

Presentation for IIPT

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*Title: Evolving approaches to Conservation and Tourism in South East Africa*

Brief: The South East Africa Region, an area covering South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, has been the focal area for a number of regional initiatives. Among these are the Spatial Development Initiatives (SDIs), Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), Biodiversity and Tourism Corridors (BTCs). International and national tour operators and investors are increasingly taking advantage of the highly diverse product that the region has to offer in terms of a bush-beach destination, with a strong element of cultural diversity. However, in order to achieve sustainable tourism in the region, it is recognized that these varying initiatives need to be planned and coordinated in an integrated and participatory way. While governments and donors are now finally starting to be aware of the tremendous opportunities for economic growth offered by tourism, the capacity to plan, coordinate and strategize remains extremely weak. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation are seeking to assist in building this capacity by integrating their approach both at the national and regional level through support to Mozambique's Transfrontier Conservation Areas and Tourism Development Program (TFCATDP), and to the private sector through the International Finance Corporations South East Africa Tourism Investment Program (SEATIP). This is a process which the Bank and the IFC hope to facilitate and leverage stronger collaboration between all stakeholders, while increasing ownership and capacity at the national and local level. Initially, the main focus for this collaboration will be on the planning and development of regional tourism circuits in which Transfrontier conservation areas and coastal tourism hubs will form the main anchors.