

USAID/MOZAMBIQUE SPEED PROJECT

Feasibility Study

Fence Dropping between Maputo National Park and Tembe Elephant Park

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Feasibility Study

Fence Dropping between Maputo National Park and Tembe Elephant Park

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ACRONYMS

ANAC	National Administration of Conservation Areas
BMA	Border Management Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EKZNW	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
FMD	Food and Mouth Disease
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
JPMC	Joint Park Management Committee
MNAP	Maputo National Park
PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAPS	South African Police Services
TB	Tuberculosis
TEP	Tembe Elephant Park
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2000 the governments of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland signed general and specific protocols on the establishment of the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), including the protocol that establishes the Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA, which includes the Maputo National Park (MNAP) in Mozambique and Tembe Elephant Park (TEP) in South Africa. This protocol refers to intended linkages between TEP, the South African conservation area and MNAP through the Futi corridor in Mozambique. TFCAs are established to improve transboundary conservation and tourism. Since it was established the conservation agencies in TEP and MNAP have been collaborating on issues of common concern at a forum convened regularly for this purpose. MNAP is managed by the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and the TEP through an agreement with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) and the community. The park is owned by the Tembe community.

The purpose of this study was to explore the feasibility of removing the fence, or portions thereof, between the parks to enable the unhindered movement of wildlife and possibly at some point in the future the movement of tourists, but the latter was not prioritised for this study. The study focussed on issues which would be impacted, positively or negatively, through the fence removal. While those which occur with or without the fence removal were evaluated as neutral and their impact therefore considered not relevant.

Fences have always isolated these two parks from each other preventing the realisation of the free movement of wildlife between the smaller TEP, 300km² and the larger MNAP, just over 1,000 km². Furthermore, the TEP is fully stocked, and the wildlife cannot expand, while the wildlife populations in MNAP are still expanding. Although the wildlife species in the two parks are similar, densities differ and TEP has black rhino, lion and previously wild dog. These species moving into Mozambique would have positive biodiversity impacts but also negative impacts on communities should they escape the park's boundary fence, which is frequently breached by elephant.

The South African authorities erected the fences; the first a veterinary fence to prevent the movement of wildlife and with them the possibility of diseases crossing into South Africa and a second fence erected in 1989 by the conservation agency (now EKZNW) to reduce poaching from Mozambique and to contain animals within the park. These fences are still in place today although the maintenance and their integrity are not always fit for purpose. During a field visit the veterinary fences were lying on or close to the ground in several places, the conservation fence is old and the offset electric fence only operates at night as the energisers and power supply cannot operate 24 hours.

Although the 10km shared boundary fence between the two parks may be 'functional', the border fence outside either of the two parks does not prevent animal movement and domestic stock moves unhindered, in both directions at times, across the boundary, including livestock theft from Mozambique into South Africa. Safe to say the disease control function has been compromised.

Furthermore, the border is a crime hotspot, with numerous illegal activities taking place including illegal (mostly stolen) vehicles into Mozambique and illegal goods including cigarettes in the other direction. South Africa wishes to control this through the erection of a border 'wall' which has been implemented in places. In addition, communities at Phuzza move across the border to access services in South Africa.

For the local South African veterinary and the security agencies, they feel the removal of the fence between the parks will be a risk and their interpretation of policies and regulations is that any fence removal permission must be obtained from their superiors - this despite the compromised veterinary situation and no crime occurring through the parks. The perimeter park fences are regularly patrolled, access control is implemented and enforced, and roads are sandy 4X4 tracks.

On the Mozambique side the main opposition remains with local communities. This stems from an ongoing problem associated with HWC, especially elephant, which regularly breach the fence and damage crops and have killed local people. Many communities are now hostile towards the park, not necessarily wildlife *per se*. To this end five communities on the western boundary of the Futi have formed a 100km² conservancy, Muwai, to develop a wildlife-based business and also to help combat the elephant HWC situation. They are in the process of erecting a new upgraded boundary fence on their land in the west and plan to remove the common park fence and establish an open area for wildlife. Some communities are therefore in support of wildlife and have indicated that if HWC can be better managed they would support the fence dropping. This support would entail erecting a newly improved design 'porcupine' type fence, appointing salaried community members (opportunities that could be directed to women and youth) to patrol and offer first line defense and contact with the park with equipment, including quad bikes, improved liaison with the park management and other deterrent measures. The private sector is generally in support of the fence dropping mainly due to improved tourism from a park with lion, rhino and possibly other tourism enhancing species.

The outcome of the study is therefore the following:

- Conditional support from the Mozambique communities and park authorities provided there is adequate provision to deal with HWC.
- Resistance on the South African side due to security and veterinary concerns. Similar issues were raised in the Limpopo National Park/Kruger National Park boundary where crime (rhino poaching) and the same diseases were resolved through agreement by the relevant agencies. This resolution, however, must be sought at a national level via the TFCA Unit engaging with and finding resolution with the relevant Departments. This will take time, beyond the scope of this project.

Delays and no action may result in the intervening fences not being maintained. This would likely mean all the concerns raised by all will not be addressed – security, veterinary and importantly HWC (funding raised through a formal fence dropping process) and the fence 'opened to wildlife'.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) was established with the objectives to, amongst others, facilitate cross border movement of wildlife as well as tourists and officials and enable visa free areas or reserves.

A feasibility assessment of the removal of the current political and physical barrier that separates both the Maputo National Park (MNAP; Mozambique) and the Tembe Elephant Park (TEP; South Africa) - two contiguous protected areas at the core of the Lubombo TFCA (Figure 1) - was funded and supported by SPEED. It is intended that the assessment will enable sound decision-making regarding materialising these TFCA objectives.



Figure . Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area

The study was to investigate the needs, benefits, potential risk factors, alternative solutions and recommendations to remove the fence that separates MNAP and TEP, and therefore establish connectivity between them. It also had to include information on timelines, budget, legal and human perspectives and impacts and operational requirements for a focused, realistic, and credible strategy for fence dropping.

Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) was appointed by SPEED to undertake the assessment, working closely with the conservation agencies responsible for MNAP and TEP – the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) - and engage the relevant Governments Ministries and Departments as well as provincial and local governments, support organisations active in the area private sector, and local communities in the respective countries.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The underlying reason for the TFCA, signed in 2002 by both countries, was to re-establish socio-ecological connectivity between the three partner countries.

The existing fence and current immigration protocols on the northern boundary of TEP restrict movements from both sides - Mozambique and South Africa. This report will explore the issues and feasibility of achieving connectivity by removal of the fence(s).

What is the purpose and what must be achieved?

There were two important questions which had to be answered to help guide the concept of fence dropping - these included:

- What is the primary purpose of removing the fence?
- What exactly is fence dropping?

To help guide and focus the discussions with the stakeholder groups it was important to define exactly why the fence was being removed, either completely along the shared boundary, or in portion/s. The stakeholder input (from the conservation agencies) and supporting documents (the management plans of the two protected areas) outlined the

most important and overarching reason or purposes were (1) the unhindered movement of all wildlife, to enhance biodiversity resilience, with the less important secondary reason, (2) the movement of tourists and other economic spin-offs; and at least in the short to medium term this was not identified as an immediate priority.

Within this context, the following feedback from the stakeholder groups provided focus to the important elements of the study. This clarified the second question: what exactly is fence dropping?

In the context of unhindered movement of wildlife, fence dropping would be prioritised along the common boundary between the two parks, importantly and primarily to achieve the unhindered movement of wildlife BUT it may not be necessary to remove the entire fence. By removing a portion or several portions of the fence even if they are very narrow (along commonly used wildlife movement areas, perhaps only a few hundred meters), the movement of wildlife could still be achieved. This may allow for continued surveillance and patrolling of the remaining section/s.

There are three important focal areas that need to be addressed to achieve the primary purpose and these are:

- Security issues especially related to illegal activities across the border, in particular, smuggling
- Possible livestock and wildlife diseases and carrying disease across the international border
- Social issues especially relating to an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in Mozambique.

Within each of these three focal areas there are other, often-interrelated issues, which are discussed and assessed. Several other issues were investigated, most of which were identified as 'neutral', that is, they occur with or without a functional fence and this principle also helped guide the stakeholder engagement process.

The primary outcome of enhanced biodiversity resilience will also provide other secondary and important outcomes, specifically relating to tourism and enhanced economic opportunities, while also reducing or not significantly increasing NEGATIVE impacts from the current *status quo*.

This assessment explored the implications of such a project, the interventions required with likely costs, the strategy to implement it and the operational needs. This was undertaken through a review of the socio-economic, ecological, legal, political, physical and policy environment, evaluated through studying important supporting documents and background in the two countries, and extensive consultation with affected and impacted stakeholders.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Parks

MNAP is a large park with the terrestrial component covering just over 1,000 km², more than three times the size of TEP of about 300km². Most of MNAP's wildlife populations are still expanding following a reintroduction programme and improved management in the last 15 years. In contrast Tembe has higher densities of wildlife including three species absent from MNAP, namely, lion, wild dogs (although these left Tembe and were 'resident' in Mozambique during the visit) and black rhino. For the latter three species the park is too small to support a genetically viable population without active management intervention. The inclusion of the entire MNAP allowing for unhindered movement would provide significant resilience to these and other wildlife populations.

MNAP also offers more diverse habitats with extensive grasslands, coastal forest, mangroves, and freshwater lakes which are absent in Tembe, while forests, including swamp forest, large wetlands and wooded grasslands are more extensive (Figure 2). All these attributes are essential, especially with global warming impacts, where scale is an important mitigating factor against negative impacts. The biodiversity value to TEP which MNAP would offer, if fully opened, is immense, the underlying principle being, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts". The primary purpose is therefore to enhance the biodiversity resilience of the two parks.

The two parks management have been collaborating for many years and have aligned their management practices where necessary. A park management liaison committee has been established for this purpose which meets regularly. This has created an excellent platform for further and stronger ties and alignment of monitoring, sharing information and where necessary joint or at least aligned management.

The operations budget of the TEP is severely limited and management's ability to carry out their functions to a high standard is limited. Maintenance of infrastructure is a challenge, and this has implications for the fence, both on the perimeter and the border fence. Without any intervention the ability to maintain the park border fence will be compromised and the fence increasingly breached. The veterinary fence suffers from similar constraints.

It is important to note that MNAP is not completely enclosed by a game fence, the coastline is open and cannot realistically be secured. Furthermore, there are currently significant breaches of the fence, mostly elephant and mostly along the Futi section, leading to HWC, which remains a significant concern for the communities (Figure 3), showing fence breaches and HWC incidents. Having lion and potentially higher numbers of other predators such as spotted hyaena, leopard and wild dogs which could escape through breaches is an important consideration. MNAP management has indicated that the long-term strategy is for the entire park to be open to free wildlife movement from Tembe to the coastal section of the MNAP.

In 2023 the communities adjacent to the western portion of the Futi proclaimed a Conservancy, Muwai, to help control and manage HWC and generate revenue from wildlife related enterprises (Figure 2). This is an important development with communities recognising the value of wildlife and seeking solutions to resolve the elephant and HWC issues.

The conservancy has secured funding and approval to develop a new western boundary fence which will enjoy a new specification. It is likely the intervening park fence will be removed, but this must still be agreed. This new fence design, pioneered in Kenya, has wires about 1.5m projecting around it, making it difficult for elephants to gain access to push over poles and posts, their strategy in breaching fences. It is referred to by some as the 'porcupine fence' as it somewhat resembles porcupine quills (Figure 4).

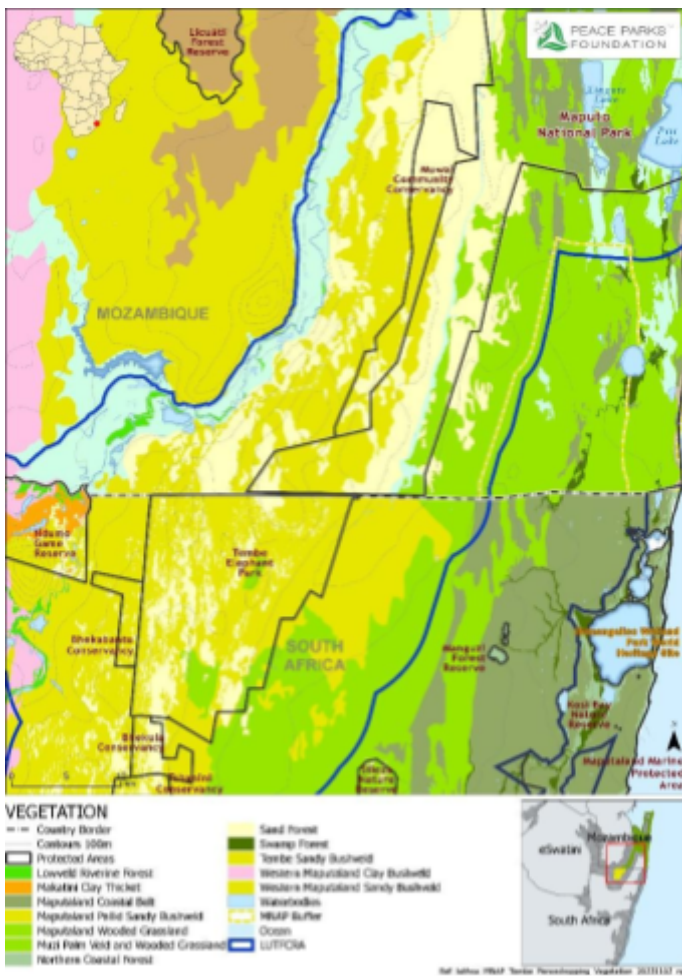


Figure SEQ Figure 1*ARABIC 2. Vegetation

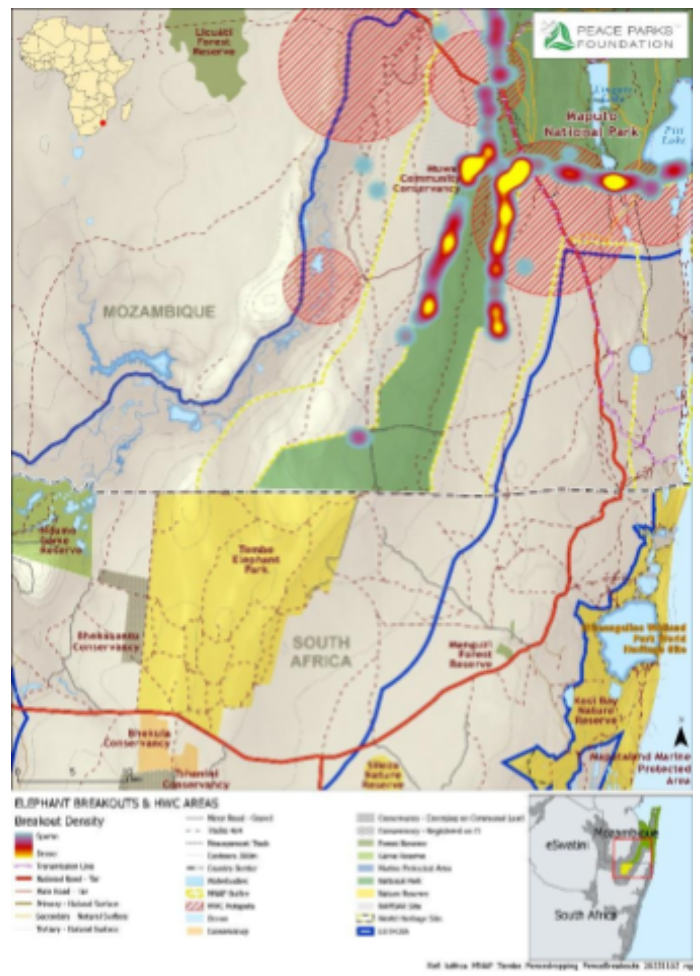


Figure SEQ Figure 1*ARABIC 3. Elephant breakouts and HWC hotspots

The length of the 'quills' is important as is their height above ground. In one location in MNAP a large elephant bull was filmed crawling on his belly under the fence – the ingenuity of these animals is just incredible.

A visit to the fence was undertaken in Tembe and the entire approximately 10km of the common boundary between the two parks was assessed (Figure 5). There are three fence scenarios between South Africa and Mozambique along the common park boundary:

- There is no fence on the Mozambique side of the border, all fences are in South Africa
- The most northerly fence in South Africa was erected by the Veterinary Department and consists of an approximately 1.8m high fence with about 18 strands of wire including barbed wire. It has electrified wires offset from the fence, but these have not been functional for a very long time. This fence is apparently patrolled monthly by the Veterinary Services although this could not be verified. The maintenance and integrity of the fence is variable. In many places it is leaning at an angle of 10 degrees from the vertical to almost flat on the ground in some areas (Figure 6). The frequency of this leaning is as common as every few 100m in some areas. It certainly does not present an impenetrable barrier along its entire length to most wildlife determined to cross.
- About 10m to the south of the veterinary fence, is a ~2.1m game fence. The first 1.8m is a mesh 'Bonox type' fence while the upper portion is 3-strands of barbed wire. This fence was erected by the park and is maintained by the park. It is relatively functional and according to the Park Management is breached periodically (Figure 7 and Figure 8) and it too does not represent an impenetrable barrier although it is more effective than the veterinary fence. Approximately 3m to the south of this fence are four strands of electrified wires to the height of about 1.2m. These are only 'live' at night, as the system cannot support a 24-hour supply.

Importantly the integrity of the fences to prevent wildlife movement is not 100%. Animals do still move across the barrier, with for example lions having been seen in the



Figure . The newly designed and erected elephant 'proof', 'porcupine fence'



Figure . Focus area for fence assessment

Mozambique Futi portion of the MNAP, although the TEP management is confident these have not come from their side.



Disease Control

Veterinary Cordon Fencing

Southern Africa has been concerned with the transmission of diseases from domestic to wild animals and to humans. Fences have been widely used as a veterinary measure to prevent the spreading of these diseases. Given the advent of TFCAs, advocating the free movement of wildlife and people and removal of fences, at the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa in 2003, the working group of the Animal Health for the Environment and Development (AHEAD) emerged with the goal to facilitate development and conservation success in the Great Limpopo TFCA through interdisciplinary applied research, monitoring, and surveillance at the interface between wild and domestic animal health, ecosystem goods and services, and human livelihoods and well-being. The Working Group developed a conceptual framework to help regional stakeholders address whether (and if so, how) a large TFCA could address the following: (i) animal health and diseases; (ii) land-use, ecosystem goods and services, and animal health; and (iii) human livelihoods, animal health, and ecosystem health. The conceptual framework remains valid for the TFCAs of the region and was used to inform this feasibility study.

Legislation in Mozambique and South Africa

Veterinary fences were erected in the 1950s in southern Africa, these were and still are, meant to serve a purpose for the common good of the citizens of the countries within which they lie, by protecting national herds from disease. At the southern African wildlife/livestock disease interface, wildlife fences, in one form or another (i.e., to control diseases and/or to function as protected area biosecurity barriers) seem set to remain a part of the landscape¹.

Both Mozambique and South Africa have stated in their legislation the prevention measures for disease spreading and have adopted the list of notifiable diseases and the obligatory confirmation of any outbreaks. In addition, the legislation of both countries requires permits of international importation of any live animals and products, to ensure that there is no importation of diseases, including those that are on the list of the World Organisation for Animal Health (formally the OIE).

The South African Animal Health Act, 2002, promotes the erection of fences on any land situated along the international boundaries of the country, to prevent the straying of animals across the border. In addition it promotes fencing in the following circumstances: (i) permanent fence on or as near as possible to the boundaries of national parks, provincial parks or private game reserves to prevent the movement of animals into or out of such parks or reserves; (ii) erect a temporary fence on or across any land to prevent movement of animals into or out of such land; (iii) install gates, grids or other passages in such a fence; and (iv) construct any road, bridge, causeway, culvert or drift giving access to or required for use in connection with the erection, maintenance, inspection and alteration of such a fence.

Decree 26/2009 on animal health of Mozambique stipulates that the Veterinary Authority may determine the construction of fences, obstructions, or grates with a view to preventing the transit of animals that may constitute reservoirs of diseases included in the list of mandatory reporting diseases. The decree also explains that fences, restrictions, or railings may, if the circumstances so required, be built, or placed along public or private roads and paths, cross them, cross or overlap private fences. In this case the owners may be temporarily obliged to maintain them in a perfect state of effectiveness and efficiency, whenever the Veterinary Authority is unable to do so.

¹ Ferguson & Hanks, 2012 – Fencing Impacts: A review of the environmental, social and economic impacts of game and veterinary fencing in Africa with particular reference to the Great Limpopo and Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area.

Conservation areas and game farms must be fenced and the owner of livestock farms contiguous to railways or road are obliged to fence their properties.

There are fundamental differences in the precautions that the countries have regarding the protection from diseases that can be spread across the borders of protected areas. While South Africa is rigorous in avoiding movement of animals across the border, the Mozambique legislation is not as strict, but just focusses on overall protection to avoid contact between domestic and wildlife animals.

Animal Health and Disease

Veterinary diseases of concern between Mozambique and South Africa includes *inter alia* the following: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Bovine Tuberculosis (TB), Brucellosis, Rift Valley Fever, African Horse Sickness, theileriosis, and avian influenza. FMD is the main disease of concern for both countries.

Both countries are endemic in trypanosomiasis. However, the level of control is satisfactory, and the disease is not an important concern. Tuberculosis or TB is under control. There are negligible cases of TB in both countries on this border. Mozambique authorities consider that if no more animals from Kruger are introduced there will be no reason for concern.

In the project area, Mozambique is concerned with two main diseases, theileriosis and FMD. Both are transmissible from buffalo to domestic cattle. The country has decided to have an FMD free zone in the southern part, which is the project area. The buffalo movement from TEP and Ndumo Game Reserve into Mozambique and the introduction of buffalo in MNAP pose a risk to Mozambique's decision to create a free FMD zone and to control theileriosis. Mozambique, for the purpose of disease surveillance, assumes the buffalo from these areas are infected with both diseases. This poses the risk in terms of Mozambique's wishes to establish the project area as Free FMD area.

In addition, the Catuane administrative post is under serious risk. With about 28,500 head of cattle of which nearly 13,000 belong to local communities, the movement of buffalo in the area is of high concern in terms of disease transmission, as Mozambique is not vaccinating against FMD.

Livestock theft has long been a problem at many borders in southern Africa. In the project area it is noticeable that smuggling of various products through the border occurs including livestock. There are reports indicating that the cattle are also smuggled from eSwatini into Mozambique, which poses the risk of disease transmission to Mozambique cattle.

Kwazulu Natal registered an outbreak of FMD in the Mkhanyakude Municipality bordering on Mozambique and King Cetshwayo in May 2021. It resurfaced again in 2022 in other areas namely in Mthonjaneni Municipality and in the uMlalazi Municipality. South Africa implements a restricted animal movement strategy along its border with Mozambique (Figure 9). This area of South Africa falls within the Infected Zone. TEP management indicated



Figure . The boundaries of the disease control zones in South Africa, (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 2011)

they have never detected FMD or TB in all the samples they have taken over the years. However, there is evidence of wildlife movement including elephant, which breach the fences (frequency increasing), small antelope, wild dogs and, according to the MNAP staff, lions have been recorded, although TEP management say their lions have not breached the fence.

The Infected Zone was previously referred to as a 'red line', this is a 'statutory barrier' across which cloven-hoofed animals may not be moved without following necessary procedures. Previously to enact this there was, or should have been, at least an 8-strand stock fence 1.2m high all along the boundary. Ideally this should be a double fence separated by at least three metres. Animal movement along the roads crossing this barrier is (or should be) controlled via checkpoints. The 'red line' in this area is the southern boundary of the road which forms a common boundary with Tembe.

During the visit it was noted that vast sections of this fence were completely absent, in places 10s of kilometres (Figure 10). There is clearly no

movement control whatsoever in terms of controlling livestock diseases, in particular FMD.

An expert was contracted to review the security and veterinary issues between the two countries, this report is included in Appendix I. Important issues to emerge from the visit and report, not already highlighted, include the following:

- Domestic stock was observed moving unhindered between South Africa and Mozambique at Phuza. No control measures were observed.
- The South African Veterinary Authorities do not have the resources to properly maintain the integrity of the veterinary fence.

The report also confirms that the veterinary disease and management authorities controlling this section of the border have indicated their mandate is to control and manage the situation and 'prevent animal movement' as Mozambique is considered an FMD area and therefore a risk. In their opinion, if FMD was detected in TEP the area would need to be quarantined and all movement of guests and vehicles out of the park would need to be managed according to protocols with disinfected foot and tyre mats and possibly sprays. Kruger National Park which presents a similar risk does not implement any such protocols as it is a much larger area and has numerous exit points which allow movement of people out of an FMD area.

The South African Veterinary Department considers this area a livestock disease risk and undertakes disease surveillance. Furthermore, they consider Mozambique a risk for several livestock diseases including FMD and Bovine TB. Mozambique is an FMD endemic area and as such there are vaccination procedures in place north of the border. TEP, from tests results they have undertaken over the past few decades, has not detected either TB or FMD - park management considers this a 'disease-free' park. The South African Veterinary Department officials see the removal of the fence as a disease risk and according to their policies cannot condone the removal of the fence and indicated



Figure . The veterinary control fence demarcating the area which movement of cloven-hoofed animals is restricted

This is a portion of fence which still existed (the straining posts are visible on the left of the picture, but no fence is strained on it. Over most of the area near and to the south of Tembe it is completely absent.

this must be elevated to the National Department for consideration. The National TFCA Unit is in the process of elevating this to an interdepartmental discussion.

Safety and Security

Crime across the border, especially from South Africa into Mozambique, is an important threat and risk. There is a significant smuggling industry especially of stolen cars into Mozambique but also other things moving from Mozambique. There is also cattle rustling from Mozambique into South Africa. Neither of these crimes is happening along the shared boundary of the two parks or indeed along the non-overlapping boundaries, but rather to the east of MNAP boundary and to the west of Tembe. The park boundaries remain secure.

In Tembe the military previously undertook patrols but after incidents with elephants park management agreed to provide this service and the military no longer patrol. There remains a security check point on the north eastern boundary of Tembe where the military has a presence.

Mozambique has border police who are stationed along the border and identify and deal with any threats. They are not present in the MNAP but have pickets in some of the villages.

The Border Management Authority (BMA) and the South African Police Services (SAPS), both in South Africa, have stressed that this is a high-risk security border, with major criminal activity. To this end a 'wall' and trench are under construction in places, especially to the east of the TEP, for this reason they consider the removal of the fence as increasing the risk, although currently none of these illegal activities occurs through the parks.

Importantly all the illegal activities mentioned above have not occurred through the parks' common boundary and therefore through the fences.

Legal and Policy Framework

International and Regional

While the administrations of both TEP and MNAP are primarily subject to country legal frameworks, international commitments (global conventions and regional protocol/treaties) play an important role in influencing national legislation. The following global international commitments highlight the role of conservation areas and in particular ecological connectivity:

- United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1975
- United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1983
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992
- African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Revised Version, 2003.

At a regional level, ecological connectivity and collaboration are expounded in the following instruments:

- Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Enforcement of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), 1999
- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Biodiversity, Conservation and Management signed between the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, 2014
- General Protocol and component protocols for the Lubombo TFCA.

On 22 June 2000, the governments of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland signed general and specific protocols on the establishment of the Lubombo TFCA, including the protocol that establishes the Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA, which includes the MNAP in Mozambique and TEP and Ndumo Game Reserve in South Africa (Figure 1). This protocol refers to intended linkages between TEP and Ndumo Game Reserve via a narrow corridor of communally

owned land known as the Mbangweni community area and between the South African conservation areas and MNAP through the Futi corridor. The proposed area will consolidate a conservation area of approximately 2,000km².

The countries developed an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the conservation of the Lubombo-Goba and Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA component in 2014 but which has since lapsed. In the same year a Joint Operations Strategy for the joint management area: Maputo Special Reserve and TEP was signed into force by the relevant authorities and approved by the Lubombo TFCA Commission. The strategy called for the formation of a Joint Park Management Committee (JPMC), which was formally established in July 2014, and who meet regularly to collaborate on conservation, protection, and development activities. It is this committee that requested support for this feasibility study.

The Lubombo TFCA Commission recently launched a tender to develop an IDP for the entire Lubombo TFCA which will integrate the various frameworks of the component TFCAs.

National

The national legal/policy framework of the countries is specific and varies. It needs harmonisation to allow collaboration and cooperation between them.

Mozambique

Governance of MNAP

The Law of Protection, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (Law 15/2017), establishes the principles and basic norms for protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable utilisation of the biological diversity in the entire national territory, especially in conservation areas, as well as an integrated administration for the sustainable development of the country. It also guides the administration of conservation areas including the mechanism for stakeholder participation.

The MNAP was established on 31 December 2021, in terms of the conservation law, consolidating the former Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve (established in 2000) and the Maputo Special Reserve, which was established in 1960 to protect the elephant population in the region. In 1969 it was renamed as “Reserva Especial do Maputo”, Maputo Special Reserve, to highlight the conservation status beyond just elephant.

On 14 June 2011 the Futi corridor was proclaimed as an extension of Maputo Special Reserve, thereby expanding the reserve by 240km², and bringing us one step closer to restoring cross-border elephant movement.

Under Law 15/2017, ANAC is responsible for overseeing all protected areas in Mozambique. ANAC is a public institute established by the Government of Mozambique in 2011, whose mission is to “coordinate and develop a National System of Conservation Areas in Mozambique”. It is guided by its Strategic Plan 2016–2024. Accordingly, ANAC is responsible for managing all protected areas in a manner designed to ensure sustainable use of the natural resources found at each site. To achieve this objective, ANAC is empowered to develop any necessary infrastructure for the management of biological diversity, as well as for identified economic activities that contribute to the progressive realisation of financial self-sufficiency by individual protected areas. ANAC currently manages the MNAP.

A Management Council was created under the terms of the conservation law, as an advisory body for Park Management. The Management Council is chaired by the Park Administrator and is made up of representatives of local communities, private and social sector associations, and the Administrator(s) of the district(s) where the park is located. Its deliberations and advice are defined in the forementioned law.

In 2018, the Government of Mozambique and PPF signed a partnership agreement to, jointly with Mozambique's ANAC, develop MNAP according to a strategic business plan, with Peace Parks providing technical and financial support for conservation and tourism development activities.

Legal framework and context guiding management of MNAP

In addition to the law and regulations that establish the park and mandate for its management, the relevant regulatory instruments, and subsidiary agreements applicable to the management of the MNAP such as the Land Policy (2022), Environmental Policy (1995) and Forest and Wildlife Policy (2020) are referenced in the park's management plan.

However, it is important to highlight the following as it emphasises an ecosystems approach and duty of care regarding environmental impact:

- The park management plan – 2023-2033, and the park specific regulation.
- Operational level instruments such as the park grievance redress mechanism and Human Wildlife Conflict Resolution Strategy.
- National policy on HWC mitigation.
- The Policy on Conservation and its Implementation Strategy (2009) - the main guiding documents for the development of protected areas in Mozambique. The vision of this policy is: *Conserved biological natural resources and their ecosystems made up of a wide biodiversity of healthy flora and fauna species, for the benefit of Man, contributing to sustaining life, economic growth, and eradicating poverty in Mozambique.*
- The country has a National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (2015-2035), which envisages: *In 2035, the ecological, socio-economic, and cultural value of biodiversity in Mozambique will contribute directly to improve the quality of life of Mozambicans, derived from its integrated management, conservation and fair and equitable use.*
- Mozambique issued a Decree in 2015 on the process of environmental impact, which applies to all entities, public and private, that might have activities that can result in environmental impact. There are four categories of actions from A to C. Category A+ is the highest and refers to actions that due to its complexity, localisation and irreversibility and magnitude of possible impacts, not only deserves a high level of social and environmental vigilance and but also involvement of specialists in the process environmental impact assessment. This includes among others all activities within conservation areas and their buffer zones, except where the administration of the respective conservation area wishes to undertake an activity for management purposes (such as would be the case for erecting or removing fences).
- The MNAP is part of the Maputo Environmental Protection Area (EPA), created in 2019, covering an area of the Matutuine District and KaNyaka Island. The EPA was established in context of a Special Land Planning Plan (2021), which presents the framework for achieving the vision for the planning area including categories of land use, defining the appropriate, permitted and prohibited uses for each category of use, and the land use planning principles for the main locations and development of human settlements. It also includes the plan's execution programme, defining priority and structuring actions, plans and projects for its implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation parameters.
- The MNAP administration is in the process of preparing the documentation for its nomination as world heritage site under the World Heritage Convention through an extension of the existing world heritage site status of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. The MNAP's and Isimangaliso Wetland Park's marine components form part of the Kosi Bay-Ponta do Ouro TFCA (Figure 1).

South Africa

Governance of TEP

TEP was proclaimed on communal lands, under leadership of the Tembe Traditional Authority, by the then KwaZulu Government in terms of KwaZulu Government Notice No. 73 of 1983 on 21 October 1983. The KwaZulu Cabinet also approved the following set of conditions to the Tembe Traditional Authority:

- The people living within the proposed park should move to areas indicated by the Tembe Traditional Authority or to areas of their own choosing.
- The people will receive cash compensation for their improvements at ruling rates and will be given assistance to transport their belongings and building material.
- The people must all move before the fencing is completed not later than 30 June 1984.
- If no water supply, clinic services or educational facilities exist in the area of re-establishment, these will be provided by the Kwa-Zulu Government.
- The Tembe Traditional Authority will receive 25% of the net profit made by the TEP.
- The Tembe Traditional Authority will be granted representation on any body or board of control established for the park.
- Any surplus game meat and by-products will in the first instance be offered to the people of the area via the Tembe Traditional Authority.
- The park will be fenced, surveyed and proclaimed in terms of section 29 of Act 8 of 1975, as soon as possible.

Re-proclamation of TEP took place on 13 April 1993 in terms of Kwa-Zulu Government Notice No.17 of 1993. The second proclamation was made in terms of a surveyed proclamation diagram instead of a written description referring to beacons and gives the size of TEP as being 30,013.3236ha.

The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board, established in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act No.9 of 1997, was appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC: Agriculture and Environmental Affairs as the management authority for all provincial protected areas in KwaZulu-Natal. The Board's implementing agency is EKZNW.

The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board is responsible for reporting on the management of TEP to the designated KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) and the Premier thus ensuring coordination of those matters that may affect the TEP through the relevant provincial departments, district, and local municipalities.

As the Tembe Traditional Authority didn't have any legal status, the Ingonyama Trust Board was established in 1994, as a land-holding legal entity on behalf of the traditional authority. The Ingonyama Trust Board was constituted in accordance with the KwaZulu Ingonyama Trust Act, 1994 (Act No. 3 of 1994). In accordance with this Act, ownership of the land was vested in the Ingonyama Trust Board which is responsible for the administration of the communal land.

During March 1998, the Tembe community lodged a land claim against the communal land that makes up the park, in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act No. 22 of 1994. This claim was successful, and a Settlement Agreement was signed on 2 February 2008. In accordance with the Restitution of Land Rights Act, the claimed land can only be transferred in title to a legal entity representing the originally dispossessed or their direct descendants. The Tembe Community Trust was established to formally represent the community that was previously dispossessed and has officially been awarded their land and compensation. As part of this process the awarded claimants are still awaiting

the process to conclude the handing over of the land title deed to the trust by the Ingonyama Trust Board. A fundamental condition for the transfer of land is that claimant landowners will not physically occupy the land and the land-use shall not be altered and will remain a conservation area in perpetuity under the management of the existing management authority (EKZNW). As a result, a Co-management Agreement was entered into between the EKZNW and the Tembe Community Trust.

Legal framework and context guiding management of TEP

Further to the law and regulations that establish the park and its governance mechanisms, in conserving and managing the biodiversity of KwaZulu-Natal, EKZNW operations are undertaken within a broad framework of policies. At a national level, overarching policy is set out in:

- The White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity of 1997.
- The Bioregional Approach to South Africa's Protected Areas, 2001/2002.
- Community Based Natural Resource Management Guidelines, 2003.
- National environmental management principles set out in section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act.
- Relevant norms and standards set by the Minister and MEC in terms of the Protected Areas and Biodiversity Acts.

Additional instruments of importance include:

- The TEP protected area management plan, 2015.
- Five Year Strategic Plan and Performance Plan for 2009-2014 – adopted by EKZNW and which has the following vision: *To be a world-renowned leader in the field of biodiversity conservation.*
- National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES; DEAT 2008) that addresses effective protection and representation of all vegetation types within the protected areas system. The purpose of the NPAES is to provide a national framework for the expansion and consolidation of the protected area system, focussing on priority areas for representation and persistence of biodiversity. In terms of the NPAES, areas around the northern boundary of TEP are identified as priorities for protected area expansion. The TEP falls within Region 24 of the NPAES focus areas, the Maputaland Delagoa iMfolozi Focus Area in KwaZulu-Natal. On the basis of the NPAES, at a national level, TEP is a strategically important protected area that forms a critical nodal point for the expansion of protected area efforts.
- Conservation and social development strategies for the TFCA - the forging of transfrontier linkages between the TEP and the authorities and communities of the bordering Mozambique and eSwatini will be promoted and maintained by TEP management in line with these strategies.
- The KwaZulu-Natal Protected Area Expansion Plan (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife 2010) also identified areas around the borders of TEP as priorities for protected area expansion and the TEP forms a key hub in creating a connected protected area system in the region. Certain areas around TEP are characterised by high levels of irreplaceability, largely due to losses of natural habitat. Land identified as a priority for protected area expansion may be incorporated into TEP either through land acquisition or through stewardship agreements, established with individual landowners or communities. Opportunities may arise that will enable the establishment of new formal protected areas or other conservation management areas on land bordering or in the vicinity of TEP in collaboration and co-operation with the relevant communities and landowners. This is likely to contribute to the EKZNW conservation planning and the combined Lubombo Conservancy-Goba and Usuthu-Tembe-Futi TFCA targets through more effective natural and cultural heritage conservation.

- In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No.107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, various activities require environmental authorisation before they may commence. In addition, in terms of Regulation RN.546, Listing Notice No.3, there are several activities that require environmental approval specifically as a result of their proximity to a protected area. The implication of this is that if any of the activities listed in Appendix F are proposed in the protected area, or within 5km of it, they will be subject to either a basic assessment or a full scoping and EIA process. Several general activities and those proposed for either tourism development or operational management within the TEP or its buffer areas will thus also require environmental authorisation.

Socio-economic

Social profile

Communities living in and around Conservation Areas are among the poorest, most isolated groups, dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Without viable economic alternatives households have little incentives to consistently support environmental protection in the short and medium term. Without targeted investments in education and entrepreneurship in areas where conservation is promoted, the youth, who constitute a large proportion of population, have few alternatives in the future². The present socio-economic situation of the complex MNAP/TEP presents limited infrastructure and services for an area that has wildlife and aesthetic landscapes.

There are several communities located along the Futi corridor of the MNAP, however, Gueveza and Phuza are the ones most likely to be affected by the initial phasing of the project (Figure 11). Most residents of these communities are at least partially dependent on a subsistence economy, characterised as a “low-input-low-output” form of agriculture (crops and grazing) and harvesting of forest, fisheries, production of wood poles, mushrooms, medicinal plants and other natural resource products. They are also involved in benefit sharing initiatives from the park. The MNAP team engages with these communities through regional community fora, representative of local community fora, as well as community based Natural Resource Management Committees - these structures are also represented on the Park Management Council or Board.³

The communities surrounding TEP are largely of the Tembe clan under the Tembe Traditional Authority. The Tembe Clan has a long history in this area, a history that predates the colonial era, and yet this community is divided by the international border. The colonial heritage of the Tembe Clan and the history of the region are intrinsically intertwined, and may form the basis of cultural experiences existing in this protected area. The population is characterised as rural and poor with subsistence agriculture the main land use in this area. The production of Ilala Palm wine and the selling of Ilala Palm fronds as well as the harvesting of reeds and medicinal plants have become commercially significant. Extensive exotic plantations (Eucalyptus plantations) have also emerged over the years as a significant economic value to the communities, with extensive natural areas being transformed for this purpose.

Park Management ensures open lines of communication with members of the local communities through regular meetings of the Isinduna’s Forum and Co-management Committee (EKZNW and community owners).⁴

² Resettlement Policy framework-Mozbio 2 and GEF 7 additional Financing

³ ANAC, 2023. MNAP Management Plan – 2023-2033.

⁴ EKZNW,2015. TEP Protected Area Management Plan, 2015.

Stakeholder engagement and key findings

Stakeholders were consulted in the two countries on separate occasions, with the support of the Park Wardens of MNAP and TEP, in terms of calling for meetings and logistics.

Details of the meetings and approaches adopted are appended (Appendix II) and key outcomes summarised below.

Consultations were held in **Mozambique** with representatives from the following key groups (i) the business community around Ponta do Ouro; (ii) local and regional government officials from immigration, security including Police and Border Patrol agencies; (iii) park officials from MNAP; (iv) the livestock producers association; and (v) local communities, especially those along the east and west boundaries of the Futi. The following is a summary of the key findings:

- The business community recognised the opportunities relating to tourism development linked to the ability to market the area as a 'Big Five' destination. Tourism development presents associated opportunities for employment and support services and businesses.
- The Mozambican authorities were generally receptive to the project, however subject to all the relevant agencies and departments (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Border Police, Wildlife Police and ANAC) agreeing on the way forward to implement the project. The security officials mentioned further engagement with senior officials while immigration indicated movement of tourists without following border procedure was, for now, not possible.
- The MNAP team was fully in support of removing the fence. It added an important biodiversity value through improving resilience and species richness. Managerially the fence was not their responsibility. The addition of lion and possibly rhino and other predators would increase their management costs and were in support of mitigation measures, see HWC Section.
- The livestock owners raised concerns about the existence of HWC and expressed that the dropping of the fences may worsen the situation, due to increased elephant movement and lions escaping into Mozambique. Noticeably wild dogs escaped during the currency of this study from TEP into Mozambique and killed livestock.
- The local communities at large also raised questions regarding HWC and the security of the fence. They were also concerned about other historic issues they have with the parks (payment of their percentage of park revenues). They were skeptical about the project, unless all the necessary measures were in place such as proper fencing to protect them from elephant and carnivores. The community leaders were more receptive to the project since they have had previous exposure to information about the Lubombo TFCA but are also worried about community security.

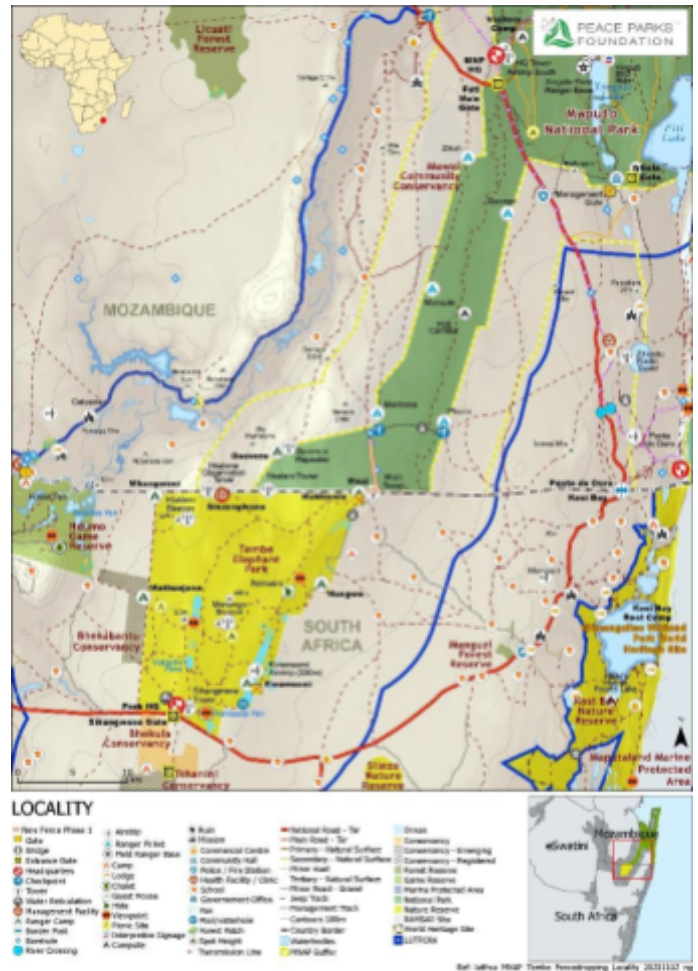


Figure SEQ Figure 1* ARABIC 11. Locality

Discussions with stakeholders in **South Africa** were primarily with the park staff in TEP, one meeting with safety and security (BMA), immigration and veterinary officials and a subsequent meeting with local community representatives. The study team could not engage the Tembe Trust directly as there were no formal trustees in place during the currency of this study - Trust elections are yet to take place. However, the TEP team did engage with the traditional leadership, separately. Key findings were:

- The South African authorities (BMA and Veterinary authorities) are concerned about the increase of criminal activities with dropping the fence, and they are more reserved about the project.
- The communities (and owners of TEP) were excited about the possibility of having more tourists, because of the attractions in MNAP and Ponta do Ouro (the sea, marine turtles and whales) – they see the project as unlocking business opportunities.

Human trafficking

The sponsor of this study was concerned with the risk of increased human trafficking in the event that the fence is dropped between MNAP and TEP. The below provides an overview of the legal framework and a short analysis in this regard.

There is no domestic anti-trafficking legislation in Mozambique which makes the country vulnerable to local and international criminal groups, dealing primarily in drugs a smuggled commodity, and less organised local syndicates trafficking in humans for multiple purposes.

Mozambique has also not yet ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, especially Women and children (the Palermo Protocol) (2000)⁵.

South Africa signed the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol in December 2000 and ratified the Protocol in February 2004.

Mozambique is a country of origin and transit for human trafficking activities. There is also evidence of internal trafficking. the principal destination for trafficked Mozambicans is South Africa, the regional powerhouse. The scale of growth of the traffic in human beings from Africa to Middle East suggests that Mozambique, as with many other African countries, may already be feeding this trans-national business. Primarily women and girls, but also boys are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ harvesting. Sexual exploitation and forced labour are the principal purpose of trafficking in Mozambique⁶.

The traditional migration patterns of labour from Mozambique to South Africa; the practice of children being loaned/sent to better-situated family members to be raised; and causal border procedures contribute to acceptance and expectations of unregulated movement between the two countries. This makes it a bit difficult to identify the situations where people are being trafficked, according to some leaders from Phuza community, albeit that some of these migrants may be subject to forced labour or being used for organ commerce.

Several relatively small-scale trafficking networks operate using minivan taxis to smuggle both migrants and women across the border. They are based at transit houses in the border region between Mozambique, eSwatini and South Africa and operate through a network of accomplices in Johannesburg, Maputo and in the Lubombo region who recruits, transport and accommodate and transfer women.

⁵ UNESCO (2006) Human Trafficking in Mozambique: Root causes and recommendations

⁶ 2003 IOM Report *Seduction, Sale and Slavery: Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa*

The proposed area for dropping the fence is the contiguous area between the TEP and the Futi corridor in MNAP. This is not known as having any type of movement from criminals or people not linked with the parks. The opening of the fence will instead generate more presence of the park staff to carry out their management practices, which will increase the presence of authorities. The dropping of the fence could result in opening for tourists to visit both parks. This may well increase the area's vulnerability to becoming a passage of criminals who could be considered tourists. Increased security measures must be undertaken to prevent such use of the tourist opening. However, tourism movement at this stage is, however, not supported by officials.

Communities were not specifically prompted about human trafficking, however, one of the leaders mentioned that usually girls are travelling to South Africa to find work and they end up being enslaved for sex labour. He also mentioned a case where a three-year old boy was found dead in Matutuine without organs, but he believed this was unrelated to border movement. Although human trafficking is a well-known reality, he does not see the opening of the fence as an increase in human trafficking, as the current fence is not a deterrent.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

TEP and surrounds will remain largely unchanged if the fence is opened for wildlife movement. The most important impact, likely positive, will be new habitat and resources for most wildlife species, which according to Tembe management and supported by monitoring data, are stocked at high levels and they are implementing costly culling operations to remove pressure on the vegetation from heavy grazing and browsing. Management, however, indicated that removal of animals from the park, through culling, was technically not permitted under existing legislation and they therefore see benefit to easing the pressure on the vegetation from the high wildlife numbers in such a small system. The wildlife in TEP, which is theoretically the 'property of the local community' may be diluted, at least in the short to medium term, as wildlife leave the park and move into MNAP if the fence is opened.

The most impacted area will be MNAP (mostly positive) and the adjacent communities (likely very negative). MNAP would likely receive more wildlife as they move across the boundary north, including species not present in MNAP. These include lion and potentially black rhino (white rhino were removed through poaching) and wild dog, although those were removed in August 2023. On the negative side the communities may be impacted by increased HWC, especially from species not previously present, namely lion, making mitigation measures therefore essential.

The benefits are easier to list but difficult to quantify. They are largely split into two categories, namely ecological and financial. The ecological benefits, especially for TEP are significant. A larger landscape, if the area is expanded beyond the initial phase, will imply a significant increase in resilience for most species and especially for those whose populations are too small to ensure long-term genetic viability. The increasing area and wider range of habitats are an excellent absorber of impacts likely to be associated with climate change. For MNAP, a larger area is always better, although as a percentage of the existing park it is a smaller impact than for TEP, but the mixing of individuals and species and opening corridors for new species is an important benefit. Ecologically it is a significant benefit.

There are very strong compelling reasons supporting the opening of the fences, with biodiversity the best overall winner of such an outcome. There, however, remain some challenges, these are listed below with possible mitigation:

- **Spread of animal diseases** - The removal of the fences may contribute to this. It is difficult to quantify the risk, suffice to say, other existing operational and administrative weaknesses in the containment of animal diseases probably far outweigh the risks should the fence be removed.

- **HWC in Mozambique** – Probably the most important and significant. There is an existing problem and without mitigating measures, this will likely get worse with predators now in the landscape. There is, however, a strategy to deal with this.
- **Operational issues** – MNAP will have to manage the park to deal with predators and their impacts. Management will need to secure additional funds to manage this. Furthermore, an open system will require very good collaboration between the management entities to ensure monitoring and management interventions are aligned. There is a Committee already in place to allow this to be managed (the JPMC).
- **Security** – This entire border is a security hotspot. However, the boundary between the parks has not been the focus of these illegal activities. The parks in fact offer an additional layer of security through access management control and perimeter and internal patrols. Access is also some distance and through thick sand, this adds an additional barrier. Improved dialogue with senior officials in Pretoria is required.
- **Community issues.** These are mainly associated with HWC, but for Mozambique side, some other community issues may arise, due to the low trust from the communities. Community involvement in all stages of the project is required. The park does, however, have a grievance mechanism and response system in place to address issues and reduce this risk.
- **Economic issues** – The lower end of the Futi will be able to market a ‘Big Five’ destination. This will likely present an opportunity to develop tourism products. This represents an important opportunity to create employment and contribute to park income.
- **Legal/political** – there is a supportive legal framework in place for most of the issues raised above, however, how these are interpreted in South Africa remains to be clarified. The TFCA framework is very clear and interpretation elsewhere, such as Limpopo National Park, has been implemented very well. This still needs further input from the relevant authorities to clarify interpretation and implementation.

Spread of Animal Diseases

The removal of fences allows movement of animals with their pathogens spreading the diseases that the fence was serving as a barrier. The veterinary challenges for the landscape will be the incongruity with pragmatic realities on the ground and fluid animal movement - mainly livestock (all illegal) versus the legal requirements from each country that will be required to allow fence dropping.

In the process there may be a disease risk for the wildlife in TEP, (if the wildlife in MNAP are disease carriers), which according to previous testing, are free of TB and FMD. The MNAP, however, does not have the same testing history and whether these diseases occur or not is not known. It is therefore an unknown risk. Disease risk from South African origin livestock outside the park is an important risk, probably a larger risk. This remains with or without the fence.

Engagement with an integrated, interdisciplinary approach offers the most promising way to address these issues: the well-being of wildlife, ecosystems, and domestic animals. This approach should be as follows:

- **Harmonisation of veterinary policy** – There are differences in the legislation of the countries. Without changing but agreeing to practices that do not compromise the legislation, the fencing could be dropped at the border but repositioned in appropriate areas, as a phased approach.
- **Epidemiology** – There is very little capacity to change the disease status across the boundary mainly for FMD, as all local diseases will be present in Mozambique and Northern KwaZulu in South Africa. Better infrastructure for livestock husbandry and improved security will contribute to better disease management.

Whether the existing fence is preventing any ‘spread of disease’ cannot be unequivocally answered. Evidence suggests there is no known disease in the wildlife populations in either country. There are a multitude of other

weaknesses in the system which could spread disease if it is present in the landscape, especially the uncontrolled and mostly illegal movement of livestock. It is known that FMD has been identified and confirmed in livestock on the South African side. Removal of the fence, with the proposed mitigation measures, will help prevent interaction between wildlife and domestic stock through improved fencing on the parks' boundary. Spreading disease from wildlife to domestic stock and *vice versa* will therefore be reduced and managed (probably better than at present). The illegal and unregulated movement of livestock will continue, as it falls outside the capacity of the parks' management.

The Veterinary Department in South Africa is responsible for the veterinary fence including patrols, maintenance, and enforcement. This fence can only be removed with their support and approval. The local representatives cannot make such decisions, and this must be elevated to the National Department. To drive this requires the input from the National TFCA Unit. This has been initiated but will take time as it is a slow process and will likely not be resolved during the currency of this study.

HWC in Mozambique

The neighbouring communities adjacent to MNAP especially along the Futi section suffer significant losses from damage caused by wildlife. The livestock owners expressed concern about any increase in wildlife numbers and especially an increase in dangerous predators. Their concerns are very real, they pointed out the policy in Mozambique of no compensation for any losses suffered because of wildlife damage carries a significant cost for them. Currently HWC outside the MNAP is the most significant real issue they face and they are concerned that with predators this is likely to escalate.

The surrounding communities are likely to be those most significantly affected through increased HWC. It is difficult to quantify this as no quantitative data are available for predator related incidents, but the presence of lion and other predators are likely a big risk if a fence is breached. Evidence from the region, South Africa especially, have shown that a well-constructed and maintained fence does effectively contain large predators.

The problem has been and will likely remain elephants which continually breach the fence. They are already scattered across this landscape and the removal of the fence may not significantly alter the incidence of elephant related HWC. **Error! Reference source not found.** clearly shows the limited occurrence of fence breaches and HWC in the initial phase fence dropping area (Figure 12). Furthermore, it is proposed that mitigation measures will be significantly enhanced in this area as detailed below.

The MNAP management is in support of removing the fence but recognises the real concerns raised by the communities and stakeholders, specifically HWC. To this end they propose a phased approach. This would include

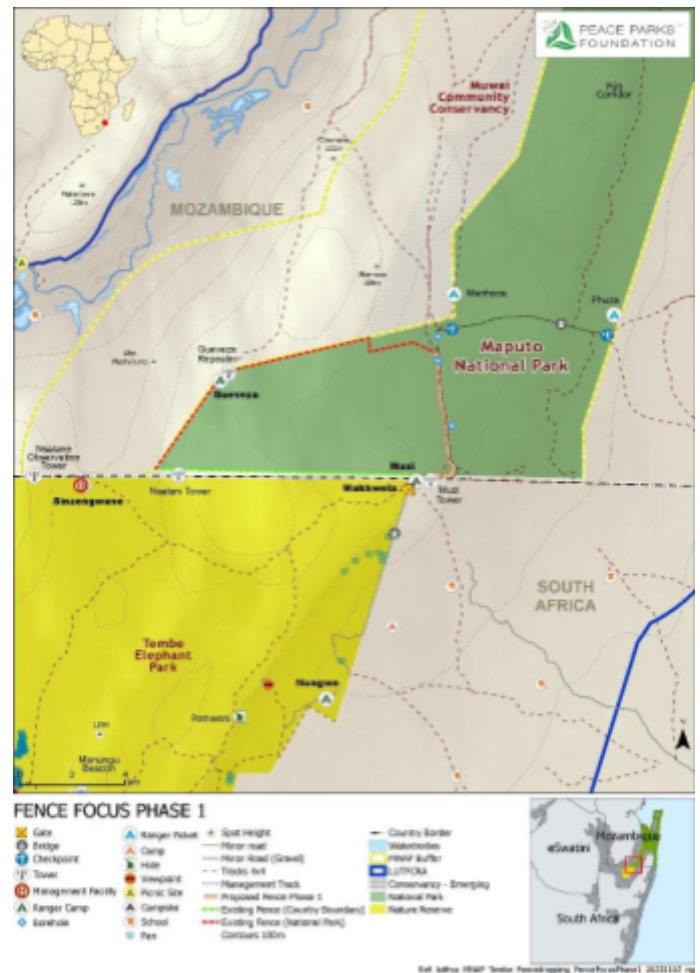


Figure . The initial expansion in the first phase of the fence removal

MNAP will enclose approximately 3 500ha as indicated with the western boundary fence (red dashed line), the new MNAP fence (red and white line) and the fence to be removed along the South African border (green dashed line).

initially opening a small area of approximately 35km² immediately to the north as outlines in Figure 12. The area includes the 10km common boundary, the red coloured line to the east, excluding the Futi, (elephant extensively use this area, accessing the water and would damage the fence if cut-off from the water in the Futi) and then the northern and western yellow boundary line. This would entail strengthening the existing boundary, erecting a new boundary in the east and removing the common boundary fence, cost estimates are shown in Table 1. This would then be monitored and if the lions and other animals are successfully contained it would be expanded with further consultation on the extent of the expansion. Furthermore, the management of HWC conflict would be increased to include the following:

- Purchase an additional vehicle for HWC response
- Appoint more staff and build additional accommodation
- Ensure funding for regular community meetings
- Appoint at least six (6) community rangers with radios and quad bikes to patrol the fence and offer first line of call for any breakouts
- Collaring if needed of specific individuals or groups
- Adequate budget for operational costs including repairs.

The CAPEX costs are estimated at \$209,000 while annual ongoing management costs are estimated at \$51,500 (Table 2). This will create additional employment and these can be directed towards youth and women.

Table 1. The estimated capital costs (USD) to mitigate the impacts of HWC with a list of items and the estimated costs for the initial expansion area

CAPEX			
Fence costs	Distance	Cost/km	Total
New Futi Fence			
Erect new fence (along Futi)	4.7	6,500	30,550
Clear new futi Fence (along Futi)	4.7	1,800	8,460
Upgrade western fence	11.4	2,200	25,080
Upgrade boundary fence (to east of TEP)	6.7	Maybe phase 2	
Remove existing fence on border	10.3	2,000	20,600
Build accommodation for additional staff			40,000
Purchase vehicle for HWC		1	45,000
Quad bikes		4	40,000
TOTAL CAPEX			209,690

Table 2. The estimated annual operating costs (USD) to mitigate the impacts of HWC in the initial expansion area.

Management expenses/year	Estimate
Additional management input	
Staff costs	Probably a team of 3 to 4 people on permanent standby 10,000
HWC mitigation	
Meetings	5,000
Fence repairs	5,000
Collars and tracking	6,000
Vehicle costs	10,500
Community fence patrol costs	15,000
Initial additional cost/year	51,500

The park does not have funding for this at present, but these could be raised through the donor programme which is currently supporting park management. It is viewed as a priority as the establishment of the TFCA is an important outcome for the MNAP, this is why this study was identified.

The likely costs for TEP may improve as maintenance and associated patrolling for fence integrity of the boundary fence will no longer be required. Furthermore, the need for culling will also be reduced.

The management of wildlife will need to be aligned, however there are already structures operating to achieve this and cross border monitoring of wildlife is already occurring, so there are unlikely to be increased costs in this regard.

The longer-term costs have not been outlined, should the expansion extend beyond the initial phase. There are too many unknowns to quantify this, and it will to a large degree depend on input from stakeholders and lessons learnt from the initial phase. The establishment of the Muwai Conservancy may significantly reduce elephant pressure on the western fence and therefore HWC to the west. The conservancy fence will be a significant improvement on the existing design and will likely help to significantly reduce fence breaches and HWC associated with elephant. The MNAP management are currently upgrading the eastern boundary fence to the same type of 'porcupine fence' so this may also mitigate any risks.

Operational Issues

A larger and contiguous area will imply closer collaboration between the conservation agencies in the two countries. Issues which will probably need collaboration include the following:

- Monitoring of wildlife populations
- Management of wildlife populations including introductions, removals, disease monitoring etc.
- Vegetation monitoring and management especially fire management
- General operational issues such as law enforcement, water supplementation and other management interventions.

These and other issues are already being discussed, when required at the frequent liaison meeting held between the park managers (the JPMC). This important forum will continue to manage the issues and no significant additional costs or interventions are anticipated.

Security

This includes two separate focal areas, namely the **park-related security** and the **wider criminal component**.

The park-related security is largely an operational issue and is discussed in the Operational Issues section. Removal of the fence is unlikely to impact on this.

The wider security outside the parks includes a range of illegal activities and to a large degree outside the scope and control of the park management, although they do contribute to assisting with some security support. It is important to state that the stakeholder meetings did not indicate that criminal activity between the parks was a risk or a concern at present. It is probably the most secure portion of the international border. Their concern is more that removing the fence will somehow increase this risk. It is unclear how, as the two parks both undertake border controls, maintain the perimeter fences to the parks and operate an access control system. Furthermore, road access within these parks is difficult as roads are sandy. Wildlife is present, including dangerous game such as elephant, buffalo and in TEP lion and other predators.

The concerns are nonetheless important as their support will be required for any formal removal of the fences. The local security agencies in South Africa therefore cannot support the removal of even portions of the fence. This authority falls outside their mandate, and this must be elevated to higher national levels in South Africa. This process has been initiated but moving such issues through the system will take time. The TFCA Unit is the appropriate vehicle to initiate and drive this, as it must be conducted through and within government departments. The TFCA Unit has driven this in other TFCAs, however this will take time. They will cover all the concerns including agriculture, veterinary services, public health, security, defense force, home affairs, immigration and others.

Community Issues

Although parks and protected areas are generally associated with benefits and related values (monetary) by local communities due to improved quality of the environment, and other social economic benefits including employment, community issues in the project area, related to dropping the fence, are mainly issues related to HWC, access to resources and livelihood alternatives.

In this study, most community members on the Mozambique side highlighted concerns regarding to their security from a HWC perspective, although they did recognise the benefits associated with wildlife protection and hunting restrictions to benefit future generations as well as additional resources for conservation and livelihood related programmes.

In Mozambique, the Natural Resources Management Committees will be involved with implementing the project in the early stages, should the countries decide to proceed, to ensure all community related issues such as involvement of women and youth and livelihood opportunities, are discussed to mitigate the risks for communities. In

Mozambique, due to the park benefit sharing with communities, there is a bit of tension between the parts mainly due to delays on payments of the 20% of revenues.

In South Africa, nearly 90% of all officially protected areas border on communal rural communities or are situated close to them. As human populations increase, and the demand for renewable natural resources grow, the frequency and intensity of conflict between protected areas and local people will also increase. The most common of these problems relate to the increasing human settlement of adjacent lands and the unauthorised harvesting of resources within protected areas⁷.

South Africa side (Tembe community) are more organized to be involved in the management of the park, through the Ingonyama Trust Board, that is part of the Management Board of the Park. Relationship between the community and the Park is good since the communities own the Park.

Economic Issues

Positive social impacts, at least felt by local communities, are likely to be limited, in the short term. The most likely effect may be improved tourism, but this is unlikely to happen immediately and probably limited to occur in Mozambique in the short to medium term. The net impact in South Africa, without allowing for the movement of tourists across the border between the parks could be some time off. If it were to occur it is probable it would be either through a limited immigration facility (likely expensive to develop and operate) or free movement within and between the two parks. However, Mozambique currently has no legislative framework to permit this, such as is the case in Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park between Botswana and South Africa. Limpopo National Park, which is likely to attract significantly more visitors across from Kruger National Park, will probably create a precedent for this, which may pave the way for its implementation in Tembe/MNAP.

The tourism impact on Tembe, with non-restricted movement of game, is likely marginal, maybe slightly negative. The northern area of Tembe bordering MNAP, is zoned as wilderness and therefore has low tourism numbers. However, it may be that important game viewing animals, such as lion or wild dogs, may cross from Tembe into Mozambique and cannot therefore be viewed by visitors in Tembe.

The potential upside for Mozambique and the lower portion of the MNAP along the Futi, depending how the fencing is phased could be especially positive. This would essentially offer a 'Big Five' game viewing product within one hour's drive from Maputo and 30 minutes from Ponta do Ouro. Furthermore, communities adjacent to the Futi corridor have expressed an interest in 'incorporating' land into MNAP, via realignment of fences and with agreement with ANAC. This can potentially unlock significant value as has occurred on the western boundary of Kruger National Park, where private landowners can build various wildlife related investments. These can range from exclusive tourism, trophy hunting, culling, live game sales or even residential properties. These land uses are permitted under the EPA within the buffer zone and would significantly enhance the biodiversity resilience of the park and probably reduce HWC as the narrow Futi is a constant area for elephant breakouts. Land use aligned with conservation and not based on farming will certainly reduce HWC.

Financially for MNAP the benefit will be driven largely by an improvement in tourism. There is a plan to develop a 'Big Five' tourism area in the lower Futi. If such a product can be developed in the initial phase of 35km² is unclear. But if such a product was developed it is likely that about a 12-bed facility could be built and assuming this was a top-end product, potentially up the 24 or 30 jobs could be created, mostly suitable for local people (and could be directed at women and youth), if the area increases, the impact grows significantly with it.

⁷ Aspects of the ecology and conservation status of selected wildlife in and around Tembe Elephant Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa- University of Pretoria etd Van Eeden DG 2006

If the area were to expand in the future to incorporate the entire MNAP it would then be a 'Big Five' reserve on the doorstep of the capital, Maputo, this could be a massive impact. A study undertaken in Pilanesberg National Park in South Africa in 1993 estimated that introducing lions to the park would increase visitor numbers to the park and immediate surrounds by between 10 and 15%. This has a significant impact on existing occupancies which are very low. The increase in jobs for existing and future products is therefore potentially large. Providing estimates would be guesswork and as such have not been estimated.

If cross border tourism could occur, as happens in other TFCAs, where visa and passport free movement is possible within the TFCA parks, the benefits will likely improve especially for Tembe, but that was not explored as part of this study.

Legal/Political

TFCA initiatives in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region offer hope for providing a mechanism for resolving political tensions and conflicts which are not only related to environmental issues but to security concerns as well. The geopolitical implications of TFCAs in the SADC region cannot be overemphasised with regard to international relations and regional integration. The SADC region is characterised by histories of contested military balance of power and geopolitical rivalries which have a potential to degenerate into military confrontation.

Although there is a strong belief in multilateral co-operation among SADC member countries, most of them often engage the international community at the bilateral level. Moreover, there is disharmony in constitutional applications of the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance. However, TFCA initiatives in southern Africa have been seen as offering an opportunity to heal the wounds of pre- and post-independence wars of destabilisation through the encouragement of inter-state collaboration and co-operation by giving governments an opportunity for mutual action on issues of common interest⁸.

The TFCA agreement remains an important underpinning framework allowing the issues raised above to be accommodated. It provides a solid legislative foundation upon which such a process can be driven, especially those issues highlighted in the Spread of Animal Disease and Security Sections.

RISKS, MITIGATION AND SCHEDULING

The project will certainly **deliver important biodiversity benefits** for both protected areas, even with just the expanded 3,500ha but significantly more if the entire MNAP is included – **this is the primary objective for removing the fence**. The financial costs, if a 'Big Five' lodge is developed in Mozambique are important, they are not significant but will make an important contribution to job creation and tourism in the wider Mozambique context. In the longer term if the project expands to incorporate the entire MNAP, the financial returns are likely to be significant.

The mitigation costs for MNAP are reasonably high but funding could be sourced for MNAP given the long-term potential upside mentioned above.

The risks, possible mitigation, way forward with likely timing and responsibility identified are listed below:

Table 3. Risk mitigation plan

⁸ O, Rusinga. J, Mapira, 2013. Challenges of transfrontier conservation areas: Natural resources nationalism, security and regionalism in the Southern African Development Community region.

Risk	Mitigation	Way forward	Responsibility
HWC increases in Moz with lion and other predators	Improve fencing, patrolling, community engagement, collaring, improved response	Engage with communities and raise the funding – 12 to 24 months	MNAP team / ANAC
Fence removal SA – Crime	To be resolved	Engage with SA authorities via TFCA unit to find a way forward timing uncertain, but like >12 months	EKZNW / National TFCA Unit; Security cluster; Veterinary Department
Disease control	Continue monitoring	Monitor - ongoing	EKZNW / Veterinary Department and veterinarians in Moz
Social/Community issues (conflicts between the parks and communities and limited access to natural resources)	Management of local community expectations through continuously informing them; implement livelihood programmes to improve the family income	Implementation and use of the MNAP Grievance Mechanism to reduce this risk	MNAP / TEP teams
HWC mitigation and management alignment are not achieved	The fence is re-erected, and problem wildlife relocated across the border	Continue to monitor via existing structures - ongoing	EKZNW / MNAP team
<i>Status quo</i> prevails	Continue with existing operations	It will likely result in free movement of game but none of the above mitigation measures will be in place – worst possible outcome	Everybody and Nobody!

Appendix I - Security Study

See attached report by Bhejane360 Pty (Ltd), October 2023

Appendix II – Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Methodology

As this project is supported by Mozambican raised donor funding, the proposed TEP-MNAP fence dropping feasibility study, is fully aligned with the Mozambique legal framework for public consultations. Stakeholder consultations is embedded in Mozambique's legal framework from the constitution to the sector legislation. The Constitution in its Articles 78, 79 and 96 refers that communities have the right to participate in, among others, seeking solutions for the community's problems. This is however, well aligned with the South African framework for stakeholder participation and engagement.

To ensure that this right to participate in the decision and solution to the communities' problems is safeguarded, all other legislation enacted in the country provides for the full participation of the citizens/communities in the Governance of the country including the management of natural resources upon which they depend. Examples include, among others, the land, environment, forests, and wildlife legislation.

Against this background, stakeholder engagement for the proposed fence dropping project was conducted in line with and guided by the Government of Mozambique legal and policy framework in addition to Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principles related to stakeholder consultations at different levels. Consultations were conducted in local languages (where possible) and reference materials were duly interpreted into local languages and contexts. Moving forward, the consultations with all project stakeholders including communities will be done according to the outlined legal and policy framework.

Last, but by no means least, included in the legal framework of the country is the need to ensure genuine consultation without any discrimination and inclusion of all stakeholders which is also provided for in the country Constitution (e.g. Articles 39, 44, 54, 121) and this was achieved during community and stakeholder consultations conducted during the proposed project, through the consultation with women and youth who are historically excluded from the discussion forums.

All the project stakeholders were informed ahead of time of the meetings that would be held in their level. These informational meetings were held by the PPF team. The meetings followed a standard curriculum, with the aim of ensuring that key points were accurately and consistently communicated in a standardised way. The MNAP and TEP teams assisted with organising meetings, specifically engagements with government entities and private sector who received formal written invitations. Other representatives, such as community leaders, were invited via phone calls or in person.

As part of the inception phase of the study, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan was prepared setting out all the potential groups likely to be affected by the decision of removing the fence and how and when these stakeholders were to be engaged during the study.

The below table summarised the various stakeholder groups as well as their rights, interests, and relevance to the project.

Table 4. Stakeholders and relevance to the study

Stakeholder	Rights, Interest and Overall Relevance to the Project
Government agencies including ANAC, TFCA structures (JPMC), Private Game Farms, district and provincial authorities, Park Management teams, Ministry of	Legally recognised authority/mandates to manage resources within forest areas. Legally recognised rights and responsibilities related to natural resources management, and the enforcement of relevant laws, within their jurisdiction.

Stakeholder	Rights, Interest and Overall Relevance to the Project
Defense Interior (Moz), South African National Defense Force (SANDF), South African municipalities (district and local), Agriculture Department	
Traditional Authorities in Mozambique Tembe Community Trust, Tembe Tribal Authority in South Africa.	To manage natural resources on behalf of “the community”. Natural resources are proposed to be effectively co-managed by the community Natural Resource Management Committees in cooperation with ANAC (in Mozambique under a form of dual administration system where the ANAC is responsible for conservation management, law enforcement, and regulating tourism.
Community Members and Leaders	Members of the wider “community” able to collectively possess rights to community resources, including natural resources. Community leaders are recognised as holding rights and responsibility for the leadership of designated villages.
Private Sector	The Private Sector in Mozambique was in support of the fence dropping. They saw tourism potential for Mozambique if the area could be marketed as a 'Big Five' tourism destination, especially with the proximity to Maputo.

Stakeholder meetings in Mozambique

Four meetings with different stakeholders' groups were held in Mozambique, in different locations and dates – all with the same objective: to inform the stakeholders of the feasibility study for dropping the fence between the parks and hear from them, what are their concerns and questions in this regard:

- **District Government** – this meeting was held on 20 June 2023 at Matutuine District and it was attended by 16 people (four of whom were women) from different sectors of the district government (SDPI –District Services for Infrastructure Planning, SDAE- District Services for Economic Activities, Police, Immigration, Border Police, private sector, NGOs, PPF and MNAP teams). The community leaders were invited to this meeting, but due to another agenda they were not able to attend.
- **MNAP team** – this meeting was held on 21 June 2023, at the MNAP offices. The meeting was attended by 12 people, four of whom were women. A second meeting was held on 19 September with the Park Management team. Here feedback was provided by the project team on progress and the concerns raised by stakeholders, especially the increased HWC. Park management provided possible mitigation measures and a work plan with estimated costs was presented, this is outlined in the HWC Section.
- **Leaders** – because the leaders did not attend the main meeting at the district, a separate meeting with them was held at MNAP offices, on 23 June 2023.
- **Gueveza and Phuza communities** - women and youth groups included – these meetings were held on July 18 and 26 respectively, in Gueveza and Phuza respectively. Separate meetings with women and youth were scheduled for Gueveza and Phuza, but due to cultural habits, all the community member representatives attended the meeting. Although the meeting was not exclusive to women and youth, they had opportunity to raise their concerns (as shown in the table of questions raised below).

Stakeholder meetings in South Africa

Three meetings with different stakeholders' groups were held in South Africa, at TEP offices on different dates. The meetings were organised by TEP team and had the following sequence:

- **TEP Management team** – This meeting was held on 22 June 2023 to gather an understanding of the current state of operations along the boundary and the management of the existing fences and likely impacts of a more open system for wildlife movement.
- **SA Authorities** – This meeting was held on 20 September 2023 and was attended by various stakeholders from different government institutions (BMA, EKZNW, SAPS, DARD-Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment). The discussion focussed on security and veterinary issues and the authorities raised their concerns regarding the spreading of animal diseases (TB and FMD) from Mozambique to South Africa side, which now has disease-free status. These authorities were also concerned about the security of the border, since they are already increasing the security measures in that area, through the building of walls. A consensus was reached that the participants at the meeting needed their seniors' perspective on the fence dropping issue.
- **Tembe Community** – The Tembe community was very receptive to the project because they understood the advantages that they (being the owners of the park) would have with the dropping of the fence. The community representatives suggested that, if the advantages of dropping the fence were more than 60%, they would agree and support the project. The communities in South Africa are more willing to accept the project. Being the owners of the TEP, they have seen opportunities for improving their income from tourism. They asked for help from PPF, to study the possibility of co-management of TEP.

Table 5. Questions raised by community members in both communities MNAP and TEP)

Questions/Concerns	Community/Name
In those 5 years of the first fence, will the fence around the park be safe, to avoid animals from moving from the park to buffer zone?	Gueveza (Moz)
It has been so many years, and the park always comes with same stories. The fence is not safe.	Gueveza (Moz)
We don't have a relationship with the park neither with Salamanga. We always go to South Africa to buy goods and sell our fish. We cry since the beginning; they always lie to us about our money from the 20% but we never see this money. How is it that possible that they want to do other things without solving past issues? Those animals will still come in, with or without this fence that you are talking about.	Gueveza (Moz)
Some people came here before, they have asked us about elephants, we said that they attack but we are used to it. They wanted to put up a fence, but we did not accept because we prefer to live like this. They did a survey in the community regarding that fence, and they ended up doing the fence even without our permission. Even with that fence the animals still come into our houses. I think they cheated us. Today you are bringing another problem to us? How will those animals move? Where do you want us to go? The fence is getting closer to us.	Woman from Gueveza (Moz)
This agreement between the three countries is real, they have told us about it before, they came with the commander of border protection, the marine commander and ministry of tourism. They said the money to implement this has already been made available between the three countries. We should think that the fence between countries is something serious, let's not take it for granted, this is not just a camp. They said that there will be animals that don't kill people. But the fence is Mozambique is not safe, and they still want to bring more animals. Animals are coming from South Africa, and they kill our animals. In Tembe, they don't have the same kind of stories, the fence in that side is strong and people are happy.	Gueveza (Moz)
The Government of Mozambique doesn't have the capacity to do the fencing and they have asked for help from South Africa. The truth is that our government does not have the capacity to protect us.	Gueveza/Mr Salomão Tembe (Moz)

Questions/Concerns	Community/Name
<p>We don't have the capacity to say NO, but we want the park to fix the fence in the park first (to protect the communities) and then they can open whatever portion of the fence from South Africa. If they don't do that, we will understand that the government doesn't want us, they don't care about us. We cannot stop the government to implement their plans, but they have to care about us. When we go from here to Salamanga, we don't want to have encounters with animals.</p>	Gueveza (Moz)
<p>We are grateful that you are bringing this matter to us, since is something that we have heard about long time ago. The relationship between the community and South Africa, is no longer the same, we used to circulate freely between the two countries, but now they no longer allow us in. It is good that the countries are planning to remove the fence to allow free circulation from animals, but we don't have a secure fence on the Mozambique side, to protect the community. We understand that this free circulation of animal would bring tourists to Mozambique, which means revenues for the country and communities as well.</p>	Phuza/Leader Jorge Gumende (Moz)
<p>We would like to ask the park to reinforce our fence and to put the rangers to monitor the fence. The rangers only stay at the park entrance, and they don't see what is happening on the fence. The agreement made by the countries regarding the TFCA must prevail, regardless of changing the government or not. We feel bad because the relationship with South Africa is not good, they steal our cattle and we steal their cars, that is why there is this tension.</p>	Phuza/Leader Jorge Gumende (Moz)
<p>This issue of the fence has been discussed before and we gave the idea to put fences to protect us. If at least they could improve the quality of our houses, we could feel safer. The fence in South Africa side is strong, but in our side is very weak. We are not against this possibility, but we have big problems with elephants, a lot of people have died because of them. <u>If they could put a fence that is strong enough to protect us from elephants, we would be thankful.</u> We don't have anywhere to go; we are from here.</p> <p>The animals bring tourists and children can get to know animals that they only knew from books and television.</p>	Winas Tembe (Moz)
<p>We hear what you said but we are not happy at all. The arrival of the park did not benefit us. We gave the land, but the park is not doing what they promised to do for us. Elephants leave the park but are not taken back. My father was killed by an elephant, the park never did anything for us. When someone talk about the park, I usually get sad. They want animals to have free circulation, but they don't worry about people. Are the animals more valuable than people? Why can't we also be free to circulate?</p>	Fikile Mulambe/Woman from Phuza (Moz)
<p>The elephants are scary. Sometimes we see wild beasts here and they make our cattle run away from here. The rangers are not worried about their animals, they should be doing monitoring patrols to see these animals.</p>	André Bila (Moz)
<p>Why can't the park do a stronger fence as the one in South Africa? They say the government doesn't have money, we understand, but why they keep doing these agreements if they can't fulfil what is in the agreements? Why this government doesn't compensate us, when animals kill our cattle? The rangers always torture people, when they are looking for "their things". The hyenas and wild dogs kill our goats, they are very danger.</p> <p>We want to ask you to take our concerns to the government.</p>	Phuza/James Kumalo (Leader) (Moz)
<p>What was the response from SA authorities regarding the buffalo disease?</p>	TEP Community member
<p>There will certainly be advantages and disadvantages. If the disadvantages go beyond 60%, we shouldn't move forward with the fence dropping. Share the results of the feasibility study with us, for us to see the outcomes of the study, prior to decision making.</p>	TEP Community member
<p>We have Gate 7, the gate to Manhoca, will that gate will be closed?</p>	TEP Community member

Questions/Concerns	Community/Name
If I have a small tourism business in the border area, is there any opportunity for me to benefit from cross-border tourism?	TEP Community member
What would happen to Tembe tourists that intend to move from Tembe to Maputo National Park, in terms of passport movements in the border?	TEP Community member
Regarding the gate to Manhoca, that gate won't be closed, it will remain operational.	EKZNW
Regarding the movement of tourists from TEP to MNAP, the tourists don't need to go to the border to visit MNAP. They will be allowed to cross to do tourism in Maputo, given that they have to return to TEP. For these tours, they will be using TEP vehicles and return the same way. They can see the sea, turtles, whales etc.	EKZNW
For the communities to make a better decision, we have to do something more visual instead of just maps and presentations on computers. The communities must have meetings together (South African and Mozambique communities), to discuss the issues and concerns regarding the plans of the South African government of closing the gates that connect the countries and regarding the fence dropping for animals' movement. They have to discuss and reach an understanding point on these issues.	EKZNW