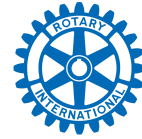




Glacier National Park
CONSERVANCY



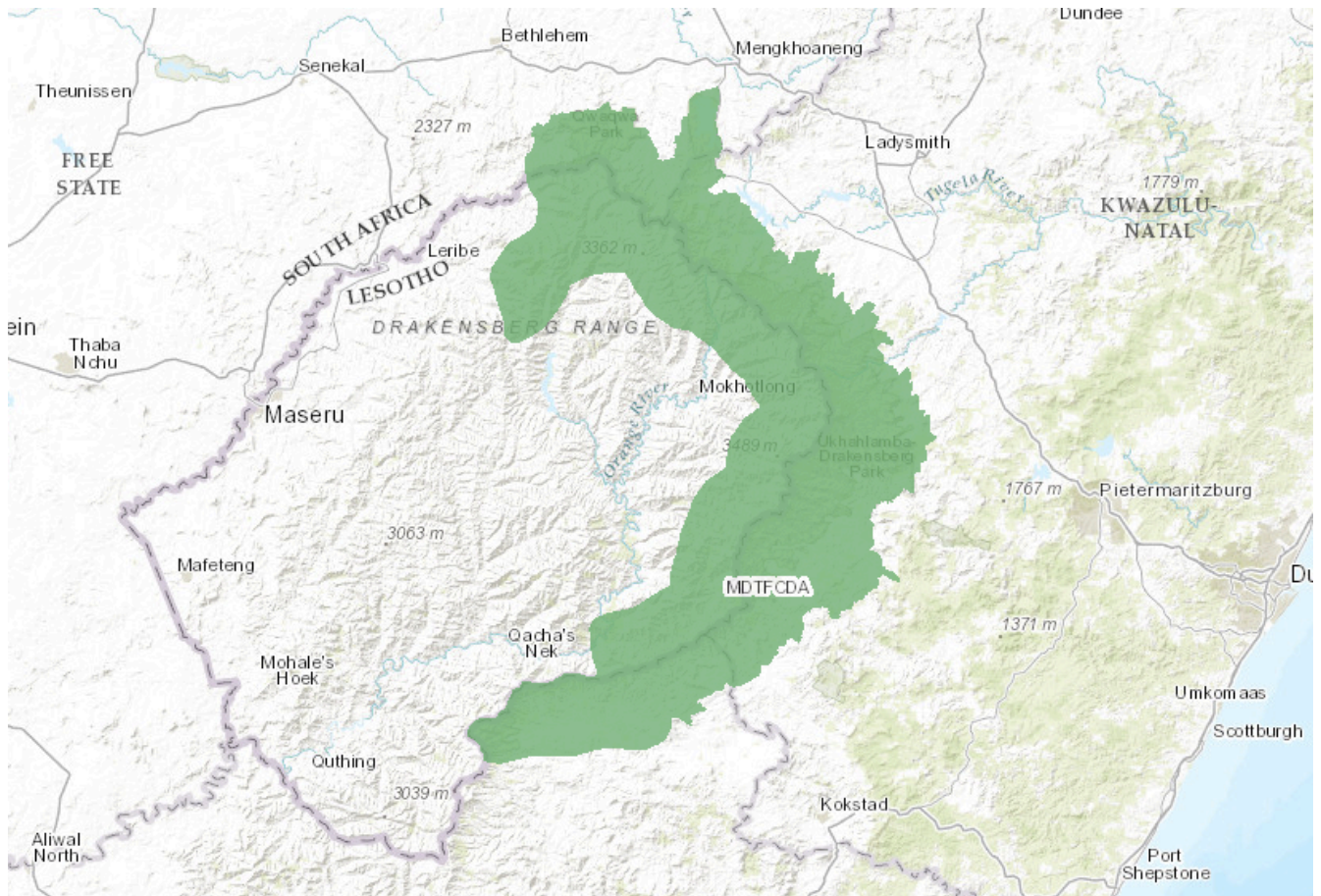
Parks Canada
Parcs Canada



Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area

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Location and countries involved: Lesotho and South Africa
Size: +/-48 000 sq/km)



Participants in coordinating the ongoing transboundary cooperation:

National Government:

- National Department of Environmental Affairs
- National Department of Tourism

Local Government:

- Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
- Free State Provincial Department of Economic Development Small Businesses Development
- Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- KwaZulu Natal Provincial Department of Economic Development
- Tourism and Environmental Affairs

Protected area administration:

- South African National Parks
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Free State Provincial Department of Economic Development
- Small Businesses Development
- Tourism
- Environmental Affairs

National NGOs:

- Peace Parks Foundation

Objectives:

- Conserve and sustainably manage and use the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Drakensberg and Maloti mountain region
- Contribute to economic development of the region through the promotion of nature based tourism

Values and importance:

- The region supplies more than 25% of water to South Africa's economic hub, the Gauteng Province, through the Tugela-Vaal Water transfer scheme
- The water transfer scheme also provides all of Lesotho's electricity requirements
- The area has the highest concentration of rock art images in Southern Africa
- The Maloti Drakensberg Park Transboundary World Heritage Site inscribed based on its unique cultural and natural heritage resources forms a significant part of the TFCA

Aspects of transboundary cooperation: Nature conservation; Ecosystem based management; Watershed management; Tourism; Firefighting; Safety and Security.

Stage in the process: Heads-of-State Agreement in place in a Bi-lateral MoU

Joint Management Plan in place: 20-Year (2008 – 2028)
Conservation and Development Strategy
Series of 5-Year Action Plans

Date Established: June, 11, 2001 (bilateral MoU signed)

Official Protected Area Designation:

- +/-5 Nature reserves
- 1 national park
- 1 transboundary World Heritage Site

The Catalyst

- Protection of the watershed with the initiation of the water transfer scheme, from dams on the Lesotho side to South Africa
- Security concerns – wildfires, stock theft and other security concerns

History

- Leadership and Political will – Following on the 1950s first discussions around the potential of the Lesotho highlands as a water source, around the late 1960s the South African government started making significant efforts to support Lesotho to better manage the catchment area. These efforts culminated in, among other initiatives, the 1970 declaration of Lesotho's first protected area, Sehlabathebe National Park whose first management plan of 1990 already made reference to making provision a wildlife corridor between this park and the Drakensberg Park on the South African side.
- The leadership of the KwaZulu Natal provincial conservation agency initiated discussions with their Lesotho counterparts on collaborative management of the major threats, like wildfires, to the mountain resources.
- External support and donor funding - With the support of the World Bank the efforts of the provincial conservation agency resulted in the 1997 Giants Castle declaration by key stakeholders from both countries committing themselves to collaborative management of the region's resources. A two year, 1999 – 2000, preparatory phase funded by the Japanese government through the World Bank was initiated and basically paved the way for the formal establishment of the TFCA in 2001.

Barriers, challenges, obstacles, or constraints:

- Disparities in access to funding – South African side is always better funded than the Lesotho side making coordination a challenge. South Africa is always ready to assist wherever and whenever possible.
- Lack of political continuity and support – frequent changes at political levels results in lack of continuity and support – constant meetings with new leadership is the only solution
- Limited funding among conservation agencies to meet their obligations

The Governance and Management Structures

- **Cooperative relationship:** There is formal cooperation arrangements without a very strong legal basis in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding
- **Legal basis for cooperation:** MoU
- **What is the governance structure:** The Bilateral Coordination Committee is the highest decision making body. It comprises of National Coordination Committee members of each country. The National Coordination Committees are comprised of conservation agencies and departments in each province the national department in South Africa and in Lesotho it is composed of most Ministries.
- **Cooperative management arrangement:** Joint plans and activities including monitoring of species.

Results

- Translocation of 25 Eland to Tsehlanyane National Park in Lesotho
- Facilitation of the establishment and declaration of the 4600ha Matatiele Nature Reserve and Translocation of 30 Red Hartebeest and 15 Mountain Reedbuck
- Development of a Bearded Vulture Biodiversity management plan, establishment of vulture restaurants; fitting of satellite tracking devices for monitoring of vultures
- Facilitated the extension of the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage site on the South African side to include Sehlabathebe National Park on the Lesotho side into a Transboundary World heritage Site – the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site

Lessons Learned

- There will always be skeptics in any transboundary arrangements and there is need for patience in building trust. The skepticism will always be more pronounced where the levels of development of the countries involved are different
- Donor funding needs to be properly managed to facilitate more effective coordination and collaboration. Donor funding/support that comes with conditions for separate national coordination units does not encourage effective coordination

For More Information

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