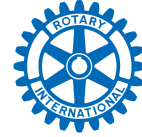




Glacier National Park  
CONSERVANCY



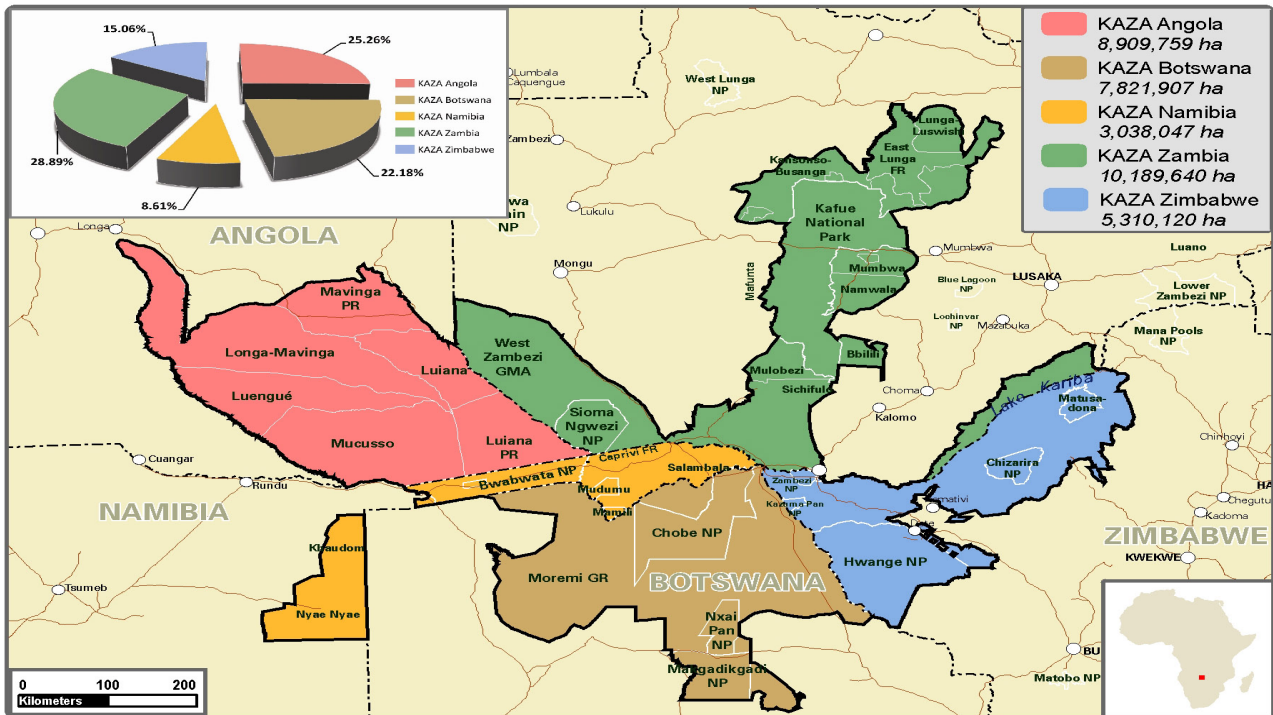
Parks Canada  
Parcs Canada



## Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA)

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Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe  
Size: 520 000 sq/km



Participants in coordinating the ongoing transboundary cooperation:

National Government:

- Republics of Angola
- Botswana
- Namibia
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Local Government:

- Cuando Cubango Province (Angola)
- Chobe District (Botswana)
- Zambezi Region (Namibia)
- Western Province (Zambia)
- Matebeleland North Province.

Protected area administration:

- Menongue - (Angola)
- Kasane – Chobe District (Botswana)
- Katima Mulilo (Namibia)
- Livingstone (Zambia)
- Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)

International NGOs:

- WWF Namibia
- CRIDF
- UNDP

Local NGOs:

- Elephant without Borders
- Okacom
- Chobe Biodiversity

Intergovernmental organizations: SADC

- Botswana Tourism Board
- Chobe District Council\
- LEA
- ZAWA
- Zimparks
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Namibia)
- Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (Botswana)

Multi-National Corporations:

- World Bank

Community-based Organization:

- Impalila Conservancy
- Simahala Conservancy
- IDRNC
- CAMPFIRE

**Objectives:** (i) conserve the shared natural resources and cultural heritage of this vast area of Southern Africa by promoting and facilitating the development of a complementary and linked network of protected areas that protect wildlife and provide and restore dispersal corridors and migratory routes. (ii) develop the KAZA TFCA into a world-class tourism destination offering a variety of breathtaking adventure and luxurious relaxation and promoting the free and easy movement of tourists across borders (iii) promote sustainable use of natural resources to improve the livelihoods of communities thereby reducing poverty in the region and (iv) harmonize conservation, legislation and natural resource management of the TFCA

**Values and importance:** Three World Heritage Sites to include the iconic Victoria Falls, one of the seven wonders of the world; Okavango Delta the largest inland delta in the world; and the Tsodilo Hills representing the cradle of Sani culture are found in KAZA TFCA. KAZA is also home to about 250 000 elephants, 25% of the world's wild dog population, 36 protected areas. KAZA TFCA is part of the Southern African Development Community, which is characterized by peace and security and a fast growing economic sector. There are approximately 2.5 million people mostly found in the rural areas depending on natural resources for their livelihoods hence the need to promote the sustainable use of these resources for the benefit of local communities.

**Aspects of transboundary cooperation:** (e.g.: Nature conservation; Ecosystem based management; Watershed management; Scientific research; Tourism; Firefighting; Search and rescue; Anti-poaching activity, etc.)

Which **stage in the process** of being established is your transboundary conservation initiative?

The Treaty to establish the KAZA TFCA was signed by the Heads of States and Government of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

A five-year Master Integrated Development Plan 2015 to 2019, which was approved by Ministers responsible for the development of the KAZA TFCA on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**Date Established:** (08, 18, 2011)

**Official Protected Area Designation** of the protected areas involved in this transboundary conservation initiative:

- Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe), Okavango Delta and Tsodilo Hills are World Heritage Sites;
- Hwange (Zimbabwe) Chobe National Park (Botswana) Kafue (Zambia) Bwabwata (Namibia) and Luiana National Park (Angola) are national parks
- Lake Kariba(Zimbabwe) is a recreational park.

**The Catalyst:** The key motivation was the realization that shared resources need to be managed jointly if they are to be protected and utilized sustainably. There was also a desire to open up areas for the free movement of animals and to promote wildlife based tourism for the socio economic benefit of local communities who are largely rural and constantly in conflict with wildlife and yet benefiting little from wildlife conservation.

**History:** A common belief by the Heads of State and Government that wildlife is a renewable resource that need to be conserved and utilized for the common benefit of the people found therein made it possible for them to sign a treaty to create this mega park to manage the shared resources.

Also a common understanding to apply science through an ecosystem approach, where the parks are not treated as islands but part of ecosystem that needed to be conserved as such.

However to be able to do this it was necessary to put in place enabling legal and institutional arrangements as contained in the Treaty that the Heads of State and Government signed to establish this TBCA.

The public is also fully aware of their wildlife as their heritage and supports the initiative.

**Barriers, challenges, obstacles, or constraints:** Initiatives of this nature require huge amounts of resources both in terms of funding and skilled manpower. While there is overall political will to proceed with these collaborative engagements inequitable sharing of benefits results in illegal activities like poaching which need lots of resources to contain. Due to human wildlife conflict, some people view wildlife as a liability rather than an asset as they see no benefit, hence the challenge of putting in place mechanisms that promote equitable sharing of benefits.

### The Governance and Management Structures

- **Cooperative relationship:** Legally binding agreement at government level through a signed treaty
- **Legal basis for cooperation:** The five countries a signed the KAZA TFCA which is a binding and legal arrangement
- **Governance structure:** The KAZA TFCA Treaty has governing structures in place  
Ministers of Tourism and Wildlife



- **Cooperative management arrangement:** The KAZA Master Integrated Development Plan

**Results:** KAZA TFCA Secretariat established and functioning, there is a transboundary law enforcement management system in place, and the empowerment of local communities has been prioritized in the establishment of conservancies. Establishment of Wildlife Dispersal Areas in the five countries. Training of law enforcement agents in the five countries. Sustainable development of fisheries with the TFCAs. Infrastructure development in areas with high human wildlife conflict incidences.

At the moment the initiative is sustained through international cooperating partners support in form of grants. Partner countries also make annual contributions to the KAZA TFCA Fund sustain the Secretariat.

**Lessons Learned:** Partner countries realized the need to jointly manage shared resources such migratory wildlife species cooperatively. There is also a protocol on transboundary conservation areas with in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of which all the Partner Countries are members. The protocol promotes the establishment of trans-frontier conservation areas within the SADC area such that there are several other TFCAs in the region. But to be able to do this there is a need to harmonize policies, management practices and laws and in the case of sustainable use there is a need to share information on populations and quotas for harvesting.

**For More Information:** <http://www.kavangozambezi.org>

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Supporting materials:

- KAZA TFCA Signed Treaty
- KAZA Master Integrated Development Plan
- Law Enforcement Proceedings