

themselves with more than one regional arrangement. The two major regional integration arrangements in the region are SADC and COMESA. All 12 southern African countries belong to the SADC regional grouping. In contrast, COMESA enjoys the support of seven of the members already encompassed in the SADC grouping. Various problems have, however, arisen with countries allying themselves with more than one regional grouping. These include countries having to choose between differing approaches to regional integration. Members of both COMESA and SADC find themselves faced with a choice between COMESA's trade-related approach to integration and SADC's sectoral approach. The approaches differ widely as do the policies associated with them. Overlapping membership hinders the move towards achieving a regional identity as it fosters unhealthy competition between regional organisations.

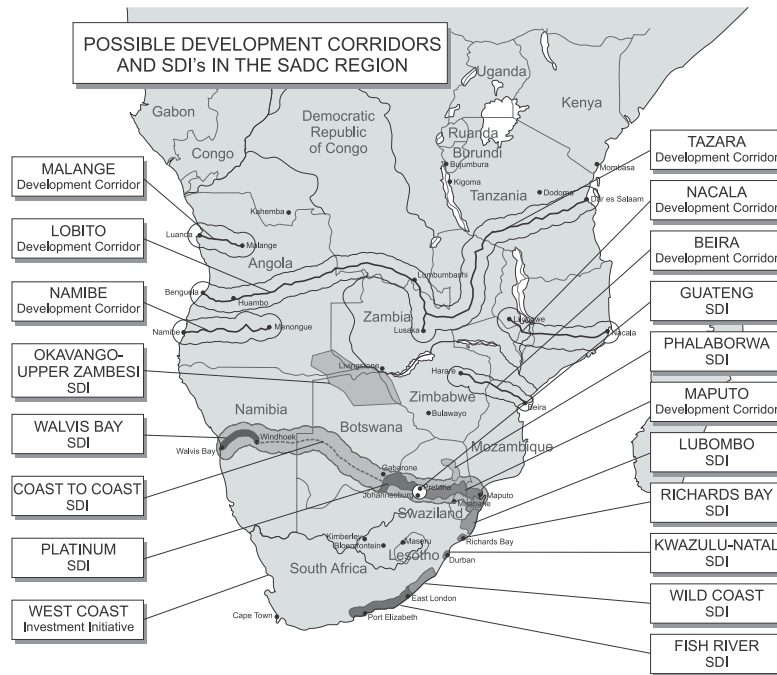
Regional Infrastructure

The benefits of a well-developed infrastructure are crucial in improving the prospects for regional integration and enhancing regional identity. In this regard, over 800 spatial development initiatives (SDIs) have been identified; they are valued at US\$32.4 billion and have the potential to generate more than 85 000 new jobs. The most important are:

- The Maputo Development Corridor, which links up to the Mozal aluminum smelter and iron and steel plant in Maputo. This initiative has already attracted over US\$3 billion in investment.
- The Lubombo SDI, regarded as one of the most important tourism developments in Africa. The governments of South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique are driving it.
- The Coast-to-Coast SDI, which seeks to link the nodes of Walvis Bay and Maputo.

Other SDIs include the Beira Corridor, the Okavango and upper Zambezi International Tourism Initiative, the West Coast Development Initiative and the Fish River SDI.

Figure 11: Possible development corridors & SDIs in the SADC region



Source: www.worldbank.org/transport/tr_facil/docs/smak1.pdf

Another flagship project in the region is the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). Driven by Eskom, the South African electricity utility, the power pool aims to set up a power grid across the region, eventually linking up with a power generation plant at Grand Inga Falls in the DRC (Figure 12).

The power pool is intended to reduce electricity costs in the region by utilising the massive flows of the Zambezi River and the Great Inga Falls. By harnessing the hydroelectric power from these rivers, it is estimated that SAPP will become a vital tool in improving relations in the region and a catalyst for encouraging economic and social advancement. In addition, the power pool is intended to develop the regional economy while mitigating the environmental impact of development through

Figure 12: Southern Africa: power pool and generation expansion plans: 2001–2011



Source: <http://www.mbendi.co.za/eskomenterprises/about/maps.htm>

appropriate use of resources. Finally, it is also envisaged that SAPP will link up with the power grids straddling the rest of the continent and generate enough power for export.

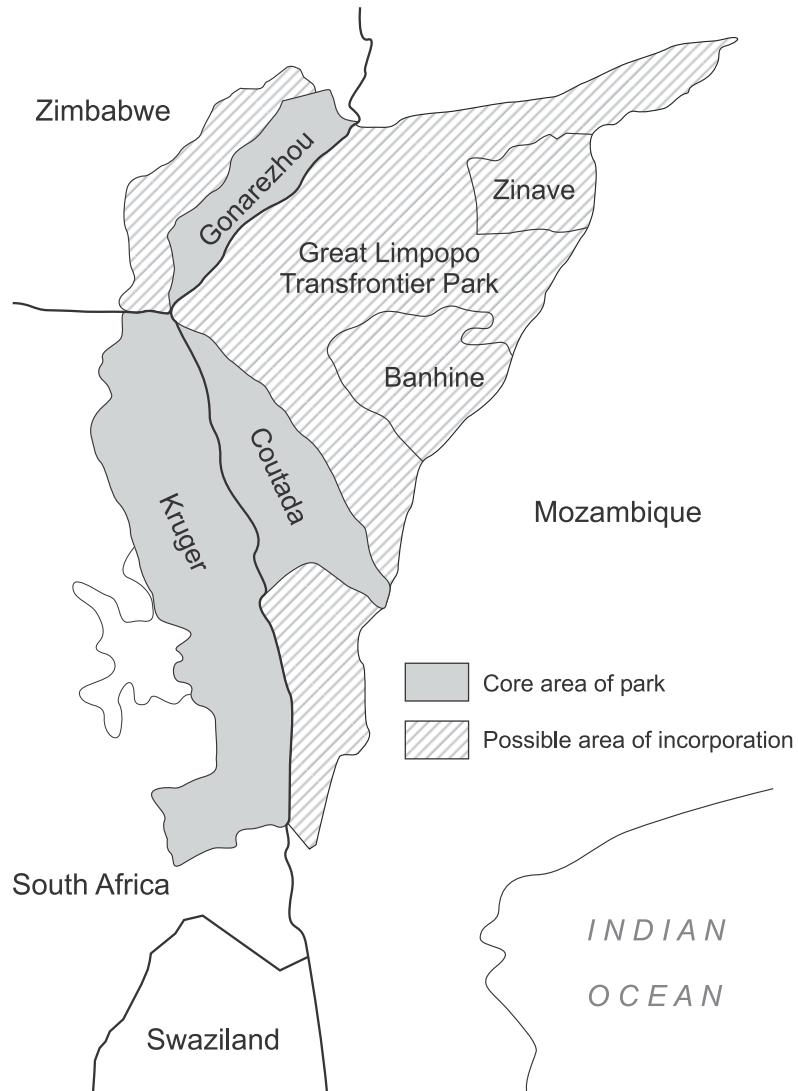
A further development in respect of regional infrastructure and networks is the Transfrontier Parks Initiative. The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is one of the biggest conservation areas in the world, which sees South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe opening their borders to create a 35 000 km² animal

kingdom. It brings together South Africa's world-famous Kruger National Park, with its established infrastructure and tourism base, Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park and the newly developed Limpopo National Park (Coutada) in Mozambique.

The park will enable tourists to drive across international boundaries in the three countries with minimal fuss. In addition to the usual game-viewing opportunities, visitors will have a broad range of new attractions, including bird-rich tropical wetlands, lake cruises, tiger fishing, rugged 4x4 adventure drives, and much more. A mix of cultural experiences will also be offered: traditional healers explaining their rituals, story telling, foods, dance, music, handicraft, and art to explore and enjoy. The individual parks will continue to operate as separate entities, but will be branded as part of the transnational park. The new park will boost regional cooperation between the three countries, promote peace and security in the region, and help deal with animal poaching. It will restore the integrity of an ecosystem artificially segmented by colonial boundaries, opening up the natural migratory routes of African elephants, endangered species such as the roan antelope, and other animals. Tourism will also be a big winner. According to South Africa's Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mohammed Valli Moosa, the park 'will open to the world the biggest ever animal kingdom, increasing foreign investment into the region and creating much-needed jobs for our people, further acting as a symbol of peace and unity for the African people' (*Business Day* 2002). President Thabo Mbeki believes the park is part of South Africa's attempt to reverse biodiversity loss by 2010 – a global target adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

'Peace Parks' The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is at the forefront of one of the boldest cross-border initiatives currently unfolding in southern Africa – the development of Transfrontier Parks and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).

Figure 13: The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park



Source: Adapted from <http://www.routes.co.za/nationalparks/limpopo/>

It is hoped that the park will serve as a model for up to 21 others being planned across Africa. 'Peace parks' in various stages of development in the southern African region include:

- The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park: links 37 991 km² of Kalahari across the borders of South Africa and Botswana. Officially opened in May 2000.
- The Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project: Covers over 8 000 km² of the mountains that straddle the northeastern border between Lesotho and South Africa. Expected to be completed within two years.
- The Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Park: Merges Namibia's Ai-Ais Hot Springs Game Park with South Africa's Richtersveld National Park. Preparations are under way for the signing of the treaty.

The TFCAs seek to protect the biodiversity of the areas between countries through conservation, sustainable resource use and development planning, while boosting ecotourism and helping to alleviate poverty in the border region.

Transport Transport and communications are another key feature of regional connectivity. The transport sector is crucial for the development corridors referred to above. At present the transport sector remains weak owing to:

- Poor roads;
- Badly maintained rail networks;
- Shortages of rail rolling; and
- Inefficient and obsolete ports that drive up transportation costs and increase the time it takes to get goods to markets.

The emergence of the development corridors will address these structural weaknesses and allow the private sector to become more involved in the rehabilitation of the transport routes. In effect, the development corridors offer national governments an opportunity to escape their cash strap

dilemma by pursuing public-private partnerships with key partners in the business sector. The Maputo Corridor is one such example where the governments of South Africa and Mozambique have entered into strategic cooperation agreements with the private sector, leading to the upgrade and expansion of the N4 highway between Witbank (east of Johannesburg) and the Maputo port, enabling the highway to carry a heavier load of traffic while making the port a multi-nodal access point. Telecommunications and railway improvements have been initiated as part of the infrastructural development associated with the corridor.

But the challenges to infrastructural rehabilitation and development in the region are still formidable. Difficulties often cited by the private sector in this regard include:

- The capital-intensive nature of projects and the associated costs of raising money for the projects;
- Political instability and its impact on the economic and physical environment of corridor performance;
- Lack of a skilled labour force; and
- Deficiencies in the business environment, namely a poor policy and regulatory framework.

Communications Progress has been made in reforming the communications sector. There has been a relatively rapid expansion of the mobile network in particular, while the fixed line network also saw some growth in the 1990s. By the beginning of the 21st century, the number of fixed lines stood at 6 747 824 – equivalent to an average regional teledensity of five per 100 inhabitants, with access varying widely across the region. Even though the region still lags behind other regions in the world, it fares better when its averages are compared with those for sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to facilitate and promote cooperation in the region and amongst member states, associations of telecommunications regulatory authorities and of telecommunications operations have been set up, namely the Telecommunications

Table 15: Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population (ITU estimates)

Country	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Angola	0.75	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.49	0.53	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.6	0.62	0.73	0.73	1.23	1.54
Botswana	1.52	1.79	2.06	2.46	2.68	3.12	3.54	4.09	4.83	5.59	7.48	13.4	20.44	27.28	..
DRC	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.32	..
Lesotho	0.73	0.75	0.72	0.69	0.61	0.76	0.79	0.88	0.83	1.13	1.5	1.59	2.03	3.66	5.82
Malawi	0.29	0.31	0.31	0.33	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.37	0.41	0.45	0.48	0.63	0.91	1.06	1.52
Mozambique	0.29	0.3	0.34	0.37	0.39	0.38	0.39	0.4	0.4	0.44	0.51	0.55	0.8	1.37	..
Namibia	3.82	3.86	3.93	4.04	4.21	4.49	4.58	5.24	5.74	6.82	7.42	7.97	10.8	11.9	..
South Africa	7.92	8.32	9.36	9.51	9.38	9.61	10.65	11.49	12.92	15.72	19.97	24.81	30.45	35.26	37.35
Swaziland	1.6	1.63	1.72	1.75	1.78	1.92	2.07	2.32	2.41	2.65	3.54	4.63	6.47	8.53	..
Tanzania	0.29	0.28	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.35	0.42	0.52	0.63	1.08	1.71	..
Zambia	0.81	0.9	0.84	0.86	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.88	1.11	1.77	1.96	2.13
Zimbabwe	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.25	1.22	1.22	1.27	1.42	1.61	1.98	2.3	3.67	4.91	5.06	5.51

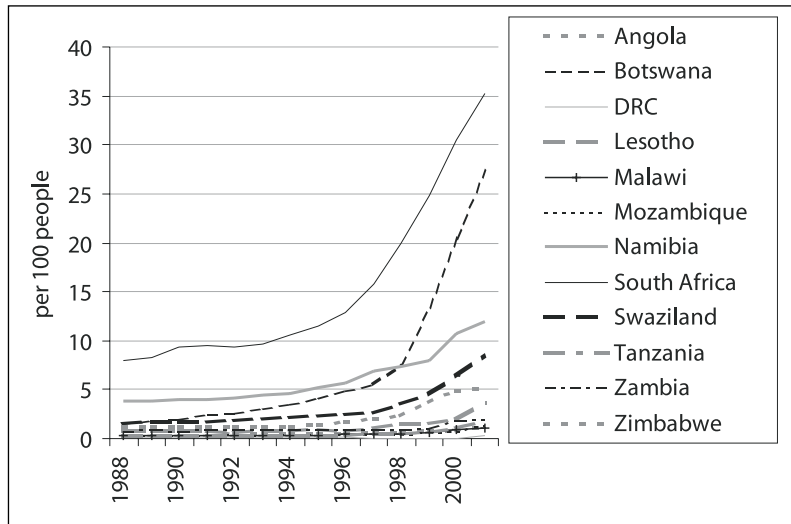
Source: UNDP (2002)

Note: The symbol '..' indicates that no data is available.

Regulators Association of Southern Africa (TRASA) and the Southern African Telecommunications Association (SATA). The main objective of these bodies is to enhance service output by establishing efficient telecommunications networks and services in the region. TRASA has so far achieved the completion of a guideline on interconnection, the development of a regional frequency band plan and the establishment of a joint telecommunications broadcasting committee.

Various other developments are also taking place in the telecommunications subsector, including the licensing of new telephony operations, a growing Internet demand and the transformation of institutional frameworks to enhance the competitive environment.

Figure 14: Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population



Source: UNDP (2002)

Conclusion

The purpose of this profile has been to highlight the salient political, economic and social conditions in the region, as well as to inform relevant actors about the current opportunities and challenges that can either strengthen or reverse regional integration. To this end, the profile has provided a broad-brush and sometimes impressionistic picture of selective developments within the region, while other important issues may not have received attention at all.

In spite of these shortcomings, the profile has nonetheless drawn attention to the fact that the subcontinent is still a long way from consolidating a regional identity or achieving full regional integration. Recent developments within the region suggest that the political, institutional and socioeconomic environment remains heterogeneous in the extreme, converging in policies but not necessarily in outcomes. Member countries' multiple memberships of regional integration