Gonarezhou Conservation Trust adopted the mission statement of the Park’s GMP which is:

The Gonarezhou Conservation Trust will protect and conserve the wilderness, biodiversity, ecological processes, wild and scenic landscapes within Gonarezhou and Malipati Safari Area (MSA) boundaries. The exceptional resource values will be sustained for present and future generations, while supporting its role in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area and regional economic development. The culture and history of the Shangani people will be recognised as one of the key components of the park.

The 4 main objectives of the GCT are:

1. **Conservation** – To provide adequate and innovative measures to maintain and safeguard the biodiversity within the Park and MSA, and to explore options to restore extinct species that occurred historically, following best practices.
2. **Commercial** – To achieve financial self-sustainability over time by unlocking the Park’s tourism potential without compromising the wilderness qualities and biodiversity of Gonarezhou and MSA.
3. **Community** – To build symbiotic relationships and foster mutual respect with neighbouring communities and their culture. To work with and compliment efforts of other players such as Government departments, Authorities and NGO’s working within the communities.
4. **Connectivity** – To explore all options to safeguard and develop wildlife corridors with other wildlife areas within the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA).

The Core values of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust are:

1. **Integrity**: We strive to adhere to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
2. **Partnerships**: We are committed to promote dialogue and working towards a shared goal, whilst honouring our community and stakeholder relationships.
3. **Excellence**: We strive to excel above expectation in achieving our objectives.
4. **Team Spirit**: We seek to motivate and cultivate the best in all our staff.
5. **Accountability**: We desire to achieve the highest level of professionalism in our operations.
6. **Sustainability**: We are committed to conserving and protecting our flora and fauna for the heritage of current and future generations.

Structure and staff

The GCT is guided by a Board of Trustees, made up of 6 Trustees, nominated in equal number by the respective partners, and who will meet a minimum of 2 times per year.

The Senior Management consists of a Trust Director, Area Manager and Finance and Admin Manager, based in Chipinda Pools. A key component of GCT’s human resource policy is to employ staff from communities adjacent to the Park whenever possible. GCT currently has a total of 158 staff of which 142 are directly from local communities - the staff complement is set to be further increased in 2017.

Gonarezhou National Park, Private Bag 7033, Chiредzi, Zimbabwe. [www.gonarezhou.org](http://www.gonarezhou.org)
Various types of structures and frameworks were studied over the next 3 years, and eventually a co-management model in the form of a Trust was selected as the most appropriate model for Gonarezhou, and the Trust Deeds were signed in August 2016, signalling the formation of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (GCT). The Trust was officially launched at the Park’s headquarters at Chipinda Pools on 16 September 2016 by the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, Hon. Oppah Muchinguri. This event was attended by nearly 300 people from local communities and stakeholders.

The co-management agreement will specifically be responsible for the management of the Park, but it will also allow a platform to explore ways that communities can become meaningful stakeholders in Gonarezhou. A key component of the new co-management partnership is that the Gonarezhou should become financially self-sustainable during the tenure of the Trust to avoid ongoing donor funding requirements, and secure it’s long-term conservation viability. The GCT became fully operational in March 2017.

The status of Gonarezhou National Park is unchanged under the management of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust - it remains a National Park, serving to conserve the national heritage of Zimbabwe and it’s people for current and future generations.