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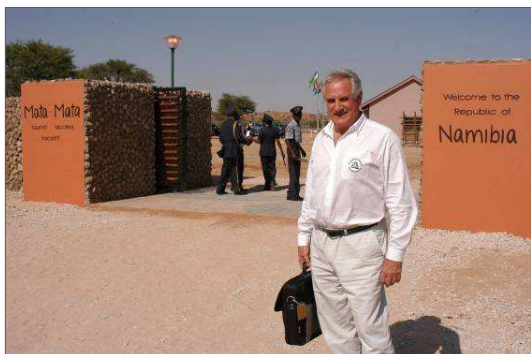
Peace Parks Foundation December 2007



President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and President Festus Mogae of Botswana opening the gate between Namibia and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Peace Parks Foundation facilitates the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas (peace parks) and develops human resources, thereby supporting sustainable economic development, the conservation of biodiversity and regional peace and stability

CEO's MESSAGE



This year was a festive one, as Peace Parks Foundation celebrated its first ten years of existence on 1 February. It also afforded us the opportunity to take stock of where we stand, what our achievements have been in this time and, more importantly, where we were heading in the next decade. The resounding emotion all-round has been one of gratitude toward our partners in this process. Dr Anton Rupert had set about realising the dream of a network of peace parks across southern Africa and the accomplishments ten years later have been thanks to our donor friends and supporters, as well as the governments of southern Africa who have been exemplary in their political will to make this work.

The year has furthermore been marked by a number of developments and events as we move forward in developing the peace parks and I'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

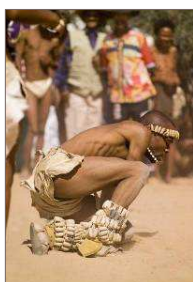
As viable wildlife populations form the basic element of tourist attraction, which in turn contributes to sustainability and to community benefits, the restocking of game species is an important element in the successful development of the Nyika TFCA in the Malawi/Zambia TFCA. The wildlife restocking programme for Lundazi Forest Reserve and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve got off the ground in September. The Wildlife Law Enforcement Support Project played a crucial role in securing the 5,000 ha wildlife restocking area with electrified fencing and ensuring the ongoing safety of the animals in the restocking area. Thanks to funding secured from WWF Netherlands and the Dutch National Postcode Lottery, the translocation of 230 head of wildlife (including sable, waterbuck and zebra) was successfully undertaken.



Following on last year's highlight of the MoU signing ceremony for the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA, Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation and WWF-Netherlands have agreed to co-fund the position of the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA Regional Coordinator for 2007/8. They had already funded the pre-feasibility study, which was a vital first step toward this TFCA's development. Supporting the Regional Coordinator will be the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA Secretariat, comprising representatives from each of the partner countries. KfW is funding the Kavango-Zambezi project with €8 million over four years, as well as a complementary feasibility report with €430 000.

Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation is also funding management support to Sioma Ngwezi National Park in Zambia with £100 000 per annum over the next three years. Dr Andrew Nambota was appointed Technical Advisor to the park and is responsible for all managerial aspects, as well as law enforcement activities related to wildlife in the park.

Still in Zambia, the Foundation is assisting the Zambian Wildlife Authority in a national consultation process for the Zambian component of the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA. The subject of the consultation process will be the development of an Integrated Development Plan. This plan will be drafted in consultation with all the stakeholders to ensure an integrated planning and development framework.



Moving south to the arid western regions, the Presidents of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa opened the Mata-Mata Tourist Access Facility on the border of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and Namibia in a major step toward easing cross-border tourism.

Peace Parks Foundation, at the Namibian government's request, secured funding for and constructed the Namibian Mata-Mata immigration facility.

On 16 October the Ministers for Home Affairs opened the Sendelingsdrift Tourist Access facility, while the Ministers for the Environment of the two countries commissioned the pontoon, which transports tourists across the international border, the Orange River. Peace Parks Foundation constructed the Namibian immigration facility, which had been sponsored by Skorpion Zinc, Exxaro Rosh Pinah Base Metals and NAMDEB.



The Foundation furthermore secured funding from WWF-Netherlands and the family of Roelof Wilke Liebenberg for and constructed the Dreigat Entrance Gate to the Ai-Ais Hot Springs Game Park.

On the opposite side of the sub-continent, this year saw the appointment of the first ever marine manager for a TFCA, Mr Matthew Prophet, for the Mozambican component of Lubombo, where he'll develop an efficient marine conservation management and law enforcement programme over the next three years.

Last bit of news I'd like to share, is on our carbon sequestration programme. The Foundation, in partnership with the conservation agencies of SADC countries, has identified payment for carbon offsets, generated through land rehabilitation and avoided deforestation initiatives, as a potential long-term sustainable source of income. Following a positive feasibility assessment, and again in partnership with the relevant conservation agencies and Ministries, the Foundation is developing a set of climate change mitigation projects within transfrontier conservation areas across southern Africa. It is hoped that the multiple biodiversity, financial, social and climate benefits of this win-win opportunity will be realised in the near term.

All these programmes and many more will be further expanded in the New Year, which promises to be a busy and exciting one for transfrontier conservation development.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this message, we could not have accomplished anything without the tremendous support from our donors. We have been privileged to be a recipient of an annual €1 million, plus supplementary funding for certain projects, from the Dutch National Postcode Lottery since 2002. We were therefore thrilled when the Swedish National Postcode Lottery recently donated \$1 million to fund projects in 2008. Furthermore, the Fondation Harafi has just donated €800 000 over three years to support the Wildlife College and Veterinary Programme. What an excellent way to end the year!

Thank you for your continued support.

The Peace Parks Foundation personnel join me in wishing you and your loved ones a blessed festive season and a healthy and prosperous 2008.