



RETOSA PRESENTATION AT THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CERTIFICATION ALLIANCE 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by

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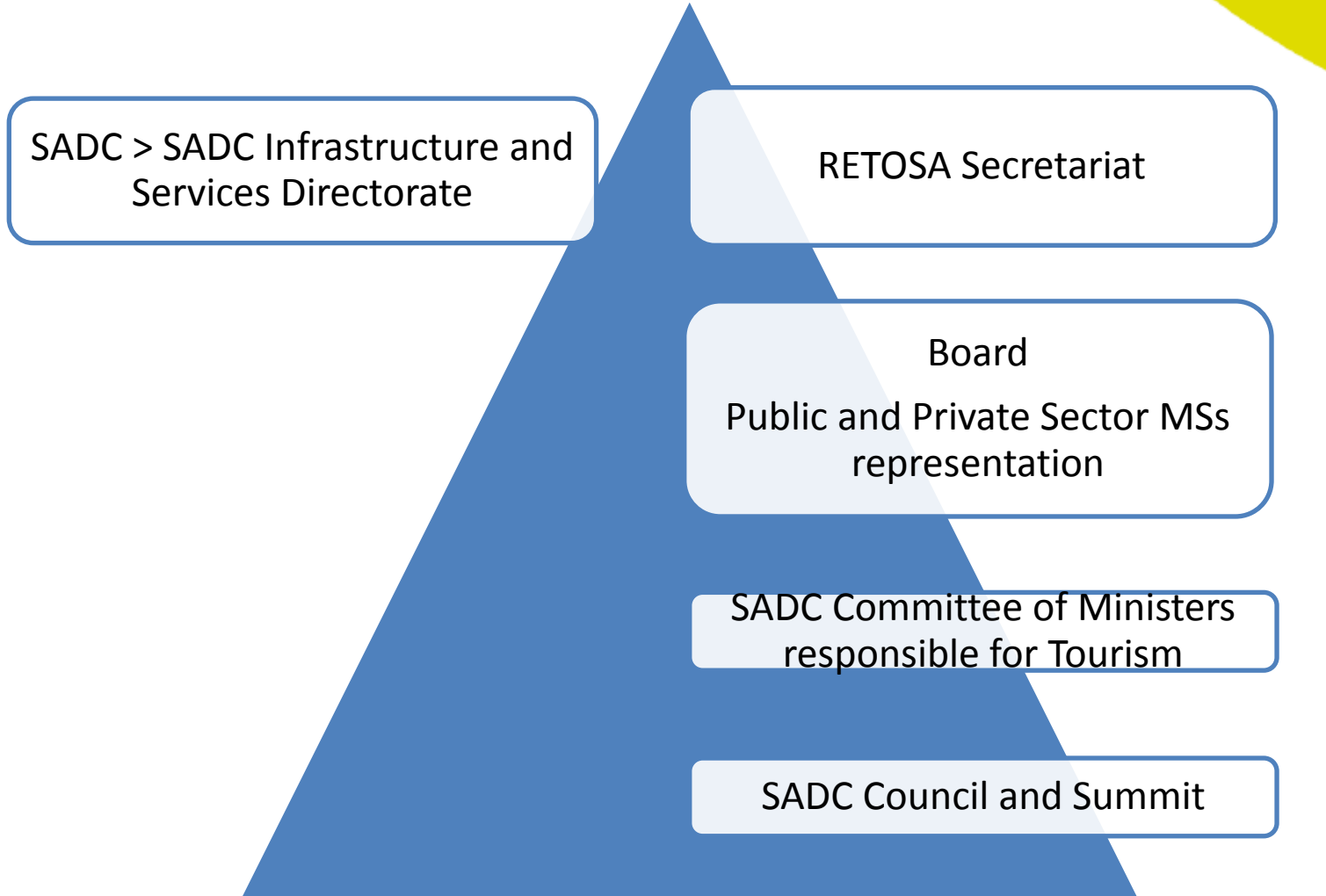
- ✓ Institutional Framework for Tourism Development in Southern Africa: SADC; RETOSA.....
- ✓ Background: Regional Tourism Development and Conservation
- ✓ Strategic Objectives
- ✓ Way Forward:
 - Institutional Arrangements
 - Priority Areas ;Flagship and
- ✓ Call for Action
- ✓ Conclusion

RETOSA Member States

Geographical Location



Institutional Framework for Tourism Development in Southern Africa



Who is RETOSA?
RETOSA is the Member States as represented in the Board



Institutional Framework for Tourism Development in Southern Africa

SADC: Mandate prioritises Regional integration and socio-economic development.

(Mandate is in the SADC Treaty)

RETOSA is a **SADC** institution mandated to :

- Ensure the tourism sector contributes to the regional mandate as above;
- promote regional tourism growth and development in an ethical, equitable, integrated and sustainable manner.
- *(Mandate is in the SADC Protocol on Development of Tourism and the RETOSA Charter)*
- **Current mandate:** covers both Developmental and Marketing **including Sustainable Tourism Development.**
- *Current Status: difficulties >Lack of Common Vision> (Dissolution-Directorate at SADC Secretariat) Common Vision Achieved.*

Restructuring of RETOSA: Important that Stakeholders feed into this process. Only legal entity with the mandate and authority of SADC and its MSSs.



Background: Regional Tourism Development and Conservation

- The movement towards sustainable consumption and production in the tourism sector is a product of global (market) developments.
- Out of the realization that the current patterns and practices of consumption and production of tourism products are not sustainable.
- From the Global Partnership on Sustainable Tourism (GPST) to 10 Year Framework of Programs on STP led by the UNWTO with UNEP, France, South Korea and Morocco as co-leads.
- This global Platform now facilitating the establishment of Regional and National structures to implement to the program.

Background: Regional Tourism Development and Conservation

- In Southern Africa MSs have mandated RETOSA to take leadership in driving the regional ST Program.
- ***Sustainable Tourism Network of Southern Africa*** used to cover this role and as RETOSA we were happy with that arrangement until it transformed itself into the ***Southern Africa Certification Alliance Africa*** now covering the whole continent with a special focus on ***certification***.
- At RETOSA our understanding of ***Sustainable Tourism Development*** is defined by the ***global 10YFP program*** as it looks at influencing Consumption and Production systems but also the ***SADC mandate of regional integration and socio-economic development***.



Strategic Objectives

To establish institutional framework including:

- **Regional Steering Committee**
- **National Focal Points** (Government Officials) who will form the;
- **Regional Working Group**
- **Forum** – Involving all stakeholders

Develop a Strategic Framework

- **Road Map and Action Plan** with;
Priority Areas and Projects
(Under the 10YFP STP we have ***Flagship and Catalytic projects***).
- As a region we need to agree on these and feed both:
 - ✓ Downwards to the national level for integrated implementation
 - ✓ Upwards to the global 10YFP STP Structures for technical support and funding.

Way Forward

Sustainable Tourism projects currently underway:

- Community Based Tourism Development Program for Southern Africa. (JICA)
- Southern Africa Women in Tourism Forum and Annual Conference.
- Southern Africa Youth in Tourism Forum and Annual Conference.
- Southern Africa Tourism Junior Minister. (JICA/Kwela Fleet)
- Sustainable Tourism Education and Awareness Program (Schools) (JICA/ Kwela Fleet/ Hospitality Youth Institute/ Lugarno University of Switzerland).
- *Sustainable Tourism Certification (Alliance)*
- *Southern Africa TFCAs – Boundless Southern Africa/KAZA.*

Sustainable Tourism Projects planned for future implementation:

- Sustainable Tourism educational program targeting private tourism operators.
- Sustainable Tourism Guidelines for the (MSs) Central and Local Governments

• Adoption and Implementation of Regional Sustainable Tourism

Way Forward

- The Structures and Strategic Frameworks as described above; Will provide a common vision, structured and pivotal point for the region to work from going forward.
- We have many other key regional players besides the Alliance, FTT, STI,
- We have also Strategic International Cooperating Partners interested to support the regional agenda on ST.
- RETOSA is running a Regional Sustainable Tourism Forum Meeting on the 9th and all are invited to participate.

Special vote of thanks to the Alliance Secretariat for all the good work and for inviting us to do this presentation. I hope it sheds some light.

ICP support is critical for the success of our regional programs.

RETOSA would like to thank and to continue developing strategic and dynamic with International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) to implement the region's sustainable tourism agenda; ICPs currently working with RETOSA include:

✓ *UNWTO, JICA, UNEP, EU through CDE, ComSec, WES Institute, UNESCO*

We look forward to further discussions with

- STI
- GIZ, a key cooperating sustainable development player in our region.

Many thanks to individual players like Jennifer, Heidi, Shikongo Sem, Anna Spenceley and others who have kept the regional flag raised at the international platform.



THANK YOU

