



Greater Mapungubwe TFCA



Integrated Development Plan

First Edition - Executive Summary



Cover Photograph Credits:

Main photo: Koos van der Lende

Top Vignettes (left to right): Ecotourism Afrika, Koos van der Lende, Stefan Cilliers

Bottom Vignettes (left to right): Southern African Natural History Unit (SANHU), Peace Parks Foundation, SANHU

Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area

Integrated Development Plan

First Edition – Executive Summary and Presentation Notes

September 2010



Copies of this Report can be obtained from the **National Coordinators**:

Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism, Botswana

Coordinator Research and Development/TFCAs

Mr R Mojapoko

Tel: +26 73647931

Mobile: +

Fax: +26 73951095

E-mail: rmojaphoko@gov.bw

Department of Environment Affairs, South Africa

Director TFCA Unit

Mr E Mokgane

Tel: +27 123103689

Mobile: +27 836522675

Fax: +27 1232022849

E-mail: emokgane@deat.gov.za

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Zimbabwe

National TFCA Coordinator

Mr E Chidziya

Tel: +26 3 912217398

Mobile: +26 34790574

Fax: +26 34790567

E-mail: edson@mweb.co.zw

Citation

GMTFCA TTC. 2010. Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area Integrated Development Plan, First Edition. Executive Summary. September 2010. 5pp.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PRESENTATION NOTES¹

As part of the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area's (GMTFCA) preparation of an Integrated Development Plan was deemed necessary and critical by the Trilateral Technical Committee (TTC) to provide strategic direction for attaining the objectives of the TFCA. The process regarding the preparation of this IDP was initiated in September 2009 at a TTC meeting held at Dongola Ranch, South Africa.

[Slide 1 & 2]

An overview of the IDP shows four main Sections: *Introduction; The Place; The People; and The Plan.*

[Slide 3]

The first section addresses the reasons for compiling the IDP, provides the motivation for the IDP, a description of the study area and a description of the procedure to compile the IDP.

[Slide 4]

The motivation for the GMTFCA is based on the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 2006 between the three partner countries, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, aimed at effectively conserving the natural and cultural resources of the area transcending the international boundaries between the three countries.

[Slide 5]

Specific aspects of significance within the GMTFCA include the scenic beauty and biodiversity of the area associated with the Shashe and Limpopo River Basin and specifically the confluence area. Additional motivation for the GMTFCA includes the significant role that this conservation initiative can play in conserving and protecting the cultural heritage of the region based on the recognition that South Africa has been able to attain with the listing of Mapungubwe National Park (MPNP) as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS). Sites of major cultural significance linked to the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (MCL) occur within both Botswana and Zimbabwe necessitating an expansion of the WHS to include these sites as well.

[Slide 6]

Recognising the important role that tourism development plays in lobbying support for and unlocking the economic potential of the GMTFCA, and the inherent potential within the GMTFCA, this was identified as a significant component that could lead to regional growth and development, in a region that has limited options.

The GMTFCA IDP serves as a strategic document, providing direction and context for the development and governance of the TFCA, and is based on the needs and expectations of relevant stakeholders. By clarifying appropriate development through considering environmental, social and political dynamics unique to the area, the IDP can align national issues within a regional context agreed to by the three partner countries.

Through the provision of a structured description of the various environments within which the TFCA is planned it is possible to set objectives based on clear guidelines regarding the governance of the TFCA.

[Slide 7]

Once approved by the TTC and partner countries, the IDP will be operationalised through an implementation business plan and supporting detailed operational plans, programmes and procedures which will periodically undergo performance review to ensure relevance.

[Slide 8]

¹ *This executive summary has been extracted from the GMTFCA IDP, GMTFCA TTC. 2010. Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area Integrated Development Plan, First Edition. September 2010. xii + 130pp. and is accompanied by a Power Point Presentation (attached).*

The GMTFCA IDP is located in the western extremity of the low-lying areas along the east coast of Africa, at the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo Rivers. It includes the Northern Tuli Game Reserve (NOTUGRE), in Botswana, the MPNP and the Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve in South Africa, and the Tuli Circle Safari Area, several Wildlife Management Areas and Game Ranches in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe constitutes approximately 75% of the surface area, Botswana 15% and South Africa 10%.

For the first phase of planning, the study area comprises a planning domain largely based on ecological and cultural heritage parameters, yet in places cadastral boundaries were used, rather than catchment or cultural landscape boundaries.

[Slide 9-11]

The IDP was prepared through the perusal of TTC reports and studies, as well as deliberations within and between the TTC Working Groups, country delegations and other stakeholders. As part of the consultation process a "Consultative and Review Report" was compiled, serving as a record of the stakeholders that reviewed the draft IDP and the comments received and incorporated into the first edition of the GMTFCA IDP.

[Slide 12-13]

The second section of the GMTFCA IDP (*The Place*) provides insight into the four environments within which the planning of the TFCA takes place – Biophysical, Cultural and Historical, Economic and Governance – as well as how the sensitivities of these individual environments are combined into a combined sensitivity for the TFCA.

[Slide 14-16]

The most sensitive areas are identified as the Shashe and Limpopo river valleys and sandstone ridges through the area. Utilising these areas for ecotourism development requires attention to the given ensuring that the unique character of these areas is not negatively impacted upon.

[Slide 17-18]

The third section (*The People*) provides a description of the role-players and stakeholders as well as their needs and expectations. This includes a description of the individual country components, the TTC, and the existing Working Groups – Conservation, Community Development, Safety and Security, and Tourism.

[Slide 19-20]

The broad needs and expectations of the stakeholders include joint TFCA management and operations aimed at the conservation of the region's unique natural and cultural resources; guidelines regarding the sustainable and equitable development inclusive of tourism; the establishment of safety and security protocols; and the provision of benefits to the region and its people.

[Slide 21]

The fourth section consists of the strategic plan for the GMTFCA, and entails four subsections – the first being the identification of challenges and threats associated with aspects such as habitat fragmentation, mining and agriculture within the area surrounding the TFCA.

[Slide 22-24]

The second sub-section addresses the strategic guidelines inclusive of the vision and mission for the GMTFA.

The vision as set by the TTC is that the GMTFCA will be *"a world-renowned Transfrontier Conservation Area linking the Mapungubwe cultural landscape as well as the ecosystems of the Limpopo Valley across the international borders between Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe"*.

[Slide 25]

To attain this vision, the mission is *"to establish a world renowned eco-tourism destination by-*

- *Promoting and fostering international cooperation;*
 - *Conserving biodiversity across international boundaries;*
-

- *Protecting the cultural heritage and geographic landscape of the area; and*
- *Facilitating socio-economic benefits”.*

[Slide 26]

The strategic objectives underlying the governance of the TFCA are:

- *Establishing appropriate institutional arrangements and structures and harmonising policy to ensure effective governance of the TFCA;*
- *Re-establishing wildlife movement and corridors by managing and protecting the landscapes, ecosystems, biodiversity and cultural heritage elements of the Limpopo Valley;*
- *Facilitating social development by establishing ecotourism as a key economic activity;*
- *Ensuring a healthy and safe environment; and*
- *Managing benefits from conservation and ecotourism to the region and its people.*

[Slide 27]

Recognising that the development of the GMTFCA is now moving from the initial concept, political support and planning phases into implementation and operationalisation, the third sub-section, a strategic business plan, provides detail on eight (8) Key Performance Areas (KPA) identified as essential for successful development of this TFCA. These include:

- *KPA 1 ~ Joint Planning;*
- *KPA 2 ~ Legal status and institutional arrangements;*
- *KPA 3 ~ Sustainable Financing;*
- *KPA 4 ~ Policy Harmonisation;*
- *KPA 5 ~ Sustaining and Restoring Landscape Dynamics;*
- *KPA 6 ~ Integrated Management;*
- *KPA 7 ~ Integrated Development Strategies; and*
- *KPA 8 ~ Benefit Flow Management.*

[Slide 28-29]

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are identified for each KPA, with associated strategies and action projects per KPI.

[Slide 30]

In the fourth sub-section, the concept development plan, the proposal regarding the establishment of the GMTFCA includes the consolidation of an initial core area – Transfrontier Park – surrounded by a TFCA. It is believed that over time, and based on either the natural or cultural conservation objectives, the Transfrontier Park can expand to collaboratively incorporate additional key areas. Initially the Transfrontier Park will consist of the following country contributions: Botswana – 75,000ha (29%); South Africa – 55,000ha (21%) and Zimbabwe – 130,000ha (50%), an approximate total area of 260,000ha.

[Slide 31-32]

A strategy regarding possible expansion is provided, based on ecological blocks, administrative units and the sensitivity analyses that were done.

[Slide 33-34]

As part of the planning process, stakeholders provided guidance regarding aspects pertaining to access, use, development and infrastructure ('AUDI') required to effectively unlock the potential of the GMTFCA.

[Slide 35]

Access to the TFCA is discussed according to country based controls, formal and informal international crossings as well as transit routes through the Park.

Within Botswana access to the Transfrontier Park is via the NOTUGRE West and South checkpoints, as well as Pontdrift, while in South Africa access is controlled at the MPNP main gate, as well as two Venetia checkpoints. Zimbabwe has six access points, two of which serve as administrative gates and four as checkpoints. Undertaken in this way visitors can be welcomed to the TFCA, while transit traffic can still be accommodated, albeit in a controlled manner.

[Slide 36]

The use zonation shows that the majority of the core area will be used for wildlife based tourism aimed at conserving the environmental character of the area with some proposals being made for Zimbabwe regarding hunting block as well as tourism concession and general tourism use areas. Cognisance is taken of the sovereignty of Botswana and South Africa regarding the individual zonation regarding their respective protected areas.

[Slide 37]

Recommendations are also made regarding development nodes such as TFCA management nodes, agricultural support nodes within Zimbabwe along the Shashe River, and tourism development nodes at Fort Tuli and Musimani.

Requisite infrastructure such as the Limpopo Valley Airfield Port of Entry, the Mmamadaka and Homba Ports of Entry, entrance gates and various checkpoints, as well as park boundary (fence) delineation is discussed and mapped.

[Slide 38]

These proposals are captured in a master or concept development plan, spatially illustrating the placement of each of these aspects.

[Slide 39]

The impact of these proposals on the current environmental character of the area shows that the establishment of the Transfrontier Park will significantly contribute to improving the environmental character of the core area of the TFCA.

[Slide 40-41]

Detail proposals are also made for specific areas of the TFCA regarding the Ports of Entry and informal crossings, the various gates and checkpoints, TFCA Tourism Camps, and agricultural support nodes and enclaves.

[Slide 42]

The TFCA Tourism Products, inclusive of three 4x4 trails of various lengths, an African Foot Safari, a Mountain Bike Trail and arrangements for visitors from NOTUGRE to visit the WHS Interpretative Center, are discussed in detail.

[Slide 43]

The Mapungubwe Iron Age Trail (6 days, 5 nights) includes all three countries, linking the various sites of significance within the MCL. The Pioneer Trail (4days, 3 nights) incorporates South Africa and Zimbabwe, and focuses on the early settler history within the area. The two main development sites are located within Zimbabwe at Musimani and Forty Tuli while the South African component comprises the Mapungubwe WHS Interpretative Center, Mapungubwe Hill, the Confluence Viewpoint and the aerial walkways as well as road and trail network.

[Slide 44-45]

The Mapungubwe Eco Trail (4 days, 3 nights) incorporates South Africa and Zimbabwe and focuses on all aspects unique to the GMTFCA both from a natural and cultural perceive. This eco trail is based out of the Musimani 4x4 Camp in Zimbabwe, a proposed community owned camp, operated through a Community Public Private Partnership PPP arrangement.

[Slide 46]

The other two trails – the African Foot Safari and Mountain Bike Trail – are both based out of the Musimani Trail Camp, and focuses on the contact zone between South Africa and Zimbabwe, incorporating aspects such as the Mapungubwe WHS Interpretative Centre, Mapungubwe Hill, Confluence Viewpoint, sandstone ridges in Zimbabwe, wildlife areas within the core area of Zimbabwe and the living cultural resources in the Maramani Area.

[Slide 47-48]



APPENDIX: POWER POINT PRESENTATION

