SADC TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS FINANCING FACILITY

Towards a Common Future in a Shared Regional Community
Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) are founded on the realization that natural resources that straddle international boundaries are shared assets with the potential to meaningfully contribute to conservation of biodiversity and the socio-economic development of rural communities (The SADC TFCA Programme (2013). The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019) suggests that an average of 25% of global plants and animal species are threatened with extinction. By creating larger connected areas, TFCAs enable wildlife to move seasonally and make better use of a variety of habitats. The SADC TFCA Programme (2013) envisions the region becoming "a model of community centred, regionally integrated and sustainably managed network of world class Transfrontier Conservation areas." Amongst other requirements, sustainable financing is pivotal to the realisation of this vision.
TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE IN A SHARED REGIONAL COMMUNITY

The complexity of TFCAs calls for a broad range of intervention measures and a high diversity of stakeholders. In addition, country based budget allocations tend to be limited in addressing themes that are relevant across international borders. The SADC TFCA Financing Facility is therefore a regional fund that aims to complement national efforts aimed at resolving biodiversity conservation challenges of TFCAs in the SADC region.

“In a world beset by conflict and division, peace is one of the cornerstones of the future. Peace parks (TFCAs) are building blocks in this process, not only in our region, but potentially the entire world.” – Nelson Mandela
Established in April 2020, the TFCA FF is a funding mechanism which aims to provide fast responses to emerging needs of TFCAs in the SADC region. IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office is the Project Executing Agency, responsible for administering the TFCA FF grants. Projects funded by the TFCA FF are selected through an open Call for Proposals.

To date, there is one International Cooperating Partner (ICP) supporting the TFCA FF, which is the German Government - through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by KfW Development Bank.

The initial phase of the TFCA FF is six years (April 2020 – June 2026), with an initial budget of €12m and an additional commitment of €11m from the German Government channelled through KfW. In the medium to long-term, the intention is to leverage additional funds from various partners, in order to reach an operational funding volume of approximately €100 million.

Through mobilising funds from International Cooperating Partners, the TFCA FF provides governments, government entities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) access to funds to support their work in TFCAs.

The TFCA FF is designed to contribute to the goals of the SADC TFCA Programme (2013); SADC Regional Policies and Protocols (e.g the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, Protocol on Tourism, Protocol on Forestry and Protocol on Shared Water Courses; and support attainment of the goals of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as meeting the targets of several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (such as Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) etc).

The TFCA FF provides grants to selected projects in all SADC TFCAs contributing to measurable outcomes, including:

- Conservation of biodiversity and recovery of flagship species;
- Newly established or better managed protected areas or networks of conservation areas of regional importance
- Improved livelihoods for communities living in TFCAs

International Cooperating Partners who support the TFCA FF will be represented on the Project Steering Committee and will have an opportunity to influence the strategic direction of regional fund, including the geographic and thematic focus.
**WHY INVEST IN TFCAS?**

**Ecological reasons:**
TFCAs present an opportunity for SADC Member States to conserve shared resources, migratory species and increase the size of land areas set aside for conservation of biological resources.

**Socio-economic reasons:**
Biodiversity conservation provides benefits to the people through access to ecosystem services; nature-based tourism and conservation related forms of alternative livelihoods.

**Political reasons**
TFCAs promote regional integration and international cooperation in conservation of biodiversity.

**BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN THE TFCA FF**

- By combining the funds of major International Cooperating Partners, the facility will provide a regional fund where SADC Members States, NGOs and CBOs can access funds to support their work.

- Reduced transaction costs: The TFCA FF presents opportunities to reduce transaction costs, through an efficient, cost-effective administrative structure.

- TFCA FF can improve responsiveness to critical funding gaps in SADC TFCAs.

- Efficient multiplication of good practices: The TFCA FF is a conducive mechanism through which good conservation practices and knowledge transfer can be promoted through strategically placed calls for grant proposals.
If you are interested in participating in the SADC TFCA FF and supporting a particular TFCA as an International Cooperating Partner, please contact us. We will be happy to discuss potential synergies and complementarities with you.

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