

Overview of the GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement:

(as set out by Dr. Marisa Coetzee

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- The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) Cooperative Agreement for Conservation Areas is guided by the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP )Treaty which was signed in 2002 between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.
- The Treaty provides for the establishment of the broader GLTFCA conservation and protected area network adjoining the GLTP.
- The overarching aim of the GLTFCA Cooperative Agreement is to enable an integrated conservation management and development approach that establishes cooperative partnerships amongst the Parties.
- The Agreement seeks to address conservation matters and capitalise on opportunities within the open system of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) and surrounding GLTFCA conservation and protected areas.
- The Agreement sets out how the Parties will co-operate with each other in order to facilitate the successful implementation of the GLTFCA Vision.
- The Agreement is essential to ensure a uniform framework for the protection, management and socio-economic beneficiation of the open system conservation footprint.
- The Agreement will be signed between the Kruger National Park, and the open GLTFCA conservation and protected area adjoining the KNP, collectively constituting the Greater Kruger area within the South Africa footprint.
- State, Private and community managed reserves will form Party to the Agreement, eventually adding another 300 000 hectares of conservation areas to the Protected area estate, being managed according to the overarching GLTFCA Vision, consistent Norms and Standards and best practices guidelines.
- The focus of this will be to engender cooperation in managing landscape-level ecological issues, unlocking sustainable benefits, growing resilient and responsible

economic development, and promoting compatible land use practices within the GLTFCA.

- The Agreement provides the basis for consistent management according to legislated norms and standards, and best practice guidelines, which are operationalised through over-arching management frameworks, protocols and standard operating procedures.
- Parties agree to consistent and cooperative management according to five key management pillars within the open Greater Kruger system: Protected area Governance, Biodiversity management, socio-economic benefits, safety and security, further land inclusion.
- Similar cooperative arrangements will be pursued with the other GLTP countries, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, in the near future.