SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES:

The establishment and development of TFCA initiatives between SADC Member States

# Acknowledgements

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A wide range of TFCA practitioners at various levels of management throughout the SADC Member States participated and engaged with the process of compiling these guidelines, providing insights gained from local knowledge, experiences and perspectives that helped to ensure that the guidelines remained practical and realistic, while being appropriate to the SADC Region. Specific reference is made to the case studies that have been provided to highlight or emphasise aspects of these guidelines that may be considered as best practice due to the positive outcomes from the relevant activities. There have been captured in boxes integrated into the text of the relevant sections.

# Summary of the Over-arching Principles for TFCA Establishment and Development in the SADC Region

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# Introduction

Include mention of the role of SADC in the establishment and development of TFCAs as an opening context to these guidelines.

Also provide comment, either here or under section 5, as to the relevance of the guidelines to countries that belong to other economic regions, e.g. Gabon and Congo, i.e. is there an overlap and if so, what are the implications?

## The Aim of these Guidelines

Collaboration between SADC Member States on issues of wildlife management is not new and has been happening to varying degrees for decades.

… Use TFC, TFCAs and TFPs to assist in the realisation of the stated policies as captured in the various SADC protocols and treaties, particularly the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, Southern African Convention for Wildlife Management (SACWM, 1990), the Luskaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka, 1994), and the Master Plan for Security of Rhino and Elephant in Southern Africa (1996). These guidelines seek to integrate the latest global paradigms in terms of the conservation of nature and the role that the natural environment plays in securing societal well-being and economic resilience, from the perspective of the role which TFC initiatives can play in this regard.

The thinking that is captured in the various SADC policies as listed above largely reflects that which has subsequently come out of global conservation forums such as the IUCN World Parks Congress that was help in Durban, South Africa in 2003; and that is the need for there to be tangible benefits beyond the boundaries of protected areas, and more specifically that they need to be socially and economically relevant within the broader landscape within which they are located. However, what has not been captured in these policies is the strongly emerging acceptance for the fact that where our natural resource base is sustainably managed it produces and delivers strategically important ecosystem goods and services that are vital to counteract social and economic vulnerability and to help build resilience. This concept is possibly best captured and illustrated through the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005) which has been used extensively in the discussion in Section 3.2 and which relates to the potential socio-economic relevance of TBC initiatives.

In addition to this these Guidelines aim to capture and are based on the principles of sustainability which may be articulated as follows:

* The persistence of renewable natural resources is dependent upon their levels of utilisation being managed within known thresholds and linkages within broader ecosystem functionality;
* Social well-being and economic resilience are absolutely dependent upon the persistence of healthy functioning ecosystems that are able to host the renewable natural resources upon which they depend; and
* Strong capacitated governance systems are essential to ensure that social and economic utilisation of the natural resource base remains within the thresholds of sustainability.

On the basis of the above the establishment and development of TFCAs also needs to meet these principles and as such must meet the criteria of being:

* Managed in a way ensures the persistence of biodiversity features within healthy and functioning ecosystems;
* Strongly linked to affected communities such that the TFCAs are seen as being of social significance; and
* Economically relevant and financially viable.

## The Target Audience

Undertake an analysis of the existing TFCAs in terms of who the original drivers were and use this as an indication of who the target audience should be, i.e. NGOs, ecologists, PA managers, etc…

## The Guideline Development Process

## The Structure of these Guidelines

Case studies to be included in text boxes throughout the guidelines to illustrate best practice relevant to the aspect being discussed.

# Definitions relevant to Transfrontier Conservation

## IUCN Best Practice Guidelines

## SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement

## Definitions Relevant to these Guidelines

# The Value of Transfrontier Conservation for SADC Member States

Include this as a separate sub-section – “Knowledge sharing and skills transfer” (perhaps Piet Theron can write something on this)

## Enhanced Ecosystem Functionality and Climate Change Resilience

While the focus is on enhanced ecosystem functionality, it is also important to highlight that at time specific attention is needed to focus on threatened species.

While it was agreed that the current focus of these guidelines is on TFCA as opposed to TFC, it is necessary to include a write up on the importance of TFC to migratory species. Possibly also include mention in the definitions (see IUCN definitions)

While TFCAs can contribute to enhanced ecosystem functionality and thus climate change resilience, climate change induced species migrations must also be mentioned as this is a consequence of climate change that may be absorbed by TFCAs.

Ecological corridors are also important aspects of TFC and must be mentioned as well – possibly also in the definitions.

Possible case study - Tanzania – climate change adaptation in Selous / Niassa TFCA through rehabilitation work

Possible case study – island member states who are subject to other international agreements that speak to the sustainable use of marine resources, where there is an overlap of policy- legal framework between SADC and other international agreements.

## Improved Social Well-being and Economic Resilience

It is implied that where TFCAs exist and are managed well, this will include **Sustainable development practices** which ensures the long-term delivery of the benefits associated with them

Guaranteed food security is another benefit that comes from sustainable use as well as the other ecosystem goods and services

Note that TFCAs include the integration of land use – multiple use areas

This sub-section will be used to highlight the significant relevance of the natural capital, ecosystem goods and services concept to the process of valuing TFCAs in terms of their relevance in the broader socio-economic land/sea scape within which they are located.

**Provisioning Services which are the products obtained from ecosystems, including:**

* **Food and fiber**: This includes the vast range of food products derived from plants, animals, and microbes, as well as materials such as wood, jute, hemp, silk, and many other products derived from ecosystems.
* **Fuel**: Wood, dung, and other biological materials serve as sources of energy.
* Genetic resources: This includes the genes and genetic information used for animal and plant breeding and biotechnology.
* **Biochemical**s: natural medicines, and pharmaceuticals. Many medicines, biocides, food additives such as alginates, and biological materials are derived from ecosystems.
* **Ornamental resources**: Animal products, such as skins and shells, and flowers are used as ornaments, although the value of these resources is often culturally determined. This is an example of linkages between the categories of ecosystem services.
* **Fresh water**: Fresh water is another example of linkages between categories — in this case, between provisioning and regulating services.

**Regulating Services are the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, including:**

* Air quality maintenance: Ecosystems both contribute chemicals to and extract chemicals from the atmosphere, influencing many aspects of air quality.
* **Climate regulation**: Ecosystems influence climate both locally and globally. For example, at a local scale, changes in land cover can affect both temperature and precipitation. At the global scale, ecosystems play an important role in climate by either sequestering or emitting greenhouse gases.
* **Water regulation**: The timing and magnitude of runoff, flooding, and aquifer recharge can be strongly influenced by changes in land cover, including, in particular, alterations that change the water storage potential of the system, such as the conversion of wetlands or the replacement of forests with croplands or croplands with urban areas.
* **Erosion control**: Vegetative cover plays an important role in soil retention and the prevention of landslides.
* **Water purification and waste treatment**: Ecosystems can be a source of impurities in fresh water but also can help to filter out and decompose organic wastes introduced into inland waters and coastal and marine ecosystems.
* **Regulation of human diseases**: Changes in ecosystems can directly change the abundance of human pathogens, such as cholera, and can alter the abundance of disease vectors, such as mosquitoes.
* Biological control: Ecosystem changes affect the prevalence of crop and livestock pests and diseases.
* **Pollination**: Ecosystem changes affect the distribution, abundance, and effectiveness of pollinators.
* **Storm protection**: The presence of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs can dramatically reduce the damage caused by hurricanes or large waves.

**Cultural Services are the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences, including:**

* **Cultural diversity**: The diversity of ecosystems is one factor influencing the diversity of cultures.
* **Spiritual and religious values**: Many religions attach spiritual and religious values to ecosystems or their components.
* **Knowledge systems (traditional and formal)**: Ecosystems influence the types of knowledge systems developed by different cultures.
* **Educational values**: Ecosystems and their components and processes provide the basis for both formal and informal education in many societies.
* **Inspiration**: Ecosystems provide a rich source of inspiration for art, folklore, national symbols, architecture, and advertising.
* **Aesthetic values**: Many people find beauty or aesthetic value in various aspects of ecosystems, as reflected in the support for parks, “scenic drives,”and the selection of housing locations.
* **Social relations**: Ecosystems influence the types of social relations that are established in particular cultures. Fishing societies, for example, differ in many respects in their social relations from nomadic herding or agricultural societies.
* **Sense of place**: Many people value the “sense of place” that is associated with recognized features of their environment, including aspects of the ecosystem.
* **Cultural heritage values**: Many societies place high value on the maintenance of either historically important landscapes (“cultural landscapes”) or culturally significant species.
* **Recreation and ecotourism**: People often choose where to spend their leisure time based in part on the characteristics of the natural or cultivated landscapes in a particular area.

Cultural services are tightly bound to human values and behaviour, as well as to human institutions and patterns of social, economic, and political organization. Thus perceptions of cultural services are more likely to differ among individuals and communities than, say, perceptions of the importance of food production.

**Supporting Services**

Supporting services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. They differ from provisioning, regulating, and cultural services in that their impacts on people are either indirect or occur over a very long time, whereas changes in the other categories have relatively direct and short-term impacts on people. (Some services, like erosion control, can be categorized as both a supporting and a regulating service, depending on the time scale and immediacy of their impact on people.) For example, humans do not directly use soil formation services, although changes in this would indirectly affect people through the impact on the provisioning service of food production. Similarly, climate regulation is categorized as a regulating service since ecosystem changes can have an impact on local or global climate over time scales relevant to human decision-making (decades or centuries), whereas the production of oxygen gas (through photosynthesis) is categorized as a supporting service since any impacts on the concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere would only occur over an extremely long time. Some other examples of supporting services are **primary production**, **production of atmospheric oxygen**, **soil formation and retention**, **nutrient cycling**, **water cycling**, and **provisioning of habitat**.

## Reconnecting Cultural Linkages

## Securing Political Stability

Regional integration – bringing countries closer – substitute this as the sub-title and bring securing political stability in as a sub-sub-title.

## Enhanced Efficiency of Day to Day Management and Law Enforcement

Possible case study - Malawi / Zambia – good example of joint law enforcement

## Coordinated Research

# The Status Quo of Transfrontier Conservation Areas in the SADC Region

This needs to include a brief mention of each existing TFCA with basic data on their establishment process and their current status. Also look to include lessons learned from addressing threats

Provide a diagrammatic illustration of the various TFCAs and a discuss on the variation in terms of the degrees of complexity between them, inclusive of related dynamics associated with the over-arching ecological drivers such as rainfall (as this relates to biomass production – follow up with David Cumming), with a linkage to the relevance of this to the rest of the guidelines.

# The Legal and Policy Framework

Conventions – SADC could learn from the way in which these conventions have been integrated into national legislation of member states – possible case study from the DRC.

Ensure that other relevant international agreements that relate to aspects such as the sustainable utilisation / conservation of marine resources are included here.

# The Initiation of Transfrontier Conservation Areas

Build on the analysis of the existing TFCAs in terms of how these have been initiated and then move to integrate the best practice relevant to these guidelines

## Assessing the Enabling Environment

## Assessing TFCA Feasibility

General description will be required at this point – in line with section 7.3

## Designing the Implementation Process

# The Establishment and Development of Transfrontier Conservation Areas

Look for aspects of management that could be included in the guidelines

## Securing Buy-in and Building Legitimacy

### At the Political Level

### With Peers and Related Organs of State within and across Borders

Be specific here in terms of which sectors need to be engaged, e.g. customs, as there are potential implications for these sectors such as increased movement with decreased controls. Another example is that of animal health.

It may be necessary to introduce a separate sub-section dedicated to dealing with customs if it is not adequately addressed here.

### With Interested and Affected Communities

See the outcome of the Network stakeholder mapping exercise as per the March/April meeting in Jo’burg.

## Selecting an Appropriate Governance Model

Possibly swap 7.2 with 7.3 noting that there are pros and cons either way in term s of when it is best to develop a geographic identity for a TFCA.

Selection of relevant governance model may be a phased process – see IUCN Governance guidelines in terms of governance gradient

## Defining the Geographic Extent

Recognise that the process of agreeing on boundaries is organic and dynamic, but we need a point of departure

Phased approach

Zambian e.g. at the MoU level, the extent is provided, and at the treaty level it is provided in very specific detail.

## Developing the Framework for a Joint Management Plan

## Refining the Joint Management Plan

## Planning for Financial Sustainability

## Monitoring and Evaluation

# Glossary of Terms

# References