



KAZA TFCA

15th MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ RELEASED ON 22nd AUGUST 2025

We, the Ministers responsible for the coordination of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) convened in Livingstone Zambia, for our scheduled 15th Ministerial Committee Meeting, on 22nd August 2025, to reflect on our commitments and joint efforts in the development and management of KAZA TFCA on how we are progressing.

Present at the Meeting were the following:

- Angola: Hon. Marcio De Jesus Lopes Daniel, Minister of Tourism, represented by Ambassador Albino Malungo;
- Botswana: Hon. Wynter Mmolotsi, Minister of Environment and Tourism Represented by Mr Boatametse Modukanele, Permanent Secretary;
- Namibia: Hon. Indileni Daniel, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism;
- Zambia: Hon. Rodney Sikumba, Minister of Tourism, Outgoing Chair, KAZA TFCA Ministerial Committee; and
- Zimbabwe: Hon. Dr Evelyn Ndlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife.

The Ministerial Committee approved four (4) of the following Strategies and frameworks:

1. The update of the Elephant Action Plan which incorporates recommendations of the 2022 KAZA Elephant Survey and the Elephant Movement & Connectivity policy brief.
2. The Zambezi-Mosi oa Tunya Wildlife Dispersal Area (WDA) Trans Boundary Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) management framework – a

comprehensive framework for addressing HEC through cross-border coordination, community engagement, and technical solutions.

3. Sampling protocol for field veterinarians and assistants - a practical resource, that now becomes part of the suite of KAZA TFCA Standard Operating Procedures, protocols and guidelines developed to facilitate harmonization of policies, strategies, and practices.
4. The establishment of a KAZA Carnivore Conservation Sub Working Group to align with the 2013 policy harmonisation proposals on species and other Conservation Sub Working Groups.

Finance and Administration

5. Unqualified financial statements for 2023 and noted the continued positive trend in this regard since the establishment of KAZA TFCA.
6. Unqualified financial statements and management report for the Phase III grant from KfW for the 2024 financial year.
7. Terms of reference for the KAZA TFCA Finance Experts Working Group in line with the 14th Ministerial Committee approval for the establishment of a Finance Experts Working Group.

The Ministerial Committee noted the following:

8. The status of the KAZA Fund and the Partner State contributions to the Fund, with reaffirmations for the continued contributions in line with commitments to strengthen the Secretariat and effectively support its operations.
9. The execution of approved Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the United Kingdom High Commission to Botswana and SADC, the Zambezi Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Zambezi Water Course Commission (ZAMCOM), the Wild Bird Trust and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the forthcoming collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to deliver on the existing IUCN-SADC MoU priorities.
10. The recognition of the KAZA TFCA as an International Organisation in Botswana, and the issuance of Immunities and Privileges by the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the intention of the Secretariat to engage with the Legal Working Group to seek an interpretation of Article 16 of the KAZA Treaty.

11. Ongoing efforts led by the University of Namibia in collaboration with the KAZA Secretariat and Universities in the Partner State Universities for the establishment of a KAZA TFCA Research Programme.
12. The existing and pipeline investments into KAZA TFCA by identified donors and called for speedy programming and negotiations for the earmarked projects and initiatives to start delivering the desired priority interventions.
13. The award of a EUR 5 million four years grants by the European Union which help deliver some of the priorities of the 2024 KAZA Heads of State and Government Summit including a conservation strategy and action plan, update of master and country integrated development plans, sustainable finance solutions, and strengthening of the KAZA TFCA Secretariat.
14. The Ministerial Committee reaffirmed commitment to African Union and SADC positions on matters of mutual interest and called for strengthened regional cooperation, unity of purpose and common regional positions in multilateral environmental agreements and other platforms and
15. The Ministerial Committee congratulated the Republic of Zimbabwe for the successful hosting of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP15) and the SADC TFCAs International Conference and Summit in Victoria Falls and Harare, noting that both events served to reaffirm the ideals underpinning the KAZA TFCA vision, and further extended congratulations to the Republics of Botswana and Zimbabwe for the accreditation of Kasane-Kazungula, Shakawe and Victoria Falls as Ramsar Wetland Cities.
16. The Ministerial Committee commended the Republic of Zambia for an exemplary tenure as coordination country of the Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area and congratulates the new Chair, the Republic of Zimbabwe.
17. The outgoing Chair of the Ministerial Committee Hon. Rodney M. Sikumba expressed gratitude to all the Ministers and dignitaries for participating in the meeting.

Done on 22nd August 2025, Livingstone, Southern Province, the Republic of Zambia

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