

# TIMBO AFRIKA FOUNDATION

POLICY & STRATEGY



LETTING YOUNG PEOPLE SHAPE THEIR FUTURE IN WILDLIFE AND NATURE CONSERVATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Throughout Africa in general and Southern Africa in particular, many NGOs support projects related to protecting wildlife, protecting habitat and educational projects for communities in rural areas. All of them focus on their specific area of expertise and thus rely for follow up on other NGOs or agencies for further development of areas and individuals.

TIMBO AFRIKA has developed a different policy and strategy focusing instead on developing certain geographical areas whereby all major components from human development to nature conservation and business development are taken into consideration.

## OBJECTIVES

TIMBO AFRIKA's objectives are clearly defined in its Articles and state that its main objectives are:

- To support underprivileged young people by getting trained as wardens/rangers in nature reserves.
- To initiate training in the broadest sense possible.
- To create wildlife corridors allowing game to move freely from one area to another area.
- To protect wildlife and habitat and reintroduce endangered species.
- To support other organizations matching similar objectives.

All of the above in the broadest sense possible allowing TIMBO AFRIKA to support initiatives allowing young people (and where necessary) older people to generate a future for themselves in the nature and wildlife industry whilst at the same time help to protect those habitats in which flora, fauna and people should thrive.

## CONCEPT

The concept is based on years of experience supporting individual projects in nature conservation. By supporting these individual projects it was often realized that by doing this, other, vital components required for being successful in creating large protected habitats for flora and fauna (nature reserves), were neglected or simply not addressed. In particular the human aspect of being able to generate an income out of large protected areas and at the same time being protected against large mammals living in these large protected areas. Lions, elephants, leopards can cause serious harm and damage to people living next to these areas and without looking into the human-wildlife conflict no nature conservation project will be sustainable on the long run.

TIMBO AFRIKA has realized that a strong emphasize must be put on supporting people living in and around large nature reserves, allowing them to generate income from these nature reserves. This income dependency will automatic result in support for protecting of those same nature reserves by the local communities.

TIMBO AFRIKA therefor opts to follow the *turn-key project management route* whereby all aspects of creating a successful nature conservation project with sustainable jobs for young people (and therefor also older ones) are being addressed and actively supported.

The key elements of a successful project are, the nature conservation aspects, the social aspects (jobs), the cultural aspects, and the entrepreneurial aspects of a project. All of them will have to be addressed.

## CONCEPT (continued)

Before committing to setting up / supporting a new project, TIMBO AFRIKA evaluates the following aspects:

- Identify a large 'nature' area with potential to become a protected area or a nature reserve or an area that can lead to expansion of an existing protected area or nature reserve.
- Identify the communities around this land.
- Investigate the local existing businesses and potential for new businesses.
- Identify schooling / training facilities.
- Identify health care facilities.
- Identify local Government support and national Government support.
- Identify cultural and historical significant landmarks.

Based on the outcome of the collected information TIMBO AFRIKA can decide if it can, and if yes, what role it can play and what budgets must be allocated to the various individual aspects.

TIMBO AFRIKA firmly believes in the principle of self-dependency – sustainability, and viable businesses will have to be present or will have to be created in order to achieve this. As in general the majority of (viable) business in and around nature conservation areas relates to tourism, TIMBO AFRIKA would help create new core tourism businesses and / or expand / upgrade existing tourism businesses to the level that they can create income large enough to carry the substantial funds required to manage nature conservation areas.

Not only will it financially support these businesses but also be actively involved in training local management and staff in order to confirm with the high standards of the high-end tourism market. Skills transfer would be the key component.

## CONCEPT (continued)

On a secondary level TIMBO AFRIKA will help small entrepreneurs to guide their business into a direction that they can act as suppliers to the core tourism business or as suppliers to other tourism facilities in the broader area.

From a nature conservation point of view, TIMBO AFRIKA would set up the organization to manage the area in general whereby research projects will be initiated, anti poaching operations (elephants, rhinos and lions) set-up, and road and water infrastructure implemented. Furthermore it will reintroduce black rhino and sable antelope.

From a wildlife-human conflict point of view, TIMBO AFRIKA will support the upgrade or installation of fences and support and train staff to maintain these fences.

Having realized a long time ago that the cultural and historical heritage of local communities is often neglected, TIMBO AFRIKA actively works with the local communities to help protect relevant locations what could vary from rock-art to the remains of stone age settlements.

Where and if possible all employment on every level (from guides to housekeeping to administration to first aid staff to managers) will be sourced from the local communities and all staff trained to his or her ability and requirement.

TIMBO AFRIKA will initiate training centers and provide skilled trainers for local community people.

The last key element is obviously health care. The rural areas surrounding nature conservation land have little access to healthcare and TIMBO AFRIKA supports projects such as day care centers and basic medical training.

In conclusion, TIMBO AFRIKA will Turn-Key manage the projects it is involved in.

## TARGET GROUP & TARGET AREAS

Although the primary target group is young underprivileged people, the consequence of executing a project Turn-Key means that other target groups will have to be co-identified. These groups are:

- Elderly women (45>) able to provide stability in a work environment.
- Elderly men (45>) able to provide the cultural input required to make sure that western work methods integrate with local work methods.

Great care is taken at selecting the target area. As many opportunities are available throughout Southern Africa, only a limited amount comply with all the standards set by TIMBO AFRIKA. Currently the best areas identified for our projects are in Botswana, and more precise, in the Central Tuli Block near the village of Mathathane and Mothlabaneng. This area borders South Africa on the Limpopo River.



## EXECUTION AND PLANNING

For its first project in Botswana, the initiation of the Central Tuli Block Game Reserve, TIMBO AFRIKA has set up a local Botswana operating company; Terra Conservancy Operations. The complete Botswana project is managed by this company, by a team comprising of highly experienced Dutch (but African residential) professionals and local experts. The project itself comprises of the set-up of a Nature/Game reserve with a size in excess of 70000 hectares what form part of Central Tuli Block area and is provisionally incorporated in the Peace Park Foundation's Transfrontier Park. TIMBO AFRIKA will assist in setting up the tourism operations, the Reserve management with the required staff complement and infrastructure.

The total run time of the project is 15 year after which it's objectives will be evaluated again.

The phasing of the project is as follows:

- Phase 1, exploratory and evaluation.  
This was initiated in 2014, starting with the evaluation of the items as stated on page 5 and securing the land upon which the project could start.
- Phase 2, permit applications.  
In 2015 permits were applied for and obtained for tourism operations, Environmental Impact Assessment, Building permits and work permits.
- Phase 3, Consultative phase.  
In the course of 2015 consultative meetings were held with local stakeholders such as communities, land owners and Government in order to obtain support for setting up the large nature conservation project under the banner of Central Tuli Block Game Reserve. The principle approvals were obtained in 2015.

## EXECUTION AND PLANNING (Continued)

- Phase 4, selection of local staff for training and start of construction.  
During the last quarter of 2015, the selection and training process of local staff started. This is an ongoing procedure and will continue throughout the duration of the project. Also the construction of infrastructure for the tourism project and the Reserve infrastructure has started. The planning is that completion will be achieved in October 2016.
- Phase 5, starting-up and operation.  
The project should start operating by October 2016 after completion of the first staff training and skill transfer.
- Phase 6, managing the Reserve.  
This phase is an ongoing phase, however a key milestone is the set-up of the anti-poaching teams in the area. Timbo Afrika has donated a surveillance aircraft (Jabiru 430) to the Department of Wildlife, part of the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs. This will allow the department to control the area, but it will also serve as an environmental monitoring tool. The aircraft is operated by the department. Delivery of the aircraft is scheduled for July 2016.
- Phase 7, entrepreneurial support, cultural and historical heritage support.  
TIMBO AFRIKA has started to support small local businesses with advise and seeking buyers for their products. It has also started a protection program for rock art discovered in the area. This is an ongoing project until 2020.

## DELIVERABLES

Apart from completion of the individual phases the main deliverables are:

- The formalization of the Central Tuli Block Game Reserve. This will serve as a corridor between the Northern Tuli Block Game Reserve in Botswana and the Greater Transfrontier Conservancy Area in South Africa.
- A minimum of 20 full time (local) staff members. All fully trained by TIMBO AFRIKA.
- An anti-poaching unit with a minimum of 12 staff by December 2016
- At least 3 independent local entrepreneurs who can act a supplier to the project but also deliver to other tourism operations and export abroad by 2017.
- Having reintroduced black rhino into the area and sable antelope by 2019.
- Upgraded the healthcare facilities in the surrounding area with a day care centre no later then 2017.
- Have a minimum of three research project implemented for black rhino, leopard and Pel's Fishing Owl by 2018.
- Have one heritage site under protection by 2017.

## FUNDRAISING

TIMBO AFRIKA will support the start up face of the project with an amount of 1.0 Million Euro. As soon as the project is up and running the income generated through the Reserve should cover the costs for the actual managing of the Reserve. However fundraising through donors will have to take place in order to guarantee the continuation of the following activities:

- Nature Conservation research projects
- Extension of health care facilities
- Expansion of area
- Expansion of anti-poaching activities

TIMBO AFRIKA will raise these funds directly from donors in the US and Europe primarily but will also cooperate with other established and recognized Foundations such as the Thlokomela Trust in Botswana, the Paul Allen Foundation in the US and the Postcode Lottery in The Netherlands.

The aim is to raise at least Euro 550K for the first year.

## PLANNING OF BUDGET

TIMBO AFRIKA has guaranteed the first 1 Million Euro for the project allowing it to realize phase 1 / phase 7. The ongoing costs will be covered by generating income throughout the Reserve. This is sufficient to cover all the costs until the end of 2017.

From 2018 onwards the Reserve will have to generate an income of Euro 125K to cover the operating costs. This will be generated by visitors from all over the world who will stay between 1-4 days.

The fundraising to support the research and social projects will have to bring Euro 550K for the first year and from 2018 onwards a yearly amount of Euro 250K.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE BUDGET

The board of TIMBO AFRIKA will draft a budget each year together with the board of Terra Conservany Operations. This will be formalized each year by December. The accountant Boon Accountants Belasting Adviseurs and fiscal Partner PwC will verify and approve these budgets.

All expenditure from TIMBO AFRKA is pre-approved by at least two board members to ensure transparency.

Although the board has limited executive tasks, the individual board members do not receive any remuneration for executing these tasks. Each board member has a fully paid position in privately owned companies and therefor does not depend on TIMBO AFRIKA for financial support. Travel expenses for individual board members are covered though by TIMBO AFRIKA.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Albert Hartog

Founder of TIMBO AFRIKA and investor in various projects all over the world. Owner of Active Capital Company in The Netherlands and Honary Consul of Antigua. Albert is currently chairman of the board of TIMBO AFRIKA.

Didy Schutte

Independent international interior designer. Didy is the Company Secretary.

Anton René Boon

Owner of Boon Accountants Belasting Adviseurs.

Dick Zeldenthuis

Director of Active Capital Company in Amsterdam.

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