

**An eco-tourism perspective of the  
Limpopo River Basin with particular  
reference to the Greater  
Mapungubwe Transfrontier  
Conservation Area given the impact  
thereon by the proposed Vele  
Colliery**



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# Abbreviations

<b>GMTFCA</b>	Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area
<b>TWG</b>	Tourism Working Group
<b>TTC</b>	Trilateral Technical Committee
<b>NOTUGRE</b>	The Northern Tuli Game Reserve
<b>LVA</b>	Limpopo Valley Airfield
<b>TFCA</b>	Transfrontier Conservation Area
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>MNP</b>	Mapungubwe National Park
<b>WHS</b>	World Heritage Site
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>ITMP</b>	Integrated Tourism Management Plan
<b>WEZA</b>	Wildlife & Environment Society of Zimbabwe
<b>TSA</b>	Tuli Safari Area
<b>ZPWMA</b>	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>LSTFCA</b>	Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area

## **In Summary**

- 1. GMTFCA is the present achievement as a result of a 90 year struggle to conserve the biodiversity and heritage of this area. Already in 1918, the dream was the establishment of a botanical reserve on the very same area that Coal of Africa now want to destroy the Mopane bushveld and archaeological remains to mine for coal.**
- 2. The area over which Vele has been granted a mining licence is part of the planning domain of the GMTFCA from the outset. Anything to the contrary is incorrect and misleading.**
- 3. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2006 reflects a Government to Government commitment at the highest level to the visionary concept of the Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) and the Tri-lateral Technical Committees have carried this brief when planning the TFCA.**
- 4. The Tourism Development Protocol was one of the first successes of the Tri-Lateral Technical Committee of the TFCA planning and it is incumbent on ALL countries to recognise this protocol for tourism and non-tourism related activities, mining included.**
- 5. The tourism ‘anchor’ is manifested in the interpretation of the cultural landscape which makes this TFCA special. The other tourism facets of GMTFCA, such as the wildlife, biodiversity, scenic beauty, simply set it apart from competing TFCAs elsewhere.**
- 6. Vele claims the mine will create employment for approximately 650 people. At present, the commercial tourism operations within the TFCA are already generating this number of employment opportunities, with the potential in the order to 3 500 employees. Unlike mining, such positions are sustainable.**

## Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA)

There is no doubt that the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) will one day be recognised as one of the most exciting TFCAs to have been proclaimed.

Greater Mapungubwe TFCA is unique. There will be no other wilderness area incorporated into any TFCA that will share the same unique attributes and attractions as that of GMTFCA. These include:

- A. **Stakeholders** – The GMTFCA will host a number of stakeholders in the three participating countries, amongst which are:

- Two National Parks
- Contract parks
- Substantial freehold land
- Leased areas
- Concessions
- Community areas both within and on the periphery.

- B. **Cultural uniqueness** – the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape which was one of many cultural habitations of the area over many centuries and which extended into both Botswana and Zimbabwe.

- C. **Diversity of Tourism** – This region already offers the visitor a diversity of the tourism offering including but not limited to:

- Cultural History
- Boer War History
- Paleontology
- San & Khoikhoi Rock Art
- Wildlife tourism
- Adventure tourism
- Living Culture Tourism
- Geological interest tours as some of the oldest rocks on the planet is situated in Greater Mapungubwe TFCA.
- Topographical including the confluence of the Shashe & Limpopo Rivers.
- Astronomy
- Botanical Tours
- Birding

D. **Established tourism infrastructure** - Already the tourism dynamics are representative of a functional wildlife and cultural tourism area offering:

- Upmarket 4/5 star lodges catering to the international tourism
- 2/3 star camps catering for the domestic market
- Wilderness, self catering camps and caravan parks attracting the overland tourism.

E. **Position in southern Africa** – The GMTFCA is situated in a part of southern Africa that will lend itself to a growing number of tourists:

- Situated halfway between Johannesburg and Victoria Falls, an overland traveller on route to/from Zimbabwe will elect to overnight in GMTFCA rather than stop elsewhere.
- Overland travellers bound to/from Botswana and Kruger National Park, this is an ideal stop over.
- The same applies to overland travellers bound to/from northern Botswana and Johannesburg where a small diversion to the GMTFCA will be more than amply reward the weary traveller.
- The air route between the Kruger National Park (South Africa) and Maun in the Okavango Delta (Botswana) also flies directly over GMTFCA and this would be an incentive to stop over. This stopover would reward the tourist at no additional cost or inconvenience.
- Air passengers on route between Victoria Falls and Johannesburg also over fly GMTFCA, a wildlife and cultural experience second to none.

The new age of tourism that is fast gaining a foothold over vehicle based tourism is the hands-on, outdoor and adventure activities and experiences. Tourists are getting younger, more health conscious and much less amenable to being confined to vehicles for up to 8 hours a day. Instead, tourists travel increasingly as families and the destinations that will experience increasing occupancies will be those that allow their tourists to get out and to experience Africa first hand; where the interpretive officer now compliments the experience and does not dominate the experience.

GMTFCA is one of these.....

## **A brief history**

The concept of a TFCA at the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo Rivers is definitely not new. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in June 2006 between Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe was the culmination of a will by all three countries which commenced with the formation of the Dongola Botanical Reserve in 1918. Dogged by politics and other ‘ecologically unfriendly’ agendas, it was not until 87 years later when all stakeholders, encouraged and funded by The Peace Parks Foundation, sat around a table to focus energy on this vision for a cross border park.

The present day motivation for a TFCA extends past flora and fauna to matters involving:

1. The Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape involving all three countries
2. Communities both peripherally and internally that will benefit from a co-ordinated approach to tourism.
3. Ecologically where the expansion of range for elephant is deemed to be preferable to culling and transfrontier parks make for good cooperation between countries in solving the elephant management challenge.
4. Creating corridors between the major TFCA's permitting a link for both wildlife and tourists.

### **Why “Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area”?**

The Limpopo Shashe TFCA was the name originally given to the TFCA but it was always believed that the name would be temporary as thought was given to a name that more accurately reflected the character of the TFCA.

In September 2008, the Tourism Working Group proposed that the name should be ‘Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area’.

- *The planning domain of the TFCA was the approximate area of the original Kingdom of Mapungubwe*
- *South Africa and Botswana both have sites called Mapungubwe and it was believed that Zimbabwe also had a site of similar name*
- *Mapungubwe was already a World Heritage Site and therefore it would merely be an extension of this status for the entire TFCA.*
- *Mapungubwe was a common cultural landscape to the region and was not exclusively South African.*
- *Substantial marketing and advertising had been incurred in putting Mapungubwe on the tourism map and it would seem financially expedient to capitalise on this.*

Mapungubwe was a Kingdom with royalty residing at Mapungubwe. This culture was not restricted to south of the Limpopo River in what is known as South Africa but existed before international borders were established. In fact, this dynasty extended for many thousands of square kilometres into what is now Botswana and Zimbabwe and research by archaeologists has revealed that, north of the Limpopo River and both east and west of the Shashe River, these two regions were as much part of the Mapungubwe Kingdom as was the South African component.

Since the site of Mapungubwe was discovered in 1933, artefacts of animal origin such as beads made from ostrich eggshell, large land snails, bone and ivory as well as bracelets made of ivory have been found throughout the region. These beads as well as large garden roller beads are still collected from old burial sites in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa, including the area that Coal want to excavate, confirming the existence of a large cultural landscape.

## **Tourism to GMTFCA**

### **Tourism Attributes**

In order for conservation areas to be viable and sustainable, it is both necessary and vital for such wildlife areas to be financially independent or alternatively rely on donors for financial assistance.

The self sufficient model has been in place in parts of the GMTFCA for over 30 years and there is no doubt that GMTFCA has the attributes, infrastructure and commitment to a model whereby tourism will fund operating costs.

What is significant about GMTFCA is that unlike many other proposed TFCA's where the activities and attributes are largely similar, each component of GMTFCA is different and diverse and represents an experience that sets it apart from the other two components.

Attractions	Botswana	South Africa	Zimbabwe
<b><u>Access</u></b>			
Airfields	x	x	x
Paved/tarred Roads		x	
Developed Tourism Infrastructure	x	x	
3-5 star	x	x	
1,2 star	x	x	x
Wilderness Camps	x	x	x
Camp sites		x	
<b><u>Activities</u></b>			
<i>Historical</i>			
Paleontological		x	x
StoneAge	x	x	x
Iron age	x	x	x
San Rock Art		X	x
Zhizho		x	X
Mapungubwe Culture	x	x	X
Boer War	x		x
<i>Present day</i>			
Historical Tours		x	
Wildlife Safaris	x	x	x
Adventure Tourism			
Biking	x	X	
Walking	x	x	x
Horses	x	X	
Scientific	x	x	
Quadbiking			

Hot Air Ballooning	x		
Canoeing/Kayaking			x
Hunting		x	x
Boating			x

### **Sensitivity to tourism development:**

A reference to the Land Use Plan Sensitivity Analysis of the GMTFCA reveals that agriculture, both subsistence and otherwise are largely unsuitable in the planning domain of GMTFCA. But the table below shows that inasmuch as agriculture is a non-starter, the tourism attributes of the region are superior and with limited adverse impact on the environment:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Botswana</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>
<b><i>Agriculture</i></b>			
Perennial Crops	low	moderate	low
Annual Crops	low	moderate	low
Potential Pastures	Low/moderate	High	low
<b><i>Tourism Development Sensitivity</i></b>			
Resilience	Resilient	Resilient	Less resilient
Simplified Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity	Moderate/high sensitivity	Low sensitivity

It is clear that agriculture as a land use alternative is NOT an option and that stakeholders should focus on tourism as a sustainable and viable alternative to agriculture.

## **A Holistic Tourism Model for GMTFCA**

The GMTFCA, enjoying the enormous and unique diversity of attractions, already offers a tourism mix that compliments one another.

In terms of accommodations, our TFCFA already offers the following facilities:

- Upmarket lodges
- Themed cultural village camps
- Self catering family units
- Small bush camps
- Education camp with dormitory style facilities
- Caravan and camping sites
- Overnight trails camps and wilderness fly-camps

In terms of day visitors and self drive tourists, our TFCA already offers:

- picnic sites,
- hides,
- viewpoints and viewing decks
- themed interpretation display boards
- Museums/Interpretive centres
- Refreshment, food, curio and supply stops

## **Tourism Development Protocol**

One of the first roles of the TWG in October 2006 was the development of a Tourism Development Protocol which, it is envisaged, will be an annexure to the Treaty to be signed by all three countries.

Opportunistic and misplaced tourism development is probably responsible for more unhappiness in ecologically sensitive areas than hunting. Disrespect for neighbours invariably is the motivating factor for such unhappiness and this has been borne out on numerous occasions in The Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana. The Tourism Development Protocol was driven by the Botswana delegates to the TWG but, without doubt, both the South African and Zimbabwean delegates gave generously of their advice and experience when finalising same.

The attitude of the TWG remains one of:

For any human density or infrastructural development of any kind in the TFCA:

- the TFCA should be consulted as Interested and Affected Parties to any proposed development and a Scoping Report should be compiled of the proposed development detailing location, impact, 'pollution' (light, sound, visual, and environmental), irrespective of the distance from the neighbour. Written consent from immediate neighbours must be the precursor to construction commencing.
- Neighbours – "Neighbour" and "neighbours" shall mean those who own property adjacent to that of the applicant as well as those who own land in the TFCA from which a person may hear or see or in any way be adversely affected by the proposed development;
- 'Buildings' shall include timber structures, tents and mobile or portable homes, offices and the like other than those used on an *ad hoc* basis for strictly limited, short durations of time;
- Other human development will include boreholes, dams, weirs and bridges
- Environmental Impact Assessments – Should the technical committees of the TFCA tasked with monitoring development deem a full Environmental Impact Assessment necessary, then the developer will proceed with such a study at his expense.

As a minimum the following issue groups need to be addressed:

- Noise
- Visual intrusion of development

- Management of ecological integrity and biodiversity
- Waste management
- Water management
- Socio-economic development
- Cultural resource management

**EIA's and development parameters remain subject to respective country's legislation but that provisions of the Tourism Development Protocol in respect of neighbourly consultation in terms of sight, sound and smell are a requirement.**

## **Attractions in the TFCA**

It is understood that ultimately the financial viability and sustainability of any TFCA is paramount to the success of same and in this regard therefore entrepreneurial tourism flair ultimately determines the success of the respective components.

In terms of tourism to GMTFCA, tourism prospects remain limited until such time as the objectives of the Integrated Development Plan of GMTFCA have been implemented. It is then that GMTFCA as a:

1. Cross Border Park and
2. Thoroughfare/stopover to other African destinations....

....will see tourism boom.

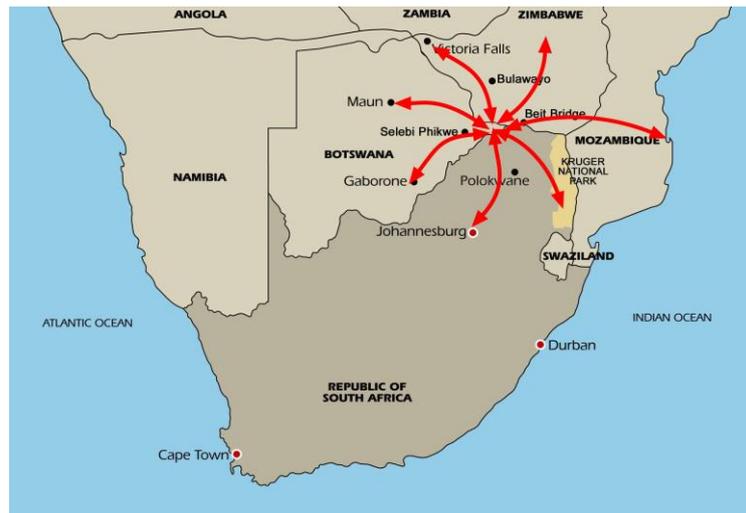
Access into the proposed GMTFCA is an integral component of driving the tourism dynamic which will, in turn, drive development in the region and spur employment opportunities for peripheral communities.

In this regard, plans for joint initiatives to promote tourism include:

### **1. Access Points at Limpopo Valley Airfield**

One of the biggest challenges to GMTFCA is the option of flying passengers into the TFCA. International travellers emanating from some countries, the Americas especially, seldom self drive. Some nationalities receive only 10 days leave a year and when travelling, they like to arrive, see as much of the subcontinent as possible and then return home. This means that air transport is the only way and for GMTFCA to derive a benefit, the recommendation of the TWG in respect of the international airport at Limpopo Valley Airfield in Botswana have been agreed to which include:

- Immigration from South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe is present.
- All arriving air passengers on route to either South Africa or Zimbabwe can clear into those respective countries.
- Road or short hop air transfers can get them to their destinations without delay.



## **Vehicle Access.**

It is proposed that the four crossings into different countries within the TFCA will be:

- Pont Drift – Botswana/South Africa
- Tuli Circle - Botswana/Zimbabwe
- Poacher's Corner – South Africa/Zimbabwe
- Nottingham Ranch – South Africa/Zimbabwe

## **Branding**

In a very short space of time, the Mapungubwe brand has become reasonably well known. Whilst some international tourists will, as do many South Africans, struggle to pronounce the name 'Mapungubwe' it is also name that one will, once one has mastered the pronunciation of same, not forget.

Mapungubwe is synonymous with:

1. An African Kingdom that pre-dates the first colonial settlement in Africa, and which traded with the East, including China.
2. A civilisation that pre-dates Great Zimbabwe and Thulamela in the Kruger National Park.
3. the core of African nationalism in southern Africa.
4. the spiritual home of southern African communities.

## **Employment**

The TWG believes that one of the immediate beneficiaries of GMTFCA will be the opportunities for communities in the tourism arena, both in employment and in business.

The TWG is of the experienced opinion that as visitor numbers increase, employment will increase proportionately. Occupancy levels of around 60% are considered to be a reasonable target, given proper, coordinated marketing of the TFCA and including the

educational market. At this level of occupancy, it is the view and experience of the TWG that between 6000 and 7000 direct and indirect jobs could be created.

A commercial operation in Botswana claims from experience that the communities benefit from tourism many years before the shareholders and investors therein. This eco-tourism safari, owned in conjunction with an agency representing the Botswana Government can divulge that from 1988, the shareholders and investors only saw a recoupment of total losses after 21 years, while during this time, almost P42 million was paid in salaries and wages.

Communities will be the first beneficiary stakeholders to benefit from GMTFCA tourism growth.

### **Numbers of Employees in Greater Mapungubwe TFCA**

#### **At present**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Lodges/hotels</u></b>	<b><u>Employees</u></b>
<b><u>Botswana</u></b>	<b><u>The Northern Tuli Game Reserve</u></b>	<b>38</b>	<b>354</b>
<b><u>South Africa</u></b>	<b><u>Mapungubwe NP</u></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>177</b>
<b><u>Zimbabwe</u></b>	<b><u>Tuli Safari Area</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>			<b>556</b>

#### **Please note that at present:**

1. These figures represent an ‘embryo’ tourism dynamic pending
  - a. the signing of the treaty.
  - b. The facilitation of Limpopo Valley Airfield as a registered Port of Entry into the TFCA
  - c. The construction of two ‘Tourism’ border posts into the TFCA on the Limpopo River between South Africa and Zimbabwe.
2. Only the successful The Northern Tuli Game Reserve is included in the Botswana component of the TFCA which is expected to expand into the Central Tuli Game Reserve and Southern Tuli Game Reserve. In addition Community land will be included and this is a process that is now at an advanced stage.
3. Only Mapungubwe National Park in South Africa is included in the TFP but these figures include the proposed expansion of the TFCA footprint, where it is expected that all the tourism lodges surrounding the National Park will be incorporated.

4. Due to the absence of access for tourists, Zimbabwe has limited tourism and this is restricted to 8-bedded hunting camps. With the proposed tourism border posts installed along the river between South Africa and Zimbabwe, it is expected that tourism numbers will experience substantial growth.
5. Employment is calculated at:
  - a. 2 employees per commercial bed in fully catered lodges (an accepted norm)
  - b. Employees numbers at 65% of number of syndicated beds
  - c. Employees numbers at 30% of number of private beds.

**Five years after formation of TFCA**  
**(an estimate)**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Lodges/hotels</u></b>	<b><u>Employees</u></b>
<b><u>Botswana</u></b>	<b><u>The Northern Tuli Game Reserve</u></b>	38	650
	<b><u>Central Tuli Game Reserve</u></b>	12	350
	<b><u>Community Areas</u></b>	2	20
<b><u>South Africa</u></b>	<b><u>Mapungubwe NP</u></b>	6	150
	<b><u>Surrounding areas</u></b>	12	250
<b><u>Zimbabwe</u></b>	<b><u>Tuli Safari Area</u></b>	4	50
	<b><u>Maramani</u></b>	2	20
	<b><u>Sentinel</u></b>	1	12
	<b><u>Nottingham</u></b>	2	25
	<b><u>Gwanda</u></b>	1	10
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>			<b><u>1537</u></b>

**25 years after formation of TFCA**  
**(An estimate)**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Lodges/hotels</u></b>	<b><u>Employees</u></b>
<b><u>Botswana</u></b>	<b><u>The Northern Tuli Game Reserve</u></b>	45	1440

	<b><u>Central Tuli Game Reserve Community Areas</u></b>	<b>16</b>	<b>512</b>
	<b><u>Southern Tuli Game Reserve</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>
		<b>22</b>	<b>450</b>
<b><u>South Africa</u></b>	<b><u>Mapungubwe NP</u></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b><u>Surrounding areas</u></b>	<b>20</b>	<b>640</b>
<b><u>Zimbabwe</u></b>	<b><u>Tuli Safari Area</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>160</b>
	<b><u>Maramani</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>96</b>
	<b><u>Sentinel</u></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>
	<b><u>Nottingham</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>128</b>
	<b><u>Gwanda</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b><u>River Ranch</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>
	<b><u>Surrounding Areas</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>128</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>			<b><u>3904</u></b>

In terms of the above numbers:

1. 3904 is the number of employees actually engaged in the commercial operations of tourism.
2. Land owner associations employ many people for security, environmental management and support services.
3. Surrounding cultural villages enjoy significant benefits from the tourism 'engine' which has been discounted from this submission.
4. So too will indirect benefits to surrounding communities from construction and construction supplies (bricks, sand and labour), incidental labour, market gardening, curios and transport.
5. It is not inconceivable that 25 years after the formation of the Greater Mapungubwe TFCA that upwards of 10 000 people in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe will benefit from the services and supplies, (whether labour, goods or otherwise) from the TFCA.

## **Revenues:**

In order to accurately project revenues for each component, an analysis of:

1. the respective country products should be carried out and rates deduced from comparative regions elsewhere in Southern Africa.

2. the position of this TFCA as a stopover as opposed to a final destination. This is very positive and likely to bolster year round occupancies.
3. the cultural and adventure attributes of the TFCA
4. The dynamics of the tourism that would patronise each component; domestic via road and international via air.
5. The mix of tourism offering divided into 'freehold' tourism and National Park Tourism.

On this basis, it would be fair to compile a table and average rate per component on the following basis:

### **Year 5**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Commercial Beds</u></b>	<b><u>Rack Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Consideration</u></b>
Botswana	832	\$250	\$45 552 000
South Africa	288	\$125	\$ 7 884 000
Zimbabwe	160	\$75	\$ 2 628 000
		<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$56 064 000</u></b>

### **Year 25**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Commercial Beds</u></b>	<b><u>Rack Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Consideration</u></b>
Botswana	1392	\$400	\$121 939 200
South Africa	416	\$300	\$ 27 331 200
Zimbabwe	304	\$200	\$ 13 315 200
		<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$162 585 600</u></b>

The above table conservatively deduces:

1. Average camp size is 16 beds
2. Average occupancy year round in 60% of full yield
3. Each component enjoys a tourism mix that differs.
4. Scheduled air flights into Limpopo Valley Airfield on a daily basis.
5. Planned immigration points between South Africa and Zimbabwe and Botswana and Zimbabwe.
6. The Zimbabwean community area component will enjoy higher levels of camping sites. In Botswana, on freehold land, camping sites are restricted to citizen ownership and therefore only likely to be found in community areas.

### **Land Values**

The only fully fledged established, non National Park 'game reserve' presently found within the core of the Greater Mapungubwe TFCA is The Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana.

From a value perspective, it should be noted that:

1. This land is all freehold land.
2. There is no exchange control in Botswana.
3. The reserve was established in the late 1960's and has enjoyed 'association' status from that time with a registered and operating constitution.
4. The Government of Botswana recently conferred Private Game Reserve Status on the reserve affording the association a level of autonomy and independence.
5. The Government of Botswana is a shareholder through Botswana Development Corporation in Mashatu Game Reserve in The Northern Tuli Game Reserve.
6. The Government of Botswana is an active and supportive proponent of the Greater Mapungubwe TFCA and leads, co-ordinates and facilitates at Ministerial level the formation of Greater Mapungubwe TFCA.
7. The inclusion of this freehold land into a TFCA will add enormous value to the properties.
8. The proclamation of the reserve as a World Heritage Site will further enhance value.

In this regards therefore and based on recent valuations and property transactions, freehold land in The Northern Tuli Game Reserve differs materially depending on topographical factors and availability of water.

In terms of value:

1. At the lower end of the value, small properties without access to river frontage and through which an access road would traverse would probably be valued at P7 500 (\$1200) per hectare.
2. Mid property values would include properties with non-perennial river frontage but with good reverine vegetation and diverse habitat. Such properties would be of the order of P12 000 – P15 000 (\$1820 - \$2275) per hectare.
3. Top property values where such properties enjoy perennial river frontage, established infrastructure, superior year-round wildlife viewing and a strategic position in the reserve would expect values of the order of P25 000 (\$3800) per hectare.

## **Deduction**

1. There is absolutely no doubt that Vele Colliery will be situated in the planning domain of GMTFCA.
2. The impact of this mining on tourism immediately north of the Limpopo River in Zimbabwe will prejudice the tourism aspirations of southern Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana.
3. The MOU signed between Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe in June 2006 did not preclude mining from the reciprocal obligations by South Africa to its international neighbours and it is only equitable that Zimbabwe and Botswana should have been consulted before the mining licence was issued.
4. Without such consultation, the Development Protocol is left wanting by South Africa.
5. Mining may well provide benefits to the region, but a study of eco-tourism will show that this industry benefits more communities, is sustainable and will enhance the experience for so many arriving visitors to the southern African tourism region.

## **A brief summary of the Tourism Experience of David Evans, Chairman of the Tourism Working Group of GMTFCA:**

1. Born in 1961.
2. Has grown up as a member of the MalaMala family as his stepfather has owned MalaMala since 1964, a family that were the first private eco-tourism operators in South Africa.
3. Has been Managing Director of Mashatu Game Reserve in the Botswana component of Greater Mapungubwe TFCA since 1995.
4. A director of The Curzon Corporation Limited since 2005, a company based in the United Kingdom that owns two upmarket tour operators.
5. A Director of Blue Peter Hotel (Pty) Ltd, a hotel based in the Western Cape of South Africa.
6. Executive Committee Member of Sabi Sand Wildtuin in South Africa from 1994 to 2006.
7. Executive Committee Member of The Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana from 1994 to present.
8. A member of the TTC for GMTFCA since 2006.
9. Chairman of the Tourism Working Group of the GMTFCA since October 2006.