



TFCA FINANCING FACILITY

SECOND CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES NOW OPEN

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS



JULY 2023



Supported by:



Implemented by:



BACKGROUND

The SADC TFCA Financing Facility is a regional fund which supports development of TFCAs in the SADC region. It is part of the SADC TFCA Programme, which aims to contribute towards sustainable financing mechanisms for transboundary natural resources management in the SADC region. The TFCA FF is administered by the International Union for Conservation of

Nature (IUCN), Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). The initial phase of this programme (2020-2026), is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with funding facilitated through KfW Development Bank. The Facility will provide funding to support conservation, development and management actions in SADC TFCAs.

OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

The Facility aims to invest in tangible measures that strengthen ecological connectivity, local economic development, and strengthen institutional capacities of SADC TFCAs.

The SADC TFCA FF will address the critical needs for conservation by integrating the three

dimensions of “species”, “habitat” and “people”, and aligning with the overall socio-economic development and regional integration goals of SADC. Applications should therefore address one of the main expected outcomes of the SADC TFCA FF described as follows:



Improved habitat connectivity, for selected key migratory species (“species” dimension);



Improved management effectiveness of TFCAs and PAs (“habitat” dimension); and



Improved livelihoods for communities affected by human-wildlife co-habitation (“people” dimension)

Applicants should ensure that project concepts are aligned to the SADC TFCA FF Logframe.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Grants will be open for applications by Government Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) with expertise in relevant sectors (e.g. species conservation, Protected Areas management, rural development, agriculture, and tourism etc.). Partnerships between governments, NGOs and CBOs will be actively encouraged. Partners collaborating on a particular TFCA can submit transboundary proposals (one proposal covers all Partner States and activities), or

individual proposals (each Partner State submits their own proposal for activities they are responsible for within that TFCA). Only projects aligned to the TFCA FF objectives, criteria and specifications will be eligible for funding. Concept Notes must present a clear theory of change and a logical framework linked to a detailed budget. All TFCA FF grants are required to deliver immediate, tangible measures in the short term within a period of up to 3 years.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR GRANTS

We are seeking concept notes that demonstrate:

- a clear problem statement, goal, objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities to be undertaken, target area, beneficiaries, institutions involved.
- prior consultation and endorsement by respective government authority and or local authority where applicable, through a signed letter of endorsement
- proof of valid registration to operate in respective SADC Member States, and proven experience managing similar projects in the region
- contribution to the overall goal, outcomes, indicators of the SADC TFCA FF
- completed Project Logframe with SMART indicators (Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic; Time bound), which are aligned to those of the TFCA FF logframe
- an analysis of potential environmental and social risks applicable to the project
- cost-efficiency and value for money and co-finance contribution of at least 10%
- sustainability of proposed activities beyond the duration of the project

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

i. We are looking to fund activities which:

- Address one or more of the dimensions of the TFCA FF (Species, Habitat, and People);
- Contribute to the outcome and output indicators of the logical framework
- Have government endorsement (by the respective Partner State(s);
- Are consistent and align with local and national government environmental and socio-economic policies as well as relevant SADC policies and strategies;
- Comply with the Relevant Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards. Please find a Checklist for Environmental and Social Risks, to be completed together with your application;
- Are cost-efficient and sustainable.
- Support the implementation of existing plans (park management, HWC mitigation, livelihoods, land use, integrated development) as much as possible and thereby contribute to the overall attainment of strategic goals for TFCAs; and
- Support towards development of such plans, where they are lacking, for TFCAs at conceptual stage, will also be considered as this enhances their progression to becoming fully established TFCAs;
- Support activities deemed necessary for TFCAs at the conceptual phase to become operational;
- Infrastructure development projects and funding in support zones and protected areas of specific regional importance.

Concept Notes that seek to address projects in Protected Areas in TFCAs, - in particular Law Enforcement and Infrastructure, are encouraged to include assessments of protected area

management effectiveness and governance using regionally accepted assessment tools and standards such as: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET), Site-level Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) IUCN Green List standard. The aim is to benchmark, identify priority actions, and track progress towards management and governance effectiveness.

ii. Eligible costs

The following types of costs (related to eligible activities) will be eligible for funding through the SADC TFCA FF (not exhaustive): equipment, infrastructure, other types of community development investments, mapping, advisory services including E&S consultancies, training, workshops; applied research and monitoring to support TFCAs management needs co-funding of operation and management costs, hard- and software for monitoring and information management.

iii. Ineligible and excluded Activities include:

- Pure academic research for purpose of earning an academic qualification
- Any physical relocation, resettlement, or displacement of people from their households, communities, territories, customary and ancestral domains. This however may be applicable to cases of not more than 10 households
- Activities that impinge on the lands owned, or claimed under adjudication, by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.
- Any activity which could be associated with the destruction or significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection such as

critical habitat or any forestry project (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).

- Interventions to protect specific species or habitat types (e.g., deserts, forests) without reference to landscape connectivity in a TFCA context.
- Measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change but with no link to TFCAs and biodiversity conservation
- Measures for the promotion of private sector commercial gain without links to community benefits, conservation, and development in a TFCA context.
- Pure education proposals including acquisition of formal education qualifications
- Weapons, arms, ammunition and military equipment under support to Law Enforcement activities
- Procurement or use of any product or activity deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations or international conventions and agreements, or subject to international bans.

- Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour/harmful child labour.
- Procurement or use of wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests

Geographical Scope

The TFCA FF supports projects from SADC TFCAs. All SADC Member States who are part of the 18 SADC TFCAs are eligible for this funding. In this initial phase with funding from the German Development Cooperation, 80% of funding will be allocated to KAZA, GLTFCA and MAZA TFCAs, while 20% will be allocated to the rest of the TFCAs.

Please note the following:

- In view of the existing project portfolio, applications from under represented countries Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Island States are encouraged.
- Transboundary projects with collaboration by two or more countries are highly encouraged, and will be prioritised for funding in comparison to in-country site specific projects.

SIZE OF THE GRANTS:

In general terms, the size of TFCA FF grants range between €300,000 (Three hundred thousand Euros) and no more than the € 3,000,000 (Three million Euros) with 10% co-financing required. The following grant windows are available:

- Small Grants** – up to € 300,000:
- Medium Grants** – up to € 1.5 Million:
- Large Grants** – up to €3 million: this category would be best for infrastructure type of projects; or large scale transboundary projects with clear outputs for more than one country.

Where necessary the Facility will provide support towards specific project preparatory activities.

Budget Considerations

Applicants are required to contribute at least 10% of the TFCA FF contribution in co-funding – in cash or kind. For example, for a million euro requested to TFCA FF, you need to provide at least €100,000 of co-funding.

Please download and complete budget template provided.

LANGUAGE

Concept Notes must be submitted in English.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A two-step procedure will be adopted to open the process to a diverse pool of applicants while reducing the burden on applicants by keeping the first submission to a brief concept note. At this stage, applicants will be required to submit concept notes using the template provided on the portal. The maximum page limit for a concept note is 10 pages, including problem statement, objectives, summary of activities, time frame. The online application template will automatically provide word limits equivalent to 10 pages. Upon approval of the concept notes, successful applicants will be invited to submit full project proposals. Applicants are advised to note that approval of a concept note is only the first step in a two-step application process; and does not automatically lead to the awarding of the grant funds at Concept Note stage. Funding will only be awarded once a full project proposal is approved and a grant agreement has been signed between IUCN and the

grantee. Only applicants with approved concept notes will be invited to submit full project proposals.

Additional Information

Concept Notes must be accompanied by the following:

- Letters of endorsement from relevant government institutions;
- Supporting TFCA Strategies, Protected or Conservation Area Management Plans
- Annexes and checklists as requested

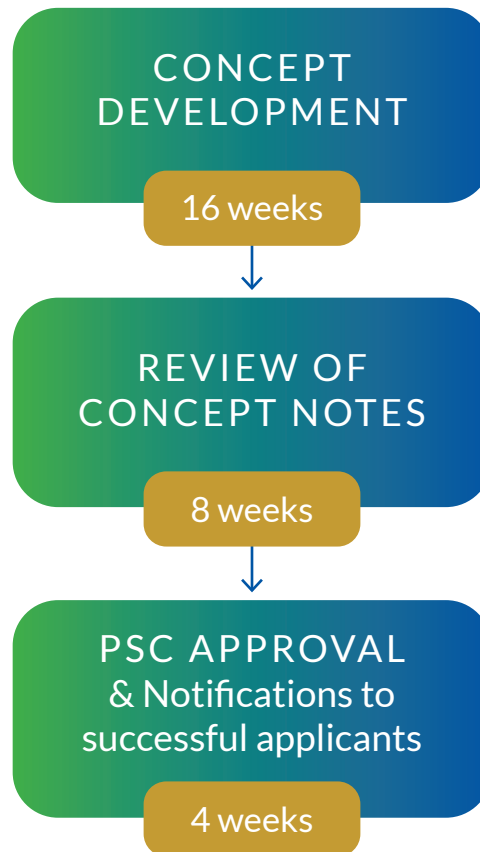
Concept Notes must be submitted in pdf format, budgets in excel format and E&S checklist in Word format. Applicants must ensure that the last page of the Concept Note is signed by the relevant authority for the lead applying agent.

DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of Concept Notes is by close of business (5PM SAST: 15 November 2023). It is envisaged that the final decision and

communication to the successful applicants will be made within 12 weeks from the date of submission of Concept Notes.

INDICATIVE TIMELINES



HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted through the SADC TFCA FF Grants Portal ([TFCA FF](#)):

Applicants can register on the portal as users, to be able to log in and out of the portal during the application process. More guidance on the online application process will be provided to registered applicants, through a webinar at the end of August. The SADC TFCA FF Grants Portal will only be available to accept applications at the end of August. Between now and end of August applicants can take time to register as users on the portal, familiarise with the terms and conditions of the Call. There are useful documents for download which may help you to conceptualise your project ideas.

Applications received after the set time will be rejected by the system.

Next Steps

Please read the concept note application guidelines together with these instructions to applicants. Applicants are requested to submit their online application by 5PM SAST, 15 November 2023.

IUCN will host webinar sessions, providing information on the online application process, TFCA FF priorities and any other questions potential applicants may have. Specific dates for the webinars will be announced in due course.