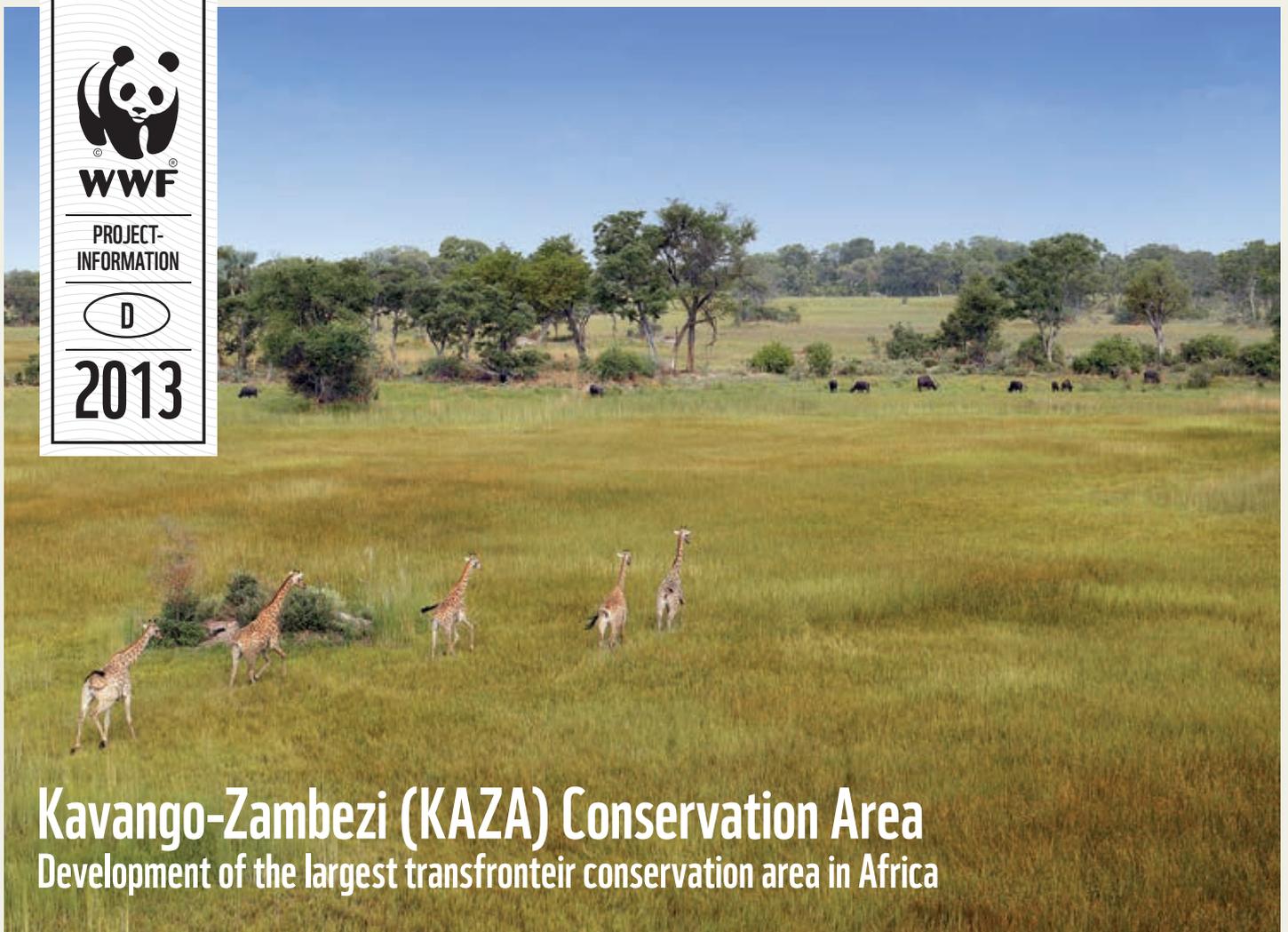




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## Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Conservation Area

Development of the largest transfronteir conservation area in Africa

Towering giraffes nibble away in silence on the leaves of an acacia tree. The ground vibrates as a herd of buffalo pass. Lions rest under a baobab tree keeping careful watch out for prey. The air is still and heavy in the midday heat. Above it all stretches the endless blue sky.



We are in southern Africa – in the border region of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This is where KAZA is emerging, the largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation area in the world, whose borders encompass a total of 444,000 square kilometres, the same area as Sweden.

### Beauty and richness in abundance

The nature conservation map of the region still resembles a patchwork quilt. Existing conservation areas remain isolated from one other. Animal populations that belong together are separated by national boundaries, fields, settlements, and roads. However, the overwhelming faunal biodiversity of southern Africa, with its charismatic wildlife - buffalos, lions, leopards, giraffes, rhinos, and hippos - surpasses all frontiers.

3,000 different plant species thrive in the savannahs, wetlands, and forests. More than 500 bird species populate the skies. Moreover, with its quarter of a million animals, KAZA Conservation Area is home to half of the African elephant population. Due to effective protection measures, elephants have become confined in large numbers into just a few conservation areas in Botswana and Zimbabwe, while still other areas in Zambia and Angola would offer them ample space. But this, and much more, is about to change. The German Government and KfW, in collaboration with the WWF, are providing substantial long-term support to KAZA's vision of development through sustainable tourism and nature conservation.



The KAZA TFCA is richly endowed with a diversity of habitats. Four main structural vegetation types are recognized, namely: Dry forest, which is very localized in the north, various types of woodland (Baikiaea, miombo, mopane, Acacia) covering the greatest portion of the area, grassland and wetlands.

With 60% of their home range outside of the formally declared conservation areas, elephants are often confronted with fences, fields, and settlements in their search for water and food. This is the case in the wetlands of Caprivi as well as in the communal areas in Zimbabwe and Botswana. Conflicts between humans and animals are inevitable: Elephants invade farmlands, destroying the already meagre harvests. Villagers try chasing them away with drums and vuvuzelas. However, lives are sometimes lost. Botswana's conservation areas are home to more elephants than they can accommodate. Consuming around 200 kg of biomass per day and living in confined, over-populated areas, elephants end up destroying their own habitat and that of other animals and humans.

Neighbouring countries, such as Angola, where there is a shortage of wildlife, are keen to adopt elephant populations. But these areas are hundreds of kilometers away, with fences, roads, and settlements in-between. But scientific research carried out by WWF using satellite collars has shown that elephants are willing to return to their historic home ranges in Zambia and Angola. The German government and WWF are assisting KAZA in building corridors that would link the conservation areas while preserving the habitat's integrity and simultaneously enabling communities to sustainably manage their natural resources – when this is achieved, the elephants can begin their long journey home!

## Geography

The vast Kavango-Zambezi transfronteir conservation area is situated at the confluence of the Okavango and Zambezi rivers. The Okavango River is the fourth-longest river in southern Africa, running 1,600 km from Angola into the largest inland delta in the world, the Okavango Delta. The Zambezi is Africa's longest river flowing into the Indian Ocean in Mozambique after meandering 3,500 km across the continent from West to East Africa.



KAZA is home to Africa's largest contiguous elephant population, as well as major populations of a wide range of species such as buffalo, hippopotamus, lion, lechwe, roan, sable, eland, zebra, wildebeest.

The Kavango Zambezi conservation area encompasses a total of 36 national parks, wildlife reserves and conservancies. These include the Caprivi Strip with its wetlands and wildlife-rich conservancies in the north-east of Namibia, the Okavango Delta, the vast Chobe National Park in northern Botswana, and the magnificent Hwange National Park located near the mighty Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, a World Heritage site and one of the seven Wonders of the World.

## How KAZA was born

It all began with a vision of removing that which was dividing nature while at the same time allowing the largely poor local population a share in the natural wealth. Nations had grown tired of the eternal spiral of poverty and the inevitable destruction of the foundations of life through unsustainable use of natural resources.

Nature conservation for development and peace became a key concept behind transfrontier cooperation in former regions of armed conflict. With the potential to benefit both nature and humans in equal measure, the KAZA Conservation Area was conceived. In August 2012, all 5 African nations signed a treaty agreeing that parts of their territory would be jointly and sustainably managed through cross-border cooperation within the KAZA transfrontier conservation area.



The KAZA TFCA is home to Africa's charismatic "Big Five"; elephant, leopard, rhino, buffalo and lion. Over the past 50 years, wild lion numbers in Africa have decreased from over 200,000 to less than 20,000 today, mostly because of habitat loss and human animal conflicts. KAZA is one of the remaining strongholds for lions.



*Nkasa Lupala tented lodge is a joint venture tourism enterprise between the Wuparo community conservancy and a private operator situated in the Caprivi strip. The agreement commits the lodge to pay a significant percentage of net revenue to the conservancy. Employees are 95% from the local community.*



*A herd of elephants in the Okavango delta.*



*Subsistence farmers benefit from conservation agriculture, which increases yields and maintains soil fertility.*



*Left: Antonia Muzuma, an employee in a community training programme, uses playing cards to teach her pupils about nature conservation  
Right: nature conservation creates jobs – here a community game scout in one of the conservancies supported by WWF.*

## Tourism – one driver of sustainable development

Expectations are high that tourism will be the engine of sustainable development in KAZA. Governments and financial supporters of KAZA are inspired by its astounding biodiversity, its pristine beauty, and the efforts at nature conservation that the people of the region take part in. KAZA has all the makings of what could become the most attractive travel destination in southern Africa. The income generated from ecologically responsible tourism would be reinvested in order to preserve the natural foundation of this economic model.

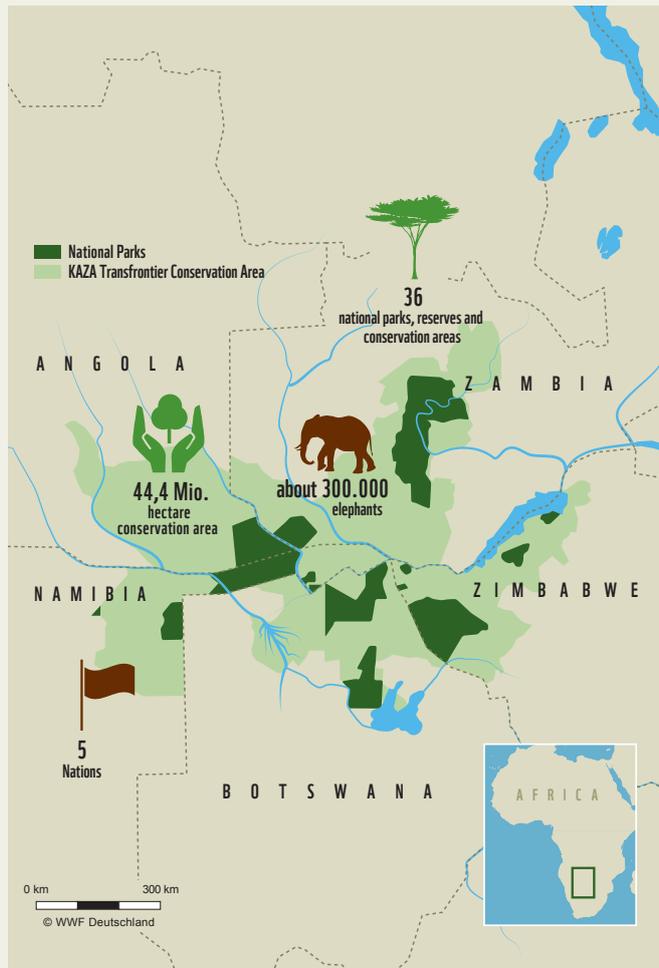
## WWF and conservancies: nature conservation with & for the people

Given that 60% of elephants' home range lies outside of conservation areas, local communities are part and parcel of successful nature conservation. An important component of the KAZA project is therefore a pioneering self-help programme that WWF has been promoting in Namibia for many years – the conservancy model. Here, local communities join forces to establish conservancy which then gives them the legal right to the sustainable use of animals and plants inhabiting their lands. In addition to pushing forward land policy reform necessitated by the program, WWF also actively aids communities in establishing and developing their conservancies. Tourism development in conservancies has also been promoted. Joint ventures in which communities provide the land for development and the private sector provides funds for investment have successfully created jobs and generated income for conservancies. As of May 2013 there were 79 conservancies in Namibia, occupying a combined 19% of the nation's territory. The conservancies' income totalled 3.8 million euro in 2010.

Conservancy communities profit from every visitor - but in the end the real profit comes from nature itself, whose diversity and beauty attracts more and more tourists. When nature represents monetary value and provides people with a livelihood and income, communities will naturally strive to protect it.

### We need your support to:

- » Connect conservation areas through wildlife corridors across KAZA and help secure the habitat
- » Drive a cross sectorial stakeholders process to agree on corridors and their appropriate land use
- » Ensure that barriers such as fences and roads are strategically removed and/or their effects are mitigated
- » Ensure effective conservation area management in Caprivi, the heart of KAZA
- » Build communities' capacity to use natural resources sustainably by:
  - » Transitioning from traditional agricultural practices to conservation agriculture in order to reduce deforestation and increase income
  - » Mitigating human-wildlife conflicts
  - » Encouraging alternative income generation through nature-based tourism
- » Monitor wildlife movements
- » Initiate conservation planning in Angola
- » Establish a KAZA-wide impact monitoring system to measure whether KAZA is meeting its objectives
- » Strengthen cross-border and national law enforcement to reduce poaching
- » Build community cooperation across borders for sustainable land use



**Project:**

Support the establishment of a world-class transfrontier conservation area and tourism destination in the Okavango and Zambezi river basin regions within the context of sustainable development

Duration: 2010–2018

Project manager: Brit Reichelt Zolho  
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Further information: [www.wwf.de/KAZA](http://www.wwf.de/KAZA)

**Our promise to you**

Kindly regard this project information as both a request and an invitation. The request is that you participate financially in an ambitious WWF nature conservation project.

The invitation is to cooperate with a global nature conservation organization with the experience and integrity that can guarantee your money will be used for the purpose intended. The KAZA project, which we present to you here, is ambitious and well-conceived, and it not only benefits people at the local level but the conservation of biodiversity as well. We hope to convince you of this - and to gain your financial support.

**Visit [www.wwf.de/KAZA](http://www.wwf.de/KAZA) for more information.**



**Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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