iona-Skeleton Coast TFCA**  
(Angola/Namibia)
  - Mayombe Forest TPA**  
(Angola/Congo/DRC/Gabon)
  - Niasa-Selous TFCA**  
(Mozambique/Tanzania)

### Conceptual TFCAs

- Kagera TFCA**  
(Rwanda/Tanzania/Uganda)
- Luwya Plains-Mussuma TFCA\***  
(Angola/Zambia)
- Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA\***  
(Zambia/Zimbabwe)
- Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas TFCMA**  
(Mozambique/Tanzania)
- Western Indian Ocean TMP**  
(Comoros/Kenya/Reunion/France/Madagascar/Mauritius/Mozambique/Seychelles/Somalia/South Africa/Tanzania)
- ZIMOZA TFCA**  
(Mozambique/Zambia/Zimbabwe)



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# 6 TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICA & THEIR LEGAL STATUS

TFCA	COUNTRIES	STATUS
Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	Botswana; South Africa	Bilateral Agreement Signed in 1999. Amended Agreement signed in 2010. Currently there is no need for a Treaty
Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP)	Mozambique; South Africa; Zimbabwe	Memorandum of Understanding Signed in 2000 by Ministers Treaty Signed in 2002 by Heads of State
/Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP)	Namibia; South Africa	Memorandum of Understanding Signed in 2000 by Ministers Treaty Signed in 2003 by Heads of State
Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Project	Lesotho; South Africa	Memorandum of Understanding Signed in 2001 and updated in 2008 by Ministers Lesotho indicated the possible need to sign a Treaty
Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area	eSwatini, Mozambique; South Africa	Protocol Signed in 2002 by Ministers. There is currently no need for Treaty
Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GM TFCA)	Botswana; South Africa; Zimbabwe	Memorandum of Understanding Signed in 2006 by Ministers Draft Treaty in consultation process.



# IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

TFCA	MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	Province
Kgalagadi	SANParks	Northern Cape
Greater Limpopo TFCA	SANParks	Limpopo
Ai/Ais-Richtersveld	SANParks	Northern Cape
Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA, Lubombo (Usuthu Tembe Futhi) and Lubombo (Nsubane/ Pongolo TFCA)	Ezemvelo KZN	KZN
Greater Mapungubwe TFCA	SANParks	Limpopo
<i>Lubombo (Songimvelo-Malolotja )</i>	Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency	Mpumalanga
Lumombo (Ponta do Ouro/ Kosi Bay)	iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority	KZN



# INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

- **Ministerial Committee** – overall policy guidance and monitoring of TFCA. Meet once a year
- **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. Meet bi-annually
- **Technical Committees (Park Management 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. Meet quarterly
- **TFCA International 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.
- **TFCA Unit at DFFE:** Coordinates and facilitates TFCA obligations



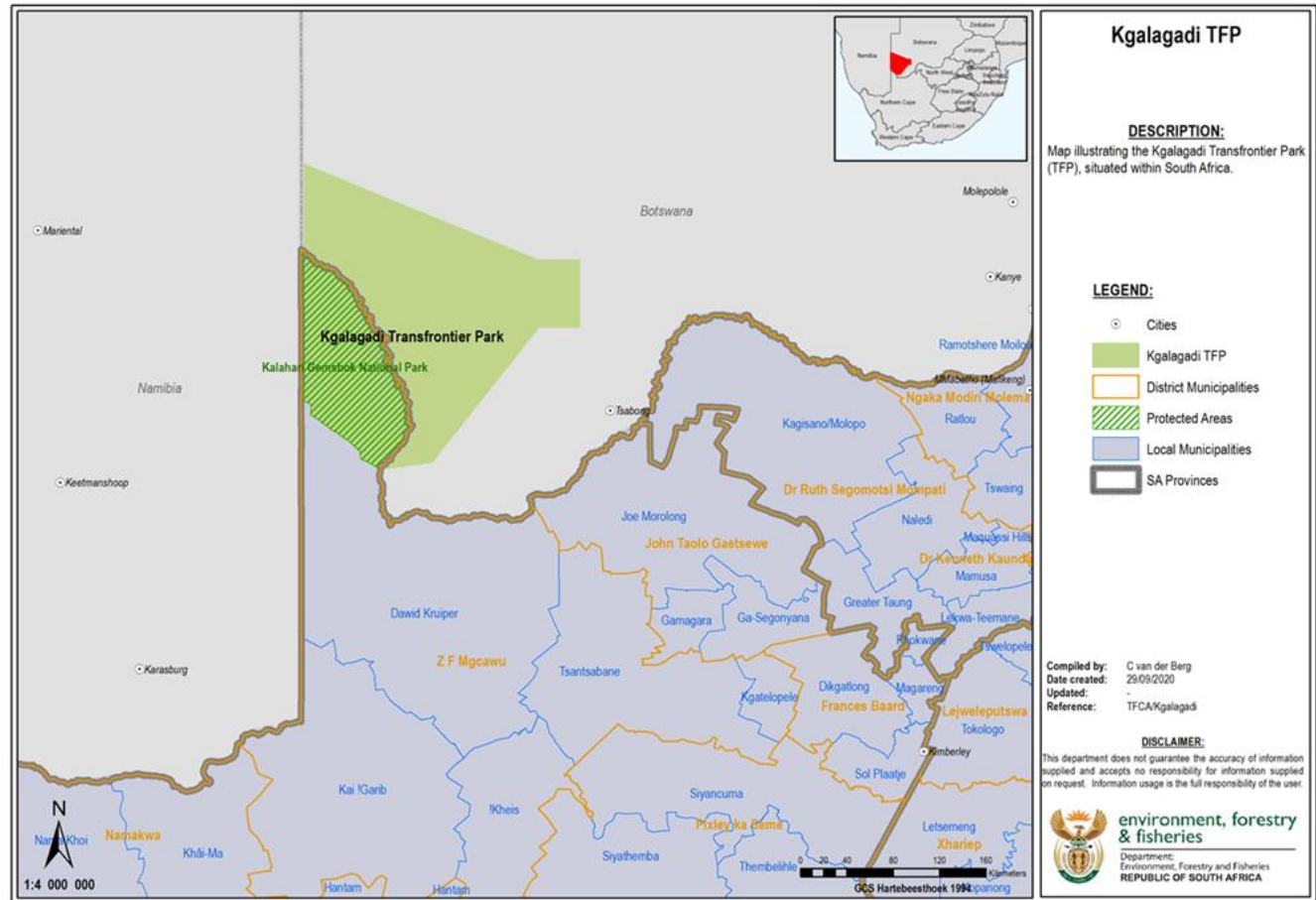
# INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND AGENCIES

Department/agencies	Responsibility
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:	Coordinate establishment, development and oversight management of TFCAs
Department of International Relations and Cooperation: Monitor	International developments and provide advise pursuant to government's foreign policy in order to protect national sovereignty and territorial integrity
Department of Home Affairs: Provide	Support on immigration and emigration issues on the Border Posts
National Department of Tourism:	Provide support in tourism development aspects of TFCAs.
South African Police Services and South African Defense Force	Combat and prevent transnational crime at border posts and on the borderline
South African Revenue Services	Control movement of goods and services (Custom clearance)
Provinces	As Implementing Agency or part of implementing agency



# 1. KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK

The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (3.7 million ha ecological unit) is 37,991 km<sup>2</sup> in extent, with 9,591 km<sup>2</sup> (27%) in South Africa (Kalahari Gemsbok National Park) and the remainder in Botswana (Gemsbok National Park).



# KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK cont.



## Background:

Agreement establishing the Transfrontier Park was signed in April 1999. This is the first transfrontier park to be established in Africa. The Amended Bilateral Agreement signed in October 2011

Coordinating Country  
Botswana

## Programmes and Projects:

- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) has a component which is contractual with SANParks
- !Xaus Lodge, owned by the †Khomani San and Mier communities – Solar conversion assistance provided in this financial year
- Environmental Programmes Infrastructure Project: Biodiversity Economy project on the Erin Game Farm of †Khomani San and Mier communities
- Tourism marketing support to the †Khomani San and Mier communities from Boundless Southern Africa, #kgalagadi2020 campaign, Heritage Heroes, Beyond the Lockdown and Social Media Campaign.





# KGALAGADI TRANSFRONTIER PARK cont.

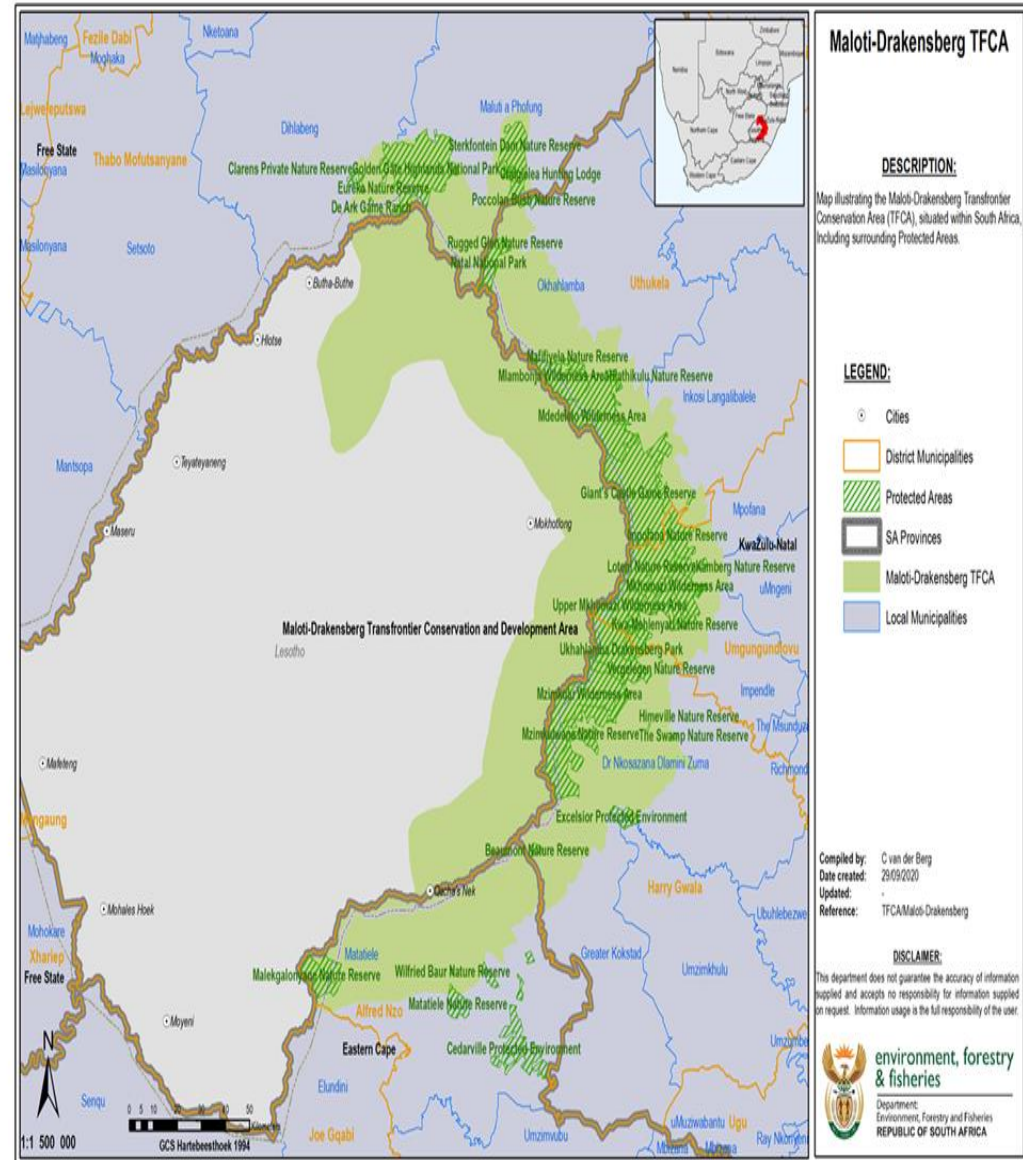
COUNTRIES INVOLVED	STATUS OF AGREEMENT/S	Coordinating Country
Botswana, South Africa	Bilateral Agreement Signed in 1999. Amended Agreement signed in 2010. No need for Treaty	Botswana is currently the coordinating country, South Africa is next in line.



# 2. MALOTI-DRAKENSBERG TRANSFRONTIER PROGRAMME

Size 8113 square kilometre of which

- 5170 square kilometres or 64% in Lesotho (Sehlabathebe and Tsehlanyane)
- 2943 square kilometres or 36% in South Africa (Ukahlamba-Drakensberg Protected Area, Coelfors Nature Reserve, Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Sterkfontein, Ntsilo Nature Reserve, Ongeluksnek



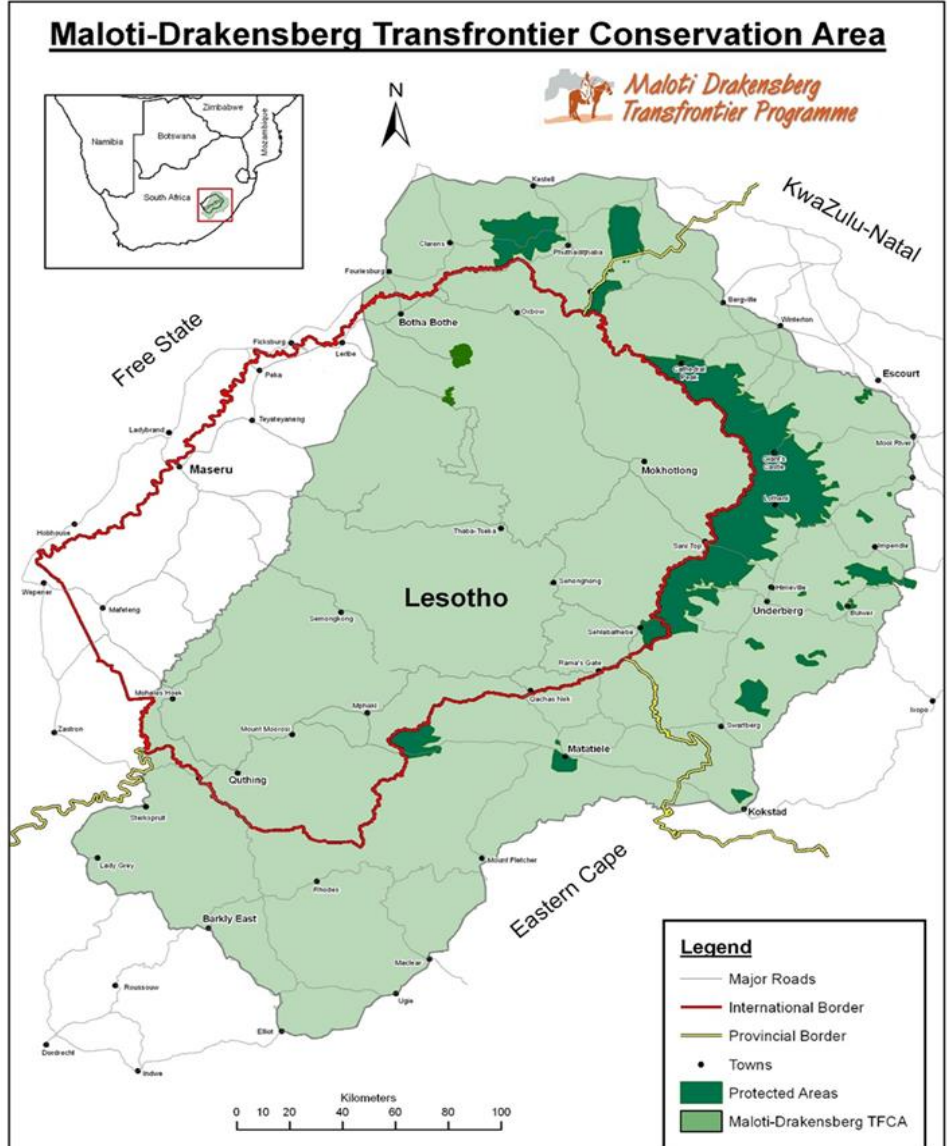
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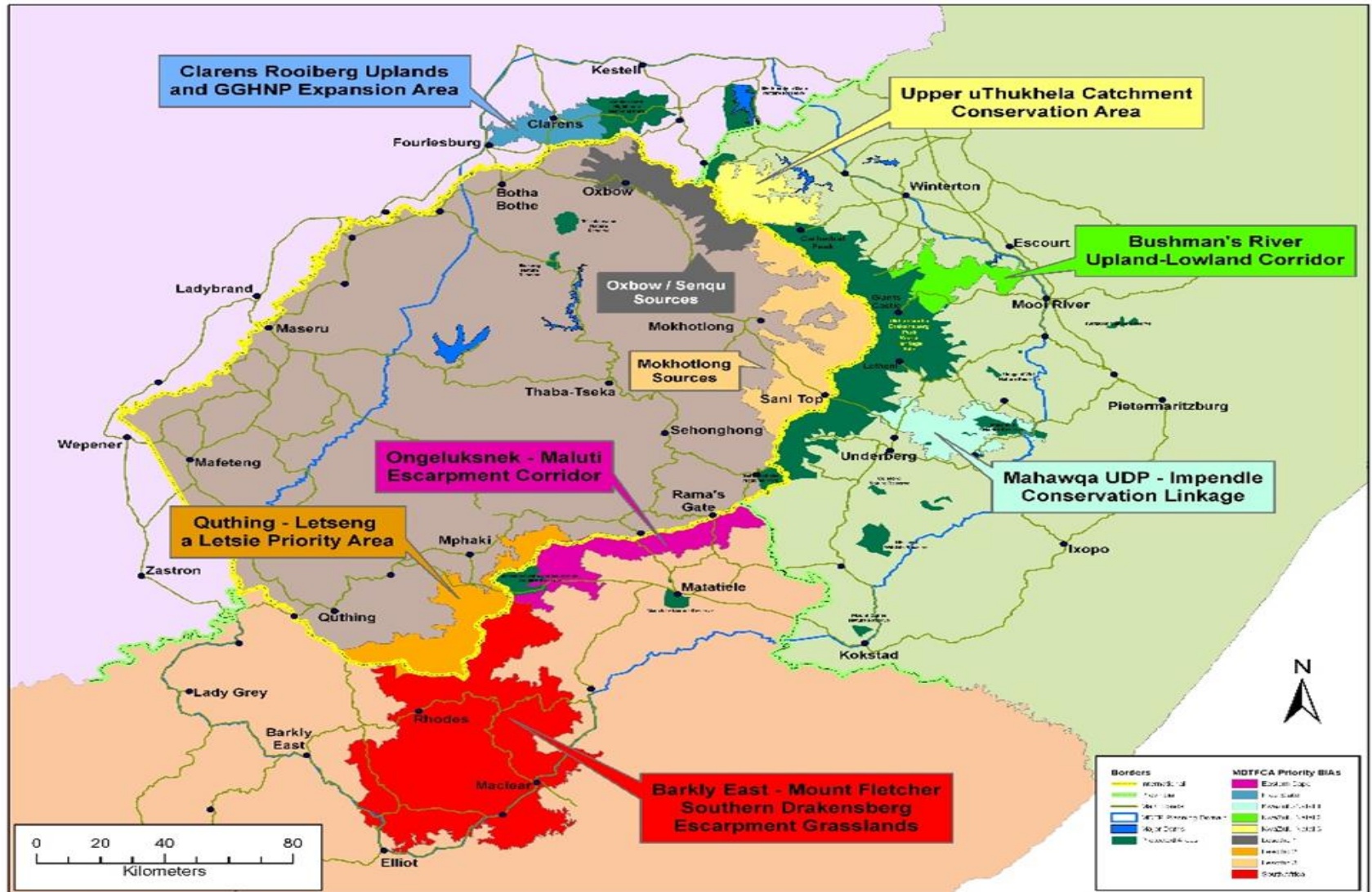
# Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme Cont.

## Provinces involved:

- Kwa-Zulu Natal
- Eastern Cape
- Free State



# Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme - Extent







## Background:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2001 at Sehlabathebe National Park in Lesotho, amendment signed in 2008 in Cape Town. Lesotho indicated the possible need for a Treaty. A draft is being consulted. There is no lead coordinating country, co-management of functions.

## Programmes:

- This TFCA, has facilitated a number of community-oriented initiatives within the three provinces, Eastern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu Natal, that are part of the TFCA on the South African side. These include distribution of Fire Management equipment and training to communities in QwaQwa, in the Free State, Mnweni in KwaZulu Natal and communities within the Matatiele Local Municipality in Eastern Cape
- Further support was provided to the Batlokoa community in Qwaqwa through the rehabilitation of the community owned Witsieshoek Mountain resort through the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure programme (EPIP) as well as working with the community in the establishment of the Witsieshoek Community Conservation area which is now ready for declaration through the provincial department.







## Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme

### Programmes cont.:

- Support was also provided to the MaSwazini community in the Upper uThukela area of KZN in grazing management and organizing cattle auctions to encourage sale of stock. The MDTP, in partnership with other stakeholders, also provided similar support, of grazing management and stock sales to some communities in the Matatiele Local Municipality
- Development of critical infrastructure in linking Lesotho and RSA through the upgrading of Sani Pass to Mokhotlong road – communities utilize the road daily to get to work and accidents have been reduced although there is a section that is still being upgraded by the Provincial Roads department.
- Development of a Cross border trail between Witsieshoek and Afriski Resort is being planned before end 2022.
- Tourism marketing support to the Maloti Drakensberg Tourism Working Group from Boundless Southern Africa: Amarok 4x4 Adventure, Heritage Heroes, #maloti-drakensberg2020, Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Park tourism packaging to include SMME and community owned tourism experiences and the Social Media Campaign.



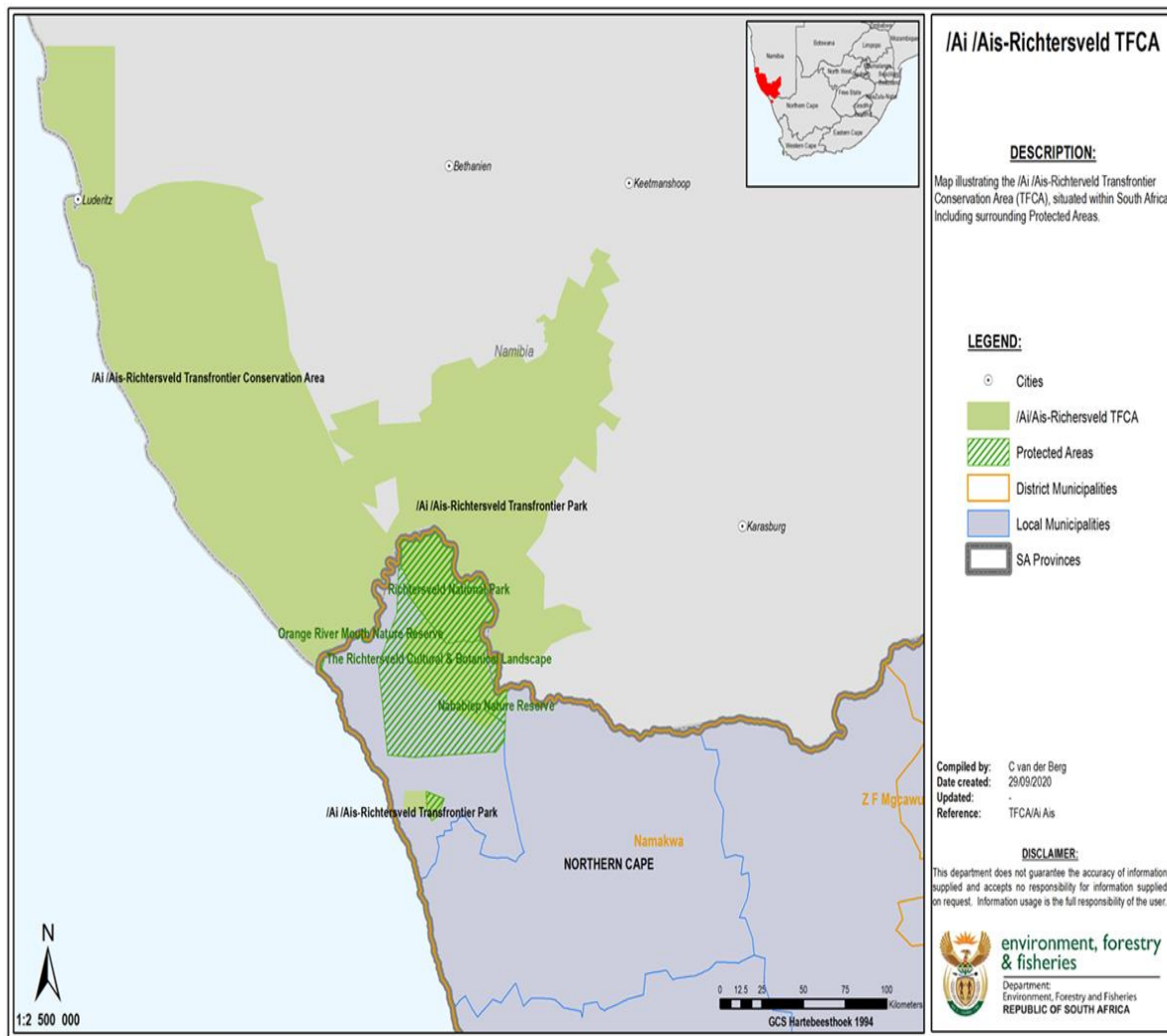


# Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	STATUS OF AGREEMENT/S	Coordinating Country
Lesotho, South Africa	MoU signed in 2001 and updated in 2008 by Ministers Lesotho indicated the possible need for a Treaty.	No coordinating country, co-management of functions.

### 3. /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP)

The /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP) is 6,222km<sup>2</sup> in extent, with 1,902 km<sup>2</sup> (31%) in South Africa (Richtersveld National Park) and the remainder of 69% (/Ai /Ais Hot Springs National Park) in Namibia.



# /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park



## Background:

- Memorandum of Understanding signed by Ministers in 2000, Treaty Signed by Heads of State in 2003. Namibia is presently coordinating country.

## Programmes:

- Richtersveld National Park is a contractual park owned by the Richtersveld CPA.
- Collaboration with the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) – Conservation Development Framework and Integrated Management Plan
- Environmental Programmes Infrastructure Project: Biodiversity Economy project upgrading a number of tourism facilities
- Tourism Master Plan commissioned by National Department of Tourism
- Tourism marketing support to the Richtersveld community from Boundless Southern Africa: Heritage Heroes, /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park tourism packaging to include tourism experiences of the World Heritage Site
- Organizing the Desert Knights event annually with Namibia and Boundless South Africa



# /Ai /Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park



COUNTRIES INVOLVED	STATUS OF AGREEMENT/S	Coordinating Country
Namibia, South Africa.	MoU Signed in 2000 by Ministers Treaty Signed in 2003 by Heads of State	Namibia is currently coordinating country with South Africa next in line.





## 4. LUBOMBO TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA

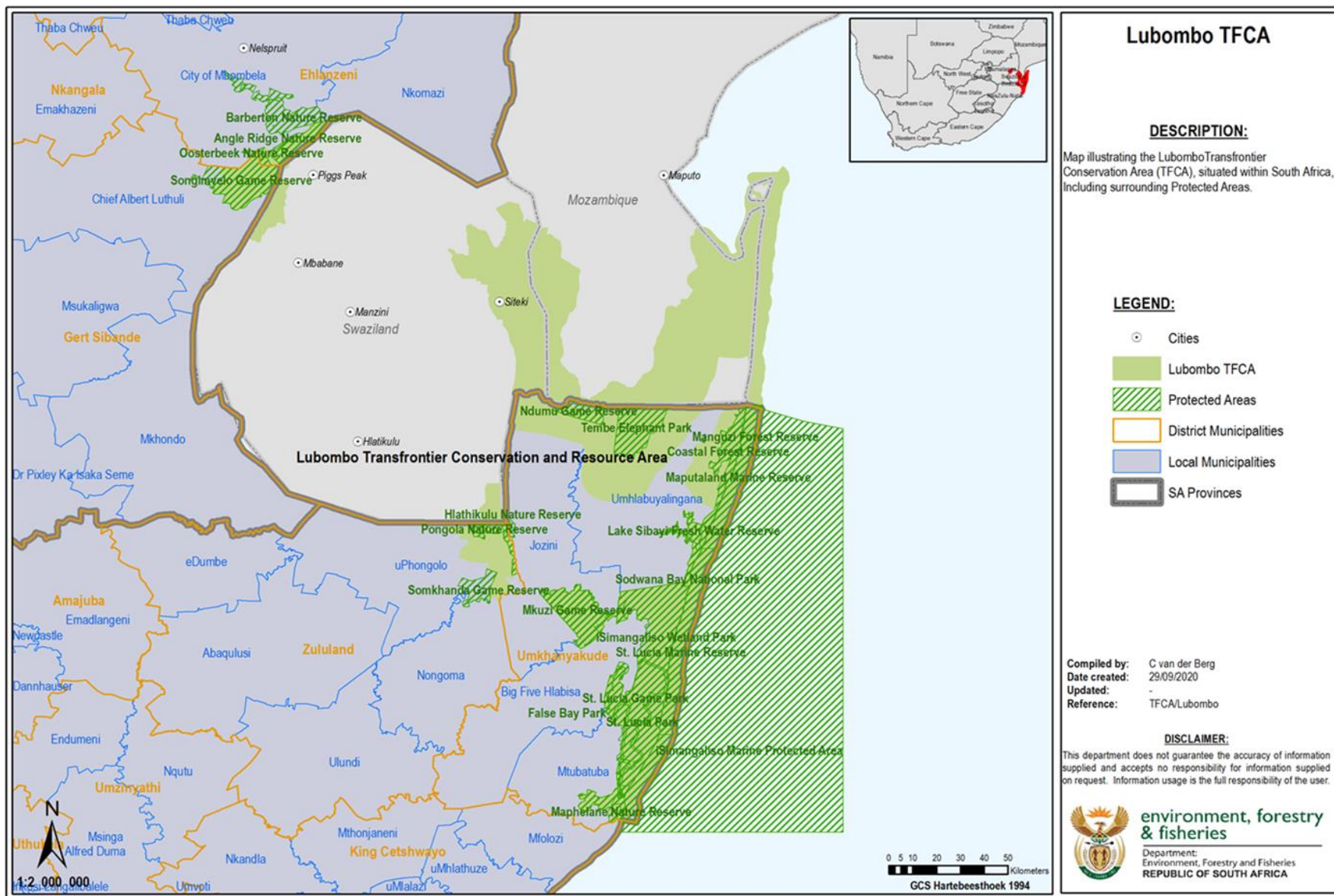
The Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (LTFCA) is 4,195 km<sup>2</sup> in extent, of which 317 km<sup>2</sup> (8%) is in Swaziland, 2,783 km<sup>2</sup> (66%) is in Mozambique, and 1,095 km<sup>2</sup> (26%) is in South Africa.

This TFCA consists of five TFCAs, all of which are in different development stages and are as follows:

- Lubombo Conservancy – Goba TFCA (Mozambique/Swaziland)
- Nsubane/Pongola TFCA (South Africa/Swaziland)
- Songimvelo-Malolotja TFCA (South Africa/Swaziland)
- Ponto do Ouro/Kosi Bay (Mozambique and SA)
- Usuthu/Tembe/Futi TFCA (Mozambique/SA).



# 4. LUBOMBO TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA



## **Background:**

- **The Lubombo Transfrontier Trilateral Protocols signed at the World Economic Forum Summit in 2000. eSwatini is presently the coordinating country.**

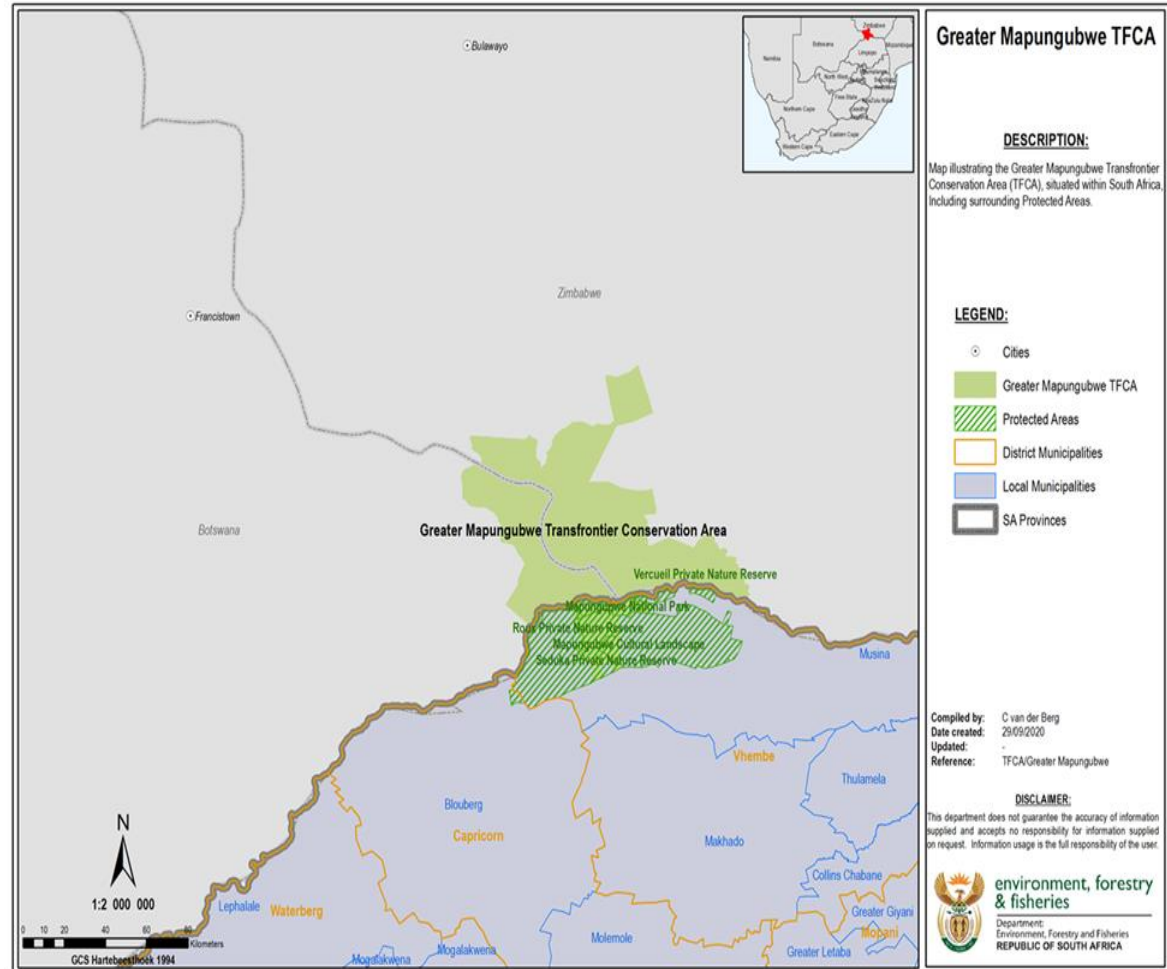
## **Programmes:**

- **Trilateral Youth Programme – to develop youth ambassadors in Lubombo TFCA**
- **Established Trilateral Community Forum includes local communities into TFCA structures and development of community development programme.**
- **Tourism marketing support to the Lubombo TFCA from Boundless Southern Africa: Lubombo media tour, Heritage Heroes, #lubombo2020, Lubombo TFCA tourism packaging to include SMME and community owned tourism experiences, collaboration with BirdLifeSA to support community birding guides and Social Media Campaign.**
- **Tourism Plans for Ndumo and Tembe Elephant Park identifying tourism opportunities communities**

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	STATUS OF AGREEMENT/S	Coordinating Country
eSwatini Mozambique, South Africa	Protocol Signed in 2002 by Ministers. No need for Treaty	eSwatini is presently the coordinating country

# 5. GREATER MAPUNGUBWE TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA (GMTFCA)

The GMTFCA formerly known as Limpopo/Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area is 4,872 km<sup>2</sup> in extent, 2,561 km<sup>2</sup> (53%) in South Africa (Mapungubwe National Park), 1,350 km<sup>2</sup> (28%) in Botswana (Northern Tuli Game Reserve), and 960 km<sup>2</sup> (19%) in Zimbabwe (Tuli Circle Safari), as well as some of the private lands and portion of the Maramani Communal land in Zimbabwe.





# 5. GREATER MAPUNGUBWE TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA (GMTFCA)

## Background:

- Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006
- Draft Treaty is in consultation process.
- Botswana is presently the coordinating country. South Africa is next to take over

## Programmes:

- Tri-nations training camp for children from all three countries was held twice a year
- Maramani community in Zimbabwe supported with event equipment to host cross-border events
- Short term job opportunities when cross-border events are held
- Tourism marketing support to the Mapungubwe TFCFA from Boundless Southern Africa: Cross-border events such as Safari on the Run and Tour de Tuli, Heritage Heroes



# GREATER MAPUNGUBWE TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA

COUNTRIES	STATUS OF AGREEMENT/S	Coordinating Country
Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe	MoU signed in 2006 by Ministers. The Draft treaty is currently being vetted and negotiated by the legal experts of the three countries.	Botswana is presently the coordinating country for this TFCA



# TFCA PROGRAMME MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Technical level meetings in relation to wildlife management, TFCAs, and law enforcement organized by SADC Secretariat or respective SADC country.

The following meetings and events (engagements) are formal and are organised on either an annual or bi-annual frequency :

## *TFCAs:*

- Political Executive oversight and / or DG bilateral and trilaterals with neighbouring countries (annually)
- Participation in opening/closing ceremonies of the cross-border events like Desert Knights or Tour de Tuli – No date set yet for Desert Knights however Tour de Tuli is planned for July 2022.
- Official opening of projects with TFCAs

## *SADC Meetings:*

- Ministerial and /or DG meetings on various fields of co-operation, i.e., Environment, Tourism, Water, Trade and Industry, etc.
- SADC Ministerial Committee on Wildlife and Law Enforcement takes place every second year.
- Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Bilateral with neighboring countries



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The impacts of COVID-19 has exasperated 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 TFCA network. However, funding opportunities through the SADC TFCA Financing Facility has invited calls for proposals for projects to be implemented.



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# PRIORITY AREAS

- **Harmonization of policies** and/or legal framework:
  - to create an enabling environment for addressing conservation issues that transcend international borders (e.g. translocation, control of Alien Invasive Species (AIS), disease control and fire management)
  - regarding cross-border tourism operations in order to facilitate cross-border tourism
- **Use TFCA** mechanisms to reduce wildlife crimes through alignment of penalties and procedures for:
  - dealing with wildlife crimes;
  - joint law enforcement operations,
  - exchange of information on wildlife crimes,
  - development of cooperation agreements on joint protection and
  - conservation of key species e.g. Rhino, Lion and Elephant
- **Develop regional guidelines** on the establishment and management of TFCAs to guide and harmonize processes
- **Develop and promote market cross-border tourism products** as well as travel packages and itineraries to and within in TFCAs (in partnership with private sector)
- Promote investment in tourist facilities and supporting infrastructure in order to enhance tourism attractiveness of TFCAs
- **Finalize and roll-out the implementation of an assessment tool** that will measure management effectiveness of each TFCA and inform the process of instituting corrective measures
- Facilitate implementation of **community beneficiation** initiatives and/or programmes
- Establish **sustainable funding mechanism** for TFCAs e.g., innovative financing mechanisms through public-private-community partnerships



# CONCLUSION

- TFCAs play a critical role in the **conservation and management of shared ecosystems**
- TFCAs serve as **nodes for rural development**: They are located in rural areas with limited employment opportunities.
- TFCAs **offer unique cross-border experiences** and are therefore **ideal platform for promoting tourism growth** in the region
- TFCAs are **key drivers for regional integration** and sustainable development
- **Opportunities for synchronization of wildlife management activities** e.g., game counting, fire management
- **Opportunities for establishing Community Conservation Areas** and buffer zones
- **Facilitating the development of critical infrastructure** in TFCAs including roads, tourist access facilities: e.g., Upgrading of Sani Pass-Mokhotlong road; Development and operationalization of 4 Tourist access facilities (Giriyondo, Mata-Mata, Twee Rivieren and Sendelingsdrift) in GLTP, KTP and ARTP respectively
- **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.





# ACRONYMS

*Acronyms commonly used in the TFCA space:*

TFCA            Transfrontier Conservation Areas

The six TFCAs that South Africa is part of:

ARTP            |Ai-|Ais / Richtersveld Transfrontier Park  
GMTFCA        Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area  
GLTFCA        Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area  
KTP             Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park  
LTFCA          Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area  
MDTFCA        Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area/  
MDTP          Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme

AU              African Union  
BCC             Bilateral Co-ordinating Committee  
BMA            Border Management Authority  
BSA            Boundless Southern Africa  
CCA            Community Conservation Area  
DHA            Department of Home Affairs  
DIRCO         Department of International Relations and Co-operation  
EC              Eastern Cape Province  
EKZMW        Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife  
FS              Free State Province  
HOS            Head of State / Heads of State

# ACRONYMS

*Acronyms commonly used in the TFCA space:*

JMB	Joint Management Board
JOS	Joint Operating Strategy
KNP	Kruger National Park
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal Province
MNP	Mapungubwe National Park
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
NCC	National Co-ordinating Committee
NDT	National Department of Tourism
NC	Northern Cape Province
NP	National Park
NR	Nature Reserve
NW	North-West Province
PA	Protected Area
PMC	Park Management Committee
RNP	Richtersveld National Park
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANParks	South African National Parks
SAPS	South African Police Service
SARS	South African Revenue Service
WHS	World Heritage Site



# THANK YOU!

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Thank You



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