

# 1. Introduction

The following study concerns nature conservation as a way to benefit local communities. The theme of this research was ~~at first~~ inspired by ~~a reading of~~ the book *Wildlife Heroes*, a compilation of forty leading conservation projects ~~written by Julie Scardina and Jeff Flocken~~. The articles ~~talk about~~ ~~within discuss~~ the work ~~done being accomplished for the~~ to preserve various endangered animal species, but also ~~pointed~~ strongly ~~to reference~~ work done with the local communities ~~at these sites~~, ~~which who~~ are directly exposed to relations with the wild animals. Wild animals are ~~repeatedly commonly~~ treated like pests in areas where ~~the~~ wildlife meets human habitats, and ~~are~~ therefore ~~exterminated as such and sometimes~~ driven ~~into~~ extinction. ~~Many~~ ~~To help combat this problem, many~~ educational programmes ~~are undertaken~~ ~~have been launched~~ and countless local inhabitants ~~have been encouraged to take part in~~ ~~are involved in the~~ conservation projects ~~giving which provide~~ them ~~with the~~ opportunity to ~~gain~~ employment and education. Through education, ~~and~~ understanding, ~~and enjoying the benefits of that they can benefit from a~~ healthy wildlife, the people ~~often~~ change their hostile attitudes ~~to ward~~ the local animals. Educated communities can ~~then~~ plan their development more sustainably, ~~what means better being which leads to valuable results~~ for both ~~the~~ people and ~~the~~ animals. Such ~~a~~ comprehensive approach to nature conservation and ~~people's the~~ welfare of ~~populations in developing countries appeals~~ ~~appeared~~ greatly ~~inspiring for to~~ someone, ~~who is~~ concerned ~~about both for~~ prosperous nature and prosperous people. ~~The further~~ ~~Further~~ research ~~on the subject helped lead~~ ~~led~~ to the given topic ~~of this thesis~~ - peace parks.

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## 1.1 Peace parks

The ~~beginning of the~~ peace park phenomenon and the origins of the ~~term phrase~~ 'peace park' began ~~with, is~~ the establishment of the Waterton Lake Glacier International Peace Park between Canada and ~~the U.S.A.~~ in 1932. The gesture had a ~~largely~~ symbolic meaning, ~~as since~~ the countries were not in a conflict and they remain in friendly relations ~~ship~~ today. ~~Despite that~~ ~~Nevertheless~~, many countries ~~have followed~~ ~~this~~ example and ~~attempt~~ ~~try~~ to maintain or establish peace with ~~the~~ help of nature-protecting transboundary areas. The first international peace park ~~involving an~~ ~~which involved~~ armed conflict between neighbouring countries was in the Cordillera del Condor region between Ecuador and Peru (Ali 2007). Today, the Transboundary Protected Areas Network recognises 188 ~~P~~peace ~~P~~parks all over the world (IUCN references).

Commented [J1]: Sometimes you are capitalizing this and sometimes you are not. Be consistent. I don't think it needs to be capitalized.

Peace Parks ~~works-operate~~ most ~~effectively-often~~ as buffer zones between countries in conflict. There are several examples of buffer zones between hostile territories. ~~One of these lies B~~between El Salvador and Honduras ~~in a there-is~~ 2km ~~wide-in-width~~ strip ~~of~~, which is said to reduce ~~the~~ possibility of war ~~by-ef~~ about 90% (Lejano 2007). Pakistan and India are divided by ~~an~~ even narrower strip, which ~~has~~ also ~~showed-resulted in a~~ significant decrease in violent incidents ~~within~~ the area. These two countries are considering ~~thea~~ creation of a formal peace park on the Siachen glacier, ~~just above the military control line~~. Jordan and Israel have jointly managed the Binational Sea Marine Peace Park since 1994, and the situation in Cyprus changed ~~it's~~ direction from hostile to cooperative even on the local level. After decades of being divided by a buffer zone, ~~nowadays,~~ the Greek and Turkish Cypriots ~~now~~ exchange social and cultural relations within ~~the buffer zone that area~~ (ibid).

**Commented [J2]:** This is slang. This is okay to use in speech, but not in writing. Very informal.

The most widely accepted ~~for-ef~~ definition ~~for-ef~~ of Peace Parks is ~~the~~ one ~~brought-presented~~ by ~~the~~ World Conservation Union (IUCN) (date references). The IUCN ~~distinguish-has specified certain P~~protected ~~A~~areas, which ~~have been~~ established to ~~generally~~ protect biodiversity ~~or-and~~ cultural diversity. Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA) are a subcategory of ~~P~~protected ~~A~~areas and ~~need-to-must~~ straddle ~~over-the~~ borders of two or more countries. ~~Peace Parks or-Transboundary Protection Protected~~ Areas for Peace and Co-operation (~~otherwise known as 'peace parks'~~) are the narrowest subcategory of ~~P~~protected ~~A~~areas, ~~which-and~~ must demonstrate biodiversity, cooperation and most importantly ~~a~~ peace objective between at least two countries. ~~The~~ mission of ~~P~~peace ~~P~~parks is to preserve their natural and cultural heritage while helping to establish peaceful and cooperative relations between countries in conflict, as well as developing their economies and improv~~ing~~e ~~peoples' live-the living~~ conditions ~~of local populations~~.

**Commented [J3]:** does this need to be capitalized?

**Commented [J4]:** I googled this, I think it is Protected and not Protection, but check on it.

Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) is a term used mostly to describe ~~TBPAs~~ in southern Africa. The distinction is made to give the phenomena exclusiveness for that part of the world (van Amerom and Büscher 2005). Southern African countries ~~have~~ adapted the idea of Transboundary ~~Protection Protected~~ Areas for Peace and Co-operation as a regular cooperation and development tool, ~~and with~~ ~~With~~ the help of ~~the~~ Peace Park Foundation (PPF), ~~they have~~ created ~~peace parks~~ in naturally and culturally valuable areas, where the local people are included in ambitious development plans. The situation of people living in the protection area is the interest of ~~this~~ thesis.

## 1.2 The past and present of peace parks in Southern Africa

~~Today,~~ ~~the~~ ~~densest~~ area ~~of-with the highest~~ peace park ~~density creations on the world's basis in the world today~~ is ~~in~~ southern Africa. In May ~~of~~ 1990, there took place ~~an-the~~ inception of a conservation project, which later turned into The Peace Park Foundation. Anton Rupert "had a meeting in Maputo

with Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano, to discuss the possibility of establishing a permanent link between some of the protected areas in southern Mozambique and their adjacent counterparts in South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe“ (PPF 2013). ~~After~~ ~~In 1996~~ ~~after additional~~ ~~more~~ meetings and discussions, ~~finally in 1996~~, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland ~~agreed to a mutual~~ ~~declared~~ cooperation ~~in order~~ to realise the economic benefits of the protection area. The PPF operates now in ~~the region of S~~ ~~southern African~~ ~~region~~ and runs 10 parks. The Foundation is an international organisation working in ~~S~~ ~~southern Africa~~ to facilitate ~~the~~ establishment of peace parks. It was established in 1997 by Dr Anton Rupert, together with HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and Dr Nelson Mandela. Originally the Foundation ~~was called~~ ~~the transformed from~~ WWF South Africa project, ~~but it was renamed~~ when Rupert introduced the concept of transfrontier conservation areas. During the same year, countries in the region recognised ~~the economic values~~ of nature ~~protection~~ ~~ong~~ areas as tourist attractions, ~~which spurred~~ ~~and~~ interest in peace parks ~~grew~~ in ~~S~~ ~~southern Africa~~. The sub-continent needed a solution to the economic challenges they were facing, and TFCA's seemed appealing.

The PPF manages the ~~entire~~ ~~whole~~ multi-~~layered~~ and ~~time-consuming~~ ~~long-lasting~~ process of establishing ~~each~~ ~~the~~ peace parks. Its postulates are to protect ~~the~~ nature ~~and~~ ~~with~~ its fragile and specific ecosystems, tighten international cooperation and improve economic situations in the region. ~~The~~ ~~When describing peace parks, the~~ PPF (2013) ~~states that, says itself that~~ “Peace parks are about co-existence between humans and nature, about promoting regional peace and stability, conserving biodiversity and stimulating job creation by developing nature conservation as a land-use option”. ~~These~~ parks and projects are ~~vividly~~ supported financially by many local and external organisations ~~such as~~ ~~like for instance~~ Dutch Postcode Lottery, KFW ~~and~~ ~~or~~ Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

### 1.3 KAZA - the subject of ~~thi~~ ~~se~~ research

The particular peace park, which ~~will become~~ ~~is~~ the main interest of this thesis, is ~~known as~~ Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA or KAZA TFCA). KAZA covers an area of ~~about~~ 520 000 km<sup>2</sup> (PPF 2014) in the Kavango and Zambezi river basin and it is the biggest TFCA in the world, spreading over five countries: Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. ~~The~~ ~~TFCA~~ ~~It~~ is also the youngest ~~peace park~~ in ~~S~~ ~~southern Africa~~, ~~– as~~ the treaty was signed ~~as recently~~ ~~as~~ ~~in~~ August ~~of~~ 2011. ~~However~~ ~~Development took some time, however,~~ ~~as~~ the beginning of the planning and negotiation process started in ~~the~~ early 2000s.

KAZA TFCA ~~has many unusual and appealing qualities which make it perfect as a tourist destination.~~ ~~First, it~~ is famous for ~~its hosting the~~ biggest elephant population in Africa. The rich ~~diversity of~~ wildlife ~~species diversity in the park~~ is also considered of a big economic and ecological value. The park's flora is also ~~impressiveworth attention~~ with over a 100 ~~different~~ species; ~~thatwhich~~ are ~~all~~ endemic to the region. In its final form, the park is planned to contain 36 proclaimed protected areas ~~including~~ "such as national parks, game reserves, forest reserves, community conservancies and game/wildlife management area" (ibid). ~~In addition,~~ "The KAZA TFCA also includes some of the world's renowned natural features and tourist attractions, such as the Victoria Falls (one of the seven natural wonders and a World Heritage Site) and the Okavango Delta (the largest Ramsar Site in the world<sup>1</sup>)" (KAZA 2013). With all these ~~natural treasures,~~ the goal of the KAZA TFCA is "to sustainably manage the Kavango Zambezi ecosystem, its heritage and cultural resources based on best conservation and tourism models **for the socio-economic wellbeing of the communities** [emphasis by ~~the author I mean MEstudent researcher~~] and other stakeholders in and around the eco-region through harmonisation of policies, strategies and practices-" (ibid).

KAZA ~~holds-facilitates~~ various community projects in the participating countries pertaining to local development, sustainable resource management and conservation resulting in eco-tourism. The development of ~~the~~ tourism is the main objective of KAZA, ~~as this is how the welfare of the people will be most significantly improved. This is through tourism how the project should mostly improve people's welfare. The objectives of the tourism development in KAZA consist of a~~The main goal is to make the park a single tourist destination ~~associated~~ with several ~~various-attractions-in-it,~~ -where ~~the~~ visitors can ~~get-have~~ a high quality experiences and ~~the-optimised-returns~~ ~~the likelihood of return visits is increased.~~ The private share in the facilities should grow as well as the public-private partnership ratio. Of course, ~~all the tourism industry shall happen~~this should all be organized in a sustainable manner; which allows the environment thrive and ~~maintain its purity~~stay as pure as possible.

KAZA ~~also~~ cares ~~also~~ about the cultural heritage of ~~this~~ region, which ~~in turn as well can be seen as a good~~also encourages tourism ~~product. To encourage cultural tourism, the~~ KAZA TFCA authorities ~~have set a goal of~~made it a primary focus to ~~celebrateing~~ and ~~fostering~~ the rich cultural diversity of ~~this region~~area, ~~helping to keep it alive in local communities. This allows the~~eIn addition to ~~increasing tourism, this sharing of heritage will allow for the kindling of cooperative and friendly relations across borders on a grassroots as well as a governmental level.~~ ~~ommunities to share their~~

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<sup>1</sup> "The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources." (ramsar.org 12.01.2014)

~~heritage across the borders, building the in addition to tourism based economy cooperative and friendly relations on both the grassroots and on the governmental level.~~

The economist Paul Collier (2003) ~~says~~ has stated that the primary reason for conflict in emergent nations is the failure of economic development. “By boosting economies and lifting desperate communities out of poverty, [the peace] parks have the potential to be a critical development tool and as such a peace-building tool” (Darnell 2008: 16). If the initiative fully ~~suecess~~ succeeds in its goals, it will be an undeniable benefit ~~for to~~ the communities; ~~however~~ But for now the project is still developing, taking different shapes and intensities ~~sy~~ in different parts of the protected territory. The ~~focus group~~ of populations of focus in this research are the communities located in the Botswanian part of KAZA - exclusively in Kasane and Maun. Their opinions ~~about of their inhabitants on~~ KAZA and life ~~facts supposedly would in general is expected to shed some light on the actual~~ help to clarify the situation ~~of in~~ this particular region in terms of the ~~beneficial~~ influence of KAZA on grassroots communities.

**Commented [J5]:** a focus group is something else, where people sit around in a group setting and discuss a product.

**Commented [J6]:** maybe it's not beneficial in the eyes of the locals, wait and see

#### 1.4 The research question and its place in ~~the~~ peace studies

Despite the fact that nature conservation is the first on the list of objectives ~~in of~~ conservation areas, the interest of this research, ~~however~~, is not necessarily the protection of nature and wildlife ~~itself. It is~~ Rather, it is the situation of the people living in the protection area. This research focuses on the impact that the efforts of peace the parks- and ~~the~~ wildlife protection have on the local people. After all, P promoting regional peace and stability is the main objective when Ppeace Pparks are established. The central research question ~~is to answer for this thesis has been formulated as follows:~~

***† To what extent has the KAZA Peace Park benefited the local population in northern Botswana, pertaining to security, welfare and relations with ~~the~~ neighbouring countries?***

The concept of Ppeace Pparks may appear ~~interesting and~~ intriguing ~~for to~~ a peace researcher just by the nature of its name ~~in the first place~~. The initiative refers boldly to its peace contribution, leaving ~~at the first sight little space for~~ little room for discussion at first glance. In fact, there ~~are~~ is a lot to discuss ~~taking many~~ different approaches taken to the topic which can spur great discussion. Peace Pparks as international phenomena ~~by definition, have maintain a~~ genuine goal to protect ~~the~~ nature and ~~the same time~~ bring stabilisation to conflict areas by establishing cooperation between ~~the states'~~ authorities. ~~It does not leave the ordinary citizens behind either~~ — Peace Parks ~~opt~~ They also encourage ~~for~~ development and economic growth within communities ~~by~~ which ~~should~~ contribute to the

~~improved~~ ~~increasing~~ living conditions of ~~local inhabitants~~ ordinary citizens. All of these factors closely correlate with peace studies.

Big actors in fields of peace and stability ~~like the (such as the~~ Nobel Peace Prize Committee and ~~the UN)~~ acknowledge the importance of nature ~~protection-conservation in-throughout the~~ process of ~~creating-encouraging~~ peaceful situations, ~~wealthier and safer from-crimes-conditions~~. Controversial or not, Nobel Peace Prizes ~~were-have been given-awarded~~ for ~~work for~~ environmental work as well as conflict management. These are strong signs that environmental issues ~~enter-cross~~ over into the field of peace studies. ~~The ease of this~~ This research is especially ~~is-connected~~ concerned with implementing vast changes for ~~the~~ local communities including empowering grassroots agendas, ~~generating-welfare-for-the-local-population-by~~ boosting the economical development, facilitating accessible education and promoting job creation.

The first thing, that always comes to in mind ~~while talking when~~ about peace ~~discussing peace~~ is the situation-reality of violence in a given area. In order to run any peace-enhancing project to benefit communities, ~~the violence should be eliminated in the first place~~ first be put to rest. ~~The people must feel free from violence and crime~~. Jan Eliasson, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, ~~addressed the participants of a to-the participants of a~~ UN high level meeting, convened under the title 'Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking' on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September in 2013, ~~said~~: One very relevant quote taken from his speech follows: "Key species are being driven to extinction. The proceeds of illegal trade support transnational organised crime and terror organisations, murder and violence go hand in hand with this despicable business. The illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species is linked to drug smugglers, gun runners and human trafficking. It is a threat to all three pillars of our organization: human rights, peace and security, and development"(UN 2013). This statement clearly ~~shows-demonstrates~~ that the preservation of endangered species ~~left the exclusive borders of~~ is not only of interest to ecologists and biologists, ~~concerns and reached the~~ but crosses into socio-political affairs as well.

While illegal hunting is ~~the threat~~ a threat to human rights, peace, security and development, ~~the~~ peace parks, ~~if fulfilling their postulates~~ should be the ultimate cure if fulfilling the structure of their foundation. This thesis ~~is about to will~~ investigate the actual role and results of the Kavango-Zambezi Peace Park, with a focus on ~~the~~ field data from its Botswanian territory exclusively. The evaluation of this study will be supplied by ~~the~~ data and cases from ~~another~~ parts of the KAZA territory. ~~It~~ This is supposed to show the park as a ~~whole project also opposed to~~ cohesive whole, rather than different parks in Southern Africa operating under the Peace Park Foundation's supervision. Such an approach to the problem should examine the case in a holistic way, considering its comprehensive capabilities and professional development comparing to results ~~from~~ the older protection areas.

## 1.5 Problem statement

The main focus of this study is ~~put on the~~ three objectives: security, welfare and relations with ~~the~~ neighbouring countries. ~~Researching~~ ~~By researching any~~ the correlation between the three objectives and the level of appearances ~~it is possible to~~ ~~determine~~ ~~find out whatever~~ ~~whether~~ the peace parks are truly peace-~~building~~ tools. ~~In order to create and maintain~~ ~~For creation of~~ a peaceful community, the ~~local~~ people must ~~find themselves~~ ~~feel~~ secure. This ~~se~~ security consists ~~of a few factors, that can be put together~~ ~~several~~ factors.

~~The~~ ~~d~~Local development gives ~~the~~ people ~~the opportunity to pursue~~ possibilities and ~~the~~ freedom to build ~~their~~ independent lives. ~~This~~ ~~It~~ goes together with economic security, ~~which will be discussed later in the thesis. This kind of security will be discussed in the thesis.~~ Access to ~~f~~Food and ~~assurance of~~ daily survival are ~~the~~ basic needs that ~~ought to~~ ~~must~~ be secured for ~~a~~ healthy, prosperous community. By securing these ~~se~~ basic daily needs the people ~~are given~~ ~~have access to~~ freedom ~~and the pursuit of happiness~~, which allows them to develop, educate themselves and live their lives ~~in the manners they see fit~~. To ~~achieve~~ ~~reach~~ this point, ~~the~~ local development must ~~reach~~ ~~be attained to~~ a sufficient level. People free from basic worries can ~~work for more~~ ~~pursue further~~ development ~~and~~ so ~~that~~ prosperity grows. In short, development and ~~the~~ ~~welfare~~ ~~increase~~ ~~of personal welfare~~ should lead to ~~greater~~ life satisfaction, and therefore to ~~more~~ peaceful attitudes.

Since the studied area is not in ~~a~~ violent conflict, the prosperity of the region is considered the main objective of this research, ~~with a focus on benefiting local communities. Prosperity, with the focus of benefitting the local communities.~~ The next objective ~~are~~ ~~is~~ the quality ~~of~~ the relations with ~~the~~ neighbouring countries, ~~more precisely~~ ~~their grassroots level~~ ~~especially from citizen to~~ citizens. Spreading ~~the~~ friendly attitudes over the boundaries ~~of~~ ~~over the boundaries~~ of ~~the own~~ ~~individual~~ communities ~~is~~ the next stage of the peaceful process, ~~even over national state borders, as is the case in this thesis. In the case of this study it is also over the national state borders.~~ Friendly relationships should not be limited to thinking well ~~about~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ neighbours, but also ~~incepting~~ ~~facilitating~~ cooperation ~~with the objective of~~ prosperity ~~for~~ ~~of~~ the both sides. ~~The~~ ~~a~~Attitudes toward ~~the~~ neighbours can ~~shade some light on~~ ~~the~~ ~~reveal~~ peaceful attitudes ~~in general~~ among the studied people.

In order to ~~find the answer~~ ~~discover~~ to what extent ~~d~~ KAZA ~~pertains to improving~~ ~~actually improves~~ the ~~living~~ ~~life~~ conditions ~~of local communities~~ through sustainable development, ~~to the local communities~~ the local people of the Botswanian part of ~~the~~ KAZA ~~park~~ ~~wer~~ ~~have been~~ interviewed. They ~~also~~ were ~~also~~ questioned ~~about~~ ~~asked~~ their relationships and personal attitudes toward their neighbours ~~in adjacent countries, who with whom they~~ share the KAZA territory ~~with them~~.

## 1.6 The structure of the thesis

From ~~what was said~~ the information gathered thus far regarding about the peace park concept, it is ~~shows~~ apparent that ~~the projects~~ the officials of KAZA are attempting to work for delivering all of the ~~above objectives~~ identified objectives of a peace park to the people. At this point, the idea of peace parks ~~appears as~~ is theoretically the golden mean in modern peace-building, securing both nature and people ~~(also, among others, by securing nature)~~. Answering the given research question is worth the effort at least ~~should prove to be of significant value due to the low level of interest in this topic, because of its relatively low interest among peace scholars,~~ while talking about peace and economics in Africa. The great majority of literature ~~talking about~~ discussing peace parks does not cover the attitudes and actual positions ~~of the~~ ordinary people. The evaluation should also ~~show if the~~ reveal whether this great idea in theory correlates with a demanding reality.

The next chapter of this thesis will cover the ~~issues of~~ theory and methodology used during in this study. The theories used in this research derive from various ~~study~~ fields like such as economics, politics, peace studies and international relations. The concepts discussed there in will create a sets of definitions on which the evaluation will be based. The ~~next third~~ chapter ~~to follow~~ presents the methodology used in this research. ~~These are~~ the approaches and actions taken to ~~find~~ uncover the answer to the research question. Having ~~With~~ a solid foundation built upon theory and methodology, ~~the empirical and written data can finally be evaluated in the discussion portion of this the research can continue to discussion, evaluating empirical and written data. This thesis. The final chapter part of the thesis~~ is in fact the most informative in terms of the role of KAZA TFCA in Ssouthern Africa.

Work on this research project ~~effected in~~ required many hours of difficulties, including stress over reading, ~~and~~ writing, ~~stressing about~~ deadlines, content and grammar, just to name a few. ~~But it~~ also ~~with~~ contained the best thing of all - the field research. Visiting Botswana was an extraordinary experience, enriching in terms of empirical knowledge. ~~But~~ it was also ~~an~~ beautiful episode in private life. Many people and animals were met on the way to gather information for ~~finish~~ this project. The ~~first former~~ were engaged in discussion ~~talked to~~, the ~~second latter~~ were just taken ~~pictures of~~ photographed and learned about ~~admired~~. Every moment spent in Botswana influenced the production of this thesis greatly. ~~Both~~ ~~The~~ hardships of the time spent in the library as well as the joys of discovering new things were all part of an wonderful adventure, that ~~made~~ contributed to what this thesis what it is today.

**Commented [J7]:** You just cover theory in the next chapter, not methodology, don't you?