

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

### Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Livelihood enhancement, conservation of biological diversity and stability through systemic trans-boundary resource management in the Limpopo corridor.

**Expected date of initiation:** 2003

**Expected date of completion:** 2006

### Partners Involved:

Governments: Italy (DGCS), Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe

Intergovernmental organizations: IUCN, SADC

Major groups:

Other: CESVI, Rural District Councils of Beitbridge, Chiredzi and Chipinge, Peace Parks Foundation, World Wildlife Fund for Nature – South Africa, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, University of Cape Town Dept. of Geomatics, Fitzpatrick Institute, University of the Witwatersrand Centre for Applied Ecology, South African National Parks

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### Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

#### *Background*

Within the southern African region, it frequently occurs that significant wildlife or other environmental resources are situated adjacent to each other, often making up parts of the same ecosystem, but are separated by one or more international boundaries. At the same time, communities living within these border areas or in areas adjacent to protected areas, have often been marginalised by national development processes, have high unemployment rates and are caught in a poverty trap. Where protected areas were established, boundaries have alienated these communities from their ancestral lands and have directed revenue flows to central government

coffers. Over the last few decades, the same communities have found themselves at the mercy of historical events, military conflicts or emigration due to lack of local livelihood options.

In turn, this situation of mosaic of land use, multiple uncoordinated management plans and man-made barriers to wildlife movement, gives rise to the fragmentation of the ecosystems of these regions and threatens their biodiversity value. Therefore, on one hand the vast ecological resources of these areas are not optimally managed and utilized; on the other hand the countries and the local people miss important sustainable development opportunities based on sound natural resources management.

### *Justification*

Within the last five years, intense international interest has begun to focus on the development of trans-frontier conservation areas (TFCA) as a means to address constraints that this situation exerts on the regional environmental and economic development potential. The TFCA concept is meant to remove the “value-sapping” effect of international boundaries in such situations and replace it with the “value adding” synergy resulting from co-ordinated joint planning, management and economic development of the wild lands and natural resources concerned.

TFCAs as a vehicle for regional development can contribute to address two major constraints of sustainable development in such areas:

- The need to put in place effective and comprehensive initiatives for poverty alleviation in rural areas, based on the sustainable exploitation of natural resources; and
- The need to support economic reform and development in response to local needs, through:
  - Supporting the development of a sustainable resource management framework at regional and ecosystem levels;
  - strengthening the capacities of the local administration within such framework;
  - taking advantage of economic opportunities offered by nature-based tourism as elective regional development option.

The Italian funded program supports the participation of communities living in areas adjacent to the Great Limpopo Trans-frontier Park (GL-TFP) in the TFP establishment process. The TFP is being established by the Governments of Zimbabwe, RSA and Mozambique as a first step in the process of developing a broader TFCA: this in its broad concept encompasses a vast area of almost 100.000 km<sup>2</sup>, including two National Parks and a Reserved Hunting Area in Mozambique (Banhine NP, Zinave NP and Limpopo NP), Kruger NP in South Africa and Gonarezhou NP in Zimbabwe.

The areas adjacent to these PAs and their inhabitants have an important role to play in the TFCA: the long term vision of the TFCA relies on the promotion of a sustainable planning framework for the whole region, including the buffer areas separating the conservation areas. Local communities need to be involved in the planning framework to elicit their participation in resource management processes. Tangible economic benefits need to accrue to people residing within and around conservation areas for conservation efforts to succeed. Furthermore, the development of the TFCA and its potential economic spin-offs provide an unique opportunity for economic growth and income generation at local and regional level. Potential for private sector investments also exists, depending on the development of the regional context. However at present local institutional mechanisms for an equitable sharing of resources and a meaningful participation of communities in resource management do not exist. These areas and their inhabitants have as yet

been only marginally involved in the TFCA process, which has mainly focused on institutional and policy aspects and the protected areas.

The present partnership programme will be based on two main and closely related components:

1. foundation component: this component will build on a pilot project implemented in the southeast lowveld of Zimbabwe (1998-2003) by CESVI in cooperation with the Rural District Councils of Beitbridge, Chiredzi and Chipinge: this pilot component has promoted community-based natural resource management in communal lands in the Limpopo and Save valleys, along the border with South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana. The target areas of the project include, inter alia, rural areas bordering the Gonarezhou National Park which have strong historical and social links with neighboring areas in Mozambique and South Africa. The partnership programme component will strengthen the preliminary results of this pilot phase through a follow-up phase in Zimbabwe, including the further development of integrated land resources information system and local level resource management systems, in close coordination with the foreseen second component;
2. new partnership component: this component will comprise two projects (sub-components), which will address country specific issues in a coordinated manner:
  - The South African sub-component, to be implemented in cooperation with the Department of Water Affairs and SANP in areas adjacent to Kruger NP.
  - The Mozambican sub-component, to be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to address the requirements of a vast rural area between the Limpopo NP, Banhine NP, Zinave NP and the border with Zimbabwe.

### *Objectives*

This partnership programme focus on poverty alleviation and the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem functioning through institutional capacity building, and the involvement and livelihood enhancement of local communities. Its components target selected rural areas mediating nodal ecosystemic and economic fluxes (e.g. wildlife and commercial corridors and buffer zones) within the programmed large scope multipurpose cross-boundary conservation area. the Great Limpopo Trans-frontier Park (GL TFP). Ecosystem management in these areas holds the potential to make or break the GL TFP and, at the same time, to make or break the economic future of its own rural communities. With appropriate land use planning and development, the target areas can act as links between the components of the Transfrontier Park, can enhance their ecological and economic values and can provide an ecologically sound economic engine for the disadvantaged target areas.

The target areas of the programme as a whole share a number of common factors, besides their direct involvement in the TFP/TFCA process. These commonalties refer both to natural / ecosystem factors and historical and socio-economic factors, along with strong cultural ties among the resident populations. Therefore the programme will aim to bring these areas and their communities within the mainstream of the TFP/TFCA process, fostering ecosystem based natural resource management and the identification and removal of arbitrary barriers to ecosystem fluxes and functions, by addressing specific requirements of each area.

*Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:*

As above described, the objectives of the present Partnership initiative which focus on sustainable development and the conservation of biological diversity are specifically coinciding with those of Agenda 21 so as its priority poverty alleviation and equitable development targets are with those of the Millennium Declaration.

**Expected results:**

The overall goal of the programme is to improve the standards of living of the people of areas adjacent to PAs involved in the GLTFP. The expected results leading to this goal are:

1. Consolidation of the preliminary results of the pilot phase project in Zimbabwe, which will expand the technical foundation activities for the sustainable management of shared ecosystems; address local specific issues of sustainable land management and community participation; extend the resource management framework and information system initially developed under the pilot phase, to include trans-boundary shared ecosystem; promote institutional networking and know-how sharing among the three countries; implement specific joint efforts on systemic planning and management tackling shared development problems and/or potentials.
2. Implementation of the sub-components in Mozambique (with a focus on rural livelihood enhancement and restocking) and South Africa (with a focus on sustainable resource management and control of invasive plant species and relevant water stress).

**Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

The partnership programme will aim at the following targets in the programme area:

1. Development of sustainable land and natural resource use system in the target areas, as viable alternatives to ongoing unsustainable and inefficient practices, for the economic uplifting of the local population.
2. Strengthened institutional capacities of the local/provincial/central administrations and of local NGOs in support of their more effective participation in the TFCA development and management processes.
3. Identification and promotion of pilot opportunities for investment, co-management and promotion of livelihood enhancement opportunities for the rural communities taking advantage of TFP related developments through the rehabilitation and rationale management of local natural resources, involving government, private, non-governmental and rural stakeholders.
4. Active participation of beneficiary communities in the ecosystem management and economic development processes to be established with the TFP/TFCA;

5. Transboundary extension of the resource management information and decision support system;
6. Establishment of effective transboundary institutional networking mechanisms;
7. Implementation of joint trans-boundary resource management efforts.

Timeframes within the period 2003-2006 have been set for each of the components.

### **Coordination and Implementation mechanism**

The programme implementation has two main phases:

- Foundation component (Zimbabwe): 2003-2006
- New partnership component (South Africa and Mozambique): 2003-2006

The programme will establish transnational coordinating mechanisms building upon the results of the pilot phase which is on its way to a most successful completion. In addition, each component will be monitored and planned according to local requirements.

DGCS ensures coordination among the components by fostering consultation and cooperation among implementing bodies. The latter are also in close cooperation with the intergovernmental process leading to the establishment of the GLTFP.

### **Arrangements for funding**

DGCS expected partnership contribution will be of Euro 5.600.000.

### **Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer**

The programme has a strong focus on capacity building at various levels. Targets include:

- Central and local administration in beneficiary countries
- Grassroots and community organizations
- NGOs

Specific means and goals are set according to local priorities and requirements. However capacity building is an integral component of each individual programme activities.

Information analysis and sharing will also be facilitated with the adoption and establishment of an integrated geographic information system, so as local and cross-border systemic and coherent resource management will be boosted through the Decision Support System's predictive models.

### **Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)**

The programme has two main entry points for regional and international coordination and networking:

- Direct link with the intergovernmental process leading to the establishment of the GLTFP;
- Indirect link with the implementation of SADC level initiatives which provide the regional policy umbrella (I.e., the SADC Wildlife Policy (1997) and the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999).

Furthermore DGCS, through the implementing bodies, ensures that coordination and synergy are achieved among other relevant Italian funded programs such as the SADC Herbaria Programme and the SADC Regional Programme on Rhino Conservation also funded by DGCS, which is developing a component to assist the government of Mozambique to appraise and plan the reintroduction of rhinoceros in the Limpopo NP in conjunction with the establishment of the TFP.

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

Each component is monitored based on an agreed schedule of reports and review meetings and missions by DGCS.

The involvement of reference institutions such as IUCN, as core partner will assure adequate monitoring standards of effectiveness of modalities which will be developed and evolve over the course of project implementation.

Logical framework with indicators and targets will be developed at project outset.

Progress reports, partner updates via email and distribution of information to the public via existing online networks (e.g., websites) of the partner institutions will be scheduled according to accepted international criteria.

A joint partnership project website will be developed.

### **Other relevant information:**

Websites:

[www.dgcs.esteri.it](http://www.dgcs.esteri.it)  
[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)  
[www.cesvi.org](http://www.cesvi.org)  
[www.sadc-rhino.org](http://www.sadc-rhino.org)  
[www.secosud.units.it](http://www.secosud.units.it)

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