



Sustainable Groundwater Development and Management for Humans, Wildlife, and Economic Growth in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-GROW) - 2021-2022

A project to support water security in the KAZA TFCA through informed groundwater development and management

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) is the largest transfrontier conservation area globally, covering 520,000 km² and counting on unique natural systems, interlinked supporting water systems, and immense biodiversity. The Partner States sharing the TFCA (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) are undergoing rapid economic growth as well as significant population growth, especially in upstream



Sioma Ngwezi National Park, Zambia (Photo: Peace Parks Foundation)

countries like Angola with an annual population growth rate of 2.7%. Water scarcity, climate change, inadequate water infrastructure, growing human-wildlife and landuse conflicts call for more proactive natural and water resources management and transboundary cooperation to ensure the resilience of communities, wildlife and the ecosystems on which they rely.

Groundwater Management in the KAZA TFCA

Groundwater and transboundary aquifers are increasingly playing a role in supplying reliable, and widely available water to dispersed communities and wildlife. However, addressing the needs and existing gaps in the management of groundwater resources is key to supporting biodiversity, economic development, and resilience to climate change in the KAZA TFCA. Against this backdrop, KAZA TFCA is currently increasing the priority it gives to the management and conservation of freshwater resources.

As part of this, explicit demand has been expressed to bring in expertise on groundwater. Groundwater knowledge is incipient in the TFCA, with large disparity between the Partner States. There is a need to develop the knowledge base, capacity and decision support tools, and policy guidelines as well as management frameworks around groundwater in a regional cooperative framework, at the most appropriate integrated scales, from local to transboundary. While at least five potentially prolific transboundary aquifers (TBAs) have been identified in the KAZA TFCA, relatively little is known about them and their potential in terms of supporting water security and resilience in the area.

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Overarching Goal:

- To support water security and resilience in the KAZA TFCA through the sustainable development and management of groundwater resources.

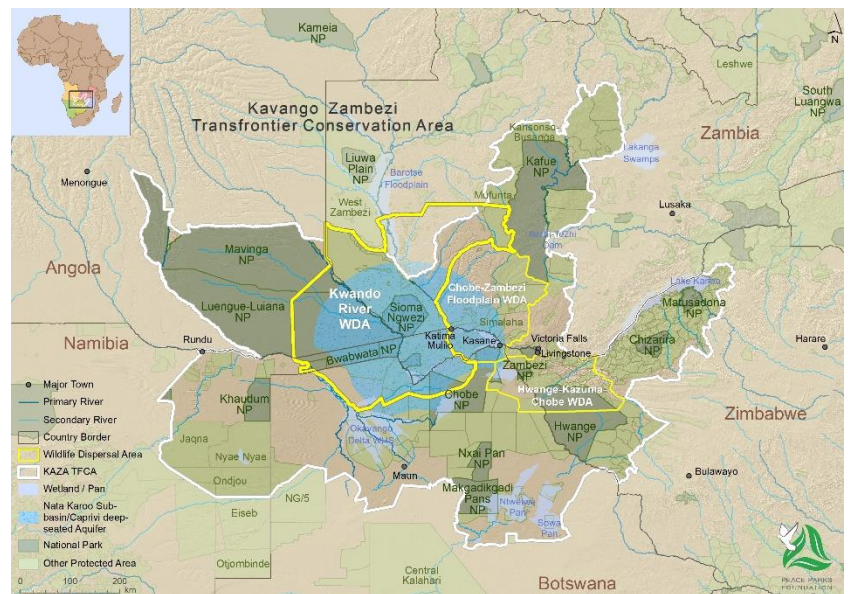
Objectives:

- With focus on the Kwando River Wildlife Dispersal Area (KRWDA), the KAZA-GROW Project will enhance the knowledge base on the water resources of the KAZA TFCA through a joint and interdisciplinary **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis**, including identifying hotspot transboundary areas for groundwater development to improve water security, livelihoods, resilience, and human-wildlife coexistence.
- It will also strengthen the policy attention to groundwater through a **Transboundary Groundwater Management Framework** for the KAZA TFCA, piloted for the KRWDA, and as a pre-cursor for a joint Strategic Action Plan on freshwater for the KAZA TFCA and a Southern African Development Community (SADC)-wide TFCA Policy for Groundwater for continued benefits for humans and biodiversity and sustainable economic development.

STUDY AREA

The KAZA-GROW Project will focus on the Kwando Wildlife Dispersal area of the KAZA TFCA (approx. 105,000 km²), which encompasses the lower reaches of the Kwando/Cuando River in Angola, most of the Caprivi strip, parts of southwestern Zimbabwe and Northern Botswana.

The Kwando River Wildlife Dispersal Area (the western-most area marked in yellow). The Nata Karoo TBA, the relevant TBA for the KRWDA, is marked in blue, while exact delineation is still uncertain.



This project is implemented by:

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

In partnership with:

**Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) Secretariat
and
Peace Parks Foundation (PPF)**

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