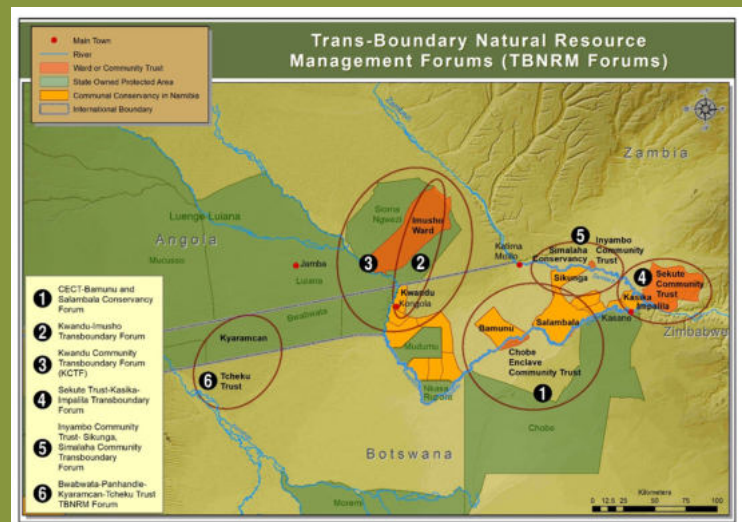


Transboundary Conservation – The Zambezi Region at the heart of the KAZA TFCA

At the juncture of the five countries that make up the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) lies Namibia's Zambezi Region – a panhandle extension of Namibia that borders the other KAZA countries.

The growing human population has led to increased slash-and-burn cultivation, and more settlements and livestock, that threaten to fragment remaining wildlife habitat. It is a challenge for cross-border areas to coordinate land-use planning, regulate wildlife use, and promote supportive policies to engage local communities in conservation. Furthermore, there has been an alarming increase in transboundary poaching in recent years, with the multiple borders making it difficult to promote effective anti-poaching efforts.

Maintaining Zambezi's existing wildlife corridors and re-opening historical migration routes are critical to KAZA's long-term success. Other resources, such as inland fisheries, woodland forests and rangelands are important for people's livelihoods. Their successful management depends on tight collaboration between KAZA countries.



Since the 1990s, IRDNC has promoted transboundary natural resource management between Namibian communities and their neighbours to improve collaborative management of KAZA's vast natural resources. Today KAZA has six transboundary community forums that were established with IRDNC's support:

1. Salambala & Bamunu Conservancies (Namibia) & Chobe Enclave Community Trust (Botswana)
2. Kwandu Conservancy (Namibia) & Imusho Community (Zambia)
3. Kyaramacan Residents' Association (Namibia) & Tcheku Community Trust (Botswana)
4. Kasika and Impalila Conservancies (Namibia) & Sekute Community (Zambia)
5. Sikunga Conservancy (Namibia), Inyambo Community Trust & Simalaha Conservancy (Zambia)
6. Kwandu Community Transboundary Forum involving Kwandu Conservancy & Kyaramacan Residents' Association (Namibia), Imusho Community (Zambia) & communities from Jamba (Angola)

The forums work together to manage their shared natural resources (including fish, wildlife, rangelands and tourism) and have become recognised KAZA stakeholders.



Community game guards from Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe doing a joint patrol during the look and learn tour in Lake Liambezi-Namibia.

Neighbouring communities want to learn from community conservation in Namibia. IRDNC promotes learning, coordination and communication between KAZA communities by:

- Hosting transboundary community conservation lesson learning and experience-sharing events.
- Twice per year, organising joint planning meetings involving Zambezi conservancies, community forests and several transboundary partners (including Zambia's Imusho Village Action Group and Botswana's Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust). Participants discuss progress and challenges and plan how to address issues that require collaborative action by multiple stakeholders. The meetings are a hotbed of transboundary learning and sharing.
- Facilitating targeted collaborative assignments with neighbouring countries, e.g. working with Angolan NGO ACADIR to improve fire management between Angola's Luiana National Park and neighbouring Bwabwata National Park.



Community meeting at Muketela District Khuta

KAZA's long-term viability depends on strong collaboration between the five governments. It also requires communities to buy into the vision of an immense landscape where natural resources fuel the economy.

Communities should be willing to co-exist with wildlife, accept wildlife and other natural resources as valid land uses and meaningfully derive benefits from wildlife and tourism. In order to further contribute to KAZA's success, IRDNC will continue to nurture community voices, build local capacity for collective natural resource management, and expand community conservation as a land-use option in KAZA.

