

Regional Cooperation in Tourism in Southern Africa: Stakeholder Perceptions of Drivers and Inhibitors

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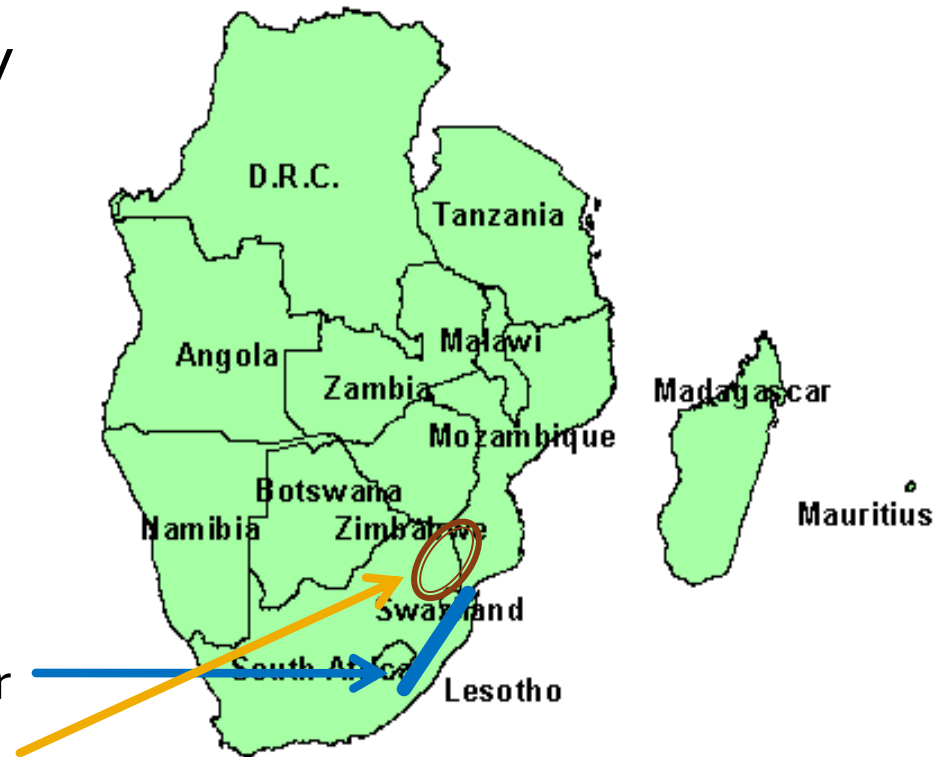
IIPT Presentation
Thursday 23rd October 2008
Leeuwarden

Regional Formations, Peace & Tourism

- Regional Trading Schemes
 - Basic premise: economic integration can foster peace, political stability and understanding.
 - Formalised institutional structures
 - Promotion of democratic principles and good governance
 - Reconciliation mechanisms
- Micro-regionalisms
 - Less formalised, often cross-border, less state-centred
 - Promote private/public sector collaboration
 - Corridor development/Peace Parks/TFCAs

Why Southern Africa?

- Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
 - Well established formation
 - Active interest in tourism
 - Importance of tourism to member states
- Micro-regionalisms
 - Maputo Development Corridor
 - Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park



Source: <http://www.sadc.int/geonetwork/srv/en/metadata.show?id=71&currTab=simple>

Key findings from Literature Review

- Tourism structural weaknesses
 - Infrastructure, tourism product
- Relevance of European Model of regional cooperation for Southern Africa?
 - Contested
 - Limited explicit discussion of tourism
- Influential Role of international funding agencies and aid organisations
- Cross-border cooperation through micro-regionalisms
 - Dominance of South African players
 - Are these more suitable forms of regional cooperation?

General Project Aims

- Identify the extent to which government level agreements are translating into actions
- Identify the extent to which stakeholders feel involved and are satisfied with the current approach to regional and cross-border cooperation

Methodology



Semi-structured interviews with:

- Government Representatives the SADC countries (Tourist Boards, SanParks)
- Tourism NGOs- FTTSA
- Other Non-Governmental Organisations
- Business Associations (TBCSA, SATSA)
- Tourism Consultants/Researchers
- Airlines' Representatives

Initial Findings 1

FORMAL STRUCTURES

- The SADC is seen as being inadequate, irrelevant or even obsolete
 - In need of a role definition
- Micro regional initiatives have partly achieved certain objectives
 - Heavily influenced by government decisions
 - Difficult to generalise as local experiences tend to differ.

INFORMAL STRUCTURES

- Informal networks between tourism providers are beginning to develop
 - Loose coalitions of interest
 - Information exchange/ personal connections
 - No formal umbrella groups

Initial Findings 2

DRIVERS

- International Organisations
- Conservation/Land Management Issues
- FIFA 2010 World Cup
- Need to develop intra-regional tourism

INHIBITORS

- Structural Weaknesses
 - Investment
 - Infrastructure
 - Human Resources Issues
- Current type of tourism development
- Political situation in the region
- South Africa's issues

Conclusions

- Regional cooperation in tourism in Southern Africa is largely instigated by external forces and pressures rather than local commitment.
- Institutional arrangements are seen as inadequate or irrelevant.
- Micro-regionalisms may perpetuate existing conditions by benefiting local elites.

Conclusions

- Regional arrangements in the 'South' are in position to establish bridges of cooperation and, in theory, assist in the management of common resources and common problems.
- In reality, they are compromised by the unwillingness of national governments to concede control and their wish to protect local interests.
- The private sector has an important role to play.

Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?



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