

	<p align="center"><b>SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)</b>  <b>PROGRAMME FOR TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS (2013)</b></p>
<p>1. What sector or subject is the policy designed for?</p>	<p>Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA): <i>“an area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more boundaries between states, sub-national units such as provinces and regions, autonomous areas and/or areas beyond the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction, whose constituent parts are especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed cooperatively through legal or other effective means”</i> (IUCN, 2004).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Manage shared natural resources across international boundaries</li> <li>– Conserve biodiversity</li> <li>– Ensure equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources</li> </ul>
<p>2. Is the policy as a whole beneficial or inimical to achievement of the objectives of sustainable rangeland management and secure pastoral livelihoods?</p>	<p>In principle, the needs of pastoralists should specifically be addressed in TFCA Programme actions namely:</p> <p><b>Component 5: Enhancement of local livelihoods</b> recognises that, apart from using the land to raise livestock, grow food and cultivate cash crops, rural communities also harvest natural resources such as firewood, wild herbs, wild fruit and game meat for subsistence and commercial purposes. Therefore, TFCA activity plans should be developed through a participatory process and should clearly demonstrate the benefit flow to these communities, aligned with regional poverty alleviation strategies.</p> <p><b>Component 6: Reducing vulnerability of ecosystems and people to the effects of climate change:</b> The SADC region is vulnerable to the effects of climate variability and climate change with potential negative impacts on TFCAs and their contribution to poverty alleviation and economic development by affecting biodiversity and with it tourism, as well as agriculture, water and with it the well-being of the people living in TFCAs. This component seeks to address these rising concerns by supporting the development of climate change mitigation and adaption measures within TFCAs.</p> <p>It would, however, seem that wildlife conservation and tourism issues may overshadow rangeland use by small-scale farmers and pastoralists.</p>
<p>3. How does the policy advance (or frustrate) the ends of sustainable rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<p>Key features as prerequisites for successful implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Harmonisation of policy environment, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks to promote regional cooperation on all issues relating to environment and natural resource management including transboundary ecosystems</li> <li>– Conservation of regional ecosystems and landscapes</li> <li>– Protection and preservation of wildlife resources</li> <li>– Development of forest resources</li> </ul>

<p>4. What are the key principles in the policy that facilitate rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. TFCAs are founded on the realisation 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.</li> <li>ii. Conservation should embrace active participation and involvement of local communities in the planning and decision-making processes of natural resource management.</li> <li>iii. Primary beneficiaries of TFCAs should be the local communities living in and around the TFCAs and as such, there must be direct and equitable benefit flow to these communities.</li> <li>iv. TFCAs entail complex and integrated land-use planning at a landscape level and this requires a multi-sectorial approach to the participation of a diverse range of stakeholder groups.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Are there any discernible gaps in the policy that should be addressed to strengthen support for rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Lack of policy harmonisation potentially affects resource users' willingness to comply with the rules and regulations of TFCA. Each country has its own legal statutes, acts and so forth (Linell <i>et al</i> 2019).</li> <li>ii. Disharmony between TFCA principles of free movement to access broader transboundary landscape resources and specific national interest policies. For instance, conflicts occur over the killing of any livestock that stray across the border because of the need for protection from transboundary zoonotic disease transmission.</li> <li>iii. According to Tanner (2004), challenges of international law are particularly apparent with respect to community involvement in TFCA initiatives. Generally speaking, nation-states view international agreements – such as the Treaty of SADC – as international law, but disagreement exists among nation-states regarding the legitimacy of specific provisions related to community involvement in TFCA initiatives. The provisions related to community involvement are largely a function of a nation-state's desire to formalise agreements.</li> <li>iv. Organisational frameworks establishing more accountability than a general management plan will be necessary to bind nation-states to action. In theory, international law establishes such a framework.</li> </ul>

## References

1. Hanks J. 2003. Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in Southern Africa. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 17(1-2): 127–148 DOI:10.1300/J091v17n01\_08
2. Linell A, Sjöstedt M & Sundström A. 2019. Governing transboundary commons in Africa: the emergence and challenges of the Kavango–Zambezi Treaty. *Int Environ Agreements* 19: 53–68. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10784-018-9420-2>.
3. Tanner RJ. 2004. "Transfrontier Conservation Areas of southern Africa and international law in the context of community involvement". Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations & Professional Papers 4761. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd/4761>