



Building socio-ecological resilience to climate change impacts by ecosystem-based adaptation approaches at iSimangaliso MPA

Annex A: Stakeholder Engagement Plan Template

WILDTRUST

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to demonstrate how the “iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project” (hereafter referred to as “the Project”) has engaged with stakeholders during project design (design of the concept and full proposal), and the proposed stakeholder engagement process that will be followed during the Project’s planning and implementation.

Stakeholders are individuals or groups who are affected, or likely to be affected by the Project (“Project-Affected People/ Parties”) and/or may have an interest (stake) in the Project (“Interested Parties”), or be able to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively. Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organisations and groups with special interests, the academic community, or other businesses¹.

The stake that each of these different individuals or groups will have in a project varies. This requires analysing and understanding the degree to which stakeholders are affected by a project (and therefore the type of engagement that is expected as a result, from a safeguards perspective), and the degree to which a stakeholder has an interest and/or influence in the Project (and therefore the type of engagement that is required to ensure a successful and sustainable project).

Stakeholder engagement refers to a process of sharing information and knowledge, seeking to understand and respond to the concerns of others, and building relationships based on collaboration. Stakeholder engagement is an on-going process that builds a positive relationship between the Project and its stakeholders.

The intensity of stakeholder engagement can vary as a function of the likely level of impact of a project on stakeholders. The Blue Action Fund ESMS distinguishes between Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Informed Consultation and Participation, Consultation, and Information Sharing, as examples of different types of engagement², as indicated in Section 2.2. However, these are minimum requirements, and some projects will adopt more rigorous stakeholder engagement than might be required by the Standards, for other reasons. Blue Action Fund is supportive of this broader need and application for FPIC, and any culturally and socially appropriate forms of engagement that increases community ownership and engagement in marine conservation efforts and manages potential E&S risks and impacts.

Blue Action Fund and WILDTRUST are committed to complying with national and international stakeholder engagement and disclosure requirements. The SEP (comprising this document and an Excel document) is a public document and will be disclosed to all Project Affected People and other project stakeholders. It is also a “living document” that will be revised and updated to account for the ongoing stakeholder engagement activities and potential changes in the Project. In Blue Action-funded projects, this safeguard instrument is annexed under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which serves as the umbrella Safeguard Instrument. The SEP should complement the ESMP and be developed and applied in conjunction with the Project’s Grievance Mechanism. The Blue Action Fund requirements for stakeholder engagement, and timings for these, are detailed in **Table 1**.

¹ IFC. 2007. *Stakeholder Engagement: A good practice handbook for companies doing business in emerging markets*. Pp. 10.

² Refer to the Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms (<https://www.blueactionfund.org/documents-esms/>) and Section 2.2 below for more details on the four abovementioned categories of engagement.

Table 1: Blue Action Fund requirements for Stakeholder Engagement (Blue Action Fund E&S Safeguarding Principles and Requirements, ESMS Manual Annex B).

Requirement	Project design		Project implementation		
	Concept note stage	Proposal stage	Inception Phase	Annual (or end of Year 1)	Project closing phase
Stakeholder identification [Criterion 2.1]	Required	Na.	Na.	Na.	Na.
Stakeholder analysis and consultation [Criterion 2.2]	Na.	Required	Na.	Na.	Na.
Stakeholder engagement [Criterion 2.3]	Na.	Required	Required	Required	Required
Disclosure and reporting [Criterion 2.4]	Na.	Required [initial disclosure]	Required [subsequent disclosure]	Required	Required.

1.1 Purpose of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The overall aim of the SEP is to ensure that a timely and appropriate approach is taken to engagement with stakeholders. The SEP outlines how the Project will further engage the various stakeholder groups throughout project design and implementation in order to ensure that their views and concerns are heard and taken into account. The purpose of having a SEP is to ensure a successful and sustainable project, and alignment of the Project with international good practice approaches to stakeholder engagement, including the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (WB ESF 2017), particularly Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10).

The objectives of the SEP are to:

1. Identify and analyse stakeholders during the Project design, listing all relevant stakeholders and analysing each in relation to their potential interest in and influence on the Project, as well as the Project's potential impact (positive and negative) on them;
2. Actively obtain input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels, with particular emphasis on Project Affected Peoples, through meaningful consultation;
3. Provide stakeholders with adequate, clear, timely and consistent information regarding the Project and project activities, including impacts and opportunities that may arise and proposed management measures/ solutions, as well as the manner in which they can participate in this process;
4. Provide sufficient opportunity for stakeholders to raise issues, make suggestions and voice their concerns and expectations with regard to the Project;
5. Build capacity among stakeholders to enhance their ability to interpret the information, as well as to contribute their issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits;
6. Working directly with the stakeholders and in particular, the Project Affected Peoples, throughout project implementation to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered by WILDTRUST; and
7. Provide stakeholders with timely feedback on whether and how their inputs were incorporated into project decisions particularly relating to management measures and strategies for enhancing benefits, and including the effective and timely management of any grievances related to the Project.

Overall, the SEP will assist with building strong relationships between WILDTRUST and its stakeholders, creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding, respect, trust and collaboration. Active engagement will also give the Project Affected People a sense of ownership and/or a stake in decision-making process pertaining to the Project, thereby allowing the Project to gain and maintain a social licence to operate and to grow. Importantly, regular engagement will help with managing expectations of the Project Affected People and other stakeholders from the beginning of the Project and throughout implementation, thereby ensuring that any expectations are realistic and factually informed.

The structure of the SEP is as follows:

1. Introduction (this section);
2. Stakeholder identification and analysis (Section 2);
3. Stakeholder engagement, including past and planned engagement (Section 3);
4. Grievance procedures (Section 4);
5. Stakeholder register (Section 5); and
6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting (Section 6).

2. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

This section describes how project stakeholders are identified. It then describes how stakeholders are analysed to determine their:

- i) Interest in the Project;
- ii) Ability to influence the Project; and
- iii) The impact that the Project will have on them and to what degree.

This analysis establishes what kind of engagement is required with each stakeholder, and therefore establishes the basis for planning engagement mechanisms and activities.

The stakeholder identification and analysis described in this section has been carried out in **Annex A.1** (the accompanying Excel document).

2.1 Stakeholder identification

Different stakeholders will have different positions and views on the Project. As such, it is important that all stakeholders be identified as early as possible in the project design, whilst remaining cognisant not to raise expectations about the potential project benefits. Stakeholder identification and analysis is a tool that helps identify the key actors (or stakeholders), and assess their respective interests, influences, and degree to which they might be impacted.

The first step in the process of stakeholder engagement is stakeholder identification – determining who the Project stakeholders are and their key groupings and subgroupings (e.g., Government, local communities, NGOs, Civil Society etc.). The objective of stakeholder identification is to establish which organisations, groups, local communities and individuals:

- may be directly or indirectly affected (positively and negatively) by the Project and its activities, making special effort to identify those who are directly affected, including the disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals;
- may have an interest (stake) in the Project;
- may have the potential to influence project outcomes or implementation because of, for example, their knowledge about the Project Affected Peoples or their political influence; and

- may be the legitimate representatives³, such as elected officials, non-elected community leaders, leaders of informal or customary community institutions.

During the concept design phase, stakeholders have been identified through various means, including through meetings, referrals, literature review, community focus group meetings and key stakeholder interviews, liaison with Affected Community leaders, local NGOs and government authorities and through the implementation of the iSimangaliso Oceans Alive Project funded by Blue Action Fund. Stakeholder identification is an ongoing process and will be reviewed and updated regularly as project implementation proceeds. Potential project stakeholders identified are recorded in an electronic Stakeholder Database. Identified stakeholders are listed in **Annex A.1, Tab 5**.

2.2 Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholder analysis follows identification and provides a more in-depth look at the identified stakeholder groups. Identified stakeholder groups/ stakeholders have been analysed using three criteria:

1. The potential of the Project to impact the stakeholder (positively or negatively) - Impact is normally used to describe how the problem or project will impact the actor.
2. Stakeholder's interest (stake) in the Project – Interest is the level of interest (stake) of the stakeholder in the problem/ issue at hand and/or the Project and its activities.
3. Stakeholder's potential to influence the Project and other stakeholders - Influence (or power) is the ability of the actor to influence the given problem, other stakeholders and/or the Project and its activities.

The results of this exercise⁴ will inform the type of stakeholder engagement that is likely to be required, therefore forming the basis for the stakeholder engagement strategy.

See **Tab 1.1 and 1.2 (Stakeholder Analysis)** of **Annex A.1** which presents the stakeholder analysis in both a tabular and visual format respectively. **Table 1 (Tab 1.1 of Annex A.1)** also takes into account early-stage ideas on how to engage stakeholders in the Project, based on existing experience in the area and best practice recommendations.

2.3 Type of stakeholder engagement required

As per **Tab 1.1 (Stakeholder Analysis)** of **Annex A.1**, “Type of engagement required: category: Column L”, the type of engagement based on the Project's potential impact on the stakeholder is stated clearly in a stakeholder analysis, to demonstrate that the extent and degree of engagement is commensurate with the risks and impacts of the Project, as per the Blue Action Fund Standards. The categories of engagement type include:

³ Note that in cases where stakeholder engagement depends upon community representatives, the Project should verify that such persons do, in fact, represent the views of such individuals and communities, and that they are facilitating the communication process in an appropriate manner.

⁴ This exercise will be reviewed during the Project lifecycle and informed by stakeholder input and project learning. It is likely to be an iterative process.

1. **'Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC⁵)'**, if there are Indigenous Peoples potentially affected by the Project;
2. **'Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP⁶)'**, if there are potentially significant adverse impacts on the stakeholder in question;
3. **'Consultation⁷'**, also referred to as 'meaningful consultation' if the level of impact and type of engagement is not yet clear and needs to be understood, or in cases where the potential impacts are not significant, but the stakeholders are affected nonetheless; and
4. **'Information sharing'**, for all other stakeholders where there is no identified potential impact; information should be shared with stakeholders in 1-3 as well.

These are considered the minimum levels of engagement required, based on potential impact of the Project on the stakeholder, according to Blue Action Fund Standards.

For ease of reference these different types of Stakeholder engagements (as defined in the *Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms*) have been included in **Box 1-3** below.

Box 1: Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

There is no universally accepted definition of FPIC. For the purposes of the Blue Action Fund ESMS, the World Bank ESF (2017) definition is used, and as such, FPIC is established as follows: a) The scope of FPIC applies to project design, implementation arrangements and expected outcomes related to risks and impacts on the affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities; b) FPIC builds on and expands the process of meaningful consultation described in WB ESF ESS10, and will be established through good faith negotiation between the lead NGO and affected Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities; c) The lead NGO (project) will document: (i) the mutually accepted process to carry out good faith negotiations that has been agreed upon by the lead NGO and Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities; and (ii) the outcome of the good faith negotiations between the lead NGO and Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, including all agreements reached as well as dissenting views; and d) FPIC does not require unanimity and may be achieved even when individuals or groups within or among affected Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities explicitly disagree. In the World Bank ESF, consent refers to the collective support of affected Indigenous Peoples communities/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities for the Project activities that affect them, reached through a culturally appropriate process. It may exist even if some individuals or groups object to such project activities. FPIC exists to promote, protect, and safeguard the full enjoyment and exercise of numerous underlying, fundamental human rights, including the rights to property, culture, and self-determination

Box 2: Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms: Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP)

Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP)
Informed consultation and participation (ICP) involves a more in-depth exchange of views and information, and an organized and iterative consultation, leading to the clients incorporating the views of the Affected Communities on matters that affect them directly into their decision-making process, such as the proposed mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues. The consultation process should: a) Capture both men's and women's views, if necessary, through separate forums or engagements; and b) Reflect men's and women's different concerns and priorities about impacts, mitigation mechanisms, and benefits, where appropriate. The client will document the process, in particular the measures taken to avoid or minimize risks to and adverse impacts on the Affected Communities, and will inform those affected about how their concerns have been considered.

⁵ See *Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms* for definition of FPIC.

⁶ See *Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms* for definition of ICP.

⁷ See *Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms* for definition of Consultation.

Box 3: Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms: Consultation

Consultation (also referred to as meaningful consultation)
Consultation provides stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts, and mitigation measures, and allows the Project to consider and respond to them. Meaningful consultation should be carried out on an ongoing basis as the nature of issues, impacts and opportunities evolves. It is a two-way process that: a) Begins early in the Project planning process to gather initial views on the Project proposal and inform project design; b) Encourages stakeholder feedback, particularly as a way of informing project design and engagement by stakeholders in the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks and impacts; c) Continues on an ongoing basis, as risks and impacts arise; d) Is based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate format, in relevant local language(s) and is understandable to stakeholders; e) Considers and responds to feedback; f) Supports active and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties; g) Is free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation; and h) Is documented and disclosed by the Project.

3. Stakeholder engagement

The disclosure of relevant project information⁸ (**Box 4**) should be done well in advance of the start of the Project. Ongoing stakeholder engagement activities ensure that stakeholders are kept informed and have an opportunity to continue a constructive dialogue about the Project and provide feedback. Updated versions of the SEP, which are under responsibility of WILDTRUST should be consulted with Project Affected People to achieve feedback on perception of engagement during the entire life of the Project.

Box 4: Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms: Relevant Project Information

Relevant Project Information
Disclosure of relevant project information will help stakeholders understand the risks and impacts of the Project, and potential opportunities. Stakeholders need to be provided access to the following relevant project information, as early as possible and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design: a) The purpose, nature and scale of the Project; b) The duration of proposed project activities; c) Potential risks and impacts associated with the Project and the proposals for mitigating these, highlighting potential risks and impacts that might disproportionately affect vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and describing the differentiated measures taken to avoid and minimize these; d) The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate; e) The time and venue of any proposed public consultation meetings, and the process by which meetings will be notified, summarized, and reported; and f) The process and means by which grievances can be raised and will be addressed.

Additionally, the implementation of the SEP will be subject to regular monitoring through the Blue Action Fund. All personal information (e.g., name and contact details) collected for the purposes of the SEP and maintained by WILDTRUST will be done so in a secure manner in line with Blue Action Fund's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Policy. This personal information will not be included in the SEP at any time.

The Sections below give a brief description of stakeholder engagement actions that have already taken place as well as engagement actions to be taken to implement this SEP.

3.1 Stakeholder engagement already undertaken

This section describes all of the stakeholder engagement activities that have taken place prior to project implementation. This includes all activities (e.g., meetings, formal newspaper notices, other public notices,

⁸ See also Blue Action Fund definition of relevant project information in the ESMS Glossary of Terms. Ensure that personal information/ data is not disclosed, as per the Blue Action Fund GDPR Policy. Also be aware of sensitive information, such as information relating to cultural heritage that could endanger the integrity of that heritage, or in conflict situations where even basic information (e.g., location of settlements) cannot be disclosed: this should be decided and understood on a project-by-project basis.

focus groups discussions, collection of views/ opinions/ suggestions, receiving approval letters, disclosure of documents etc.). Details of the stakeholder engagement to date is provided in **Tab 2 (Engagement to Date)** of **Annex A.1**.

WILDTRUST has been working in and around iSimangaliso Wetland Park for the last 4 years and as such there has been a lot of Stakeholder Engagement that took place prior to the design of this second Blue Bay Action Fund project. Our work to date has focused on the northern part of the Park, north of Sodwana Bay (**Figure 1**) and as such we did not need to introduce ourselves to the Tembe Traditional Authority (in the Mkhanyakude District Municipality) in this region. We did, however, need to introduce our organisation and the Project to the Sokhulu Traditional Authority, governing the Sokhulu Communities within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality.

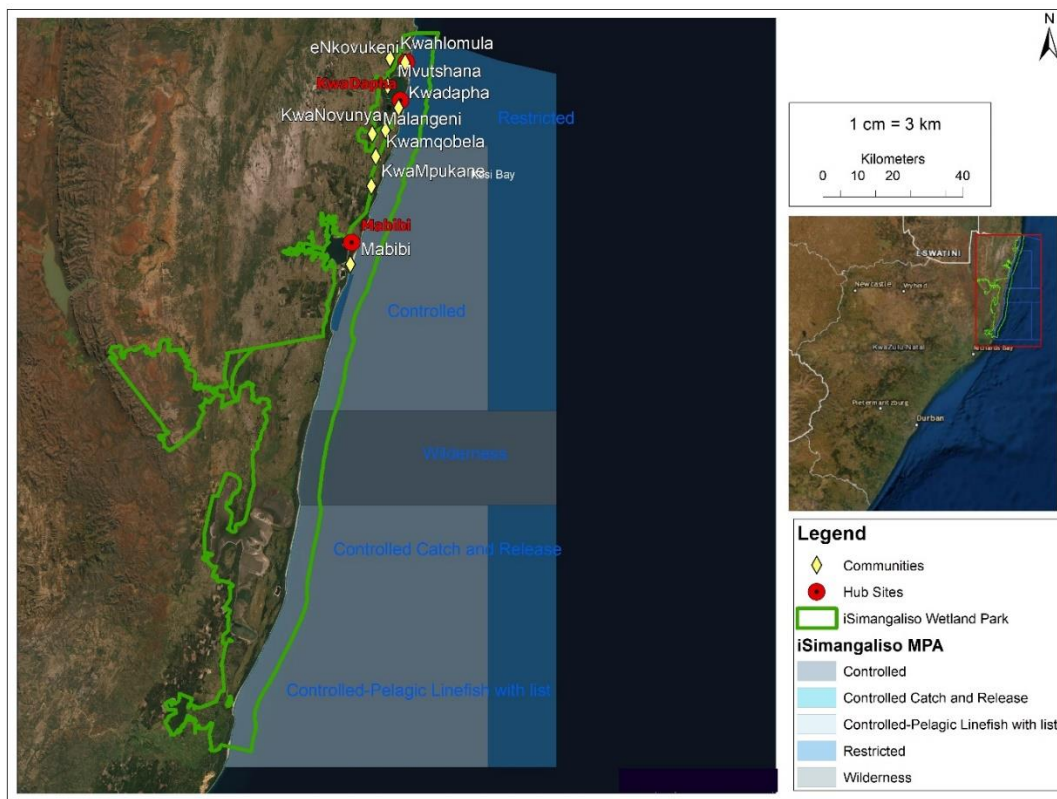


Figure 1: Oceans Alive iSimangaliso MPA Project Area showing the location of the Project’s partner communities in the northern part of the park where the Project’s livelihoods and community development work was focused, and existing relationships have been established.

The WILDTRUST conducted the following stakeholder engagement processes in the design of the Project:

- Meetings with the Traditional Authorities in each of the partner communities to introduce the new project and acquire permission to engage with the communities.
- The WILDTRUST team hosted representatives from the Tembe and Zikhali Traditional Authority at the Mabibi Community Hub. Here, the WILDTRUST’s intention to expand into the new iSimangaliso EbA project was proposed, and community stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on this project.
- A project presentation to the Sokhulu Traditional Council of the existing Oceans Alive project. Thereafter, the proposed iSimangaliso MPA EbA project was discussed in the expanded project area.

- Community meetings in each of the partner communities to introduce the Project and gather feedback from communities on what livelihood interventions they would value. WILDTRUST hosted community members, together with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, at the Mabibi and kwaDapha hubs with 74 and 130 people in attendance respectively. The Tembe and Zikhali Traditional Authorities also attended to give their inputs on the proposed project.
- Focus groups with Subsistence and Small-scale Fishers in Black Rock (Banga Neck), Kosi Bay and at the iSimangaliso First Lake, where the Project team gained an understanding of the number of registered small-scale fishers across the immediate communities, explored the customary rights of small-scale fishers in iSimangaliso MPA, the extent at which the fishers received assistance from DFFE, investigated the needs of the fishers and how best to support them.
- Discussions and a Workshop with “friends of small-scale fishers” – NGOs, activists and researchers, working to create justice for and support the lives of small-scale fishers.
- Various meetings held with DFFE, iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to shape the Project activities and intended outcomes.
- Site visits and various meetings with sub-grantees to co-create the livelihood interventions: Mahlathini Development Foundation, South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), Africa Ignite, and Indalo Inclusive. We also hosted Harambee as a potential partner, but they took the decision not to work in the area as they felt the work was outside of their core objectives.
- Various project partner and project team meetings to introduce teams and guide project proposal and initiation.
- Meetings with consultant, Andrew Boraine, and the Executive Manager: Socio-Economic Development at IWPA to discuss the planned dialoguing process between the Park Authority and the Communities.

3.1.1 ESA Stakeholder Engagement

Additionally, based on the identified project risks that required specific investigation in the ESA, the stakeholder analysis prioritised two groups for engagement:

- Key stakeholders involved in, or with insights into, the governance and management of iSimangaliso Wetland Park and MPA – particularly in relation to access and use restrictions; and
- Local leadership and local communities in the areas of the park where the proposed project would implement livelihood interventions.

ESA consultants therefore conducted the following stakeholder engagements during the Environmental and Social Assessment:

- Interviews with key stakeholders involved in, or with insights into, the governance and management of iSimangaliso Wetland Park and MPA – particularly in relation to access and use restrictions. The interviews were conducted with stakeholders representing: DFFE’s Directorate of Marine Resources management, IWPA’s conservation, EKZNW’s Park Management and Law Enforcement Departments, Oceanographic Research Institute, University of Cape Town researchers and Mahlathini Development Foundation
- Focus group discussions in each of the partner communities, some disaggregated by gender and youth including:
 - Tembe Traditional Authority Communities
 - kwaDapha
 - Malangeni
 - kwaNovunya
 - eNkovukeni
 - Mabibi (Tembe and Zikhali Traditional Authority)
 - kwaMqobela
 - kwaZibi
 - kwaMpukane
 - Manzengwenya

- kwaMahlungulu
- kwaHlomula
- kwaMazambane
- Sokhulu Traditional Authority Communities
 - eMalaleni (Northern and Southern)
 - Hlanzeni and Hlawini
 - Manzamnyama
 - Holinyoka
 - Thukwini
 - Ntongonya

3.2 Planned stakeholder engagement and disclosure during project implementation

This section describes how stakeholder groups will be further engaged throughout project implementation in order to ensure that their views and concerns are heard and taken into account, foster constructive work relationships as well as more general sharing of information and facilitating understanding.

The following sections (3.3 – 3.5) then explain how the different types of engagement, including ICP, and engagement with vulnerable groups, will be undertaken.

Details for planned stakeholder engagement is provided in **Tab 3 (Planned Engagement)** of **Annex A.1**. A summary of **planned engagements** is included below:

WILDTRUST has planned a number of engagements with stakeholders in the Inception Phase of the Project to ensure participation of the stakeholder in the Project initiation and development. These include:

1. **Project Partner and Stakeholder Meetings** – meetings with project partners (including MPA management authorities – IWPA and EKZNW, local communities, vulnerable groups and local businesses) to introduce staff and guide project initiation.
2. **Traditional Authority Meetings** – to brief TAs about the Project and project activities in the Inception Phase, introduce staff, engage regarding recruitment and to get permission to engage with local community members in project activities.
3. **Social Baseline Preparatory Meetings** – meetings with TAs, briefing researchers, and preparing the team for the execution of the Baseline in the Project area.
4. **Social Baseline Surveys and Focus Groups** – execution of the Social Baseline in project area.
5. **Project Team Meetings** – full Project Team meetings monthly for project updates and planning between key staff.
6. **Implementing Partner Meetings** – to discuss deliverables, budgets, timing of project activities and progress.
7. **Partnership Building** – create and support the implementation of a platform for dialogue and trust between IWPA and rural community stakeholders for a shared vision, common agenda, and joint action partnership.
8. **MPA Zonation Awareness workshops** – to discuss the benefits of an MPA, boundaries, of map and zonation within the MPA (maps), characteristics used to identify a zonation, zonation regulations and resource mapping.
9. **ESMS Workshops and Meetings and Best Practice Stakeholder Engagement Principles** – to brief staff, partners and other stakeholders of ESMS requirements and considerations.
10. **Grievance Mechanism Training** – Training on the grievance procedure for all project staff and YES youth and distribution of the grievance mechanism to the full stakeholder list via email and in poster form at our community sites. Grievance boxes and printed grievance forms will also be placed at community hubs and TAs for ease of access for community members.

3.3 Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms

Table 4: Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms

Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms					
SE Mechanism	Lead by	Other participants	Type	Activities / Topics included	Timing
Partnership-building and Dialogue Process	Andrew Boraine (Consultant)	iSimangaliso Authority, EKZNW, Traditional Authorities and Communities, and WILDTRUST	WT partner activity	An expert experienced in facilitation of partnership-building and in steering and managing complex societal transitions in the South African context, to advise on and oversee the design of a process and the capacity-building of key stakeholders, and support trust-building and positive engagement for common shared outcomes amongst traditional leadership and communities and the Park authorities.	10 x bi-lateral workshops each in Years 1 and 2
Trust in Action Dialogue Workshops	Local social facilitator/s (selected by both IWPA and the communities)	iSimangaliso Authority, EKZNW, Traditional Authorities and Communities, and WILDTRUST	WT partner activity	A space for dialogue around a few key issues to build a foundation of trust in action, on which a stronger relationship can be built and shared common outcomes and how action towards these can be arrived at.	10 workshops a year in Year 3 and 4
MPA Stakeholder Forum	iSimangaliso, EKZNW	WILDTRUST, various MPA stakeholders to be defined in the Stakeholder Forum ToR including EDTEA, DWS, DFFE, Health, Rural Development, Traditional Authorities. Includes representatives of project affected people.	Formal mandated process	All matters related to MPA, including stakeholder and law enforcement issues. Discussion and feedback on social and ecological data collection objectives, methodologies and feedback on results. This forum will allow stakeholders to engage regularly with Park management and address and share information and inputs to the management planning process, and introduce EbA approaches and benefits.	Four (4) Forum's meetings, one (1) per year in Years 1-4
Park boundary clarification field visits and workshops	iSimangaliso, EKZNW	Induna-led community delegations	WT partner activity	Facilitate field site visits and workshops to develop shared and common understanding between the Park Authority and communities of the park boundaries, and erect relevant language and culture-sensitive signage and	Two (2) Site visits in Year 2 and 3 Two workshops for each of the 9 clusters of communities in Year 2

Stakeholder Engagement Plan, iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project, WILDTRUST

Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms

SE Mechanism	Lead by	Other participants	Type	Activities / Topics included	Timing
				demarcation methods (markers) to clarify these on the ground.	
Boundary Demarcation Area Maps	WILDTRUST	iSimangaliso Authority, Induna-led Traditional authority delegation, WILDTRUST	WT project activity	Develop local area maps (for each 5 Primary Community areas and surrounding Secondary Community areas, and for the 4 clusters of Outlying and Peripheral Communities), with Park boundaries, traditional authority boundaries and municipal boundaries, landcover, vegetation and habitats shown, including information on park rules and rationales, to distribute to affected stakeholders and generate posters for display at prominent places and in Community Resource Hubs	Five (5) local area maps in Year 3 Four (4) Cluster Maps in Year 3
Co-management Committees	WILDTRUST	Marine subsistence resource users (non-commercial small-scale fishers), Ezemvelo, WILDTRUST	WT project activity, in collaboration with WT small-scale fisheries project.	Co-management of marine subsistence resource use (non-commercial small-scale fisheries for food security), including the establishment of co-management zones within the iSimangaliso MPA and adjacent buffer zones, implemented with a focus on piloting this during this project (using the provisions in the Protected Areas Act) in kwaSokhuku, kwaMabibi, kwaDapha, eNkovukeni. This will include 3 functioning Co-management committees, composed of fisher representatives, MPA managers and supported by NGOs and/or researchers and focal group/workshops with fishers in each of the pilot communities to gather traditional and traditional local knowledge and practices with regards to harvesting areas and species.	Co-management Committees engaged and revitalised for 3 communities in Year 1 Community small-scale fisheries monitoring programme established in Year 1 Exchange visits uThukela to iSimangaliso Year 2, vice versa Year 3
Socio-economic and project baseline surveys and assessments	WILDTRUST / UKZN	Community Households in 5 Primary beneficiary communities and associated Secondary communities	WT Activity - Household Survey in relevant project sites - <i>focal group discussions and survey interviews</i> .	This will serve as a baseline and project closure assessment of the understanding of climate risks and existing mitigation measures. This will inform mitigation planning for the revision of the ESMP, MPA stakeholder	Two baseline surveys will be conducted in Year 1 and 4

Stakeholder Engagement Plan, iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project, WILDTRUST

Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms

SE Mechanism	Lead by	Other participants	Type	Activities / Topics included	Timing
				consultation and engagement process, selection of areas where climate-smart agriculture is required and will not have any negative social and environmental impacts.	
Co-created livelihoods beneficiation Meetings and Workshops	WILDTRUST	Interviews, focal group discussions and workshops held with rural communities and community leadership and designated representatives in each partner community	WT project activity	To develop clear livelihoods beneficiation and communication strategies that (1) are targeted at the most vulnerable community members, and (2) are deemed fair and appropriately apportioned community beneficiaries, and (3) support and build on IWPA's beneficiation strategy.	One (1) workshop in each of the Primary and Secondary communities, and one per TA for the Peripheral and Outlying Communities, plus pre and post meetings. Eight (8) workshops total.
Co-created livelihoods beneficiation Meetings and Workshops	WILDTRUST	iSimangaliso Authority	WT project activity	To align approaches to beneficiation where there is opportunity to enhance livelihoods and benefits for communities through collaboration.	One (1) workshop annually, Four (4) workshops total
Traditional Knowledge Gatherings	WILDTRUST	Community representatives	WT project activity	Community gatherings, storytelling, and performances to better understand traditional and existing agricultural and other livelihood practices at hubs. Participatory methods such as Timeline which can elicit rich traditional knowledge and historical background which renders old participants in the group invaluable to discussions will be explored as part of the methodologies.	At least two (2) gatherings per hub in Year 1
Regional WIO Workshop	WILDTRUST (BAF uThukela MPA EbA project team)	Local, national, and international institutions including iSimangaliso project members and partners	WT project activity	Regional 3-day online workshop covering key Marine EbA themes and case studies identified during the Project and relevant to the latest Marine EbA Priorities. The workshop will include a balance of presentations of lessons learned from this project, and others across the region, with multiple breakaway discussion groups where participants can discuss these themes and the emergent topics identified by participants.	One workshop Year 4
Exchange Visits between EbA projects	WILDTRUST	WILDTRUST uThukela MPA project and Peace	WT project activity	Exchange visits between MPA managers and national agencies involved in this Blue Action EbA with	Two (2) project team exchange visits to the other 2 projects, and 1 to host a visit

Stakeholder Engagement Plan, iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project, WILDTRUST

Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms					
SE Mechanism	Lead by	Other participants	Type	Activities / Topics included	Timing
		Parks Foundation PPR MPA project		other relevant projects in South Africa and Mozambique	in iSimangaliso from the 2 projects (together).
International and regional symposia attendance	TBC	WILDTRUST	WT project activity	Members of the Project team will attend and present project results and lessons at national, regional, and international Symposia	As per event.
High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops	WILDTRUST	Key individuals from the district, provincial, national government Policy and Planning departments being organised by the BAF uThukela EbA project	WT project activity	Contributing to higher importance of EbA approaches for climate resilient management	Two (2) workshops – one in Year 2 and Year 4
iSimangaliso Climate Resilience Governance Liaison Forum	iSimangaliso, EKZNW	DFFE, EDTEA, COGTA local government and WILDTRUST (possibly as secretariate)	WT partner activity	Forum to integrate across stakeholders and government agencies to identify and solve challenges. Informed by the Socio-ecological Systems Model for Climate Resilience developed under Output 4, and creating a platform for different government departments, NGOs, traditional authorities, and representatives of stakeholder groups to come together to discuss and coordinate activities and interventions. Terms of reference will be developed on inauguration but envisaged to include food security, land use, education, water, basic service provision (water, electricity), sustainable development, health, and conservation.	Bi-annual meetings held at a different Hub each time
Small-scale Fisheries Reference Group	WILDTRUST	Small-scale Fisheries Reference Group comprising members of research institutions, non-governmental organizations and key individuals who have experience and knowledge of small-scale fisheries in South Africa	WT project activity	Provide a platform for comment on the ToR of the review as well as the product that results (Activity 7.1.4), and to enable constructive informed discussions amongst players and in engagements with government	SSF Reference Group established with TOR in Year 1

Stakeholder Engagement Plan, iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project, WILDTRUST

Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms

SE Mechanism	Lead by	Other participants	Type	Activities / Topics included	Timing
Small-scale Fishers' National Meetings Attendance	WILDTRUST	Small-scale fishers from iSimangaliso MPA	WT Project Activity	Provide support for small-scale fishers from iSimangaliso MPA to attend national MPA workshops/forums which provide MPA decision-makers and managers and fishers opportunity to engage, understand and address challenges.	TBD
Project Team Meetings	WILDTRUST	N/A	WT project activity	To ensure the workplan is followed	Monthly
Full partner meetings	WILDTRUST	All project partners	WT project activity	To ensure the workplan is followed, collaborative and informed decisions can be made and the programme is moving forward consistently	Bi-annually
Community Resource Centre Steering committee or "similar structure"	WILDTRUST	iSimangaliso Management Authority, EKZNW, Community leadership and MPA management authority	WT project activity	Develop long term strategies for sustainability of the operations of each of the Community Resource Centres established, and of participatory co-management of natural resource use. This will be part of the joint vision action tackled as part of the partnership dialogue process.	TBD
Climate mitigation and adaptation knowledge-building workshops	WILDTRUST	iSimangaliso Authority, DEFF, EKZNW, DWS, and relevant local municipalities and key stakeholder groups reps	Community centre sites / other local venues	Information sharing and knowledge-building workshops to promote the understanding of EbA approaches and support the Project in the implementation of EbA approaches - build capacity and knowledge to empower engagement.	Two (2) workshops, one in Year 2 and one in Year 4,
Women's group training and peer support groups	WILDTRUST	Female leaders in communities	Support groups	Facilitate set up of support groups/networks, that meets quarterly at the five (5) Community Climate Adaptation Resource Centres. Topics will include anything of importance to women with a focus on known issues such as GBV, teenage pregnancy, health, empowerment, stokvels, and business support. Where possible other community support programmes will be invited to participate and provide guidance and support.	Quarterly meetings at each of 5 Hubs

Stakeholder Engagement Plan, iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project, WILDTRUST

Planned Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms

SE Mechanism	Lead by	Other participants	Type	Activities / Topics included	Timing
Community involvement in identification of criteria (including where the recruitment pool stems from within project feasibility) for employment opportunities	WILDTRUST	Traditional authorities leadership reps and Councillors	Community meetings	Inclusion of Traditional Authority leadership and the Councillors in design process for employment opportunities that will become available for the youth and communities.	One hundred and ten (110) youth supported per year for 2 years, supported via the 5 Community Centres
Facilitate Awareness-raising (Media articles and publications)	WILDTRUST	Regional media	Press releases, social media, hub awareness raising, website to track project processes.	Use media communications to build awareness of EbA approaches and MPA benefits, including lessons learned during project period with a focus on inclusive access to media. One media trip per year to educate the media about the challenges in the park and promote balanced media publications and elicit their support for holistic solutions for people and nature in the area.	At least two (2) radio “engagements” a year, At least one hundred (100) social media posts over four (4) years (across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp) and engagement by the Project team, 4 articles will be published in regional publications (one (1) per year) and one (1) in international online publications. One (1) media trip a year over four (4) years.
Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned	WILDTRUST	All stakeholders	Events and public document for circulation (case study)	Feedback to stakeholders on lessons learned.	N/A

3.4 Informed Consultation and Participation

This section provides a short description of the process of Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP). ICP is appropriate for projects and stakeholders where there are potentially significant adverse impacts. This section identifies who these stakeholders are.

3.4.1 Background to ICP

For projects with potentially significant adverse impacts on Project Affected People (**Box 5**), an Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) process is appropriate. ICP involves an in-depth exchange of views and information, and an organised and iterative consultation, leading to the incorporation of views of the Project Affected People into the decision-making process on matters that affect them directly, such as management measures (measures to avoid, minimise or compensate for identified impacts), sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

Box 5: Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms: Project Affected People

Project Affected People

The term Project Affected People, Project Affected Parties, Project Affected Person or Affected People includes those likely to be affected by the Project because of the actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, security, well-being or livelihoods. These stakeholders may include individuals or groups, including local communities. *Stakeholders*, defined below, are sometimes referred to separately from *Project Affected People*, to make a distinction between the broad set of stakeholders who might have an interest in the Project (*interested parties*), and those who might be affected (positively or negatively) by the Project (*Project Affected People* or *Project Affected Parties*).

The consultation process should:

- Capture all stakeholder's views (including both men's and women's), if necessary, through separate forums or engagements, and
- Reflect men's and women's different concerns and priorities about impacts, mitigation mechanisms, and benefits, where appropriate.

WILDTRUST will document the consultation process and in particular, the measures taken to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the Project Affected People. WILDTRUST will also inform those affected about how their concerns have been taken into account.

3.4.2 Project ICP Process

The Blue Action Fund requires that stakeholders potentially significantly affected by the Project, are consulted using ICP methods. Stakeholders who will be engaged by WILDTRUST in this project using ICP methods are listed in **Table 3 (Tab3)** of **Annex A.1** and tabulated in **Table 5** below; this has been based on the level of potential negative impact, and also prioritised based, in some instances, on their relative power to change their circumstances.

Table 5: Stakeholders Requiring Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP)

Stakeholders Requiring Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP)	Potential negative impact of the Project on stakeholder	Interest of the stakeholder in the Project	Influence of the stakeholder on the Project
Traditional Leadership	MEDIUM Negative impacts on their constituents associated with more effective MPA enforcement of access restrictions on use of estuarine and marine resources. Potential risk of inter-community conflict.	HIGH	HIGH
Communities within the direct influence of the Project	MEDIUM Negative impacts associated with more effective MPA enforcement of access restrictions on use of estuarine and marine resources	HIGH	MEDIUM
Communities under partial / indirect influence of the Project	MEDIUM Negative impacts associated with more effective MPA enforcement of access restrictions on use of estuarine and marine resources	HIGH	MEDIUM
Vulnerable/marginalised groups	MEDIUM Negative impacts associated with more effective MPA enforcement of access restrictions on use of estuarine and marine resources	HIGH	HIGH
Subsistence Fishers	HIGH Potential to be negatively affected as Project brings additional support for effective implementation of the MPA Management plan, which includes enforcement, and which may limit subsistence fishers access to some marine, beach and estuarine zones.	HIGH	MEDIUM
Small-scale fishers (co-operatives)	HIGH Potential to be negatively affected by limiting opportunities for illegal access to fishing waters while permits are still defunct: Project brings additional support for effective implementation of the MPA Management plan, which includes enforcement of MPA rules that restrict access to some MPA zones for commercial fishing. By aligning MPA management plan	HIGH	HIGH

	with SSFs permits, additional restrictions may be imposed.		
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The Project's ICP process will include:

- **Stakeholder analysis and engagement planning:**
 - identification of the range of stakeholders that may be interested in the Project and related activities (including the identification of the affected communities - where projects are likely to have adverse environmental and social effects on affected communities);
 - development and implementation of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups and community representatives; and
 - preparation of a stakeholder engagement framework outlining general principles and a strategy to effective and meaningful engagement employed by the Project team.
- **Disclosure of information:** Relevant project information will be disclosed to enable affected stakeholders to better understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the Project. This information could include:
 - the purpose, nature and scale of the Project;
 - the duration of proposed project activities;
 - any risks to and the potential effects on such communities and relevant mitigation measures;
 - the envisaged stakeholder engagement process; and
 - the grievance mechanism.
- **Effective informed consultation and participation engagements:** When affected stakeholders are subject to identified risks and adverse impacts from a project, the Project will undertake a process of consultation in a manner that provides the affected stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts and mitigation measures, and allows the Project to consider and respond to them. This could be consulted through the following process:
 - The extent and degree of engagement required by the consultation process should be commensurate with the Project's risks and adverse impacts, and the concerns raised by the affected stakeholders;
 - Effective consultation is a two-way process that should:
 - o begin early in the process of identification of environmental and social risks and impacts, and continue as risks and impacts arise;
 - o be based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information that is in a culturally appropriate local language and format, and is understandable to affected communities;
 - o focus inclusive engagement on those directly affected as opposed to those not directly affected;
 - o be free of external manipulation, interference, coercion or intimidation;
 - o involve a more in-depth exchange of views and information, and an organised and iterative consultation;
 - o have the goal of incorporating into the Project's decision-making process the views of the affected stakeholders on matters that affect them directly, such as the proposed mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues;
 - o capture both men's and women's views, if necessary, through separate forums or engagements, and reflect men's and women's different concerns and priorities about impacts, mitigation mechanisms and benefits, where appropriate;
 - o be documented, in particular the measures taken to avoid or minimise risks to, and adverse effects on, the affected communities; and
 - o give information to those affected about how their concerns have been considered.

3.5 Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

The WILDTRUST was required, as part of the ESA, to assess if the people residing in this project area were considered “Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities⁹”, according to BAF’s definition. This review was completed by external consultants and the results are recorded in the **Section 2.2 (Social Context)** of the **ESMP**.

The results have informed WILDTRUST’s stakeholder engagement approach, and the design of project activities. The WILDTRUST is committed to a process of Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) of the peoples participating in this project. This process will:

- a) Involve Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities’ representative bodies and organisations (e.g., councils of elders or village councils, or chieftains) and, where appropriate, other community members;
- b) Provide sufficient time for Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities’ decision-making processes; and
- c) Allow for Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities’ effective participation in the design of project activities or mitigation measures that could potentially affect them either positively or negatively.

3.6 Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups

Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups have been identified as part of the stakeholder identification and analysis process in **Section 2** above. And described in the **ESMP (Section 2.2 – Social Context)**.

This section explains how the engagement with these groups will be achieved through the Project, taking into account any constraints and barriers to participation faced by Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups.

Box 6: Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms: Disadvantaged or Vulnerable

Disadvantaged or Vulnerable

Those individuals who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the Project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so. This will take into account considerations relating to age, including the elderly and minors, and including in circumstances where they may be separated from their family, the community or other individuals upon which they depend.

In the case of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, WILDTRUST has to ensure that they are duly and timely consulted, making sure that their concerns are heard, taking into account individuals’ and communities’ specificities, and delivered in an appropriate form, manner and language. In some cases, special efforts must be made to ensure that disadvantaged or vulnerable members have access to consultation events or discussion forums. As with other stakeholder groups, the type of engagement should be commensurate to the potential level of risks/ impacts associated with the Project.

3.6.1 Description of Vulnerable Groups associated with this Project

⁹ See Blue Action Fund ESMS Glossary of Terms for definition of Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities.

The following Vulnerable Groups were identified in the ESA and by the Project Team:

- **Subsistence Fishers**
Subsistence fishers depend on natural resources from the ocean to sustain their livelihoods. The Project is providing additional support for better management including vehicles and equipment for management staff which will expand their reach and efficacy.
- **Small-scale Fishers**
Small-scale fishers in this area are vulnerable in that while their rights are formally recognised through a permitting mechanism, this system is ineffective, and poorly understood. As such they are also vulnerable to improved management through the Project.
- **People living in extreme poverty**
While there are many households in and around iSimangaliso living in poverty (80%), the Project will try to direct benefits at those most vulnerable e.g., child-headed households.
- **Women**
Women are historically more disadvantaged than men in this area as they mostly lack power in political, development, governance and domestic structures. They are also sometimes the victims of domestic abuse and gender-based violence. Women are considered vulnerable in that they could be disproportionately affected by the potential negative impacts of the Project and have less power to bring change or have their voices heard.
- **Youth**
Youth in this remote area find it very hard to access opportunities. With an often poor education, limited or no work experience and limited access to the formal economy, this group could also be seen as more vulnerable to project impacts.
- **People with disabilities**
People with disabilities are often marginalised and have significantly higher barriers to participation – particularly physical access.

See **Table 6** in Section 2 (Social context) of the **ESMP** for more information on why these populations are considered vulnerable by the Project, and how these groups may be affected by the Project and its activities.

3.6.2 How Vulnerable Groups will be engaged by the Project

This section describes how disadvantaged or vulnerable groups will be engaged, considering any constraints to participation of identified disadvantaged or vulnerable groups and the approach and measures that will be taken to remove these barriers/ ensure the effective participation of these groups, e.g., timing of the engagement, means of communication/languages, additional expertise etc.

Table 6: Vulnerable Groups constraints to participation and mitigation measures

Vulnerable Groups	Constraints to Participation	Approach and measures that will be taken to remove these barriers/ ensure the effective participation
Subsistence Fishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance to meetings and cost of transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient notice given for meetings coordinated by the Project. • Ensure community gatherings are accessible for the majority by selecting central locations.
Small-scale Fishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance to meetings and cost of transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient notice given for meetings coordinated by the Project.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure community gatherings are accessible for the majority by selecting central locations. • Support provided for small-scale fishers to attend national MPA workshops/forums which provide fishers opportunity to engage, understand and address issues.
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needing to stay at home to take care of children / animals / attend to home duties. • Intimidation in meetings dominated by men 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will consider the differentiated priorities and needs of women with homestead commitments and the time of day/season women tend to be available. Engagements will be scheduled activities accordingly. • Ensure engagement activities are undertaken in a manner that is inclusive, culturally appropriate, and tailored gender-specific needs by conducting separate activities with women and men (with same sex facilitators) so that participants feel comfortable to engage.
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low literacy levels • Lack of access to information • Not able to participate effectively/freely (being engaged with older age groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of local language in documents and during the engagement • Frame engagement/ content/ questions in a way that stakeholders can understand - taking into consideration the literacy levels and education levels of the stakeholders • Engaging with women and men, the elderly and the youth separately where needed
People with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical access to various stakeholder engagement mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all engagements cater to a wide range of participants, both in their access and via the modes of communication used

For further information, refer to **Table 3 of Annex A.1 (Tab 3)**.

While women, youth and people with disabilities are politically, economically and socially more vulnerable, it is important not to overcompensate and thus marginalise men for example, and adults over 35 years of age (i.e. not considered to be 'youth').

The ESA revealed that when men are prevented from fishing or collecting other natural resources, they cannot provide and support their families which leaves them vulnerable and powerless. This impacts on masculine identities in the region and is a more nuanced but important aspect to consider in Project implementation, particularly given the way in which beneficiation is structured. WILDTRUST is also aware that groups over 35 felt marginalised by the previous Oceans Alive project given the significant weighting towards youth jobs.

While the beneficiation opportunities are not always equal; the youth jobs in the Oceans Alive project for example were made possible by a match funded programme targeted specifically at youth, and the same

was not available for 35+ adults. The Project proposes adopting a relational, intersectional and participatory approach going forward where communities can collectively decide, in partnership with project partners, within established frameworks of social justice and equality, as to the way in which beneficiation should happen. The details of this will be detailed in the Project's Inception Phase.

4. Grievance Mechanism

Please refer to the Grievance Mechanism appended to the ESMP (**Annex B**).

4.1 How the Grievance Mechanism will be disclosed

Table 7 details, per stakeholder group, how the Grievance Mechanism will be disclosed as part of the stakeholder consultation and engagement process.

Table 7: Project GM Disclosure Methods

Disclosure Method	Stakeholders who will be
1. Presentation	Key project stakeholders: Traditional Counsels and Project Affected communities, Small-scale fishers, iSimangaliso Park Management Authorities (IWPA and EKZNW), DFFE, Municipality
2. Briefing	Project Staff, YES Interns, and Project Partners (UKZN, University of Zululand, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity - SAIAB, Ocean Risk Resilience Action - ORRAA) and Sub – grantees (Mahlathini Development Foundation, SAEON, Africa Ignite and Indalo Inclusive)
3. Email	All other Stakeholders

5. Stakeholder Register

It is important that issues raised during the consultation process are recorded in a logical and systematic way. The Project's Stakeholder Register is essentially a database that records on-going stakeholder engagement activities. **Table 2 (Engagement to date)** in **Annex A.1 (Tab 2)** will be updated during the Project's life cycle to function as a stakeholder engagement register including specifics of the engagement activities, any issues raised by stakeholders requiring follow-up (**Tab 2, Table 2, Column F** "issues discussed, and information disclosed"), follow-up actions, and the status of these actions. Where many stakeholders raise similar issues, these can be grouped as "issues" and responses to them will be tracked together in a separate section of the register.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

This section presents the process followed to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress of implementing the SEP. Reporting on stakeholder engagement to Blue Action Fund is done via the ESMS reporting section in the progress reports.

WILDTRUST will update the SEP throughout the lifetime of the Project, in particular whenever there have been changes to the Project, additional stakeholder activities or when particular milestones (e.g., agreements with communities) have been reached.

Monitoring and reporting of stakeholder engagement activities will help the Project track issues/ concerns, to provide an understanding of trends which will help pre-empt risk management activities. Additionally, by monitoring and evaluating the Project's performance regarding stakeholder engagement, this will allow for its efficacy to be evaluated and improved where necessary.

The Project team will update the stakeholder register and planned engagement (Tabs 2 & 3) regularly, and at least on an annual basis. Through updating the register, the Project will track some basic indicators commonly used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of a Project's stakeholder engagement programme, including:

- List of stakeholder events/ activities carried out during the reporting period and the stakeholders targeted - tracked through updates to **Annex A.1, Tab 2 (Engagement to date)**;
- Number of participants at each event/ activity (disaggregated by gender) - tracked through updates to **Annex A.1, Tab 2 (Engagement to date)**;
- Percentage of ICP or FPIC engagement activities undertaken during the review/ reporting period - tracked through updates to **Annex A.1, Tab 2 (Engagement to date)**;
- Percentage of follow-up actions addressed/ completed during the reporting period, percentage still open - tracked through updates to **Annex A.1, Tab 2, (Engagement to date)**;
- Proportion of year's planned stakeholder engagement completed during the reporting period - through updates to **Annex A.1, Tab 3 (Planned engagement)**.

This list will be reviewed and augmented during the Inception Phase of the Project.

Annex A.1: Stakeholder Engagement Plan Template

See attached Excel spreadsheet which has been designed to help Blue Action Fund applicants and grantee organisations organise, manage and document their stakeholder engagement process.