



Glacier National Park
CONSERVANCY



Parks
Canada



Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park & Conservation Area

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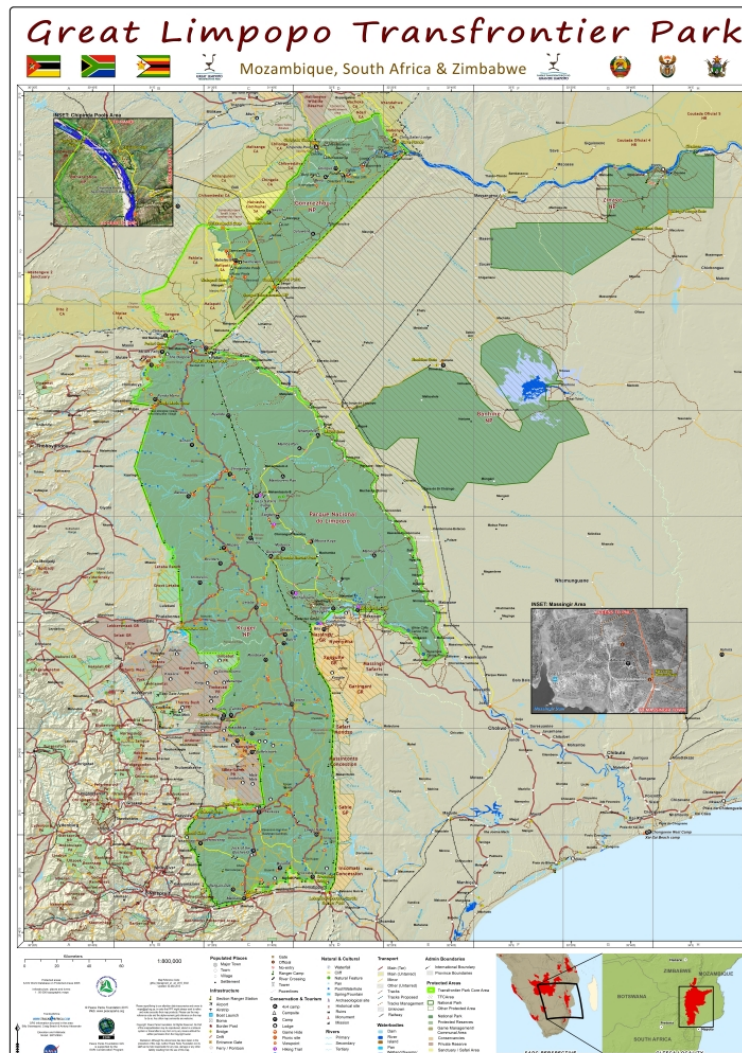
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Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe

Size: 37,572 km²



Participants in coordinating the ongoing transboundary cooperation:

National Government:

- Governments of Mozambique, South Africa & Zimbabwe

Local Government:

- District Councils of Mozambique, South Africa & Zimbabwe

Protected area administration:

- Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC) in Mozambique
- South African National Parks (SANParks) in South Africa
- Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) in Zimbabwe

International NGOs:

- Peace Parks Foundation (PPF)
- WWF
- Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)
- South African Wildlife College (SAWC)

National NGOs:

- Joaquim Chissano Foundation (Mozambique),
- AWARD and K2C (South Africa)
- CAMPFIRE (Zimbabwe)

Local NGOs:

- Wide range of local NGOs

Intergovernmental organizations:

- Various tri-lateral, bi-lateral & national intergovernmental organisations and structures dealing with themes ranging from biodiversity and conservation management, wildlife crime, tourism development, safety & security, infrastructure development, community development / livelihoods diversification

Multi-National Corporations:

- USAID
- KfW
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- World Bank
- Dutch Postcode Lottery
- Swedish Postcode Lottery

National Corporations:

- Various National Corporations and Entities

Local Small Businesses:

- Various Local Business Entities

Community-based Organizations:

- Wide range of Community-Based Organisations based in the in and around the respective country components

Objectives: The strategic objectives of the GLTP / GLTFCA as set out in the International Treaty are:

- Foster transnational collaboration and cooperation among the parties which will facilitate effective ecosystem management in the area comprising the GLTP
- Promote alliances in the management of biological natural resources by encouraging socio-economic, and other partnerships among the parties including private sector, local communities and Non-government Organisations
- Enhance ecosystem integrity and natural ecological processes by harmonising environmental management procedures across international boundaries and striving to remove artificial barriers impeding the natural movement of wildlife
- Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a sustainable sub-regional economic base through appropriate development frameworks, strategies and work plans
- Develop trans-border ecotourism to foster regional socio-economic development
- Establish mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of technical, scientific and legal information for the joint management of the ecosystem

Values and importance: The GLTFCA is an extensive area of essentially flat savanna bisected north/south by the Lebombo mountain range, and drained by four river systems flowing from west to east. Home to three biomes (grasslands, forest and savannah), this area comprises a vast scope of lowland savannah ecosystem, bisected by the Lebombo Mountains and four main landscapes including lowland plains savannah in the majority of the area; and somewhat hilly granite plateau in the western portions; the Lebombo Mountains rising to an average of 500m above sea level. Five major river systems cross the ecoregion, while dry savannah is maintained due to a relatively low average rainfall of about 550mm per annum.

There are five major vegetation types, including mopane woodlands and shrubveld in the north, mixed bushveld in the south, sandveld in the south-east of Mozambique, riverine woodlands in Kruger and Gonarezhou, and seasonally flooded dry grasslands in Banhine National Park. Stone-age artefacts and Iron-age implements provide evidence of a very long and almost continuous presence of humans in the area making up the proposed Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Early inhabitants were San hunter-gatherers, who left numerous rock-paintings scattered across the region, while Bantu people entered about 800 years ago, gradually displacing the San.

There is a large abundance of wildlife in the GLTFCA, with a total of 147 species of mammal, 116 reptile species, 49 species of fish, 34 species of frogs, and an incredible 500 or more birds species can also be found in the area, in addition to at least 2000 species of plants. It is possible to see all the classical African big game, including elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, giraffe, zebra, buffalo and many antelope species. Currently Kruger National Park is also home to one of the last significant and viable populations of Wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), having some 300 individuals in total.

Kruger National Park being one of the last strongholds of black and white rhino species, poaching remains an alarming threat to the survival of the two species.

Aspects of transboundary cooperation: The GLTFCA is currently undertaking the following bi-lateral and trilateral programmes and initiatives:

- Conservation Management Programme
- Institutional Reform Programme
- Cross-border Tourism Programme
- Wildlife Translocation Programme
- Marketing, Communication & Awareness Programme
- Wildlife Crime Programme
- Benefit Sharing & Livelihoods Diversification Strategy
- Joint Training Strategy / Programme
- Joint Research Policy / Programme
- Learning Network initiative
- Youth Programme
- Planning, development and implementation of the broader conservation area GLTFCA
- Development of a Joint Hunting Protocol
- Development on an Integrated Fencing Strategy

Stage in the process: Implementation since 2002

Date Established: Treaty Signed by Heads of State on 9 December 2002

Official Protected Area Designation: Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) encompasses various land uses and represents a true example of collaboration and management of shared natural resources. The Transfrontier Park joins together some of the most established wildlife areas in southern Africa into a core area of approximately 37 572 km². The TP links the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa, and Gonarezhou National Park, Manjinji Pan Sanctuary and Malipati Safari Area in Zimbabwe, as well as two community owned areas, one which forms part of the Kruger National Park in South Africa namely the Makuleke region, and the Sengwe-Tshipise communal land in Zimbabwe. The international treaty for the establishment of GLTP was signed in 2002. This landmark also provided a platform for the future development and implementation of the second-phase Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), which includes even a more wide variety of land uses varying from communal areas to private reserves and extends to a conservation area of almost 100 000km².

The Catalyst: Transfrontier Parks (TFPs) and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) are established when the authorities responsible for all conservation areas, which border one another across international boundaries, agree to manage those areas as one integrated unit. These areas may include ecological corridors, private game reserves, communal natural resource management areas and hunting concession areas. The mission

is to remove all human barriers within the Transfrontier Park or Transfrontier Conservation Area so that animals can roam freely within the local ecosystem. The purpose of these parks is to employ conservation as a land-use option to the benefit of local people.

These projects aim to establish large areas for conservation by integrating vast landscapes and re-connecting ecological systems. The benefits to local communities are achieved through the establishment of cross-border tourism and socio-economic development programs. The projects in their entirety promote peace and stability in the region by strengthening collaborative bonds between the involved nations and increasing incentives for peaceful cooperation among actors.

History

1990: President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and President of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa Dr Anton Rupert, discuss the possible creation of the Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier Conservation Area (GKG TFCA).

1991: The Mozambican Government use Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds to research the possibility of launching a Transfrontier Conservation Area pilot project.

1992 - 1994: The Peace Accord in Mozambique and the South African democratic elections pave the way towards making the pilot project a reality.

1996: Further feasibility studies are initiated by the World Bank and the pilot project is launched with Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding.

2000: Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Mozambique, Helder Muteia, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in South Africa, Valli Moosa, and Minister of Environment and Tourism in Zimbabwe, Francisco Nhema sign a Trilateral Agreement in Skukuza, South Africa. The Skukuza Agreement finalized the three nations' intent to establish and develop a transfrontier park and surrounding conservation area that, at that time, was still called GKG TFCA.

2002: President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe sign an International Treaty for the establishment of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) in Xai-Xai, Mozambique. This allowed for the formal proclamation of the GLTP, and also provided a platform for the future development and implementation of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), which includes various land uses around the core Protected Areas, varying from communal areas to private reserves.

Barriers, challenges, obstacles, or constraints: The GLTP / GLTFCA could potentially play a significant role in supporting conservation and socio-economic development initiatives in the region. In so doing, it contribute to the following broad regional priorities: sustainable local and regional livelihoods; increased capacity for biodiversity conservation in the region; stability, peace and security; long-term sustainability of conservation

development initiatives, including legitimate participation of all stakeholders; and integrated local and regional economic development programmes. However, in order to achieve these there needs to be tangible benefit flows from conservation to socio-economic development. This will only happen in a meaningful way if the relationship between protected areas and its potential benefits to its neighbours are fully understood and addressed. In addition to this, the potential impact of key drivers of change should also be well understood.

In a recent GLTFCA Integrated Livelihoods Strategy development process, a number of key drivers of change influencing conservation and development initiatives in the region were identified. These included:

- Rights (access rights, land rights, tenure)
- Rainfall variability/ drought/ water availability (quantity/ quality)
- Exclusion, unemployment, poverty and expectations
- Global economy, exchange rates, tourism sector growth
- Education, skills, literacy
- Cultural beliefs
- Diseases (human and animal)
- Law enforcement / wildlife crime
- Infrastructure development (including telecoms)
- Policy and political stability

In order to address these, the following key objectives were set and are seen as key to the success of the initiative:

- Protect and restore the natural resources that support livelihoods.
- Enhance the ability of local communities to capture the benefits of existing and new livelihood opportunities.
- Empower people with a wider range of livelihood choices through supporting the development of human, social, productive and financial capital, thus reducing unsustainable dependency on diminishing natural capital reserves.
- Build effective partnerships and institutions based on trust and collaboration.
- Strengthen governance and capacity at all levels, including the community level.

The Governance and Management Structures

- **Cooperative relationship:** Legally binding - International Treaty signed by Heads of States of 3 partner countries in 2002
- **Legal basis for cooperation:** International Treaty signed in 2002
- **Governance structure:** The GLTP / GLTFCA is a government-to-government initiative which implementation is guided by the tri-lateral Joint Management Board (JMB), who in turns reports to a tri-lateral Ministerial Committee.

- **Cooperative management arrangement:** Wide range of national, bi-lateral and tri-lateral co-operative programmes and initiatives, which get implemented under the guidance of the JMB.

Results: To date, much of the JMB's efforts have focused on the development and operationalization of the GLTP; recently however the JMB made a decision to start pursuing some of the treaty's broader socio-economic objectives that seek to address the needs of communities within the GLTFCA.

Stakeholders in the GLTFCA (in particular, duty-bearers such as the GLTP JMB, the implementing agencies in each country, the protected areas and other local authorities mandated to focus on development) agree to support local stakeholders/right-holders through conservation-based initiatives to enhance and diversify their livelihoods by:

- Looking inward: Enhance net benefit of protected areas for local people through minimizing the negative impacts of living in and in the vicinity of a protected area. Enhance the ability of individuals, households and communities to capture positive benefits including ecosystem goods and services associated with effective management of the natural resource base as well as locally defined benefits and services;
- Looking outward: Support diverse livelihood opportunities and initiatives in the area for the benefit of local individuals, households and communities, especially where they do not conflict with conservation imperatives; and
- Looking forward: Pre-empt, mitigate and adapt to key drivers of change.

The following changes are foreseen in the short / medium and long term:

Short to Medium Term:

- Improved benefit flow to communities through wildlife economy based interventions, including increased cross border tourism
- Enhanced management and protection of the conservation estate through the development of appropriate and capacitated local institutions
- Improved local capacity through human capital based interventions

Long Term:

- Securing the conservation estate through formalization of buffer areas around the core area
- Constituency building through an effective youth programme
- Building improved capacity of the conservation agencies in the 3 partner countries

Lessons Learned: Based on experience to date, the following key issues are critical to the success of the planning and development process for the establishment of TFPs and TFCAs:

- High-level political buy-in often results in high level of exposure and funding;
- Effective collaboration and co-operation between countries often results in peace and stability in the region;
- A key strength of transboundary conservation projects is the ability to create opportunities for collaboration and partnership building on various levels and scales i.e. international, national, regional, and local levels;
- Lack of political will and understanding will impede the process. This includes a lack of understanding and/or commitment from other relevant government agencies and key role players in the TFCA development process;
- Unequal management capacity, including the lack of human and financial resources in the relevant institutions, will also slow or impede the process;
- Capacity to lobby for and secure funds for TFCA related activities could potentially impede the rate of implementation of the project;
- Differences / disparities in policies and legislation may require harmonization processes to facilitate effective implementation of TFCAs;
- Rate of planning, development and implementation process may not be suitable to all the parties involved, especially when there are disparities relating to institutional capacity, financial resources, and level of community / stakeholder participation;
- Effective local community and key stakeholder participation in the planning, development, and implementation process is critical to the long term success of the project;
- Potential conflicts could arise resulting from countries having different resource management strategies (e.g. sustainable consumptive use versus non-consumptive use);
- Potential incompatibility of goals when countries are in different stages of development, or when the components of the TFCA differ in the level of tourism infrastructure investment, could impede progress; and
- Language barriers may have to be overcome to ensure effective communication.

For More Information

<https://www.facebook.com/greatlimpopo>

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<https://maps.ppf.org.za/livelihood/index.html>

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lesbhbo7fxbbe63/AAB4DoT_nTSmqN-1HqpKcsbBa?dl=0

<http://www.greatlimpopo.org/2016/09/integrated-livelihoods-diversification-strategy/>