



TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY: Preparation and Facilitation of a Conference on Sustainable Tourism Concessions and the Development of respective Guidelines for SADC TFCA's

INSTITUTION; SADC/GIZ Project Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources in the SADC Region

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

1. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

SADC has generated a Programme which aims to provide guidance for the development of Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the region. The vision defined for the TFCAS is “*a model of community centred, regionally integrated and sustainably managed network of world class transfrontier conservation areas*”.

The SADC TFCAs Programme has 7 key component areas with specific objectives, activities and outputs carried out at the regional, sub-regional and national levels:

Component 1: Advocacy and Harmonisation

The development of TFCAs is the prerogative of the Member States and therefore, unless there is political will and social acceptance at national level, the TFCAs development processes may be stalled. The SADC TFCA Programme aims to influence change in the practices regarding the conservation and management of shared natural resources and it advocates for the harmonisation of policy and legal frameworks, thereby facilitating the development of regional standards, procedures and guidelines to overcome gaps, and resolve conflicts within and between policies

and laws of participating countries in the development of TFCAs. Improved policies and legislation are the basis for efficient management of TFCAs and the systematic expansion of the TFCA network

Component 2: Enhancement of financing mechanisms for TFCAs

A critical challenge for many TFCAs is the lack of funding for development and management activities. The role that Member States and ICPs play in this respect cannot be over emphasised. In recent times, some ICPs have shifted their support from bilateral to regional forms of technical and financial cooperation. In both cases, SADC may facilitate access to financing sources, either by initiating and supporting bilateral dialogue between Member States and ICPs or through acquisition of funds at a regional level. Other financing mechanisms need to be explored, including the establishment of a regional fund specifically to develop TFCAs.

Component 3: Capacity building for TFCA stakeholders

Building capacity of key TFCA stakeholder groups is an important element of successful TFCA development. Capacity building efforts should tap into existing expertise and should be conducted in close coordination and cooperation with national and regional institutions.

Component 4: Establishment of data and knowledge management systems

A SADC-wide information exchange as well as learning and innovation network seeks to facilitate gathering, processing and dissemination of TFCA related information. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation at the level of individual TFCAs is essential to ensure that the articulated objectives are being achieved, and if not, to determine causality and refine the management approach. At a regional level, a monitoring and evaluation system needs to be tailored to assess the progression of the SADC TFCA programme.

Component 5: Enhancement of local livelihoods

The livelihoods of the millions of people that live in and around TFCAs are intricately linked to the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity these TFCAs conserve. Apart from using the land to raise and maintain livestock, to grow food and cultivate cash crops, rural communities also harvest natural resources for subsistence and commercial purposes. Member States acknowledge that the primary beneficiaries of TFCAs must be these rural communities who have an intrinsic right to be involved in the decision making processes. Therefore, TFCA activity plans should be developed through a participatory process and should clearly demonstrate the benefit flow to these communities and be aligned with regional poverty alleviation strategies. Increased private and public investments in cross border infrastructure and tourism projects in these TFCAs can also contribute significantly to improving local economies. Facilitating cross border access to local and regional markets can further increase income at the household level. The SADC TFCAs Programme also recognizes that more vulnerable segments of the population, for example women, youth and people living with HIV/AIDS, need special focus within these programmes.

Component 6: Reducing vulnerability of ecosystems and people to the effects of climate change

The SADC region is vulnerable to the effects of climate variability and climate change. It is expected that temperature in the region will increase by about 3°C by 2080, while rainfall is expected to decrease with an increase of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. Even just a 2°C increase can have a negative impact on TFCAs and their contribution to poverty

alleviation and economic development by affecting biodiversity and with it tourism, as well as agriculture, water and with it the well-being of the people living in TFCAs.

Component 7: Development of TFCAs into marketable regional tourism products

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) have identified TFCAs as potential instruments for promoting regional integration, cooperative tourism and rural development. This is because countries are already working together in managing TFCAs as consolidated units and have joint governance structures in place for both conservation and tourism development. Secondly, many renowned tourism destinations are situated within SADC TFCAs and by developing tourism at a TFCA level, there is great potential to generate employment in these largely rural and marginalized areas, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

The 7 components outlined above if well implemented will ensure the achievement of the vision and will elevate the role of the TFCA in the development of the region.

2. THE CONCESSIONS IN TFCA's

The SADC region has an enormous potential to grow its tourism industry. The key drivers of international travel namely scenery, wildlife, and culture are of outstanding quality and value in many TFCA's. The natural assets of the SADC TFCA's tourism include spectacular beaches and marine resources along the Indian and Atlantic Ocean coasts, large game parks and hunting areas as well as cultural attractions. However, for the tourism sector to grow, the TFCA's in SADC must translate their opportunities into meaningful products and services.

A number of policies, laws and regulations have been adopted by many member states fostering the development of tourism in the TFCA's. The TFCA program in SADC is an important attempt to promote dialogue among member states and cross fertilize best practices between TFCA's.

Developing sustainable tourism concession models in TFCA's is one way for the region to get the private sector engaged, to enable communities to benefit from tourism development, to increase job creation, and to help TFCA's tourism industry grow. When designed and implemented correctly, tourism concessions can greatly benefit a wide range of stakeholders, while ensuring the environmental protection of critical assets. In meantime the concession models in TFCA will respond to the component 2 which is aiming at enhancement of financial mechanisms for TFCA's by increasing the revenues for the TFCA's. At the same time it responds to the component 7 on the development of TFCA's into marketable regional products.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The overall objective of this assignment is to improve the level of information about sustainable tourism concessions, developing investment destination that contribute to support the sustainable financing of TFCA's.

4. GENERAL TASKS

Prepare and facilitate a conference on Concessions for Tourism in TFCA's in the region and elsewhere in the world and compile comprehensive proceedings for printing.

Based on the inputs of the conference, analyze the characteristics of the tourism concession models that are currently applied in SADC's TFCA's in the light of the relevant SADC protocols, and drawing on regional experiences and best practices develop guidelines about concession models for sustainable tourism for the SADC TFCA's.

5. SPECIFIC TASKS / ACTIVITIES

Conference on Concession Partnerships for Tourism in TFCA's

- In close cooperation with the SADC/GIZ Project "Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources" prepare the outline of the conference, including objectives, venue, participants, key speakers and topics.
- Prepare terms of reference for the key speakers and ensure that the presentations will meet the objectives set for the conference. The papers must be written in full and power points should be used for the presentation during the conference ;
- Facilitate the conference, take relevant notes and prepare the minutes of the conference;
- Prepare proceedings with full papers in word that were presented in the conference

Guidelines for sustainable tourism concession model for the SADC TFCA's

- Use the conference inputs and other best practice models of tourism concessions in protected areas and TFCA's looking at current practices implemented in the region (e.g. South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique), and other countries where tourism concession models have been effective;
- Analyze what has been implemented in terms of concessions within TFCA's in the region, the experiences to date, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations for future concession models;
- Meet with relevant stakeholders of TFCA's with concessions to learn about applicability of concession models in the region, including the role of local communities and assess possible structures for the establishment of CPPPs (partnerships between local communities, private investors and the State);
- Briefing TFCA's stakeholders of the SADC, providing recommendations that will integrate the guidelines for : (i) appropriate concession models and process that could be applied in the region (ii) implementation guidelines (iii) procurement methods.
- Produce guidelines for sustainable tourism concession in SADC TFCAs.

6. OUTPUTS / DELIVERABLES

The consultant will work under the supervision of the program manager of the SADC /GIZ Project and the SADC TFCA Technical Advisor and be responsible for the following deliverables:

- Inception report

- Brochures to announce the Conference
- Report of proceedings of the Conference, with executive summary.
- Power Point slides for briefing TFCA's stakeholders describing main findings, key recommendations and their implications.
- Final report, "Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Concession in SADC TFCAs" within 2 weeks of receiving comments on the draft report.

7. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The assignment should be carried out by an individual consultant with the following minimal qualifications: (He/she may subcontract support, which must be previously approved by the SADC TFCA Technical Advisor)

1. MSc in tourism planning, eco-tourism or similar;
2. Minimum of 10 years of work experience in nature based tourism;
3. Good interpersonal relations and communications skills;
4. Good writing and speaking skills in English, Portuguese and/or French would be an advantage;
5. Previous experience in similar assignment in the SADC region would be an advantage