

## **FOSTERING TOURISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION**

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At the 1884 Berlin Convention, Africa was dealt like a pack of cards to the colonial powers. The national boundaries proclaimed at this time cut across tribal and clan groupings and animal migration routes, thereby fragmenting eco-systems and led to bio-diversity being destroyed. Transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) or 'peace parks' are a way to 'link' those protected areas that are divided by an international boundary.

Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) was founded in 1997 by Dr Nelson Mandela, the late Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and Dr Anton Rupert as a non-profit organisation with the specific mission to assist governments to facilitate the establishment of peace parks in southern Africa, support economic development, conserve biodiversity, and promote regional peace and stability.

PPF has the support of the following Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State as Honorary Patrons: President Dos Santos, HRH King Letsie III, President Mbeki, President Mogae, HRH King Mswati, President Mugabe, and President Mwanawasa. The previous Namibian President, Dr Sam Nujoma, the previous Malawi President, Dr Bakili Muluzi, and the previous Mozambican President, Mr Joachim Chissano, were also honorary patrons of PPF.

In order to establish a secure financial base for the Foundation PPF's three founders, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Dr Nelson Mandela and Dr Anton Rupert established Club 21. Club 21 is the Foundation's main international support base and aims to have at least 21 members who will each donate a substantial sum to the work of the Foundation. Members include: Absa Bank, Cartier, DaimlerChrysler, De Beers, Deutsche Bank, Mr Paul Fentener van Vlissingen, Donald Gordon Foundation, Dr HL Hoffman, Kumba Resources, Novamedia, Philips, Remgro, Richemont, De Rothschild Foundation, Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, Rupert Family Foundation, Schlettwein Family Trust, Total, Venfin and the Vodafone Group

PPF, in consultation with the SADC Member States, identified 22 potential peace parks in the SADC region. The peace parks identified cover 48% (550,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of the total area of formally protected areas in SADC region and have the potential to attract eight million tourists per annum and create one million permanent jobs.

PPF has highlighted 14 of the identified TFCAs as ones in which our expertise in the facilitation of TFCAs could be best applied and has assisted in the development of seven of these peace parks so far, including the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park between Botswana and South Africa.

Since the Kgalagadi Transfrontier opened in May 2000 tourism has more than doubled.

### **Areas of Activity**

PPF have identified four pillars on which its activities are focused:

- (i) **Create and secure space:** This entails the facilitation and development of TFCAs by obtaining political will and support, ensuring the compilation of an integrated management plan and facilitating good communication between all interested and affected parties, project planning, sound financial management, GIS support, land-use planning and project implementation/ management.
- (ii) **Effective wildlife management:** Once these areas are secured it is essential to have the capacity to manage it in a sustainable manner. Through the training of competent and professional managers at institutions such as the Southern African Wildlife College to manage the TFCAs, this is achieved.
- (iii) **Efficient Leisure Industry Management:** Managers are trained at the SA College for Tourism in order to manage guest houses and small lodges situated in and around these TFCAs.
- (iv) **Access:** By facilitating direct flights into the various destinations bringing tourists directly to the areas they want to visit. The component also entails facilitating infrastructure development to take place within and around TFCAs.