



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

Annexure C: Preliminary Process Framework

Wildlands Conservation Trust [WILDTRUST]

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABCD	Asset Based Community Development
ABS	Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization
ACCRZ	Adlams Controlled Catch and Release Zone
BABS	Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing
BAF	Blue Action Fund
Blue Action	Blue Action Fund
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
BNCZ	Bhanga Nek Controlled Zone
BRCZ	Black Rock Controlled Zone
CARA	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMP	Coastal Management Programmes
COGTA	Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CVCCRZ	Cape Vidal Controlled Catch and Release Zone
CVCZ	Cape Vidal Controlled Zone
CZ	Controlled Zone
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DARDLR	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform
DCM	Deputy City Managers
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEDTEA	Department of Economic, Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
DPRZ	Dog Point Restricted Zone
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
E&S	Environmental and Social
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation

EDTEA	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFZ	Exclusive Fishery Zone
EHSGs	Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EKZNW	Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife
EMP	Estuary Management Plan
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
ESA	Environmental and Social Assessment
ESCAP	Environmental and Social Code of Conduct
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FRCCRZ	First Rocks Controlled Catch and Release Zone
HWM	High Water Mark
ICP	Informed Consultation and Participation
ICMA	Integrated Coastal Management Act
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFC PSs	International Finance Corporation Performance Standards
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IGRF	Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act
IIWZ	iSimangaliso Inshore Wilderness Zone
IMP	Integrated Management Plan
IOWZ	iSimangaliso Offshore Wilderness Zone
IPs	Indigenous People's
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOCPLZN	iSimangaliso Offshore Controlled Pelagic Line fishing Zone North

IOCPLZS	iSimangaliso Offshore Controlled Pelagic Line fishing Zone South
IORZN	iSimangaliso Offshore Restricted Zone North
IORZS	iSimangaliso Offshore Restricted Zone South
IWP	iSimangaliso Wetland Park
IWPA	iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority
KCZ	Kosi Controlled Zone
KfW	KfW Development Bank
KRZ	Kosi Restricted Zone
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
KZNNCA	KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Act
LCCRZ	Leven Controlled Catch and Release Zone
LCZ	Lighthouse Controlled Zone
LE	Law Enforcement
LM	Local Municipality
LNRZ	Lala Nek Restricted Zone
LOSC	Law of the Sea Convention
LUMS	Land Use Management Scheme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MCZ	Mabibi Controlled Zone
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MLRA	Marine Living Resources Act
MP	Management Plan
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MRCCRZ	Mission Rocks Controlled Catch and Release Zone
MRZ	Msiki Restricted Zone
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEMBA	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act
NEMP	National Estuarine Management Protocol
NEM:PAA	National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
NMRZ	Nine Mile Restricted Zone

ORI	Oceanographic Research Institute
PAJA	Promotion of Administrative Justice Act
PAPs	Project Affected People
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act
PF	Process Framework
PPF	Preliminary Process Framework
PRZ	Perriers Restricted Zone
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
RLRZ	Railway Ledges Restricted Zone
RSA	Republic of South Africa
RZ	Restricted Zone
SA	South Africa
SAAMBR	The South African Association for Marine Biological Research
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SAIAB	The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity
SAPS	South African Police Service
SCZ	Sodwana Controlled Zone
SDRZ	Sodwana Diving Restricted Zone
SE	Stakeholder Engagement
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SLCZ	St Lucia Controlled Zone
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPLUMA	Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act
SRZ	Saxon Restricted Zone
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
TA	Traditional Authorities
TLLG	The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group
TLGFA	Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act
ToR	Terms of Reference
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
VMS	Vehicle Monitoring System
WB ESF	World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

WB ESS	World Bank Environmental and Social Standard
WB ESS5	World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 5
WC	Western Cape
WHCA	World Heritage Convention Act
WIO	Western Indian Ocean
WT	WILDTRUST

Non-Technical Summary

An easy-to-understand Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Process Framework outlining the project background, approach, impacts, and activities structured in accordance with the sections of the main body of the PF is attached as **Annexure C.1** - to inform the general public and other interested parties.

1. Introduction

This document is the Preliminary Process Framework (PF hereafter) for the project titled “***Building socio-ecological resilience to climate change impacts by ecosystem-based adaptation approaches at iSimangaliso MPA***” (‘the Project’ hereafter). The overall objective for the Project is to build socio-ecological resilience to climate change for the iSimangaliso MPA, and the dependent communities that live in and around the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. In order to achieve this objective, the proposed outcomes will focus on four principal components, namely strengthened management, rehabilitation, improved livelihoods, EbA capacity building and knowledge sharing. This Process Framework has been prepared by the project proponent (lead non-governmental organisation), the Wildlands Conservation Trust (‘WILDTRUST’ hereafter), who will lead on the project implementation.

This introductory section includes sub-sections on the project background, including project objectives, description of the Project Area, project description and key project components, preliminary potential access restrictions, and related social impacts. Subsequent sections of the Process Framework provide more detail on restrictions and impacts.

This Process Framework is part of the project’s overall Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) which has been developed in alignment with South African legislation, the Blue Action Fund’s (the executing entity) Safeguarding Principles and Requirements (2021), the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (2017), and in particular with ESS5 on land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement.

A summary of the rationale and purpose of the Process Framework is provided below.

1.1 Rationale

This Preliminary Process Framework (PPF) was developed by the ESMS team at the WILDTRUST, informed by the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) conducted by external consultants, Ecosystemiq, in the full proposal development phase of the project.

The need for this Process Framework arises from the Blue Action Fund Safeguarding Principles and Requirements (2021), in particular Principle 5 which states that:

“Projects shall promote and support sustainable livelihoods, and in cases where there are involuntary restrictions on land, marine and natural resource use and other essential ecosystem services with potential impacts on peoples’ livelihoods, improve or at least restore peoples’ standards of living and livelihoods” (Blue Action Fund, 2021).

Furthermore, as per the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, Standard 5 (ESS5) on land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement, where access restrictions occur as a result of a project, a PF should be prepared to document the assessment, mitigation and monitoring of associated impacts. The WB ESS5 states that a PF is required when:

“...projects may cause restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks and protected areas (or other common property resources on which local people may depend for livelihood purposes). The purpose of the process framework is to establish a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in design of project components, determination of measures necessary to achieve the objectives of [the World Bank Standards], and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities.” (World Bank ESF, 2017).

The project requires a PF due to:

1. Its support for law enforcement within an existing MPA thereby improving enforcement of existing access restrictions (through existing zoning and regulations), and
2. the complex issues that intersect in the project area including legacy issues, conflict mediation required between some stakeholder groups, and the livelihood and restoration programmes required to mitigate for restrictions. (Blue Action Fund, 2021)

The ESA indicated a risk of economic displacement associated with certain project activities, and conflict caused between park authorities and community stakeholders linked to the Public Participation Processes (PPP’s) associated with the MPA Management Plan (MP) due to the associated access restrictions, and boundary demarcations.

Contextual matters for consideration include access issues relating to communities not being able to collect building material in the park as they are not allowed to cut trees, they also report not having building rights and or access to land to build houses inside the park and are prevented from using the swamp/wetlands for agricultural purposes.

This PPF will establish the participatory process whereby affected populations participate in project design, identification of impacts, development of adequate mitigation measures, and ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of measures.

1.2 Project Background

This section will describe the following:

- Background to Project development
- Project objectives
- The Project Area
- Project description and key project components
- Preliminary potential access restrictions and the scope of related social impacts.

1.2.1 Background to project development

Between July 2019 and March 2023 the WILDTRUST has been implementing the Oceans Alive project, funded through the Blue Action Fund. The project has implemented various interventions to support improved livelihoods, community development, effective management of the iSimangaliso MPA, and improving the knowledge and understanding of the biodiversity in the MPA. **Section 2.2.2** in the **ESMP** provides more details on work done in this project.

During the implementation of the Oceans Alive project, a Grievance Mechanism and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan were developed, and later a Process Framework, on which this document builds.

The project has developed an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to which all the other safeguards are Annexures; these include:

- Annexure A: Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

- Annexure B: Grievance Mechanism
- Annexure C: Process Framework (this document)
- Annexure D: Gender Action Plan

All the Standards/ Requirements (reference framework) the project is adhering to are set by the Blue action Fund and can be found in the Blue Action Fund Environmental and Social Safeguarding Principles and Requirements¹.

1.2.2 Project objectives, key proposed outcomes and activities

The overall objective for the Project is to build socio-ecological resilience to climate change for the iSimangaliso MPA, and its connected estuarine systems, and the dependent communities that live in and around the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. In order to achieve this objective, the proposed outcomes will focus on four principal components, namely strengthened management, rehabilitation, improved livelihoods, EbA capacity building and knowledge sharing. It is envisaged that the proposed project outcomes will include:

1. **Strengthened management and protection of ecosystems** important for climate adaptation and mitigation in the iSimangaliso MPA and three associated estuarine systems of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, including offshore coral reefs and kelp beds, estuarine mangroves, reed beds and swamp-forest in estuarine-associated floodplain areas, and forested coastal dune cordons.
2. **Rehabilitation and improvement of the ecosystem health** of coastal ecosystems relevant for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including mangroves, reed beds and swamp-forest in estuarine-associated floodplain areas and forested coastal dune cordons.
3. **Improved livelihoods and food security for vulnerable communities** associated with the iSimangaliso MPA and connected estuarine systems through community involvement in sustainable resource management (co-management) and identification and implementation of alternative livelihood opportunities.

¹ <https://www.blueactionfund.org/documents-esms/>

4. **Improved knowledge and capacity for ecosystem-based adaptation approaches** for enhancing socio-ecological resilience in and around a financially sustainable MPA, providing a regionally relevant case study that informs policy and action elsewhere.

The Project includes the following activities:

Table 1: Summary of Primary Project Objectives and Key Activities

Primary Objectives	Key Activities
1 IMPROVED RESOURCES, INSTRUMENTS AND CAPACITIES FOR MPA MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE USE	Indicator 1.1 Improved Stakeholder Engagement
	1.1.1 Create and support implementation of platform for dialogue and trust between IWP and rural community stakeholders
	1.1.2 Improve MPA & Estuarine stakeholder engagement (SE)
	1.1.3 MPA Stakeholder Forum meetings
	1.1.4 Rural Community Knowledge Building Workshops
	Indicator 1.2 MPA Management Effectiveness
	1.2.1 Management Effectiveness assessment processes for adaptive management
	1.2.2 Marine and estuarine enforcement and monitoring support
	Indicator 1.3 MPA Management Staff Capacity-building
	1.3.1 Refresher legal compliance training
	1.3.2 Refresher species identification training
	1.3.3 EbA focussed MPA and Estuarine Managers Course
	1.3.4 Essential skills training
	1.3.5 Vessel safety and confidence
	1.3.6 Train and employ local skippers from the communities and provide mentorship for sustainability
	Indicator 1.4 Park Boundary Demarcation
	1.4.1 Park Boundary Clarification for MPA communities

		1.4.2	Boundary demarcation area maps and information dissemination
		Indicator 1.5 Community Co-management and Monitoring	
		1.5.1	Co-management for small-scale fishing
		1.5.2	Implement community small-scale fishery monitoring programmes
		1.5.3	Community Turtle monitoring programme
		Indicator 1.6 Sustainable MPA Financing	
		1.6.1	Establish a team to implement and guide Sustainable Financing strategies development
		1.6.2	Carbon asset identification
		Indicator 1.7 Improved Ocean literacy and sustainable fisheries knowledge	
		1.7.1	MPA Benefits Awareness Campaign
		1.7.2	Community Ocean Literacy and sustainable fisheries knowledge-building
		Indicator 1.8 Improved Ocean literacy and sustainable fisheries knowledge	
		1.8.1	Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) developed, implemented, and monitored
		1.8.2	ESMS Legal Review and Gap Analysis developed and communicated
2	STRENGTHENED ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND REDUCED EXPOSURE TO CLIMATE RISKS	Indicator 2.1 Climate-change Risk Assessment	
		2.1.1	Climate Vulnerability Assessment
		2.1.2	Socio-economic and project baseline surveys and assessments (climate-risk inclusions)
		2.1.3	Ecosystem baseline survey and assessment
		Indicator 2.2 Climate-change Risk Monitoring, Reporting and Knowledge-building	
		2.2.1	Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Knowledge Building Workshops
		2.2.2	Installation of Climate Monitoring Equipment
		2.2.3	Ocean Stewards
		2.2.4	Community-based drought, flood and storm tracking and information system

3	DEGRADED COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS, WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, REHABILITATED AND/OR PROTECTED	Indicator 3.1 Mangrove forests rehabilitated and protected.	
		3.1.1	Surveys of mangrove vegetation
		3.1.2	Community involvement in mangrove protection
		Indicator 3.2 Riparian vegetation restoration and protection	
		3.2.1	Surveys of riparian vegetation
		3.2.2	Restoration of riparian zone to a natural state
		3.2.3	Community involvement in riparian zone restoration
		Indicator 3.3 Dune vegetation protection and rehabilitation	
		3.3.1	Surveys of coastal dune cordon vegetation
		3.3.2	Rehabilitate the beach and dune vegetation to a natural state
		3.3.3	Community involvement in beach and dune vegetation restoration
4	SEQUESTERED CARBON OR REDUCED EMISSIONS	Indicator 4.1 Coral reef and kelp-bed protection	
		4.1.1	Coral Reef Ecosystem surveys and bleaching monitoring
		4.1.2	Community involvement in coral reef protection
		Indicator 4.2 Coral Reef Fish Protection	
		4.2.1	Coral Reef Fish Surveys
		4.2.2	Fisher and dive operator awareness workshops
		Indicator 4.3 Carbon sequestered in functional ecosystems maintained	
		4.3.1	Estimation of carbon sequestered in climate relevant ecosystems
		5	CLIMATE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROMOTED
5.1.1	Development of co-created livelihoods beneficiation processes		

	5.1.2	Small Business incubation
	5.1.3	Employment, training, and career development opportunities
	5.1.4	Leveraging the Community Levy Funds for Vulnerable Groups
	5.1.5	Vulnerable youth support for tertiary education
Indicator 5.2 Community Climate Resource Centre Establishment		
	5.2.1	Community Climate Adaptation Resource Centres Established
	5.2.2	Involvement of communities in sustainable management of Resource centres and associated activities
	5.2.3	Training and awareness at Community Resource Centres
	5.2.4	Child Support
	5.2.5	Libraries
	5.2.6	Computer skills and online courses
Indicator 5.3 Climate Smart Practices Implementation		
	5.3.1	Collation of Traditional Knowledge around existing climate-smart practices
	5.3.2	Establishment of climate-smart homestead-based solutions
Indicator 5.4 Climate-Smart Agriculture		
	5.4.1	Intensive small-scale farmer training and support
	5.4.2	Train the trainer
	5.4.3	Household training and mentorship
	5.4.4	Climate-smart agriculture technique demonstrations
	5.4.5	Facilities to support climate-smart agriculture
	5.4.6	Vulnerable household kitchen garden support

		5.4.7	Collaboration with provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
		Indicator 5.5 Tourism livelihood opportunities	
		5.5.1	Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Assessments
		5.5.2	Homestay development and support
		5.5.3	Crafter support
		5.5.4	Craft marketplaces at Hubs
		Indicator 5.6 Support for Women	
		5.6.1	Development of a Gender Action Plan for the project
		5.6.2	Women's Leadership training
		5.6.3	Women's Peer support groups
		5.6.4	Gender and GBV Awareness Training
		5.6.5	Gender Assessments
		5.6.6	Young single mother support
6	ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY OF RELEVANT NATIONAL AGENCIES TO USE EBA APPROACHES FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT	Indicator 6.1 EbA Approaches Knowledge-Building	
		6.1.1	Participation in Regional WIO Workshop
		6.1.2	Exchange Visits between EbA projects
		6.1.3	Contribute to online Webinar Series
		6.1.4	International and regional symposia attendance
		Indicator 6.2 Publications and Media	
		6.2.1	Community Radio
		6.2.2	Social Media

		6.2.3	Articles
		6.2.4	Media Hosting
		6.2.5	Coastal EbA Case-study Publication and Video
7	STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	Indicator 7.1 Policy and Legal Instruments	
		7.1.1	Contribute to High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops
		7.1.2	Contribute to development of National EbA implementation Guidelines for the Coastal Zone
		7.1.3	Develop EbA Guidelines for MPA and Estuarine Management Plans
		7.1.4	Comprehensive history, legal and policy review of small-scale fisheries
		Indicator 7.2 Institutional and regulatory systems	
		7.2.1	iSimangaliso Climate Resilience Governance Forum
		7.2.2	Carbon Market Trading Incentives
		7.2.3	Small-scale Fisheries Reference Group
		7.2.4	Small-scale Fishers' National Meetings Attendance
		7.2.5	Collaboration with DFFE Climate Adaptation Division and South Africa's GCF Accredited Entity

1.2.3 Description of the Project Area

The Project is located in iSimangaliso Wetland Park in the Maputaland-Albany-Pondoland Global Biodiversity Hotspot on the east coast of South Africa in the KwaZulu-Natal Province (**Figure 1**). The Park comprises diverse landscapes, including beaches, coastal dune and swamp forest, lakes, and wetlands which serve as important nursery and nesting sites, and important habitats for sea turtles, for many species of plants and animals.

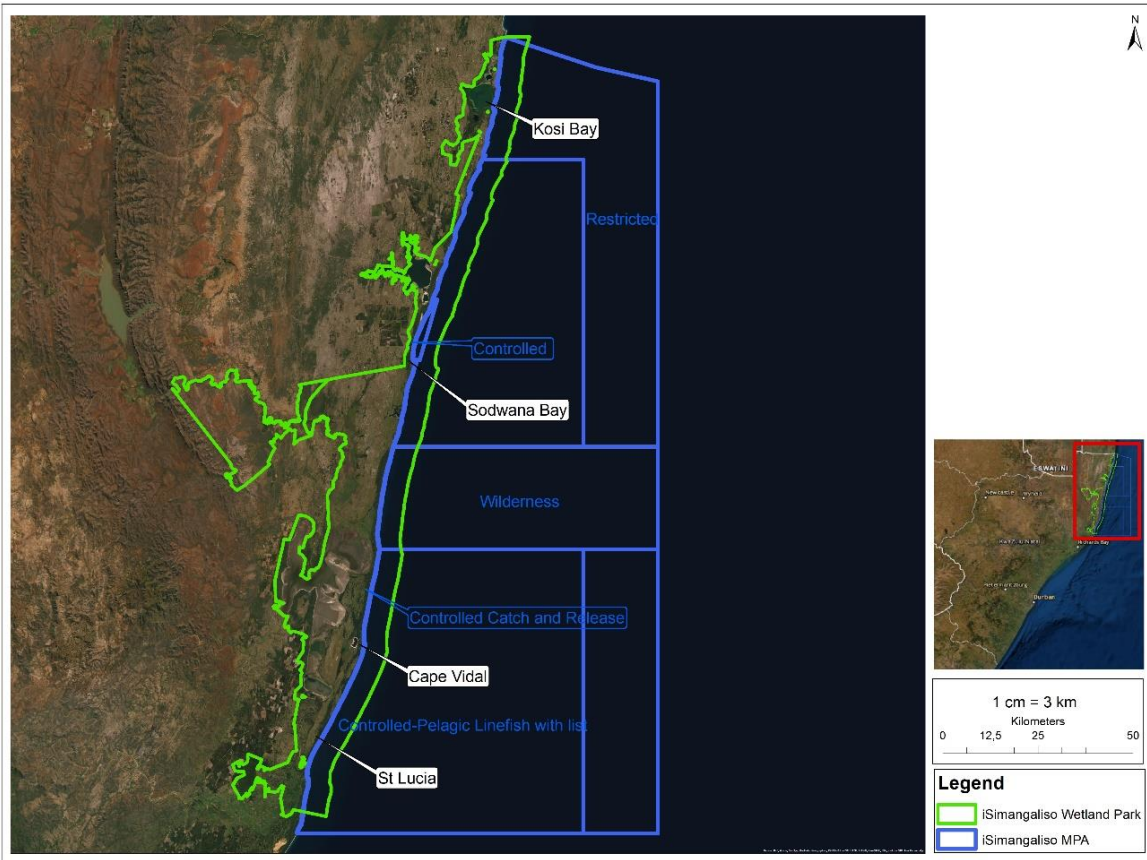


Figure 1: The iSimangaliso Wetland Park and new iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area situated in northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

iSimangaliso MPA is 10,700 km² in extent (1,070,000 ha) and is South Africa's largest MPA. It was proclaimed in 2019 and is a combination of the former (now de-proclaimed) St Lucia and Maputaland MPAs, combined with an expanded offshore area. It contains the coastal and marine ecosystems forming part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a 240,000 hectare UNESCO World Heritage Site within which lie four Ramsar sites (St Lucia Lake System, Turtle beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland, Kosi Bay Lake System, and Lake Sibaya). The MPA does not include the St Lucia, Mgobozeleni and Kosi estuaries, although they fall within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. The coastal edge of the MPA follows the high-water mark of the sea.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site includes the entire shoreline of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, therefore overlapping along the coast (and in the immediate near-shore zone) with the MPA. The Maputaland coastal plain is an acknowledged centre of biodiversity, and the Maputaland Centre of Endemism is part of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspot (IWPA, 2008).

The project area covers the extent of the MPA and extends inland (**Figures 2a & 2b**) up to 10km with activities focused on the restoration and rehabilitation of mangroves, and beach and dune vegetation, and livelihoods and community stakeholder engagement support.

The area surrounding the park is primarily rural, with small, dispersed settlements and limited economic activity. The region is characterized by high poverty and unemployment levels, with the majority of the local population relying on subsistence farming and fishing, and small social grants for their livelihoods, as well as some contributions from migrant family members working in cities. The park serves as an important source of tourism for the region, generating economic activity and providing work in eco-tourism activities, park management and supporting industries. Small towns and tourism settlements situated adjacent to the park include Manguzi, Mbazwana, Sodwana Bay, Cape Vidal and St Lucia. The nearby cities of Richards Bay and Durban are located approximately 100 km and 250km from the park, respectively. The land use around the park is primarily for agriculture, including sugarcane and cattle farming, as well as significant forestry plantations and some privately-owned conservation areas. The area is also an important cultural and historical site, with many communities that have lived there for generations (both inside and outside the park).

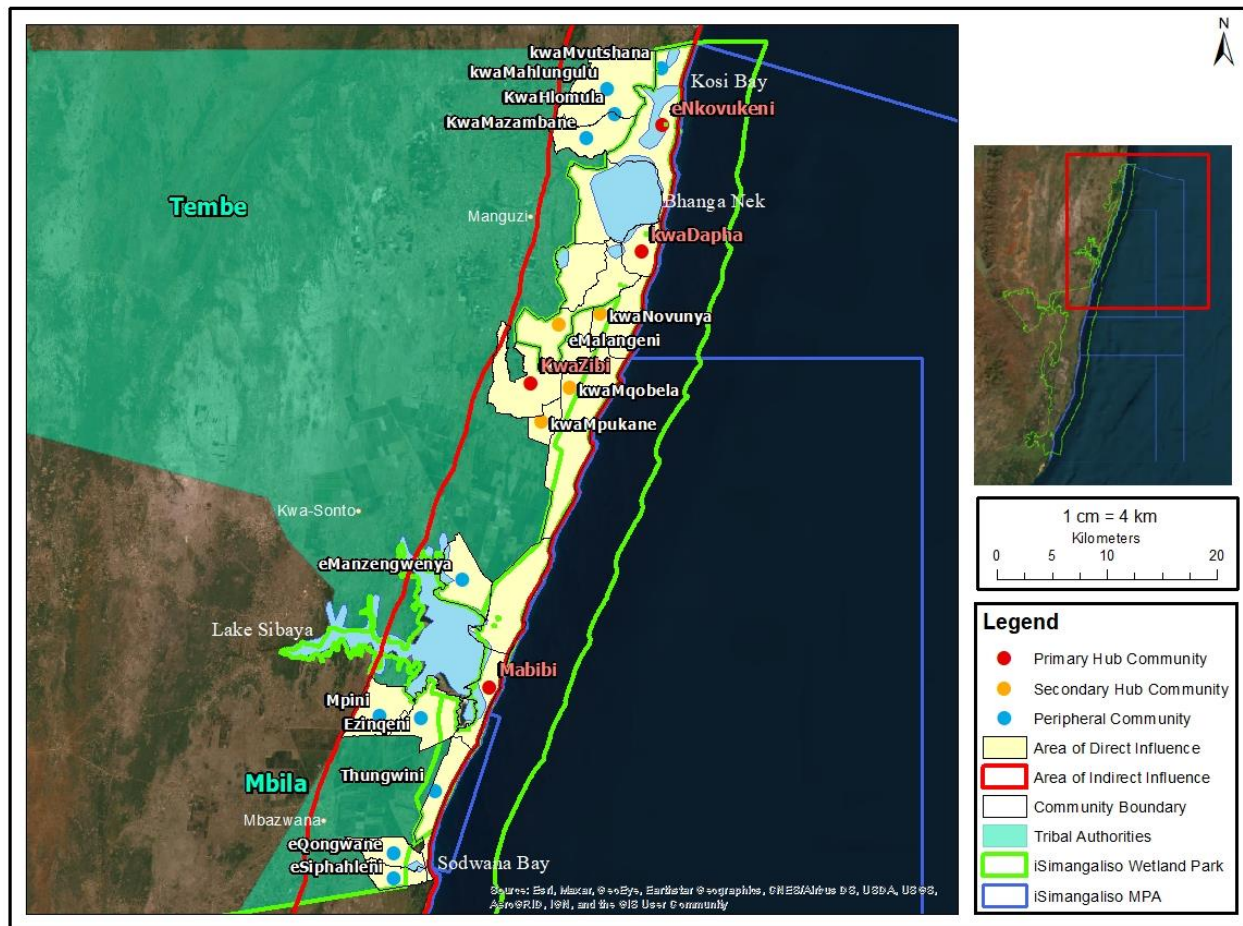


Figure 2a: Map showing the Northern location of the Project and Zones of Direct and Indirect Influence

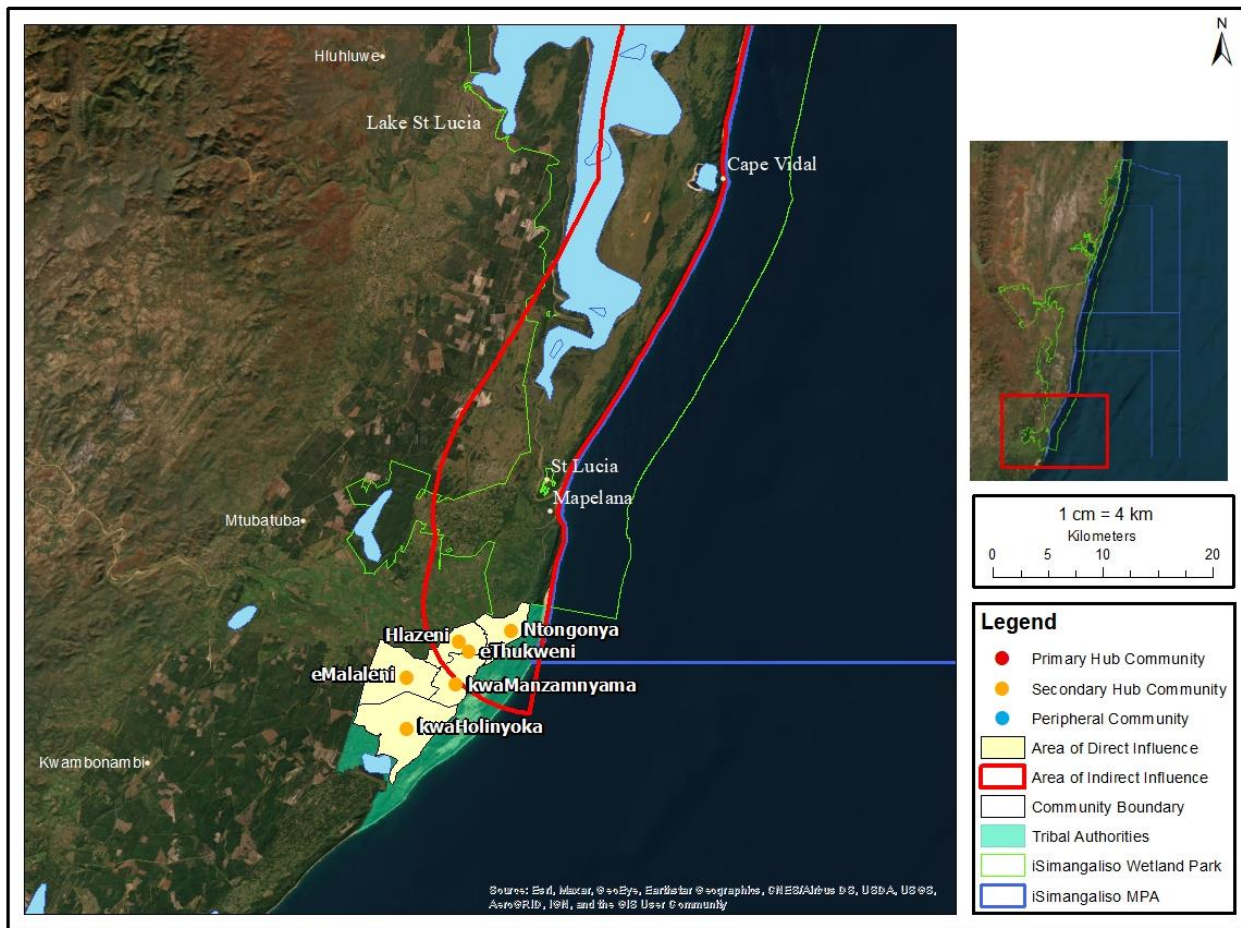


Figure 2b: Map showing the Southern location of the Project and Zones of Direct and Indirect Influence

Table 2: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) included in the project.

MPAs/ management area	other	Country	Improved management/ expansion?	new/ new/	Core area km ²	Buffer zone km ²
iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area		South Africa	Improved Management		11 635 km ²	
Estuarine Functional Zones of iSimangaliso MPA		South Africa	Improved Management		352 km ²	
Total					11 987 km²	

1.2.4 Preliminary potential access restrictions and related social impacts

There are several project activities that could potentially bring about natural resource access restrictions in this project. These include (1) support for improved MPA management effectiveness, (2) MPA management staff capacity-building, (3) MPA park boundary demarcation, and (4) support for turtle monitoring along the coastline. Details of these project indicators and activities are included in **Table 3** below. Following this in **Figures 3 - 6** are the maps showing where these various project activities could have potential impact on Project Affected Peoples.

Protect activities contributing to involuntary access restrictions.

The following project Indicators and Activities could contribute to access restrictions for PAP's:

Table 3: Project Activities potentially contributing to *involuntary* access restrictions for PAP's

Indicator & Activity	Potential Access Restriction	Extent / Scale of Impact	Duration of Impact	Severity of people affected
Indicator 1.2: MPA Management Effectiveness (Figure 3) Improved MPA managements effectiveness through implementation of measures stipulated in MPA Management Plan				
Activities				
1.2.2 Marine and estuarine enforcement and monitoring support Purchase of vehicles (bakkies and all-terrain light buggies), and support for maintenance and running of one offshore vessel and 4 coastal and 3 estuarine boats (on trailers),and purchase and donation of 10 hand-held radios and 2 radio base stations, four (4) vehicles for towing and launching boats and beach patrols (1 land-cruiser, 2 single-cab 4x4 bakkies (for enforcement officers and field-rangers), 1 double-cab 4x4 bakkie (for Eco-advice)), 2 quad bikes, and 2 all-terrain buggies for patrols, conservation activities and surveys. Conservation Management Infrastructure provision and renovation. Follow-up activity, as 1 offshore boat and 2 quad bikes have already been provided to Ezemvelo, but the provision of additional vehicles is critical because this is a major factor hindering effectiveness.	Permanent loss of access to fishing resulting in livelihood and economic impacts along coastal patrol sites. Permanent loss of access to tourism-related activities at some site also potentially leading to loss of economic earning potential.	Regional	Permanent	Vulnerable groups esp. local subsistence fishers are most affected (<i>Small-scale fishers with permits are legal in some areas, others illegal depending on the zonation</i>).
Indicator 1.3: MPA Management Staff Capacity-building (Figure 4) Improved human capacity for management of the MPA and associated estuaries.				
Activities				
1.3.1 Refresher legal compliance training Provide refresher legal compliance training for MPA and estuarine management staff annually. 1.3.2 Refresher species identification training Provide refresher species identification (fish, sharks and rays, and invertebrates) training for MPA and estuarine management staff annually 1.3.4 Essential skills training of twenty (20) MPA managers and field rangers/ law enforcement personnel, in basic requirements like swim and water confidence 1.3.5 Vessel safety and confidence. Management staff will also be provided with competency and safety skills on vessels and in equipment operation and	This training will mean that patrol officers are better equipped to identify fish and therefore better identify illegal fishing activity in the controlled and restricted zones. Marine LE officers better equipped to enforce legislated restrictions permanent loss of access to fishing resulting in livelihood and economic impacts along coastal patrol sites.	Regional	Permanent	Vulnerable groups esp. local subsistence fishers are most affected (<i>Small-scale fishers with permits are legal in some areas, others illegal depending on the zonation</i>).

<p>maintenance. Additional swim and water confidence training as required (eight (8) officers).</p>				
<p>Indicator 1.4 Park Boundary Demarcation (Figures 5a & 5b) Legal Demarcation of boundaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park is clarified, understood, and communicated to affected communities.</p>				
<p>Activities</p>				
<p>1.4.1 Park Boundary Clarification for MPA communities. 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 demarcation methods (markers) to clarify these on the ground. This will be conducted as part of relationship building activities related to Activity 1.1.1 in year 2 and 3 of the project</p> <p>1.4.2 Boundary demarcation area maps and information dissemination. Develop local area maps (for each 5 Primary Community area 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.</p>	<p>Increased signage and boundary clarification will ensure that boundary information is easily accessible to both illegal and legal resource users making illegal fishing activity in the controlled and restricted zones easily identifiable. This further restricts any subsistence fishers who may have relied on illegal fishing sites for their livelihood.</p>	<p>MPA-wide</p>	<p>Permanent</p>	<p>Communities living inside/on the border of the park boundary (<i>illegal users but involuntary</i>)</p>
<p>Indicator 1.5 Community Co-management and Monitoring (Figure 6) Cost-effective monitoring, control, and enforcement techniques to prevent illegal fishing/use of unsustainable practices are successfully adopted.</p>				
<p>Activities</p>				
<p>1.5.3 Community Turtle monitoring programme. Support implementation of turtle monitoring programme, in collaboration with Mbila and Tembe Tribal Authorities. Follow-up activity, supporting as sustainable finance mechanisms piloted and dependency on donor sources reduces.</p>	<p>Increased monitoring permanently reduces opportunity for turtle poaching and could cause economic and livelihood impacts on illegal turtle poachers.</p>	<p>Project area only</p>	<p>For the duration of the project</p>	<p>Turtle poachers (<i>illegal users</i>)</p>

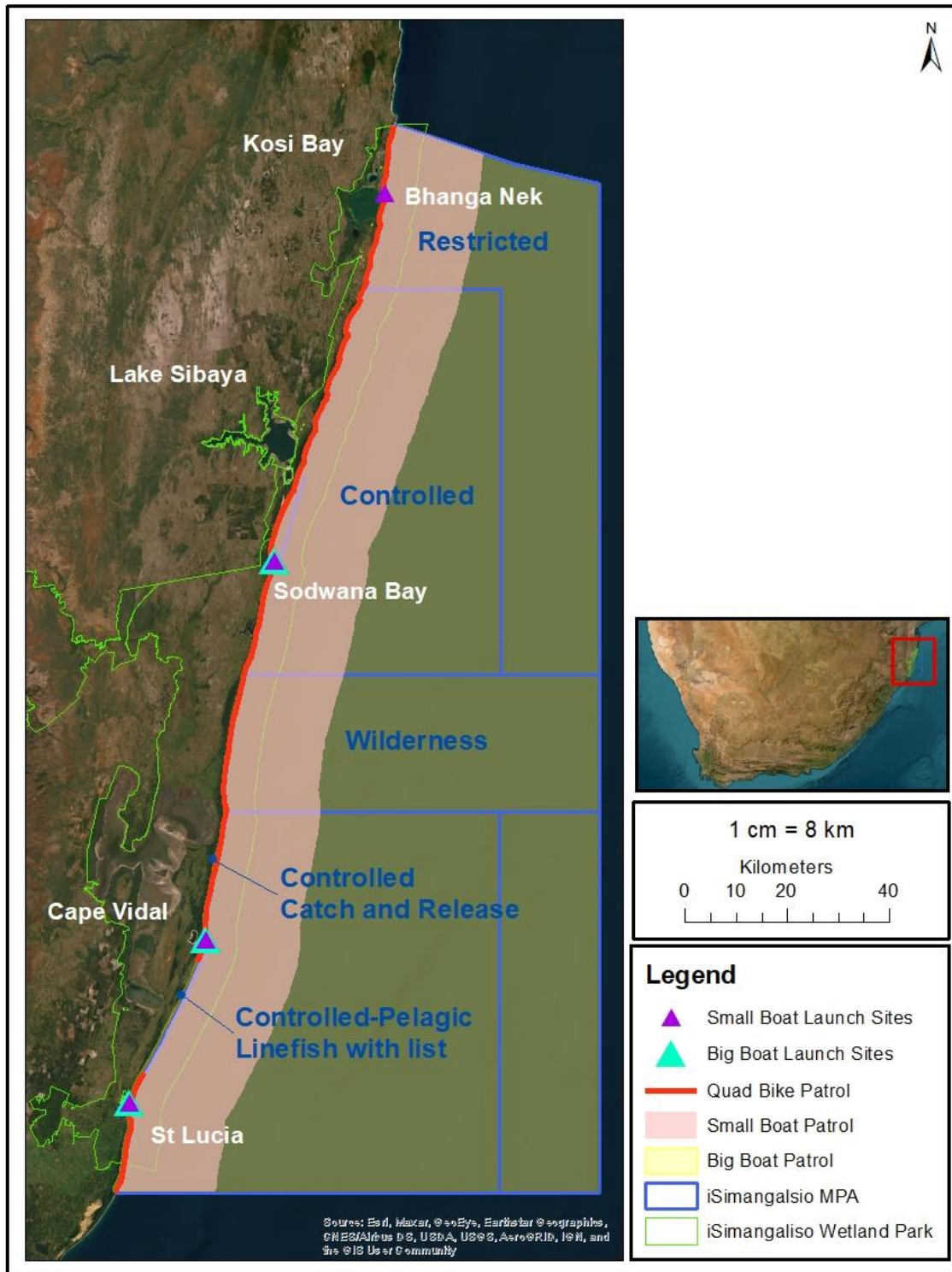


Figure 3: Activity 1.2.2 indicating where the marine and estuarine enforcement and monitoring will be taking place.

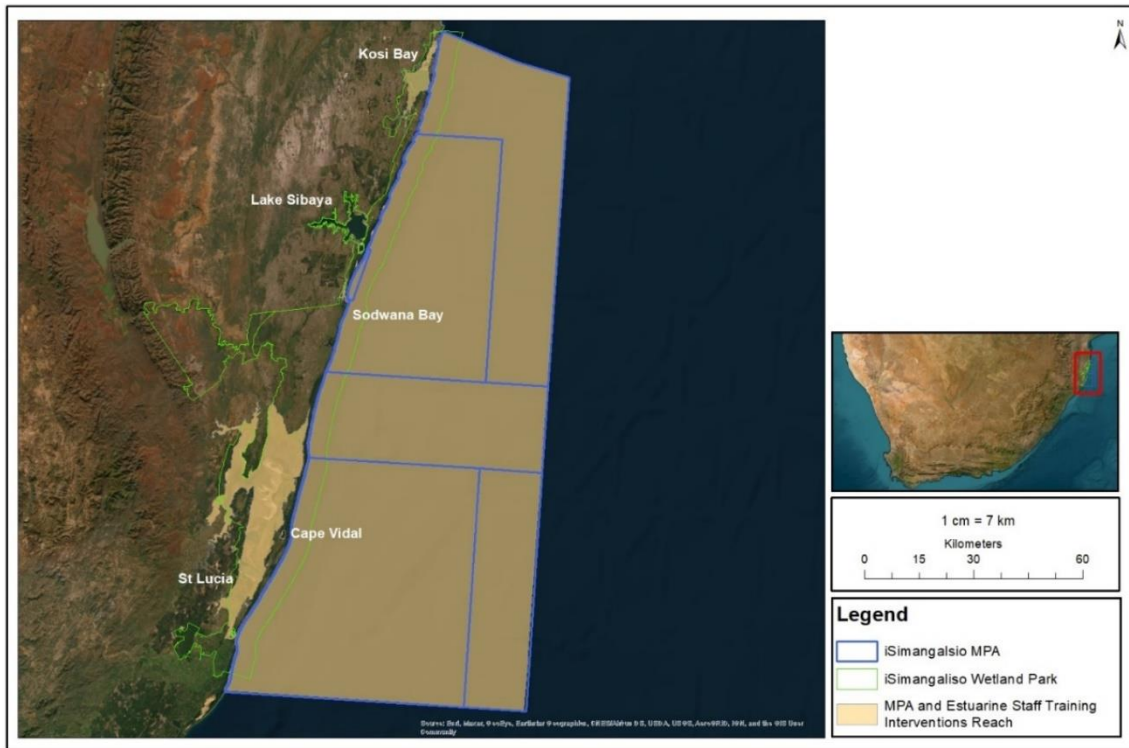


Figure 4: The area of impact of MPA Management Staff Capacity-building (*Activity 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and Activity 1.3.3, 1.3.4*)

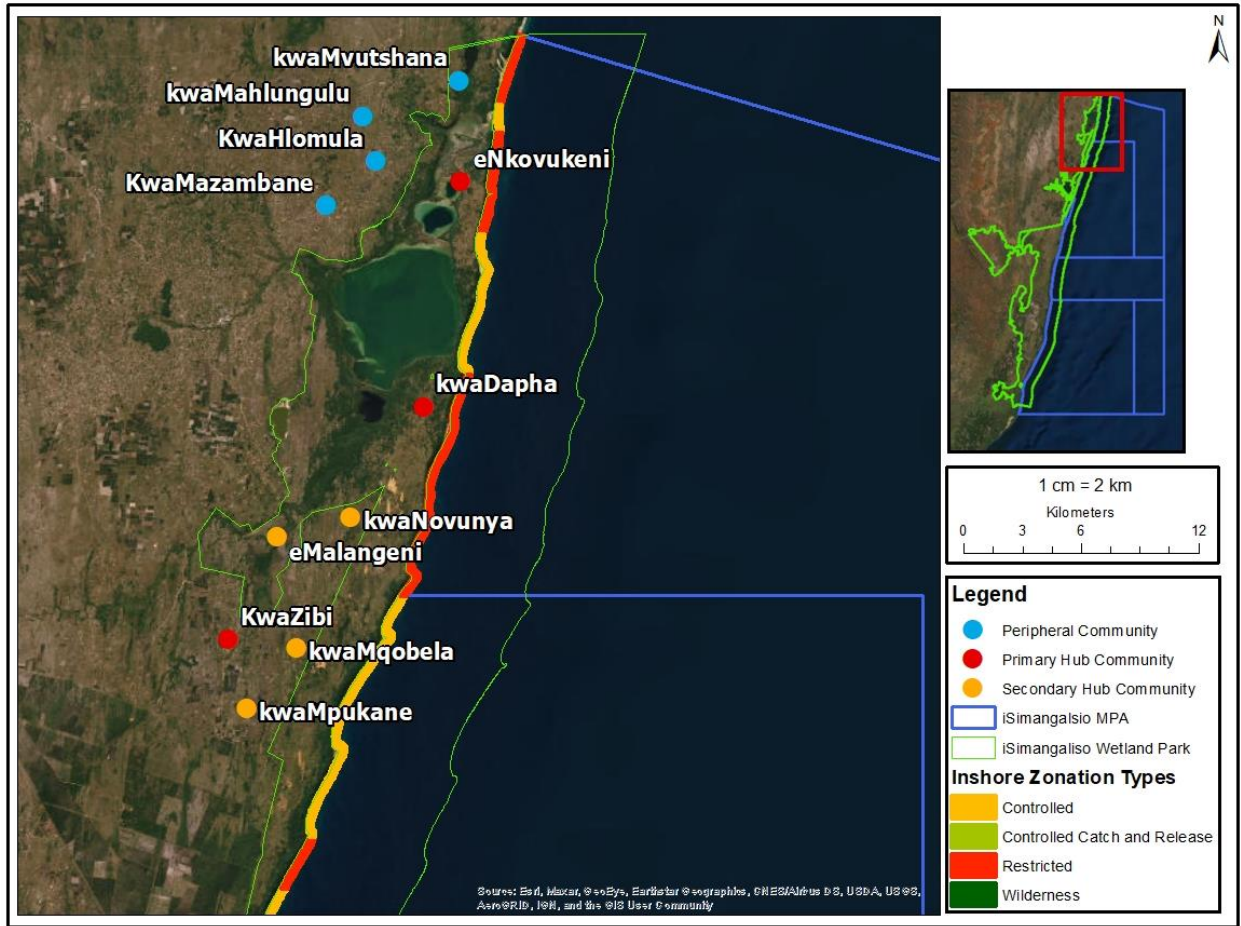


Figure 5a (North): Activity 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 indicating the Park boundaries and zonation's to be developed into demarcation area maps and disseminated to affected communities and stakeholders.

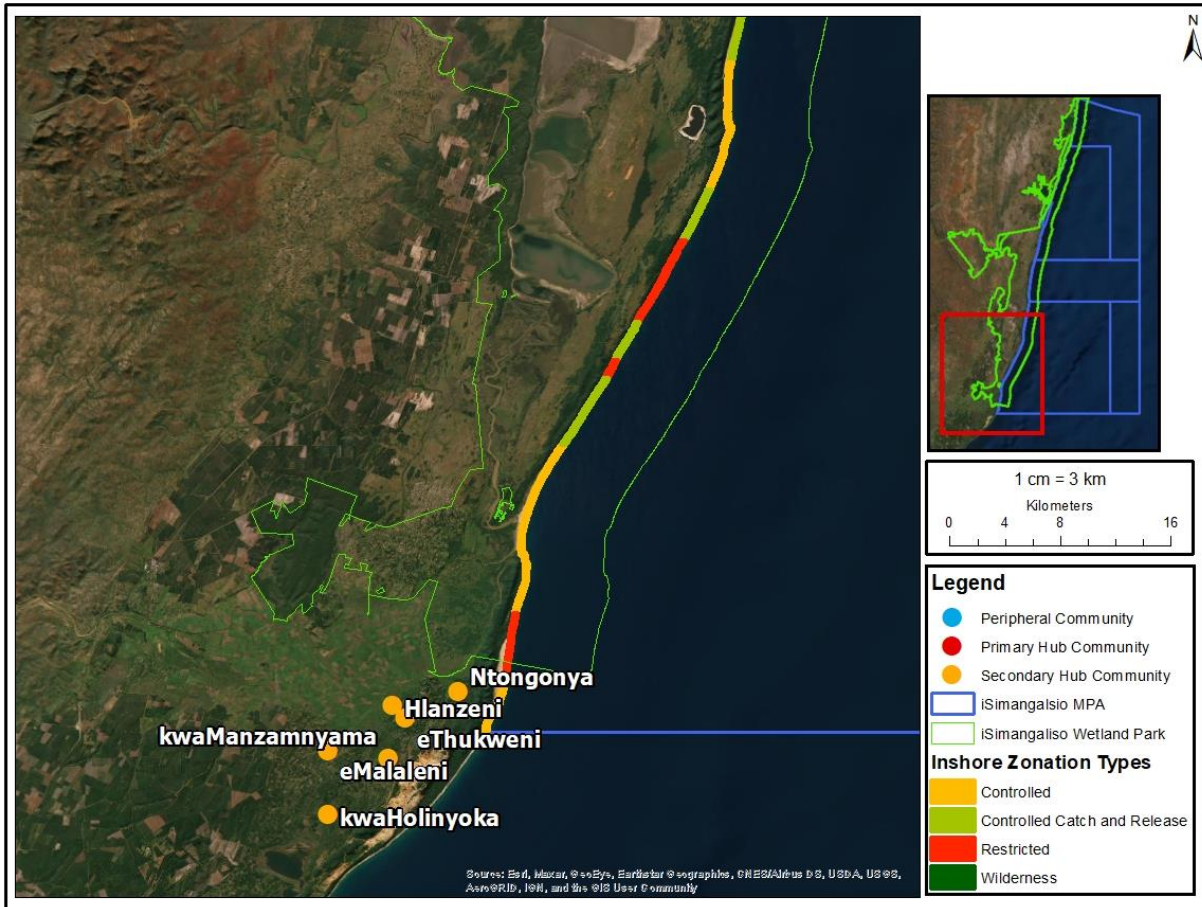


Figure 5b (South): Activity 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 indicating the Park boundaries and zonation's to be developed into demarcation area maps and disseminated to affected communities and stakeholders.

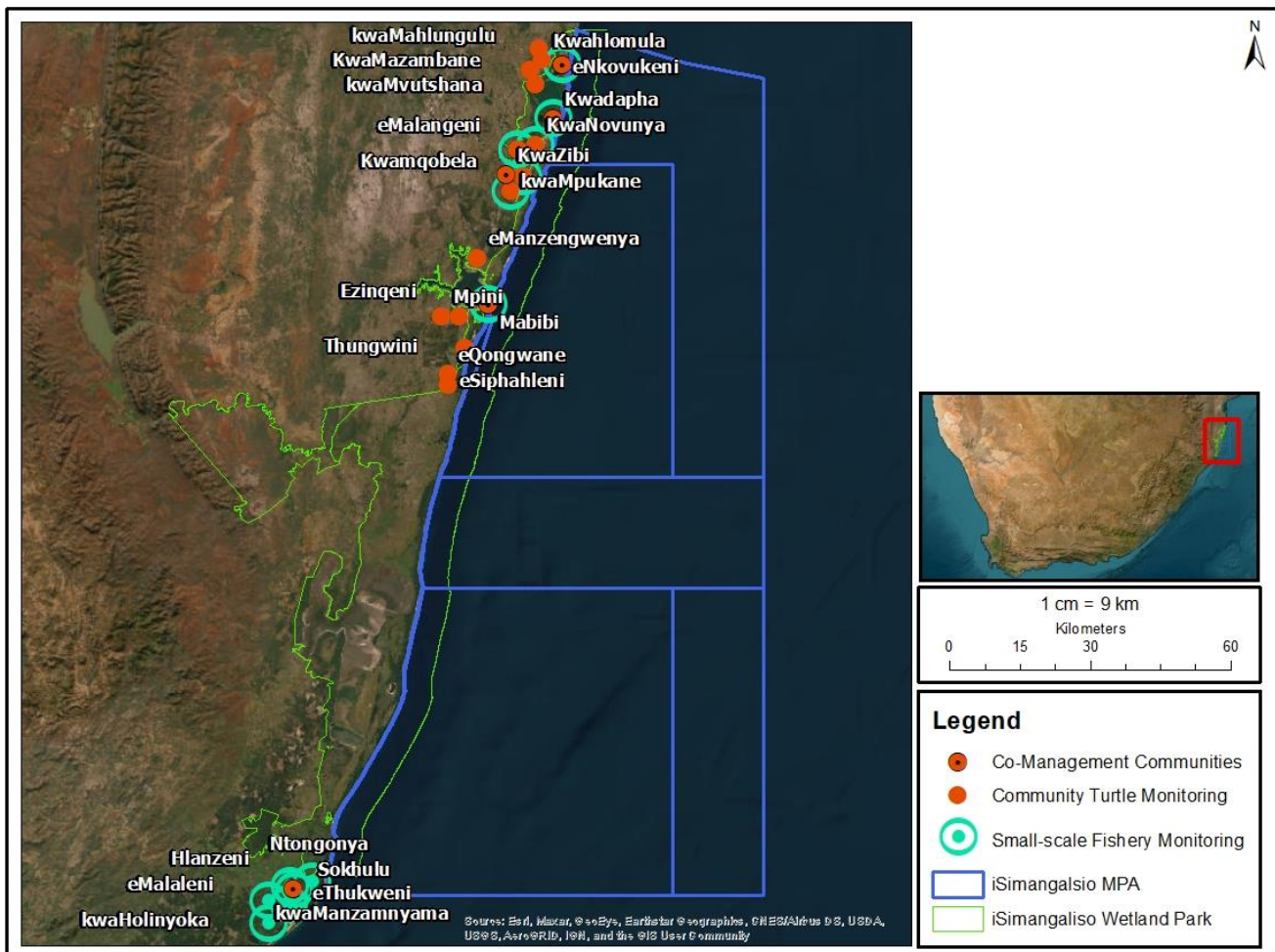


Figure 6: Activity 1.5.3 indicating the Community Turtle monitoring programme in collaboration with Mbila and Tembe Tribal Authorities.

1.3 Process Framework Structure

The structure of this Preliminary Process Framework (PF) includes the following:

1. Introduction

Project background and PF Introduction

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

This section includes the identification and analysis of project stakeholders and a discussion of stakeholder engagement activities to date. This section also sets out the

Project forms of engagement throughout the development of the PF to ensure a participatory process, and how this will be documented.

3. Institutional and Legal Framework

This section outlines laws, policies, and other national legislation aspects most relevant to access restrictions. This includes environmental and planning laws relevant to potential project impacts. Relevant World Bank and KfW requirements and other international best practices are also discussed in detail. National laws are compared against World Bank and KfW requirements. Where gaps are identified, measures are proposed to bridge these gaps.

4. Project Area Baseline Data Collection & Analysis

An analysis of secondary information available on the project Area, as well as the baseline data collected during any primary data gathering, such as socio-economic surveys.

5. Identifying, Assessing and Minimizing Impacts

Based on the stakeholder engagement and baseline data analysis, and a description of the measures that are being proposed by the project, identification of the resulting potential impacts that could result from the project's various components. Include measures taken to avoid or minimize impacts through project design.

6. Mitigation Measures

A description of proposed mitigation measures, including livelihood programs, and potential eligibility criteria and an entitlement matrix.

7. Implementation Arrangements

This section outlines implementation arrangements to deliver identified mitigation measures and programs, including:

- *The organizational framework*
- *Capacity building requirements*
- *Development of supplementary social safeguards (where relevant)*
- *Project Schedule*

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Details of required process framework monitoring and evaluation requirements, including provision for participatory M&E (e.g. community monitoring)

9. Change Management

A record of the various PF iterations, and how project decisions will guide the content and timing of further iterations.

Although presented as linear steps, in reality, many of these processes will be iterative. Or it may be that one of the steps advances rapidly, while another progresses more slowly.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

In discussing Stakeholder Engagement, this PF will include subsections on:

- Stakeholder Engagement Objectives and Principles
- Stakeholder Identification & Analysis
- Stakeholder Engagement to Date (including any agreements reached)
- Engagement Methodologies & Forums
- Future/ongoing Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism
- Record Keeping & Monitoring
- Grievance Mechanisms.

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement Objectives and Principles

This section will briefly describe the objectives and principles of the Stakeholder Engagement Process.

2.1.1 Stakeholder Engagement Objectives

It is important to manage stakeholder expectations, ensuring expectations are realistic, and avoiding potential frustrations of project-affected people at later stages of the project implementation. As such the Stakeholder Engagement objectives of the project 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, these objectives 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.

2.1.2 Stakeholder Engagement Principles

Eight key principles were identified for best practice stakeholder engagement. These principles have been developed with the intention of promoting best practice stakeholder engagement for optimal outcomes for nature and people:

1. Ensure staff provide supportive and facilitative leadership based on transparency.
2. Foster a safe & trusting environment to enable stakeholders to provide input.
3. Ensure stakeholders early involvement, with clear expectations.
4. Share decision-making and governance control with key stakeholders.
5. Acknowledge and address stakeholders' experiences of power imbalances.
6. Invest in stakeholders who feel they lack the skills and confidence to engage.
7. Create tangible wins and continuous feedback.
8. Take into account stakeholders' motivations.

Through the active implementation of these principles the project aims to ensure inclusion, mainstreaming community considerations, respecting human rights, and ensuring participation and consent (e.g., open and transparent engagement mechanisms, trust and mutual commitment, inclusive and accessible participation methods).

2.2 Stakeholder Identification & Analysis

This section provides an initial identification and analysis of potential stakeholders relevant to the project, including disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.

2.2.1 Stakeholder Identification

WILDTRUST and the ESA consultants conducted a stakeholder identification exercise which is summarised here. Stakeholders within the Project Area (**Figure 2**) have been identified and included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan register (**ESMP, Annex A.1**). Stakeholders were grouped for the analysis, and include:

- **WILDTRUST project staff**
- **Collaborating Authorities and Partners:** DFFE, iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)
- **Project Livelihood Sub-grantees:** Mahlathini Development Foundation, Africa Ignite!, and Indalo Inclusive

- **Sub-grantees:** South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
- **Local & other Authorities:** Traditional Leadership (Amakhosi and iziNduna), National COGTA, South African Heritage Research Agency (SAHRA), AMAFA Institute, KZN EDTEA, KZN DARD, Tourism KZN, District Municipalities (uMkhanyakude and King Cetshwayo District Municipalities) uMhlosinga Development Agency, Local Municipalities (uMhlabuyalingana, Jozini, Big 5 Hlabisa, Mtubatuba, uMfolozi)
- **Law Enforcement and Security:** Local magistrates, SAPS Marine Unit, SA Navy
- **Research and Monitoring Organisations:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR).
- **Rural communities:** Communities, led by Traditional Authorities, within the direct (and partial/indirect) influence of the project, vulnerable/ marginalized groups (women, youth and people with disabilities; and subsistence and small-scale fishers. (See **Box 1** for the list of partner communities).
- **Recreational Users of iSimangaliso MPA:** Recreational Fishers/ Boating Clubs, Tourists, Scuba-Diving individuals
- **Commercial users of iSimangaliso MPA:** Tourism operators inside MPA, Commercial line fishing Operations (offshore) – illegal, SCUBA Diving Concessionaires, Boat charters, Small scale fishers (co-operatives)
- **Civil Society Organisations, Local NGOs and Business Interests:** Media, Private Property Owners/ Developers, Commercialisation investors, Ratepayers/ residents, Conservation NGOs, Ecological / Human Rights Activist Groups, Friends of Small-scale Fishers

Box 1: Rural communities supported by the project

<p>Primary and Secondary Communities</p> <p><u>Tembe Traditional Authority:</u> eNkovukeni, kwaDapha, eMalangeni, kwaNovunya, kwaZibi, kwaMqobela, kwaMpukane, Mabibi</p> <p><u>Sokhulu Traditional Authority:</u> eHlawini, eHlanzeni, kwaNtongonya, eThukweni, eMalaleni, kwaManzamnyama, kwaHolinyoka</p> <p>Peripheral Communities</p> <p><u>Tembe Traditional Authority:</u> kwaMvutshane, kwaMahlungulu, kwaHlomula, kwaMazambane, eManzengwenya</p> <p><u>Mbila Traditional Authority:</u> Ezinqeni, eMpini, eQondwane, eSiphahleni, Thungwini</p>

2.2.2 Stakeholder Analysis

A detailed Stakeholder analysis is found in **ESMP, Annex A.1** and accounts for the project impact on the stakeholder, interest, and influence, and includes an analysis of the role of that stakeholder in the project and in relation to access restrictions. A diagrammatic representation of this analysis is indicated in **Figure 7** below.

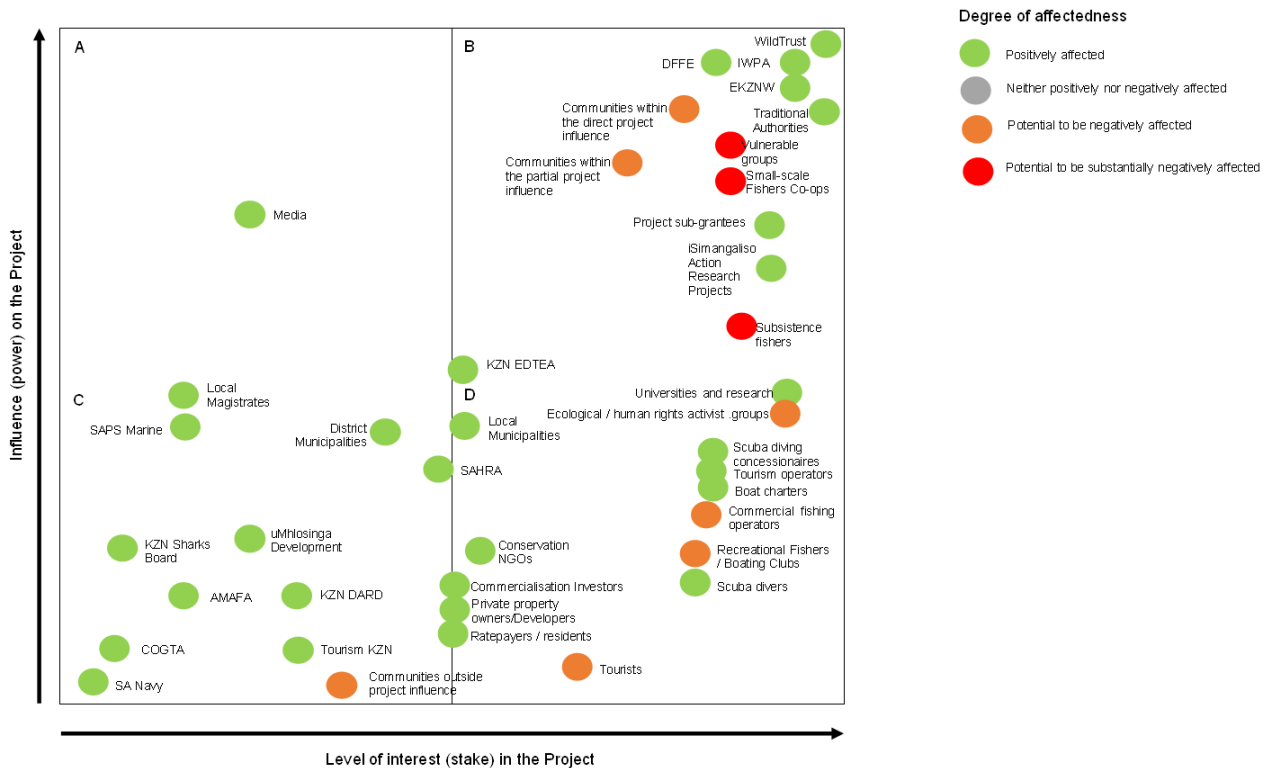


Figure 7: iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project Stakeholder Analysis

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement to Date (including any agreements reached)

This section provides a summary of the previous stakeholder engagement activities and analyses the outcomes.

National legislated stakeholder engagement

In 2014, South Africa embarked on the Phakisa Oceans Economy initiative aimed at unlocking economic development in South Africa's Oceans space. This focused on the need to develop an integrated ocean governance plan and identified that in order to sustainably manage growth within the ocean environment the conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity also had to be considered through a representative network of marine protected areas. The offshore priority

areas identified by Sink *et al.* (2011) and Harris *et al.* (2012) provided the basis for a proposed expanded MPA network. The Operation Phakisa thus proposed a network of 22 new and expanded MPAs (including the Addo Elephant MPA which had already been submitted to the Minister for consideration). These proposed MPAs were gazetted for public comment in February 2016 (Operation Phakisa 2014; Government Gazette No. 39646 of 3 February 2016). After the mandated stakeholder engagement and the public participation process, 20 of the 22 proposed MPAs defined in the Operation Phakisa process were finally declared on the 23 May 2019; the iSimangaliso MPA was one of these 20 MPAs.

According to the mandated South African legislation, the objectives of the Stakeholder engagement process are to:

- Create a channel for the accurate and timely dissemination of information to interested and affected stakeholders;
- create the opportunity for communication between EKZNW/IWPA and the public;
- promote opportunities for the building of understanding between different parties; and
- provide the opportunity for stakeholders to give meaningful input into the decision-making processes that drive the development of the MPA Management Plan

And the stakeholder engagement process must include the following:

- Notification of stakeholders of the engagement processes through appropriate mechanisms.
- Initial registration of all stakeholders.
- A process that accommodates the registration of additional individuals who at a later stage wish to participate in the process, to ensure that the process is as inclusive as possible.
- The inclusion of any persons having direct or indirect interest or rights in the iSimangaliso MPA as a stakeholder.
- The stakeholder engagement process should facilitate the establishment of a representative iSimangaliso MPA Stakeholder Forum which, together with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) and iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (IWPA) should guide the governance arrangements for the MPA.

Ocean's Alive Project stakeholder engagement

The following key engagement activities have occurred:

- Engagement with community, government, scientific, and NGO project partners in the design and implementation of the project.
- Engagement with community leadership (Traditional Authorities), and community members in the Northern parts of the park which has included consultations on project activities, information sharing, and feedback on the project's social baseline survey (detailed below).
- Various project meetings with key stakeholders and or project partners on different components/activities of the project, such as the hiking trail development; sustainable financing mechanism development; and ecological surveys.
- Project partners meetings and project team meetings on a quarterly and monthly basis respectively to discuss project progress, challenges and plans including introducing new team members or partners/stakeholders.
- Grievance mechanism briefings for all Oceans Alive project staff including YES interns and all the nine communities' part of the Oceans Alive project.
- Hosting of the project's donor, Blue Action Fund, where we undertook sites visits to the project area.
- Oceans Alive Project Social Baseline Summary: 202 households were surveyed by external researchers from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) covering the Oceans Alive community intervention project areas including: KwaDapha, eMalangeni, KwaNovunya, eNkovukeni, kwaMabibi, kwaMqobela, KwaZibi, eMpukane, and KwaMvutshanai.
- Oceans Alive follow-up social research to inform the Process Framework: Focus groups were conducted by a UKZN researcher, face to face in isiZulu, in the same nine project communities, including both male and female participants. Recreational and commercial user stakeholder focus groups were also conducted by external consultants reaching park authorities, research groups, anglers and tourism operators.
- Community resource hub opening events at Mabibi and KwaDapha, equipment handover events with project partners and various other activity-linked events.
- Various capacity building workshops and briefings for project staff and beneficiaries (including COVID safety briefings).
- Various awareness events at hubs and schools linked to ocean awareness, environmental education and days on the environmental calendar.

- Various forums and symposia including the regional turtle research & monitoring network workshops and the Marine Protected Area Forum.

Past and planned Stakeholder Engagement is detailed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (**Annex A.1**). Based on the stakeholder engagement plan, a schedule will be developed and updated on a quarterly basis in order to meet the objectives of the Process Framework's safeguards identified.

Legacy issues in iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Legacy issues in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park include:

- A legacy of apartheid and dispossession, land evictions, control over land and livelihoods, perceptions of 'fences and fines' approach to conservation, and no delivery of benefits. The current status of land claims in the park will be expanded on in the Interim PF.
- In the past limited communication and engagement with communities by iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (IWPA) has had a negative impact on the relationship between the park and communities. While this is improving, there is still a lot of work to be done to mend past grievances.
- Community members viewed MPAs to be under the influence of "whites"; control of the use of nature, is associated with the dominance of whiteness and the legacy of apartheid.
- The social baseline study found that 5% of the households felt strongly that the role of IWPA is to bully people, to oppress people, abuse communities, impose restrictions (cutting of trees, gill net, fishing) on their land, and evict people from their land.

However, the social baseline also revealed that:

- There are communities that reflected positively about MPAs stating that it helps to conserve nature, protects animals, protects the ecosystem and marine environment, and keep the marine environment clean.
- People believed that MPAs have economic benefits stating that it attracts and is accessed by tourists, it creates job opportunities for local communities and that it supports and creates economic growth in the area.

2.4 Engagement Methodologies & Forums

Table 4, details the preliminary engagement methodologies and forums that have been identified for future stakeholder engagement for the project:

Table 4: Stakeholder Engagement Methodologies

Stakeholder Group	SE Methodologies
Project Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in-person meetings • Field trips • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
Collaborating Authorities and Partners: DFFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in person partner meetings. • Regional WIO Workshop • High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
Collaborating Authorities and Partners: iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in person partner meetings. • Partnership-building and Dialogue Process • Trust in Action Dialogue Workshops • MPA, Estuary and Catchment Stakeholder Forum • Park boundary clarification field visits and workshops • Regional WIO Workshop • High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
Project Livelihood Sub-grantees: Mahlathini Development Foundation, Africa Ignite!, and Indalo Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in person meetings. • Joint site visits • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
Sub-grantees: South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in person meetings. • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
Local & other Authorities: Traditional Leadership (Amakhosi and iziNduna), National COGTA, South African Heritage Research Agency (SAHRA), AMAFA Institute, KZN EDTEA, KZN DARD, Tourism KZN, District Municipalities (uMkhanyakude and King Cetshwayo District Municipalities) uMhlosinga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops • Traditional Authority Counsel presentations • Online and in person meetings • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned

<p>Development Agency, Local Municipalities (uMhlabuyalingana, Jozini, Big 5 Hlabisa, Mtubatuba, uMfolozi)</p>	
<p>Law Enforcement and Security: Local magistrates, SAPS Marine Unit, SA Navy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
<p>Research and Monitoring Organisations & NGO's: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR), KZN Sharks Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional WIO Workshop • High-level Strategy and Policy Planning Workshops • Small-scale Fisheries Reference Group (for organisations working in this space) • Emails • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
<p>Rural communities: Communities within the direct (and partial/indirect) influence of the project and outside the sphere of influence, and vulnerable/ marginalized groups (women, youth and people with disabilities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public community meetings • Focus Group Discussions • Perception Surveys • Women's group training and peer support groups • Gender assessments • Community notice boards • Info sheets • Radio, print and social media • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
<p>Fishers: Subsistence and small-scale fishers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale Fishers' National Meetings Attendance • Focus Groups • Info sheets • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
<p>Recreational Users of iSimangaliso MPA: Recreational Fishers/ Boating Clubs, Tourists, Scuba-Diving individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in person meetings / workshops • Emails • Radio, print and social media • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
<p>Commercial users of iSimangaliso MPA: Tourism operators inside MPA, Commercial line fishing Operations (offshore) – illegal, SCUBA Diving Concessionaires, Boat charters, Small scale fishers (co-operatives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and in person meetings / workshops • Emails • Radio, print and social media • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned

<p>Civil Society Organisations, Local NGOs and Business Interests: Media, Private Property Owners/ Developers, Commercialisation investors, Ratepayers/ residents, Conservation NGOs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Radio, print and social media • Media Hosting • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned
<p>Civil Society Organisations, Local NGOs and Business Interests: Ecological / Human Rights Activist Groups, Friends of Small-scale Fishers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale Fisheries Reference Group • Workshops, webinar series and publication of EbA MPA lessons learned

2.5 Future Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism

This section summarises the strategy for future stakeholder engagement, including:

- An overview of future engagement planning and overall associated engagement activities per project phase.
- Information disclosure and disseminations strategy.
- Meaningful consultation strategy based on prior disclosure of relevant and easily accessible information of the project.
- Participatory planning and how the participation of affected groups and their legitimate representatives will be achieved throughout the planning, implementation, and monitoring, and evaluation process.

Overview of future engagement planning

Prior to Project Inception

- Safeguards Disclosure Process (detailed below)
- Ongoing engagement with park authorities and project partners around the proposal development.
- Stakeholder engagement required for the Security Risk Assessment

Inception Phase

- Press release to print, online and broadcast media and social media posts on the project launch.
- Project team and partners introductory meetings to plan priority activities in the Inception Phase.
- Project introductory meetings with national and local authorities, park authorities, and other key stakeholders (collective and individual).
- Project introductory meetings with community leadership, designated community representatives, small scale fishers and other vulnerable groups including disclosure of

final project activities, planned implementations and consultations on the beneficiation strategy.

- Project introductory meetings for community members at existing hub sites and other venues in new project communities.
- Information sharing about the project with remaining stakeholders.
- ESMS training workshops for staff and partners (including training in best practice stakeholder engagement).
- Project social baselines development and implementation at community sites.
- YES Youth recruitment strategy planning with community representatives.

Implementation Phase

- To be detailed in the Interim Process Framework but focused on maintenance of relationships with stakeholders.

Information disclosure and disseminations strategy

Information disclosure will be done in line with the stakeholder engagement principles detailed in **Section 2.1.2**, and the WILDTRUSTs *draft* Best Practice Community Stakeholder Engagement Principles and Participatory Recommendations appended to this PPF (**Annex C.2**), ensuring that as a foundation, the project staff provide supporting and facilitative leadership when engaging with partners; based on integrity, transparency, and respect.

Meaningful consultation strategy

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (**Annex A** of the **ESMP**) provides more detail of the Projects approach to meaningful consultation, particularly **Section 2**, as well as **Annex A.1, Tab 1.1**.

Participatory planning

Participatory planning will be promoted by:

- Giving affected stakeholders opportunities to review, input, and influence project design and management. This has been done through consultations in the project's proposal development and will be done in future through regular feedback on the project activities, with the project teams soliciting input in a way that encourages inclusivity, and supports the participation of vulnerable groups.

- Engaging stakeholders in decision making where the decisions affect the stakeholder e.g. the hub sites are selected by the local Induna/s. This is however more restricted with regards MPA management decision making where the legislation is already in place. Here the Project has included various activities that both empower key stakeholders, particularly community members and vulnerable groups, to engage more effectively, and provides platforms for them to do so, while also promoting more inclusive, robust legislated processes.
- Developing user friendly, culturally appropriate disclosure mechanisms with opportunity for stakeholders to input. Our ESMS community consultants lead the disclosure process, so the feedback is objective and transparent.
- By ensuring that participation is accessible and socially and culturally appropriate through employment of the right people for the task and building capacity where needed, particularly at a community level; translating relevant material into local language; and using communication methods that account for varying levels of understanding of the subject.

2.6 Documentation of Participatory Processes and Agreements

The flowchart in **Figure 8** below indicates the participatory assessment and planning methods and approaches the project will follow for the MPA Management Plan development.

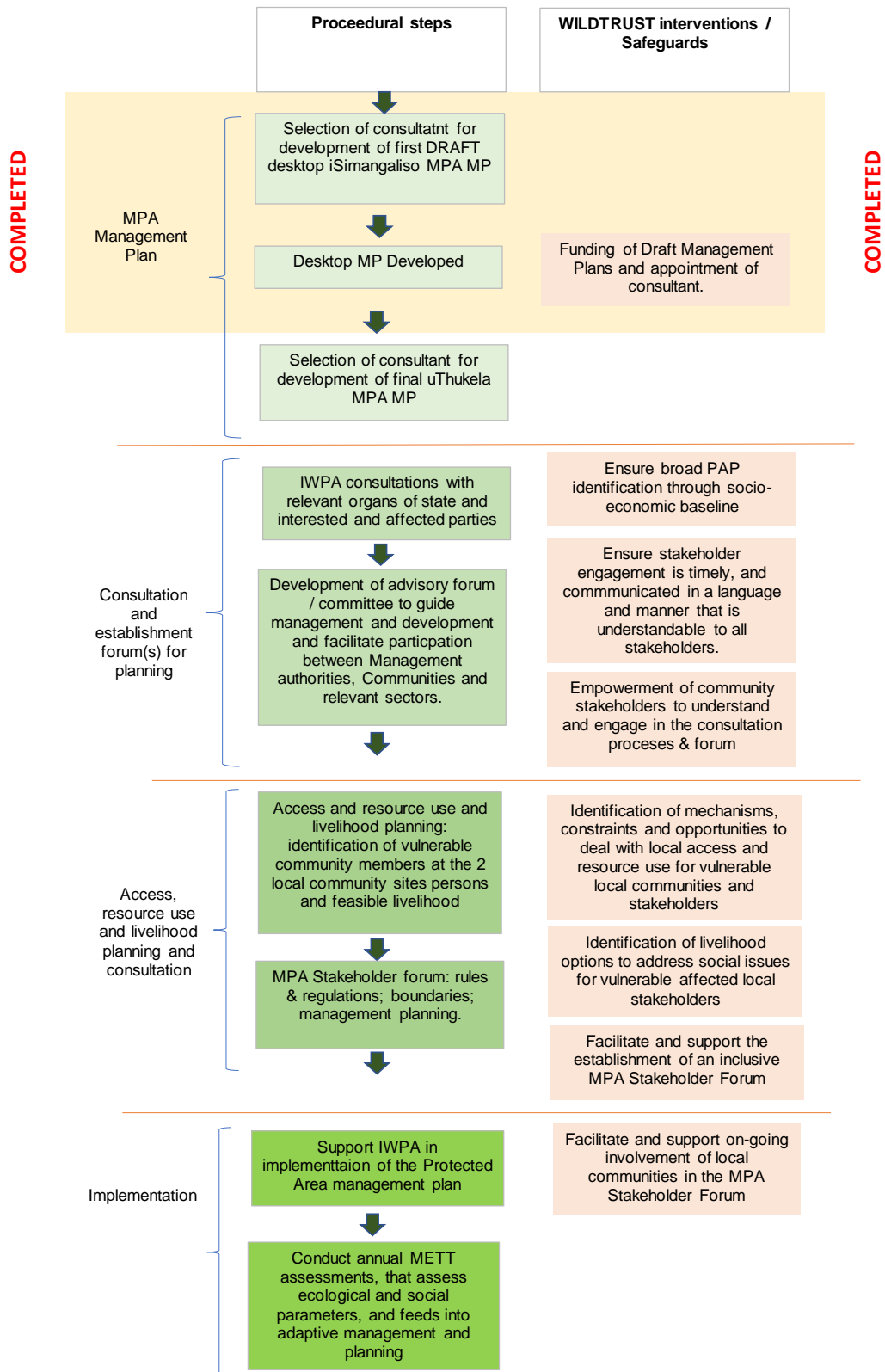


Figure 8: Process for the MPA management plan development

2.7 Record Keeping & Monitoring

All stakeholder engagement activities will be registered in the stakeholder engagement register, **Annex A.1**. This includes a summary of the number of participants (disaggregated by gender), issues discussed, and information disclosed, outcomes (including issues raised by stakeholders), follow-up actions, and status of these actions. All meetings will be documented with notes for the record. Monitoring indicators related to stakeholder engagement are included in the project ESMP.

2.8 Grievance Mechanisms

A project level Grievance Mechanism has been designed (**Annex B** of the ESMP). This Grievance Mechanism is accessible to all PAPs. Furthermore, the project will work with IWPA to develop an MPA-level Grievance Mechanism to receive and resolve those grievances that are within IWPA and EKZNW's mandate.

3. Institutional & Legal Framework

This section of the PF summarises the Institutional & Legal Framework and includes a preliminary Legal Gap Analysis of national and international laws and standards.

The Institutional & Legal Framework Section includes distinct subsections on:

- The Institutional Framework
- The Legal Framework
- A Legal Gap Analysis of national and international laws and standards.

3.1 Institutional Framework

Environmental Governance Structures

Management of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site (which includes the iSimangaliso MPA), management has been delegated to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority as per NEM:PAA section 38(1). The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (IWPA) is established under the Regulations proclaiming the World Heritage Site and is statutorily authorised to make conservation and management decisions. The IWPA is responsible for the operations of the IWP and must ensure the environmental and cultural protection of the Park and that the values of the World Heritage Convention are respected including managing tourism, creating jobs, and implementing the Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The IWPA reports directly to the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW), is contracted by IWPA to undertake day to day conservation management, policing and enforcement of the regulations, and generally promoting compliance and operates as its service provider. The KZN Tourism Authority is contracted to assist the IWPA with tourism marketing. In addition, the IWPA also has a mandate to enter into co-operative governance agreements with a range of institutions across all spheres of government, including local government, to fulfil its core functions. The rights and duties of the iSimangaliso Authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the KZN Tourism Authority, with respect to the management and development of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park are regulated through legislation and have been further elaborated through a management agreement signed in August 2001 by these parties. The agreement specifies that the parties will co-operate in meeting Park management objectives.

Municipal & Land Governance

Municipal and land governance occurs within a framework of governance that has international, trans-regional, national and local scales.

South Africa is governed by wall-to-wall district municipalities, which form the 'local' authority of the three spheres of government: national, provincial and local government. District municipalities are comprised of local municipalities, which govern and fulfil their mandates at the closest interface with citizens and hence are important to the WILDTRUST project.

The administration and governance of land in KwaZulu-Natal is not the responsibility of the municipal governance system alone. The Ingonyama Trust holds 32% of land in KwaZulu-Natal, an area of 28,000 square kilometres. Trust land vests in the Ingonyama, King Misuzulu, as a trustee on behalf of the members of the Zulu nation. The study sites where project activities will be implemented are located predominantly on Ingonyama Trust Land.

The Trust is administered for the benefit, material welfare and social wellbeing of the members of the tribes and communities. The Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act 42 of 2003 (Amended Act 23 of 2009) (TLGFA) guides the allocation and use of land in traditional authority areas. The TLGFA provides for the establishment of traditional councils and the recognition of traditional communities and traditional leaders (Sim et al., 2018). The *amakosi* and *izinduna* are responsible for land allocation, and social cohesion, addressing social conflict and ensuring the development of their people.

The relationship between district and local municipalities and the traditional authority, in terms of governance and roles and responsibilities, is outlined in **Figure 9**.

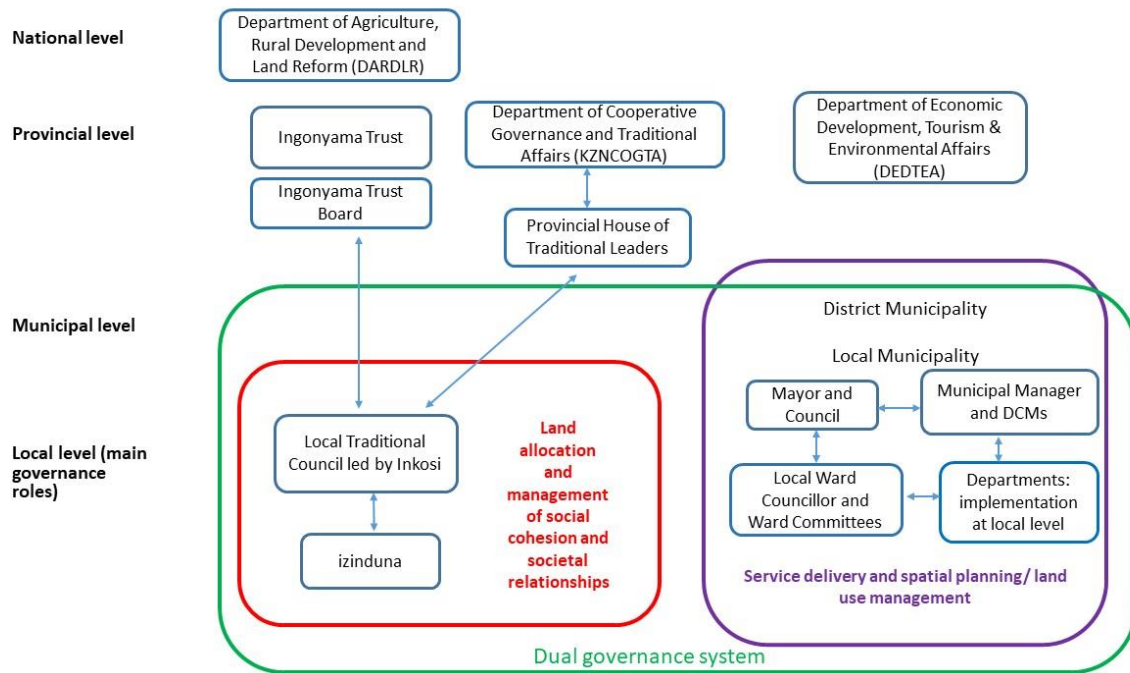


Figure 9: The relationship between district and local municipalities and the traditional authority, in terms of governance and roles and responsibilities in the IWP context.

3.2 Legal Framework

The marine environment is the responsibility of **National Government (DFFE)**, which is responsible for controlling access and use of associated resources. Environmental governance in the coastal zone is much more complex, with multiple laws and actors at different scales responsible for managing natural, built and human environments in coastal areas. **Figure 10** presents a summary of the 'layers' of legislation that impose various regulatory and management requirements in estuaries and other parts of the coastal zone. The diagram shows at least 16 different national and provincial statutes that mandate different national, provincial and local government entities to perform specific regulatory and / or management functions in estuary zones. In addition to national and provincial statutes, local government is responsible for preparing Integrated Development Plans, Spatial Development Frameworks and Local Area Plans (and associated policies and by-laws) that regulate development in and adjacent to coastal areas in response to identified environmental threats and priorities.

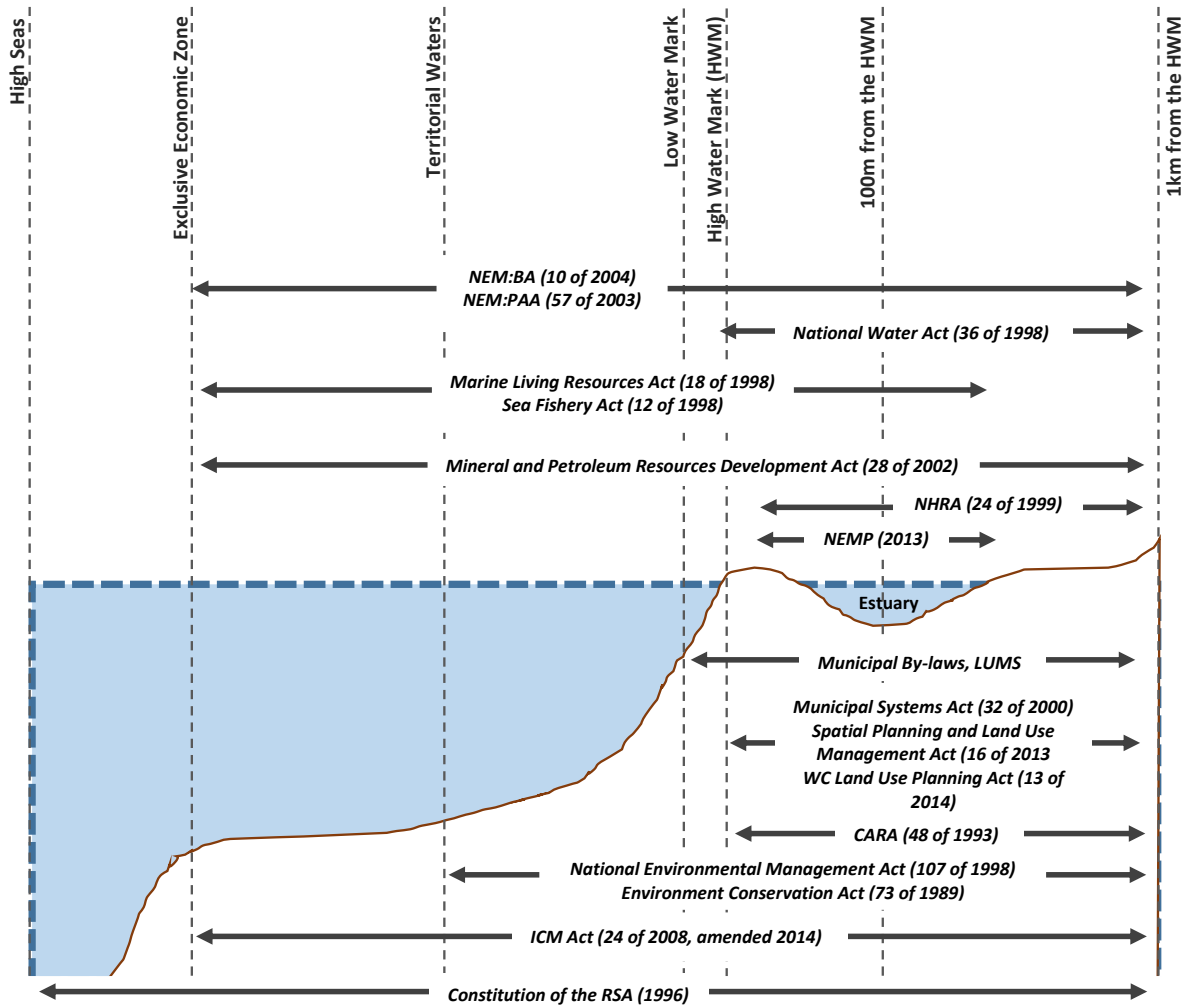


Figure 10: Summary of Legislative Jurisdiction in the Coastal Zone (from Western Cape Government, 2019, originally adapted from Goble et al. 2014)

International Requirements

International laws and agreements as well as National Acts and Policies underpin the proclamation of Marine Protected Areas and direct the planning and operational management activities in the MPA. Section 41 of the NEMA: PAA requires that management plans be located within the context of a Coordinated Policy Framework. The legislative instruments outlined below provide the policy framework for Management Planning in the marine environment.

Global Legal Instruments

- *The United Nations Law of the Sea* is a binding agreement which provides a comprehensive framework for the governance of the oceans and their resources. States have a general obligation to protect and preserve their marine environment. Coastal States can, with the consent of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and without hampering the freedom of navigation of foreign vessels, adopt special measures to reduce the risk of ship-based pollution in specific designated areas.
- *The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973)* and its 1978 Protocol together known as MARPOL 73/78) is the principal IMO treaty dealing with the threat of pollution from ships. In 1991 the IMO Assembly adopted Resolution A.720 (17), which allowed for the designation of *Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)*.
- *The Convention on Biological Diversity* requires States to establish a system of protected areas, to develop, guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas and to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity* is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- South Africa is signatory to the *World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation (2002)* and is thereby committed to establishing and implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) in the country by 2010.
- *The 2003 World Parks Congress* set specific goals as to the extent of effectively managed, representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas.
- *The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* which South Africa has ratified, places obligations on states to protect habitats that are important for the survival of these species.
- *The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* is a voluntary instrument which sets international standards and behaviours for governments and other stakeholders to bring about responsible practices for the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources.
- *The International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing* is a voluntary instrument which that has been elaborated within the framework of the FAO Code of

Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and provides a range of measures for combatting IUU fishing and promoting an integrated approach to address all impacts of IUU fishing.

- *The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels* is a compilation of certified information on vessels involved in fishing operations, providing a tool with which to combat IUU fishing.
- *The Port State Measures Agreement* to which South Africa is a signatory includes all the internationally acceptable measures for port state control of fishing vessels in order to eliminate IUU fishing activities.
- *The African Integrated Maritime Strategy* includes a plan of action to address IUU fishing and reinforces the call for cooperation across states, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.
- *The Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* which in an international agreement between Governments which ensures that the trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival.

National Legal Instruments

The current legal framework that directs planning and operational management activities in MPAs is largely contained in the following legislation:

- *The World Heritage Convention Act No. 49 of 1999* provides for the incorporation of the World Heritage Convention into South African law, the enforcement and implementation of the World Heritage Convention in South Africa and the recognition and establishment of World Heritage Sites. It also outlines governance in World Heritage sites.
- *The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, No. 108 of 1996*. Section 24 provides the right to every person for a non-harmful environment and simultaneously mandates the government to protect the environment.
- *The National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998* (amended 2013) is the statutory framework to enforce Section 24 of the Constitution. It provides for co-operative, environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment. Driving in the coastal zone and launching boats are controlled under NEMA regulations.
- *The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004* (as amended 2014) provides for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act.

- *The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003* (as amended 2014) provides for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas representative of South Africa's biological diversity. MPAs are declared under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Amendment Act, 2014.
- *The Marine Living Resources Act, No. 18 of 1998* (as amended 2014) provides for the conservation of the marine environment, the long-term sustainable utilisation of marine living resources and the orderly access to exploitation, utilisation and protection of certain marine living resources.
- *The National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999* ensures that the national heritage is conserved and protected.
- *KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, No. 4 of 2008* provides for the conservation, protection and administration of both the physical and the living or intangible heritage resources of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.
- *The Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act, No. 46 of 1973* provides for the protection of sea birds and seals.
- *The National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, No. 24 of 2008* establishes a system of integrated coastal and estuarine management in South Africa which includes norms, standards and policies, in order to promote the conservation of the coastal environment.
- *The Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act No 28 of 2002* (amended 2008) makes provision for equitable access to, and sustainable development of, the nation's mineral and petroleum resources.
- *The National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (2016)* seeks to achieve cost-effective protected areas expansion for improved ecosystem representation, ecological sustainability and resilience to climate change
- *The Disaster Management Act, No. 57 of 2002* provides for: an integrated and co-ordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters.
- *The Marine Traffic Act 2 of 1981* empowers the Minister of Transport to make regulations that regulate marine traffic in the territorial and internal waters of South Africa.
- *The Maritime Zones Act 15 of 1994* asserts South Africa's right under the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) to a Territorial Sea (12 nautical miles from coast) and

an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending 200 nautical miles to sea from the coastal baselines.

- *The Marine Pollution (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 2 of 1986* empowers the Minister of Transport to make regulations that give effect to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention.
- *The Marine Spatial Planning Act No. 16 of 2018* provides a framework for marine spatial planning in South Africa.
- *The Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 1999* regulates financial management in the national and provincial governments to ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of those governments are managed efficiently and effectively.
- *The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) 16 of 2013* which allows the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to pass regulation related to land development and land use.
- *Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, No. 117 of 1998* divides South Africa into various local government structures (metropolitan or district and local municipalities), and assigns them powers and functions
- *The Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000* which defines the legal nature of municipalities as part of a system of co-operative government and requires the preparation of an Integrated Development Plan.
- *The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (IGRF) 13 of 2005* which establishes a framework for the national, provincial and local government to interact.
- *The Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing (BABS) Regulations, 2008* made under the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), Act 10 of 2004

Other legislation, plans and policies

- Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) for the uMkhanyakude and King Cetshwayo District Municipalities
- IDPs for the five local municipalities adjacent to the Park (uMhlabuyalingana, Jozini, The Big Five Hlabisa, Mtubatuba and uMfolozi LMs).
- KZN Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, 2035 (2016) outlines the primary growth and development strategy for KwaZulu-Natal to 2030.
- KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Management Act (Act No. 9 of 1997)

International ESMS Requirements

The Blue Action Fund requires all its projects to be compliant with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (WB ESF 2017), including the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) 1-10, the World Bank Group Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and the other Standards and Guidelines listed in Annex A of the Blue Action Fund ESMS Manual. These Standards are aimed at providing guidance on how to identify risks and impacts, and are designed to help to help avoid, mitigate and manage risks and impacts as a way of doing projects in a sustainable way. To make these Standards relevant and practical for conservation projects, Blue Action Fund has developed safeguarding Principles and Requirements based on the WB ESF (Annex B of the Blue Action Fund ESMS Manual), which include:

- **Principle 1:** Environmental and social assessment and risk management
- **Principle 2:** Stakeholder engagement
- **Principle 3:** Health, safety and security of communities and project personnel
- **Principle 4:** Protection, conservation and sustainable management of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources
- **Principle 5:** Livelihoods and access restrictions
- **Principle 6:** Gender equity and vulnerable groups
- **Principle 7:** Cultural heritage
- **Principle 8:** Indigenous Peoples
- **Principle 9:** Grievance management
- **Principle 10:** Human rights

Adherence to these Principles and Requirements places an emphasis on ensuring adequate public consultation and disclosure is carried out so that Affected Communities are fully informed about the project and their views and concerns are taken into account. The Blue Action Fund and all of its projects are committed to this. Stakeholder engagement shall be conducted on the basis of timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, provided in a culturally appropriate format, as described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

3.3 Gap Analysis

WILDTRUST has conducted a preliminary review of the South African legislation that pertains to the project, and this is documented in **Table 5** which presents a summary of some of the gaps identified, and the project’s strategy to address these. Furthermore, in relation to Principle 5 (and WB ESS5), some specific gaps identified include:

- Social baseline surveys: there is no legal requirement to establish socioeconomic baselines as part of MPA establishment. The project has however already completed social baselines across the project community implementation sites.
- Eligibility and entitlements: PAPs are not entitled to compensation in the light of access restrictions due to the establishment of a MPA. As such, livelihood restoration will be planned carefully with IWP to ensure that there are not major disparities across communities within the MPA.

Table 5: Gap Analysis

Blue Action Fund requirements	National Legislative Requirements	Gap	Strategy
Principle 1: E&S assessment and risk management (relates to WB ESS 1)	A SEIA is required for any establishment of a MPA or even its resonation. PDAI and PAJA observed in MPA establishment.	Appears compliant. (TBC). PAJA accounts for respect for peoples’ rights.	Conduct E&S assessment, and SE baselines and other SE to identify potential impacts; work with IWPA and EKZNW on identified impacts as per PF.
Principle 2: Stakeholder engagement (relates to WB ESS 10)	NEMPA (2003) public consultation process in line with PAJA. Management plan consultation process.	Accessibility of consultations (language; transport; information)	Support IWPA with the engagement process.
Principle 3: Health, safety and security of communities and project personnel (relates to WB ESS 2 and 4)	NEMA (1998) on law enforcement; EKZNW Policies on law enforcement (firearms, use of force etc.) aligned with legislation;	Compliance check with Blue Action Security Risk Assessment.	Compliance check with Blue Action law enforcement guidance eg. Voluntary Principles and BAF ESMS requirements.
Principle 4: Resource efficiency and biodiversity (relates to WB ESS 3 and 6)	NEMA (1998); NEMBA (2004); NEMPA (2003)	None identified	NA
Principle 5: Livelihoods and access restrictions (relates to WB ESS 5)	PAJA (2000); NEMPA (2003) for public consultation.	Baseline surveys; cut-off dates; livelihood	Development of a project Final Process Framework

		restoration entitlements.	
Principle 6: Gender equity and vulnerable groups (all the WB ESF)	Constitution (1996)	None identified	NA
Principle 7: Cultural Heritage (relates to WB ESS 8)	KZN Heritage Act, 1997	None identified	NA
Principle 8: Indigenous Peoples (relates to WB ESS 7)	Constitution (1996); White Paper on Traditional Leadership and Governance (2003)	No indigenous peoples affected by the project; however local communities have a long history of marginalization and are socio-economically vulnerable	Facilitate inclusive stakeholder consultations, including airing of past community grievances; support communication and trust building between communities, IWPA and EKZNW
Principle 9: Grievance Management (relates to WB ESS 10)		No requirement for a grievance management within Protected Areas	Establish project Grievance Mechanism (Annex 1)
Principle 10: Human Rights (relates to BMZ guidelines on Human Rights)	Constitution (1996)	None identified	NA

This gap analysis will be reviewed in Year 1 of the project with expert legal opinion.

4. Baseline Data Collection & Analysis

Baseline data collection & analysis serves several important purposes in the identification, analysis and management of access restrictions. This section will include the following:

- Review of existing data
- Assessing further data requirements
- Survey preparation
- Data collection tools
- Data recording & analysis.

4.1 Review of Existing Data

The first step in baseline data collection and analysis is to review existing available information sources, or 'secondary data'. A list of the existing available information sources, or secondary data reviewed, includes:

- Oceans Alive project social baseline study (primary data)

- Additional social research completed to inform the Oceans Alive Process Framework (primary data)
- ESA conducted in the development of the Full Proposal for the iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project (primary data)
- Project maps relating to surrounding communities (generated by the project)
- Draft Management Plan for iSimangaliso MPA
- Published Regulations for iSimangaliso MPA

4.2 Assessing Further Data Requirements

This subsection will include:

- A brief description of baseline data gaps after reviewing existing data.
- Description of requirements for baseline data collection.
- Brief description and presentation of the key information requirements (what questions need to be asked), and the appropriate methodologies that will be used to collect the data, taking into account the resources and budgets available.

After reviewing existing primary and secondary data and the project baseline study from the BAF iSimangaliso Oceans Alive Project, the most significant gaps identified are:

- (1) an understanding of the extent of access restrictions *in practice*. While existing legislation dictates the MPA zonation's and restrictions, the extent to which this is enforced on the ground and the range and concentration of law enforcement and monitoring across the different regions in the park is not known. EKZNW has limited human and other resources (even with the support provided by the Oceans Alive project), and a large stretch of coastline to monitor so it is important for us to understand:
 - approximately where the monitoring occurs and how frequent it is in each area and so we understand exactly which regions and communities are most affected.
 - If there are different approaches to law enforcement depending on the area, and type of illegal activity
- (2) The actual economic displacement caused / potentially caused by the increased / more effective enforcement made possible by the project. While it is clear that enforcement of the legislation itself has potential ramifications (potential conflict,

human rights risks, fear experienced by illegal fishers etc.), the extent of the economic displacement caused in reality is not known.

In the Inception Phase of the project, further focus groups, in-depth interviews and qualitative surveys need to be held with subsistence fishers, small-scale fishers and law enforcement personnel / management. The project will also be conducting a socio-economic baseline and Security Risk Assessment in the project's inception phase in which these questions can be addressed.

Sample questions include:

For Law Enforcement personnel / Management:

- How often are patrols conducted currently? How will this change with the additional support by the project?
- Where are patrols conducted? Are some areas more intensely patrolled than others? How will this change with the additional support by the project?
- Are LE personnel instructed to more lenient with some people and not others? Please provide details.
- How often do you come across illegal fishers from the local community (in a day/week/month)?
- Please describe these interactions (Prompts: how do you communicate with them? What are their responses? Do they carry weapons? How often are these interactions tense/conflict oriented?).

For Fishers:

- How often in a day/week/month do you fish?
- How often in a day/week/month do you come across monitors / law enforcement personnel?
- Has this changed in the last year?
- How has this affected your livelihood?
- Please describe any interactions you have experienced with Ezemvelo monitors / LE officers? (Prompts: how do they communicate with you? How do you respond? Do you feel afraid of them? How often are these interactions tense/conflict oriented?)

Quantitative Data Analysis

Another gap identified is in the type of analysis used for the data collected so far. There is a need to reanalyse the data to provide a more *quantitative* approach which will reveal more of the extent of the impact of access restrictions in this area, rather than just broad perceptions. It will also enable qualifying of some of the comments referred to in the reports which will then better inform the degree of management measure required to address the issue.

This will form part of the project's socio-economic and baseline surveys and assessments (*Activity 2.1.2*) included in **Box 2** below:

Box 2: Activity 2.1.2: Socio-economic and project baseline surveys and assessments (climate-risk inclusions).

Two Baseline surveys will be conducted (in Year 1 (inception period) and 4) focused on the 5 Primary beneficiary communities and associated Secondary communities (see *Activity 5.1.1*). These assessments will include a baseline and project closure assessment of the understanding of climate risks and existing mitigation measures. These surveys will be conducted by UKZN under the direction of Dr Cathy Sutherland.

Along with establishing socio-economic, livelihoods, perceptions and other key project baselines, the surveys will also serve as impact assessment to:

- Inform mitigation planning for the revision of the ESMP, MPA stakeholder consultation and engagement process, selection of area's where climate-smart agriculture is required and will not have any negative social and environmental impacts.
- Identify the natural resource-dependent social groups most likely to be affected by law enforcement during the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and Estuarine Management Plans and thus act as social baselines to ensure inclusion of the most affected in secondary livelihoods activities
- Generate understanding of climate risks & mitigation measures (See *Activity 2.1.1*), indigenous knowledge and practices used for food and water security in the region, and identify gender context, barriers, risks, and opportunities for women.

This data will be combined with research currently being conducted by SAEON focused on impact of land use and climate on the water resources of the region and potential economic consequences in northern part of the project site. Follow-up activity, broadened to climate-related issues These assessments will include a baseline and project closure assessment of the understanding of climate risks and existing mitigation measures. It will be used to assess target achievement within the project.

4.3 Data Collection Preparation

While WILDTRUST has been working in the project area for 4 years now, there are some areas where we have had to introduce the team and organisation given the extended geography of this project. This subsection will summarize the planned process of community entry whereby project teams were introduced to communities.

Research Preparation Steps

Steps include:

1. Contracting the researchers (UKZN) who have prior experience of engaging communities in the area through the Oceans Alive Project.
2. Establishing objectives and timelines
3. Establishing methodology, research tools and sample size
4. Identifying researchers (including local community researchers where needed) who speak Zulu (local language) – including female researchers.
5. Training researchers.
6. Testing the research tools.
7. Finalising the research tools based on testing and execution of the research.

At key steps the research teams engage with the ESMS team to ensure alignment with the objectives.

Description of the fieldwork protocols

When entering communities in the project area the research teams always:

1. First receives ethical clearance from the University the teams are operating out of.
2. Contacts the Traditional Authority representative to book an appointment to introduce the research to the community leadership and get permission to conduct the research. The research is introduced, contextualised and discussed. A signed letter is then obtained confirming permission has been granted.

3. Once permission is granted the team will continue with the scheduling and planning of the research. Normal research protocols apply from here on, including disclosure - ensuring participants understood the proposed Project in sufficient detail to be able to engage in discussion about associated risks and impacts. A co-production of knowledge and collaborative methods approach is used, and consent forms are signed by participants.
4. Outcomes of the research is provided to community leadership and participants within 6 months of execution.

4.4 Data Collection Tools

This subsection will provide a summary of the data collection tools used for primary social baseline data collection processes. These will include:

- socioeconomic surveys;
- focus group discussions; and
- in-depth key informant interviews (KII's).

4.5 Data Recording and Analysis

This subsection will summarize methods, analysis and key findings of the 3 primary data sources informing this PF, that is:

- Oceans Alive project social baseline study
- Additional social research completed to inform the Oceans Alive Process Framework
- ESA conducted in the development of the Full Proposal for the iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project

The reports for these studies are available on request as annexures to this PPF (**Annex's C.3, C.4 and C.5**).

Methods

Table 6 indicates the methods used for study.

Table 6: Methods used for social research informing the iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project PPF

Research	Methods Used
1. Oceans Alive Project: Socio-Economic Baseline (Annex C.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desktop analysis - Socio-economic household surveys - Focus groups
2. Oceans Alive Project: Social Research to inform Projects Process Framework (Annex C.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person focus group discussions (communities) - Online focus groups and one-on-one interviews (<i>Recreational and Commercial Users & Conservation Authorities</i>) - One-on-one interviews (research groups)
3. iSimangaliso Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project: Environmental & Social Assessment (Annex C.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desktop analysis - Community focus group discussions - Key informant interviews (KII's)

Analysis

Oceans Alive Project: Socio-Economic Baseline

Data collected was coded and analysed by social science researchers at UKZN using SPSS, a statistical software suite. This systematic method provided the researchers with categorized, codified and summarized results to be discussed as findings. The next step was to read and re-read the questionnaire/interview responses to obtain an overview of responses, helping the researcher interpret and create meaning from the responses of the participants, as it enabled an understanding of the broader context, and the challenges and opportunities present. The researchers ensured that the voices of and meaning put forward by the participants was not lost in the process of analysis, by ensuring that the coding captured their rich views and perspectives. The codes therefore ensured that no detail was lost. Codes were collapsed in the presentation of data to simplify and categorize the findings.

Oceans Alive Project: Social Research to inform Projects Process Framework & iSimangaliso Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project: Environmental & Social Assessment (ESA)

The data collected in the focus groups and was organised into themes for analysis. The thematic approach was chosen for this research because it produces insightful analysis that answers research questions (Braun and Clarke, 2006). The researcher, in the process of analysing data, ensured that the voices of, and meaning put forward by the participants, was not lost in the process

of analysis. This was achieved by ensuring that the themes were drawn from the questions and the responses from the focus group interviews. This data was captured in detail in a recording and in the data book to capture the diverse and rich views, and perspectives. The data analysis is presented per community, with three communities which are spatially connected, forming the first group.

Key Findings

Key findings relevant to the PPF are included below.

Oceans Alive Project: Socio-Economic Baseline

- Food security is a major challenge in the area and there is high reliance on marine resources for food: 72% reported fishing as a source of food, although 97% indicated shops as a source of food, so for most people not their only source of food.
- There is a significant lack of understanding of park rules and restrictions (70%) and lack of support for them (74%)
- There is substantial lack of compliance of rules and regulations: only 32% reported complying with regulations, 22% reported non-compliance, and 46% did not respond (indicating likely non-compliance and fear of retribution, or distrust). Additionally, more than 70% of respondents reported fishing, hunting and gathering from the wild as sources of food so this also indicates non-compliance in some areas.
- There is a substantial lack of understanding of the roles of the park authority agents: 49% of respondents indicated they did not know what Ezemvelo's role was (EKZNW is the conservation authority responsible for law enforcement).
- The communities place responsibility on IWPA to be the main development agent in the area, rather than local government: the study found that 30% of people trusted IWP and 25% the municipality to bring development to their area.
- There is appreciation for the area because of the natural resources it provides and the extended benefits (tourism, jobs etc.): respondents reported being able to feed themselves and their families through harvesting marine resource (mussels, fish, redbait) and from hunting in the forest (27%).
- People state that they do not obtain multiple benefits from iSimangaliso Wetland Park, but at the same time, they identify significant benefits they obtain, which reflects the tensions in and complexity of their relationship with IWP.

- While there is an appreciation for IWPA for the benefits brought about by the Park (jobs, tourism, development etc.), there is also the perspective that IWPA applies a top-down approach, and the restrictions are seen as *imposed*.
- IWPA and EKZNW are seen as the oppressors by some community members – the extent of this perception requires additional analysis.
- While there is concern over how IWPA treat people (ill-treatment, bullying, and placing restrictions on their activities - land and ocean access and business development) the number of households reporting this was low (16%).
- There is very little engagement between communities and IWPA – 80% indicated no engagement and 89% reported never having contacted IWPA for anything.
- People do not feel consulted or included but there is potential for the relationship between the communities and iSimangaliso Wetland Park to be positive, communities wish to engage, so does the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority. People want to be heard, seen and engaged.
- A high number of households reported experiencing danger from the environment, on land and in the ocean (50%), including dangerous animals and drownings.
- Some legacy issues were raised by a small number of households: that the restrictions are linked to apartheid and white rule (1 household), and concerns around not being consulted when the MPA was established.
- People living inside the Park experience the most restrictions – terrestrial and marine.

Oceans Alive Project: Social Research to inform Projects Process Framework

Here we have included additional feedback over and above what is reported above – many of the above issues were raised again. The research sought to understand peoples resource use and dependency on the ocean, which species and where they harvest from, as well as how they experience access restrictions.

Community Participants

- All nine communities depend on natural resources, both from the land and the ocean (including the beach) to support their livelihoods.
- Communities value the environment and understand it as a resource that will provide, as long as they take care of it, as it has provided for communities over many generations.

However, perceptions of conservation are mixed with some seeing value in e.g. the turtle monitors, and others saying it has no value at all.

- There are differences between communities in terms of resource use, the impact of restrictions on communities and the benefits obtained from the Oceans Alive Project as detailed in **Annex C.4**.
- In some areas permits are required for fishing and harvesting, however, the community reported that this system has collapsed because the communities do not agree with this policy nor accept the requirements for permits. Some people also reported not having the capacity to apply for permits.
- Communities reported harvesting and fishing in areas where this is not legally permitted which indicates that community members are fishing illegally. This puts them at risk of arrest, which can cause emotional stress and loss of income: “people lost their jobs due to continuous court hearings and an ongoing court case” (this was referring to a terrestrially related arrest for illegal harvesting of trees).
- There is lack of clarity about the specifics of restrictions. But this could also be a resistance to confirming this knowledge so rather than fish knowingly illegally, they fish under a veil of ignorance.
- They reported people being killed for fishing illegally and are concerned that more law enforcement will mean more conflict.
- They are concerned about their wellbeing and particularly their access to food sources being restricted further in future, especially in light of other restrictions such as not being able to farm or build structures to stop animals such as hippos from destroying their gardens.
- There is general sense of foreboding and distrust as some individuals reported rumours that they will be moved off their land again, which adds to the fear of loss of livelihood.
- Some community members believe there are no benefits from having the restrictions in place and a perception that the ocean will never run out of fish: “God is responsible for creating fish to constantly feed people; therefore, the fish will never run out.”
- Community members feel aggrieved that they are burdened with the difficulties of living within restrictions when they are not the cause of overfishing “with large nets”.
- There is awareness of the value of size and bag limits and people appreciate monitors being deployed to patrol beaches to ensure these are adhered to and to deter turtle

poachers. These monitors reduce conflict as they assist in avoiding the situation where the community is blamed for wrongdoing. If the community can report it, poachers get arrested.

- They have not experienced any additional restrictions since the start of the Oceans Alive project; however community did express that additional [quad] bikes on patrol would impact their livelihoods.
- Communities are concerned about the restrictions and in some cases do not accept nor recognize them as they have not been part of their promulgation and they have not had them explained to them. They would like to form partnerships with IWPA and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and would like Oceans Alive to act as an intermediary or bridge in this regard.
- IWPA is often considered by the municipality to be responsible for development and service provision when communities state that they voted for government, but government does not deliver development and services. This creates an accountability vacuum which is problematic to communities.
- Communities are concerned about the environment and value it. Most of the reasons provided for why people like living in the area are related to the environment and the provisioning, regulating, supporting and spiritual/cultural services it provides. They are concerned about sustaining the environment for future generations.
- The communities have multiple uses for resources found in the area and their indigenous knowledge is valuable both in terms of the use and protection of environmental resources. The communities have noticed that there are fewer izimbaza [clams] than there used to be and that there are fewer fish of smaller sizes. The restrictions are present in the region and are implemented in some areas but take a long time to implement in other areas.
- The boom gate restrictions are problematic in terms of time, as many men like to fish at night, but the boom gates are closed at 6 pm as per the regulations in the MPA.
- Communities requested to have engagements with the Authority to share their experience and indigenous knowledge.
- People requested to be taught about the importance of nature conservation and why there are restrictions, and that the restrictions and laws be reviewed.

Other stakeholders (Management Authorities and recreational and commercial users)

- There is a concern that increased capacity of enforcement with boat patrols will transfer fishing pressure to other zones.

- A concern there will be increased conflict between users and the conservation authorities due to the project's increased enforcement of regulations and restrictions while there is still quite a lot of confusion around these restrictions.
- There is negativity and resentment associated with perceptions relating to inconsistent levels of enforcement of access and use restrictions across user groups and perceptions that disproportionate attention given to enforcement on controlling commercial and non-local recreational users versus local community users.

iSimangaliso Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project: Environmental & Social Assessment

The ESA highlighted the following issues related to Access Restrictions:

- There is significant economic need and growing. While some communities have traditionally accessed natural resources in the protected area for food security / cultural and other livelihood uses, there is an increasing pressure to access land and resources in the protected area, which IWPA says is beyond the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystems.
- The dependency on park is likely to increase over time and with climate change (unless there is a radical shift in both in the regional economy and the rate and quality and lack of service delivery by government).
- Increasing enforcement of access restrictions creates a risk of economic displacement as many livelihoods are dependent on affected resources.
- Unintentional investment in maladaptive interventions that increase peoples' exposure to food insecurity and other climate change related risks e.g. food gardens or other agricultural practices which are not responsive to climate change risks.

And the following related to Human Rights:

- Customary rights issues have not decisively addressed by DFFE / IWPA and therefore enforcement of existing regulations could perpetuate possible/perceived humans' rights issues in relation to customary fishing rights.
- Current enforcement is considered heavy-handed by some community members (lacking consideration of levels of poverty and unemployment).
- Some communities report not feeling safe and free.

- This poses risks to park officials and community members because of enforcement activities.

5. Identifying, Assessing & Minimizing Impacts

This section will present and assess the potential impacts, identified through the stakeholder engagement and data collection and analysis, discussed in Sections 2 and 4 of the present document).

This section will aim to identify and assess project impacts, recognising that some of the contributions made in the Oceans Alive project e.g. donation of quad bikes, still need to be recognised as continued support in the iSimangaliso MPA EbA Project given that the project is supporting continued maintenance of these vehicles.

We present a summary of the potential impacts identified through the engagement with stakeholders described in **Section 4.5 Data Recording and Analysis**. The assessment of risks associated with various identified project issues and impacts was undertaken by the project team based on the information obtained from these reports (**Annex C.3 – C.5**). Blue Action Fund E&S Development Tool’s Risk Assessment Matrix (**Table 7**) was then used to assign scores to assess risks associated with various identified project issues and impacts.

Table 7: Blue Action Fund Risk Significance Matrix

Blue Action Fund Risk Significance Matrix						
		Likelihood				
		Very unlikely to occur (1)	Not expected to occur (2)	Likely - could occur (3)	Known to occur - almost certain (4)	Common occurrence (5)
Consequence	Severe (5)	Moderate	Substantial	High	High	High
	Major (4)	Low	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial	High
	Medium (3)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial
	Minor (2)	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Negligible (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

The significance rating informed the need, type and priority of additional mitigation measures, and the associated activities and stakeholder engagement planned.

Table 8.1 and 8.2 below summarise the risks, impacts and planned mitigation measures for Recreational and commercial user groups **(8.1)** and Communities **(8.2)**. For ease of reference regarding the communities, we have also included **Table 9** – which indicates the MPA Zones and restrictions per project partner community. The full iSimangaliso MPA zonations and regulations can also be referenced in **Annex C.6**.

Table 8.1 Recreational and commercial user groups: risks, impacts and planned mitigation measures

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
Management Staff Training and quad bike patrols patrolling restricted areas along the coast	Potential impact on Tourism operators' revenue because experiences that tour operators are expected to deliver on are more restricted by the MPA regulations (without patrols, they were bending the rules to meet the demands of tourists, especially foreigners).	Low (Likelihood = 2; Consequence = 1)	Tour guides and operators	Project to engage with IWPA and EKZNW to support with awareness about restrictions and regulations relating to tours, particularly among non-concessioned operators (as they report receiving less communication from IWPA).
	Increased levels of discontent among recreational users about perceived 'inconvenience' associated with enhanced enforcement of access and use restrictions, but unlikely to result in decrease in visitor numbers.	Low (Likelihood = 3; Consequence = 1)	Recreational users	Project to support authorities with enhanced communication and engagement with stakeholders about MPA zonation, legislation, and law enforcement.
Management Staff Training and Onshore and Offshore Boat Patrols launching from Sodwana Bay	The creation of the SDRZ together with the increased offshore patrols, might cause some fishers to move further north or south to have access to fish over the reef, which could displace fishing pressure e.g. resulting in more people crossing into the Wilderness Zone and pushing for example spearfishermen into new zones.	Moderate (Likelihood = 3; Consequence = 2)	Recreational fishers and spear fishers	Project to engage with EKZNW to assess displacement of fishing pressure and possibly look at increasing patrols in the affected areas e.g. Wilderness Zone. Project to support authorities with enhanced communication about zonation, legislation, and law enforcement. Affected stakeholders will be invited to attend some of the weekly activations held at the Community Resource Hubs focused on improving the local communities' marine conservation and ecosystem adaptation knowledge.

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
Management Staff Training and Quad bike and all boat patrols	<p>Conflict between users and the conservation authorities due to the project's increased enforcement of regulations and restrictions while there is still quite a lot of confusion around these restrictions (however this increase in conflict has not yet been observed), this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Poor demarcation</u> has resulted in a lack of understanding about restrictions and zonation among many users. The risk of conflict might increase due to users inadvertently contravening zonation regulations and being caught by authorities on patrols. 	Moderate (Likelihood = 3; Consequence=3)	Recreational fishers (in-shore and off-shore)	<p>Project to support EKZNW with enhanced communication and information sharing about zonation using a range of media (e.g. printed and electronic), including use of the ORI mobile application and YouTube clips. See here. Affected stakeholders will be invited to attend some of the weekly activations held at the Community Resource Hubs to partake in discussions and dialogues about MPA zonation.</p> <p>Project to support EKZNW with improved demarcation of zones (e.g. the IOWZ south marker is almost not visible) – to be included into the next phase of BAF funding for this site.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Poor or inconsistent communication</u> by authorities regarding enforcement of the regulations e.g., whether night fishing is legal in the MPA, increases the risk for these users that they may get caught for inadvertently not complying with regulations. 	Moderate (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 3)	Tour guides and operators Recreational fishers (in-shore and off-shore)	Project to provide Marine Section Managers, Field-rangers, and Law Enforcement Officers with training in legal provisions, compliance and enforcement, and stakeholder engagement best practices (including conflict resolution) to enhance capacity and understanding of enforcement for consistent application and monitoring across the IWPA (on agenda for initial feedback presentation).

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confusion associated with <u>inconsistent interpretation of regulations and bylaws by EKZNW monitors / skippers</u> using quad bikes and patrol boats and between conservation authorities (i.e. EKZNW and IWP) e.g. bag limits for recreational fishing. 	Moderate (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 3)	Recreational fishers	<p>Project to facilitate consensus between authorities on which regulations and bylaws to be enforced and how (on agenda for initial feedback presentation).</p> <p>Training of monitors, skippers and LE officers in consistent application and monitoring of these regulations.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negativity and resentment associated with perceptions relating to <u>inconsistent levels of enforcement of access and use restrictions across user groups</u> and perceptions that disproportionate attention given to enforcement on controlling commercial and non-local recreational users versus local community users. 	Moderate (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 3)	Tour guides and operators Recreational fishers	<p>Project to support enhanced communication and engagement with commercial and recreational users to ensure their support and cooperation, and to avoid alienation of this important stakeholder group.</p>
MPA and Estuary management planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusion of commercial and recreational stakeholders from meaningful opportunities to participate in protected area planning and decision-making (e.g., Legal demarcation of boundaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and preparation of Estuarine Management Plans) Perpetuating perceptions of exclusion that compounds the erosion of trust between park authorities and stakeholders and undermines cooperation and support for the management of the protected areas. Perceptions of perpetuation of weak communication and 	Moderate (Likelihood = 3; Consequence = 3)	Commercial accommodation /venue operators Tour guides and operators Recreational fishers	<p>Project to actively support improved stakeholder communication and engagement processes, to create effective and transparent opportunities for stakeholders to have input into a co-creation approach to protected area management planning and development, through appropriate consultation and engagement.</p>

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
	engagement cause distrust of WILDTRUST (by association).			

In summary, potential negative impacts to these stakeholders include possible loss of tourist operators' revenue, increased discontent among recreational users, displacement of fishing pressure displacement of fishing pressure, conflict between users and the conservation authorities due to the project's increased enforcement of regulations and restrictions, and exclusion of commercial and recreation stakeholders from meaningful opportunities to participate in protected area planning and decision-making (associated with MPA and Estuary management planning). While several negative impacts have been identified, none of these are assessed to be major or severe. The negative impacts are largely moderate or low in significance, and easily mitigable. Mitigation could be achieved through increased communication and information sharing, supplemented with enhancing the capacity of the management and conservation authorities. Engagement and partnership building with the commercial and recreational stakeholder groups was also highlighted as a mitigation approach that would have long term benefits to the project interventions and the improved enforcement of access and use restrictions in the MPA more broadly. These impacts are also partly mitigated by the positive impacts of the restrictions for these users that the MPA provides such as ensuring the natural biodiversity of the area is protected to enhance the tourism experience.

Table 8.2 Community user groups (including subsistence and small-scale fishers)

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
Management Staff Training and Quad bike patrols patrolling restricted areas along the coast	Threat to people's food security and livelihoods (economic displacement) through increased patrols (in an environment where the government is largely failing to deliver basic services and infrastructure, create jobs, and ensure people's safety and security). All the communities along the coast - in both the restricted and controlled zones -	High (Likelihood = 3; Consequence = 5)	Subsistence fishers Small-scale fishers <i>*Likelihood low because of small number of quad bikes for the distance to be travelled.</i>	Project to investigate EKZMW Community Levy and support SSF's (as a priority) with submitting applications for funding. Project to engage with IWPA through a workshop to discussion instituting Community Levy's in the northern gates e.g. Sodwana and increasing the tourism levy for focused tourism funding for local communities and the

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
	<p>are dependent on marine resources to sustain their livelihoods – although past research has shown this does not constitute a large percentage of the food they consume; it is of high nutritional value in their diets.</p>			<p>employment of guards to operate the boom gates.</p> <p>Project to support with clear (culturally appropriate) communication around zonation and regulations through various platforms including awareness activations held at the Community Resource Hubs and information posters.</p> <p>Support opportunities for dialogues between fishers and government to look at interim measures for recognizing their rights and supporting livelihoods while the legislation is being amended (including capacitating fishers to engage in dialogues to promote just, equitable and gender- sensitive implementation of small-scale fisheries management).</p> <p>Fundraising for support for establishment of working co-management arrangements (between MPA managers and fishers) – in progress.</p> <p>Project team to participate in SSF and Cooperative meetings now initiated by IWPA.</p> <p>Advocate for changes in policy and legislation (fundraising for this in process).</p> <p>Project should seek to identify ways in which it can support equitable beneficiation activities, both those introduced through the project as well as developed by IWPA. For example, the Community Hubs could help to train and mentor people wanting to offer Home-Stay accommodation.</p>

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
				<p>The Project can also play a key role in facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into household livelihood strategies, and agricultural practices in particular, to offset economic displacement.</p> <p>The Project could support IWPA in developing Sustainable Use Plans, which would also help in streamlining enforcement efforts to ensure biodiversity is protected without unnecessary economic displacement for local livelihoods</p>
	Exacerbation of people’s already substantial fears of further restriction to their livelihoods (including fears that the coastline will be fenced to stop them fishing)	High (Likelihood = 5; Consequence = 4)	All community members, and especially fishers	Support IWPA to establish clear and effective communication mechanisms to stop rumours and misguided fears about access restrictions.
	Increase in conflict between communities and conservation authorities due to increased enforcement of restrictions that the community are historically opposed to and don’t necessarily understand.	Substantial (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 4)	Community leadership Community members Conservation Authorities & their staff	<p>Support dialogue between IWPA and communities through the establishment of facilitated stakeholder engagement mechanisms.</p> <p>WT to develop MPA-level Grievance Mechanism together with IWPA.</p>
	Livelihood impact to those who are arrested due to getting a criminal record making future employment more difficult. Those in restricted zones are more at risk.	Moderate (Likelihood = 1; Consequence = 4)	<p>Poachers Fishers</p> <p><i>*Likelihood low because of no-arrest policy for community members</i></p>	Project to support with clear (culturally appropriate) communication around zonation and regulations (presentations at the hubs and schools, dialogues, videos, posters).
MPA management planning	Insufficient or ineffective SE around the public consultation process of the MP (which could lead to increased	Moderate (Likelihood = 2; Consequence = 4)	All stakeholders, but most notably IWPA,	Project to share PAP information gleaned from Social Baseline and other social research with IWPA to ensure broad engagement.

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
	conflict between communities and conservation authorities)		communities, and fishers	<p>Project to review MP before going to public comment and promote inclusion of best practice stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Project to support with the development of well facilitated stakeholder engagement mechanisms including ensuring the use of a strong social facilitator for the MP public consultation process.</p> <p>Project to build capacity of community stakeholders to engage in the Public Consultation process to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to give meaningful input into the decision-making processes that drive the development of the MPA Management Plan.</p> <p>Project to run SE workshops with key staff in IWPA and EKZNW</p> <p><i>Reference Figure 8 for planned procedural steps.</i></p>
	Additional livelihood impacts on particular groups	Moderate (Likelihood = 1; Consequence = 5)	Subsistence and Small-scale fishers	<p>Project to investigate EKZNW Community Levy and support SSF's (as a priority) with submitting applications for funding.</p> <p>Project to engage with IWPA through a workshop to discussion instituting Community Levy's in the northern gates e.g. Sodwana and increasing the tourism levy for focused tourism funding for local communities and the employment of guards to operate the boom gates.</p> <p>Identification of affected groups and tailored approaches to livelihood support written into second BAF grant. But our aim with intervening</p>

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
				in this process is most importantly to ensure this does not happen.
	<p>Increase in conflict (and possibly serious incidents) between LE officers and turtle poachers. The quad bikes are driven by the turtle monitors who are unarmed, and who are instructed to report (not react). These monitors call in the LE teams if they come across a poacher. While this conflict is known to occur, it is extremely rare. It is important to note that the presence of monitors <i>reduces</i> the likelihood of any serious incidents as they are unarmed, and most often poachers will run away, before the armed rangers get there.</p>	<p>Low (Likelihood =2; Consequence = 3)</p>	<p>Turtle poachers Turtle monitors LE personnel</p>	<p>Project to assist with the development of an SOP for turtle monitors and coordinators detailing how they respond to poachers, to handle de-escalation conflict resolution. This will be added to their annual training.</p>
<p>Planning and decision making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legacy issues associated with exclusion of communities from opportunities to meaningfully participate in protected area planning and decision-making (e.g., Legal demarcation of boundaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and preparation of Estuarine Management Plans). Lack of inclusive approach to engaging communities (with focus mainly on Traditional Authorities) results in inadequate transfer of information, and exacerbates feelings by communities, particularly marginalised groups (eg women and youth) feeling of being uninformed, disempowered and unable to 	<p>Substantial (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 4)</p>	<p>All stakeholders, and most notably IWPA, communities, and subsistence fishers</p>	<p>The Project has a strategic role to play in facilitating a communications / engagement bridge between grassroots communities, IWPA and EKZNW. WILDTRUST, through the Project, should explore opportunities to provide communities with a voice in communication and engagement with protected area authorities, that is not filtered through Traditional Authority structures and leaders and therefore not influenced by political or personal agendas. The Project to investigate strategic approach to acting as an 'honest broker', serving as a mediator to help resolve the current antagonistic relationship by talking to all sides without favouring any one side, and to facilitate the re-establishment of constructive communication channels.</p>

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
	<p>access IWPA and EKZMW for meaningful discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued lack of clarity amongst communities regarding the division of responsibilities between different government departments / agencies, particularly as different service delivery and local economic development functions are shared across IWPA, DFFE, local and district municipalities, and provincial government. Perpetuating perceptions of exclusion that compounds the erosion of trust between park authorities and stakeholders and undermines cooperation and support for the management of the protected areas. Perceptions of perpetuation of weak communication and engagement cause distrust of WILDTRUST (by association). 			
Mangrove protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relieving direct pressure on the mangrove forests from extractive use (crabs, fish, wood) restricts communities' use of resources, increasing livelihood impacts on particular user groups. Increasing levels of discontent among community users about perceived restrictions associated with project activities. 	<p>Moderate (Likelihood = 3; Consequence = 3)</p>	<p>Most notably women from IWPA communities</p>	<p>Project to explore and support a community co-management approach to designing project interventions to ensure negative impacts to affected communities and vulnerable groups are minimised or mitigated.</p> <p>The Project support to stakeholder consultations for the Estuary Management Plans offers significant potential for the introduction and promotion of this approach.</p>

Restriction	Impacts	Significance	Who is most affected	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could lead to distrust of WILDTRUST (by association). 			
Inequitable benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable groups, particularly women, are disproportionately affected by access restrictions and planning and decision making associated with the allocation of benefits from the project. • This has significant consequences for equitable benefit sharing opportunities, within the protected areas as well as relating to opportunities created through the project. 	Substantial (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 4)	IWPA communities, most notably women.	<p>The project must mainstream gender responsive approaches to all aspects of planning and implementation of interventions.</p> <p>The project could explore the development of a gender and youth mainstreaming strategy and action plan, to explicitly guide all project activities.</p> <p>This strategy and action plan should be shared by the project will all collaborating project partners (including EKZNW and IWA) to promote and raise awareness of the importance of gender equity and equitable benefit sharing.</p>
Staff management and law enforcement capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions to cultural uses of the MPA include harvesting of resources for cultural and traditional products, as well as access to certain areas that provide important cultural ecosystem services (e.g. ceremonies and for recreation). • Enforcement of access and use restrictions negatively impacts these cultural uses by local communities. 	Moderate (Likelihood = 4; Consequence = 3)	All stakeholders, most notably IWPA communities	<p>The Project could support IWPA in developing Management Plans and Sustainable Use Plans, which would also help in streamlining enforcement efforts to ensure biodiversity is protected without unnecessary cultural displacement and decreased access to cultural services by all users.</p>

In summary, potential negative impacts to community stakeholders, including small-scale and subsistence fishers, include the following:

- **High impacts:** Threat to people’s food security and livelihoods through increased patrols, and the exacerbation of people’s already substantial fears of further restriction to their livelihoods;
- **Substantial impact:** Increase in conflict between communities and conservation authorities, legacy issues associated with exclusion of communities from opportunities to meaningfully participate in protected area planning and decision-making (this

includes lack of inclusive approach to engaging communities with focus mainly on Traditional Authorities, lack of clarity amongst communities regarding the division of responsibilities between different government departments / agencies, perpetuating perceptions of exclusion that compounds the erosion of trust between park authorities and communities, and weak communication and engagement that causes distrust of WILDTRUST), and inequitable benefit sharing of vulnerable groups, particularly women, are disproportionately affected by access restrictions and planning and decision making associated with the allocation;

- **Moderate impacts:** Livelihood impact to those who are arrested and then get a criminal record (that makes obtaining employment difficult), insufficient or ineffective stakeholder engagement (which could lead to increased conflict between communities and conservation authorities), additional livelihood impacts on particular groups if specific restrictions to e.g. bag limits reduced, increased levels of discomfort from resource users derived from mangrove protection, and restrictions to cultural uses of the MPA include harvesting of resources and access to cultural areas of significance;
- **Low impact:** Increase in conflict (and possibly serious incidents) between LE officers and turtle poachers (low due to low likelihood)

In the absence of being able to identify specific groups of people through the focus groups, the project will address livelihood impacts in one of three ways: (1) identifying vulnerable families through Traditional Counsels and making efforts to ensure these families are benefiting from our existing community development interventions, e.g. providing easier access to the hubs if needed; (2) engage with small-scale fishers groups to understand their challenges, supporting dialogue with government, and working with government to address the existing permitting challenges and (3) looking at ways to support vulnerable groups by supporting communities to apply for community levy funding and looking at ways to increase the community levy revenue streams, and writing livelihood interventions for these groups into the future BAF EbA grant.

Many of the impacts can also be mitigated by the project providing feedback and support to IWPA with improved communication around zonation for example, and in supporting IWPA to lay to rest any rumours about future evictions. Law enforcement risks are

being mitigated through capacity building (some already in place) and the development/augmentation of standard operating procedures (SOPs). Any potential conflict around the Management Plan will be addressed by building stakeholder capacity to participate and ensuring best practice stakeholder engagement during the public consultation.

Table 9a: MPA Zones and Restrictions per project area-linked communities (Fielding, 2021)

Community Name	Traditional Council	Approx Distance from the coast (as the crow flies, not walking distance)	Zone (Directly opposite community)	Regulations
eNkovukeni	Tembe	1km	Restricted	Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extractive use such as shore angling, shore-based spearfishing, harvesting of invertebrates or netting is permitted All shark and ray species (<i>Elasmobranchii</i>) must be returned unharmed to the water wherever they are caught. Permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-extractive activities such as walking, swimming, snorkelling, surfing, paddling, etc. are encouraged.
kwaDapha	Tembe	~2km		
eMalangeni	Tembe	~7km		
Mabibi	Tembe	~1km		
kwaNovunya	Tembe	~4km		
eMpini	Mbila	~9km		
eZinqeni	Mbila	~5km		
kwaZibi	Tembe	~8km	Controlled	Restricted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of Invertebrates and bait in Controlled use zones by recreational fishers may not occur as it is only permitted south of Cape Vidal. Permitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fishing activities are permitted in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act (Act No. 18 of 1998) and the regulations thereunder (<i>see Pelagic Fish list below</i>). Recreational fishing permits allow general rock and surf fishing as well as spearfishing for pelagic species only. Small-scale fishing permits allow general rock and surf fishing and intertidal bait collection in all Inshore Controlled Zones.
kwaMqobela	Tembe	~5km		
kwaMpukane	Tembe	~2km		
eManzengwenya	Tembe	~7km		
eQongwane	Mbila	~3km		
eSiphahleni	Mbila	~4km		
Thungwini	Mbila	~4km from West of community boundary (Eastern boundary of community is directly on the coast)		
eHlawini	Sokhulu	~4km		
eHlanzeni	Sokhulu	~7km		
kwaNtongonya	Sokhulu	~3km		
eThukweni	Sokhulu	~6km	Outside of MPA boundary	Access the MPA through 'controlled' zone.
eMalaleni	Sokhulu	~11km		
kwaManzamnyama	Sokhulu	~6km		
kwaHolinyoka	Sokhulu	~6km		
kwaMvutshane	Tembe	~7km		
kwaMahlungulu	Tembe	~7km		
kwaHlomula	Tembe	~6km		
kwaMazambane	Tembe	~8km		

Table 9b: Pelagic fish species list for the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area permitted to catch under “Pelagic Line Fish Zone” within the ‘controlled’ zone.

Game fish	Bait fish
Istiophoridae – Sailfish and marlin	Atherinidae – silversides
Rachycentridae – Prodigal son/Cobia	Belonidae – garfish
Carangidae – kingfish, Garrick/leervis, yellowtail, queenfish, etc.	Chirocentridae – wolf herring/slimy
Scombridae – Tunas, mackerels, wahoo, etc.	Clupeidae – red-eye, sardines, etc
Coryphaenidae – Dorado	Engraulidae – anchovies, glass-noses/bonies, etc.
Pomatomidae – Shad/elf	Hemiramphidae – halfbeaks
Sphyraenidae – Barracudas	Scomberesocidae - sauries
	Exocoetidae – flying fishes

6. Mitigation Measures

Based on comprehensive stakeholder engagement, baseline data analysis, and impacts identified, the project has developed a set of preliminary mitigation measures, and preliminary eligibility and entitlements. This data has informed several changes to project design and integration of new activities between the Concept and Full Proposal stages. A description of mitigation activities is also included.

This section includes the following subsections:

- Avoidance and Minimization
- Eligibility & Entitlements
- Mitigation Programs.

6.1 Avoidance and Minimization

As part of project design, the project has considered measures to avoid or minimize the need for access restrictions and/or displacement. **Table 10** includes a brief description of identified, confirmed or final impacts related to access restrictions and details of avoidance and minimization studies and efforts for avoiding and minimizing the impacts. Refer to **Table 9 in the ESMP** for full details including, feasibility of mitigation measures, costs and schedule.

Table 10: Risk and impact management measures

Social and environmental risks and potential impacts related to Access Restrictions	Management measures
<p>Principle 1: E&S assessment and risk management (relates to WB ESS 1)</p> <p>Changing risks in the project life cycle not identified / addressed.</p> <p>Feedback from ESA not filtered to relevant stakeholders and knowledge remains with WILDTRUST limiting systemic change.</p>	<p>Development of project ESMP and associated safeguards. And including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitoring and evaluation of the project ESMP [ESMS function] 2) Annual re-screening of risks and impacts using the BAF E&S tool [ESMS function] 3) Outcomes of ESA, Baselines and Safeguards shared with key stakeholders (including Staff, Park Authorities and communities in a culturally appropriate and user-friendly way and using local language where needed (<i>Activities 1.7.1, 2.1.2 and 1.1.4</i>). 4) WILDTRUST to strategically engage the media, arrange site visits and encouraging accurate (or at least balanced) reporting of events (<i>Activities 6.2.1-6.2.5</i>).

<p>Social and environmental risks and potential impacts related to Access Restrictions</p>	<p>Management measures</p>
<p>Media misinterpreting local circumstances and causing additional conflict.</p>	
<p>Principle 2: Stakeholder engagement (relates to WB ESS 10)</p> <p>The existing damaged relationships between Park Authorities and local communities could cause distrust of WILDTRUST (by association).</p> <p>Poor history of stakeholder engagement in the area, particularly between authorities and local communities continues, undermining progress of project outcomes.</p> <p>WT runs a parallel SE process which is not sustainable at the end of the project.</p>	<p>Development of Project SEP [ESMS function], including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Project to create and support implementation of platform for dialogue and trust between IWPA and rural community stakeholders for a shared vision, common agenda, and joint action partnership (<i>Activity 1.1.1</i>) 2) WT to engage with IWPA and informed stakeholders around planned EMP, MP and any other relevant public participation processes to provide guidance to authorities on best practice engagement on these processes and empower communities to engage through capacity building, including the formulation of community engagement principles to ensure the voices of youth, women, and any identified vulnerable affected user groups are heard (<i>Activities 1.1.2 and 1.1.4</i>). 3) Provide extension support to IWPA to support stakeholder engagement efforts and to ensure consultation extends beyond community representatives (eg. traditional leadership) and reaches community members & affected resource users, among others. Efforts to ensure integrated approaches and collaborative efforts around MPA SE to ensure sustainability of SE approaches. (<i>Activities 1.1.1-1.1.4</i>). 4) Ensure all WT processes demonstrate best-practice stakeholder engagement to demonstrate how SE can be done differently, and record outcomes to monitor and evaluate effectiveness (ref SEP). This includes alignment to best practice principles for working with Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities' wherever possible (<i>Activity 1.8.1 & 1.8.2</i>). 5) Facilitate the establishment of identified mechanisms/ forums (ref SEP), including reference groups and multi-level governance forums (<i>Activities 1.1.3, 7.2.1 & 7.2.3</i>) 6) Engage translation services for translation of all key MPA documents into isiZulu; translation of all relevant project information, and ongoing translation and user-friendly interpretation of project and MPA documents to support stakeholder engagement (<i>Activities 1.1.4 and 1.7.1</i>) 7) Co-creation of ICP process with Park Authorities and community stakeholders, especially fishers and vulnerable groups) to ensure community are satisfied with the level and type of engagement with the project (<i>Activities 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 & 1.8.1</i>). 8) Consultations with beneficiary communities to develop local-level beneficiation strategies that ensure PAP's and vulnerable groups benefit without causing conflict (<i>Activity 5.1.1</i>) 9) Development of culturally relevant, user-friendly communications material to clarify roles and responsibilities inside the Park (e.g. DFFE, IWPA, EKZNW) (<i>Activities 1.1.4 and 1.7.1</i>)
<p>Principle 3: Health, safety and security of communities and project personnel (relates to WB ESS 2 and 4)</p>	<p>Over and above legal compliance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) GAP analysis conducted to assess EKZNW's Law Enforcement policies, and recommendations made to EKZNW, and any necessary training provided (<i>Activity 1.8.1</i>).

<p>Social and environmental risks and potential impacts related to Access Restrictions</p>	<p>Management measures</p>
<p>Enforcement of MPA resource use restrictions was linked to the potential for human rights contraventions and use of force, with associated health and safety concerns (for both LE officers and recipients of LE). See Principle 10.</p> <p>Project causes conflict in the community due to expectations of employment and who gets to benefit creating a direct safety threat & psychological stress to community members and staff.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) All OH&S in accordance with national legislation and all staff trained accordingly (as per WILDTRUST policies and procedures). 3) Strong SE with community partners to ensure strong relationships and fair beneficiation to avoid any potential conflict. See Principle 2 and SEP. 4) EKZNW LE SOP's (see also management measure 1 – to be assessed under legal review) 5) Legal compliance training for MPA staff (<i>Activity 1.3.1</i>)
<p>Principle 5: Livelihoods and access restrictions (relates to WB ESS 5)</p> <p>Existing restrictions supported by the project through marine and estuarine enforcement and monitoring support and training continue to cause economic displacement.</p> <p>Project does not take into account the likely increased dependency on the park over time due to population growth and effects of climate change (unless radial shift in both in the regional economy and the rate and quality of service delivery by government – unlikely).</p> <p>Conflict caused from Public Participation Processes (PPP's) linked to the EMP's and MP due to the associated access restrictions, and boundary demarcations.</p>	<p>Development of an Interim Process Framework. Over and above management measures included in Principles, 1, 2, 3 and 10, a targeted beneficiation strategy is developed to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Focused stakeholder engagement with fishers and support for com-management structures (incorporated into the Oceans 5, Small-Scale Fishers project) (<i>Activity 1.5.1</i>) 2) Alignment with IWPA's Beneficiation Strategy which is actively seeking to grow the financial and non-financial benefits streams from the protected area to local communities to enhance efforts to generate independent, sustainable (post-project) livelihood interventions e.g. supporting access to tourism markets (<i>Activities 5.1.1 – 5.1.5</i>) 3) Ensure our Livelihoods interventions do not over-utilise restricted natural resources (this will be incorporated into briefing of Livelihood partners) and in consultation with park ecologists. 4) Ensure IMP's and MP accounts for CC and population growth effect on livelihoods and natural resource dependency and facilitate the integration of changing climate and changing social pressures as risks / issues in relation to effective MPA management over time (<i>Activities 1.1.1 – 2</i>) 5) Capacity building for communities and support for SE linked to EMP and MP PPP's (<i>Activities 1.1.1 & 1.1.2</i>)
<p>Principle 10: Human Rights (relates to BMZ guidelines on Human Rights)</p> <p>EKZNW SOPs not aligned to international standards.</p> <p>Risk to park officials in line of duty (physical harm) and risk to community members / poachers because of enforcement activities (especially if heavy handed).</p> <p>Risk of women being harassed by LE /other funded staff</p>	<p>This principle is strongly underpinned by <i>Activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2</i> – aimed at improving relations between the Park Authorities and communities inside surrounding the Park. We anticipate that this dialoguing process will include enforcement practices and the possibility of developing approaches that are accepted by all in relation to the broader and local benefits of the MPA. The Access Restrictions are also addressed in more detail in the Process Framework.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Legal review and GAP analysis of SA law against international BAF-aligned standards and legal review and GAP analysis of EKZNW LE SOPs (<i>Activities 1.8.1. and 1.8.2</i>) 2) Legal review (#1) and capacity building for marine /estuarine LE staff in human rights and conflict de-escalation (<i>Activities 1.8.1 and 1.3.3</i>) 3) Gender Awareness & GBV training for all funded staff including marine and estuarine LE officers and monitors. (<i>Activity 1.3.3</i>)

Social and environmental risks and potential impacts related to Access Restrictions	Management measures
<p>The project perpetuates possible/perceived human rights issues in relation to customary fishing rights.</p> <p>Access restrictions increased due to increased management and monitoring supported by the project causing economic displacement.</p>	<p>4) Supporting the establishment of effective co-management / community stewardship structures that give local communities and other stakeholder groups a voice in decision-making and planning and incentivises them to manage natural resources sustainably. Support for Small Scale Fisher Cooperatives (<i>Activities 1.5.1 & 1.5.2</i>) and capacity building for community and fisher engagements in MP and EMP PPPs (<i>Activity 1.1.4</i>) and ensuring alignment with IWPA and DFFE's SSF strategies.</p> <p>5) Legal training for communities and fishers in preparation for MP and EMP PPP's (<i>Activity 1.1.4</i>). Activities `1.4.1 – 2 (conducted in conjunction with activity 1.1.1)</p>

6.2 Eligibility & Entitlements

To ensure all eligibility and entitlements are being addressed and managed in project implementation, it is customary to develop an Entitlements Matrix. An initial Matrix can be developed early in project planning and design to ensure all eligible stakeholders' impacts have been addressed and refined in progressive iterations of the PF, as programs are agreed upon and finalized.

This section includes a preliminary or defined Entitlements Matrix in a tabular form. The Interim Process Framework will provide an update tot this table as well as Description of the preliminary or defined eligibility criteria for the project, including the consideration of vulnerable groups.

Table 11 details the eligibility and entitlements in place for restriction and loss contributed to by the project.

Table 11: Entitlement Matrix

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
1	Permanent access restriction to harvesting fish, invertebrates and bait resources in wilderness and restricted use zones in MPA	Loss of access to areas for harvesting fish and marine resources	Small scale subsistence fishers / Households from project affected communities.	<p>Communities: Ongoing access to the controlled zones in the MPA where fishing and resource harvesting is permitted.</p> <p>Communities: Access to Community Hub Resource Centre.</p>

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
	<p>Changes in the Management Authority's capacity to enforce access restrictions in these areas will change current use patterns by subsistence and recreational users.</p>		<p>Recreational fishers Illegal commercial fishers</p>	<p>Small scale subsistence fishers / Households from project affected communities: Eligibility to participate in livelihood improvement, enterprise development, work experience and training programmes, and awareness and education interventions.</p> <p>Recreational fishers: Awareness raising and enhanced demarcation of restricted areas to support compliance with zonation and associated restrictions.</p> <p>Illegal commercial fishers: Enhanced demarcation of MPA and zones to support compliance with MPA restrictions.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Permanent restrictions to non-extractive activities and behaviour patterns by commercial and leisure operators in the MPA.</p> <p>Changes in the Management Authority's capacity to enforce access and use restrictions in these areas will restrict activities and behaviour to within MPA regulations by all non-extractive users.</p>	<p>Restriction to non-extractive activities in all zones in the MPA</p>	<p>Commercial operators (concessioned and non-concessioned) operators and leisure users</p>	<p>Concessioned commercial operators: Effective awareness raising and communication by Authorities (iSimangaliso Authority and EKZNW) about zonation and in-shore and offshore restrictions, and associated requirements in terms of their commercial operations.</p> <p>Non-concessioned commercial operators: Effective awareness raising and communication by Authorities (iSimangaliso Authority and EKZNW) about zonation and in-shore and offshore restrictions, and associated requirements in terms of their commercial operations.</p> <p>Leisure users (eg whale watching, leisure craft, etc.): Clear demarcation of zones in MPA and awareness raising about associated in-shore and offshore restrictions.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Permanent access restriction to mangrove forests, dune vegetation and riparian vegetation in</p>	<p>Reduced access to resources by subsistence users who depend on these resources to</p>	<p>Households from project affected communities.</p>	<p>Communities: Ongoing access to areas where resource harvesting is permitted.</p>

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
	<p>floodplains (reed beds and swamp forest) in the IWP.</p> <p>Rehabilitation and protection interventions by the management authority will change current use patterns by subsistence resource users</p>	<p>contribute to food security and livelihoods.</p>		<p>Communities: Access to Community Hub Resource Centre.</p> <p>Households from project affected communities: Eligibility to participate in livelihood improvement, climate-smart agriculture; enterprise development, work experience and training programmes, and awareness and education interventions.</p>
4	<p>Short term exposure to food insecurity and other climate change related risks due to unintentional investment in maladaptive agricultural and livelihood interventions</p>	<p>Reduced food security for households who currently depend on subsistence agriculture and resource use to meet food security and livelihoods</p>	<p>Households from project affected communities.</p>	<p>Communities: Access to Community Hub Resource Centre.</p> <p>Households from project affected communities: Eligibility to participate in livelihood improvement, climate-smart agriculture; enterprise development, work experience and training programmes, and awareness and education interventions.</p>
5	<p>Exclusion from meaningful opportunities to participate in protected area planning and decision-making (e.g., delineation of park boundaries and preparation of Estuarine Management Plans).</p> <p>The legacy of inadequate engagement by government and park authorities (IWPA and EKZNW) continues today with stakeholders feeling excluded and disempowered from meaningfully participating in the</p>	<p>Exacerbating perceptions of exclusion and dispossession of land and access and use of protected area compounds the erosion of trust between park authorities and stakeholders and undermines cooperation and support for the management of the protected areas.</p>	<p>Small scale subsistence fishers / Households from project affected communities.</p> <p>Recreational and commercial users</p>	<p>All stakeholders: Opportunities for co-creation approach to protected area management planning and development, through appropriate consultation and engagement.</p>

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
	process of developing and updating management plans.			

6.3 Mitigation Programs

This subsection describes the project activities that have been included as management measures to mitigate risks identified relating to access restrictions, including livelihood programs (Box 3).

Box 3: Mitigation activities

1.1.1 Create and support implementation of platform for dialogue and trust between iSimangaliso and rural community stakeholders for a *shared vision, common agenda, and joint action partnership*. Foundational to the success of any intervention in iSimangaliso is the relationship between the Park Authority and the communities most reliant on the natural resources the Park is trying to protect. This intervention will bring reconciliation process and social facilitators in to (1) design a process that is fit for purpose, (2) build capabilities of respective parties to be in healthy relationship through bi-lateral workshopping and engagements, and (3) generate 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 action towards these can be arrived at.

- *Appoint a Consultant Andrew Borraine, an expert experienced in facilitation of partnership-building and in steering and managing complex societal transitions in the South Africa 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, 20 participants per workshop)*
- *Recruit local social facilitator/s (selected by both IWPA and the communities), to conduct Trust in Action Dialogue workshops (10 workshops a year in Year 3 and 4, 30 people per workshop).*

1.1.2 Improve MPA & Estuarine stakeholder engagement (SE). During the inception phase, the project will formulate community engagement principles and participatory recommendations to be used in community engagement for the MPA and estuary management planning processes to ensure the voices of youth, women, and vulnerable user groups are heard.

- Provide training in the application of the community engagement principles and participatory processes for iSimangaliso, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) and WILDTRUST staff involved in stakeholder engagement.
- Workshops for sharing, integration, and collaboration around IWPA and WILDTRUST SE plans.
- Support improvement in iSimangaliso Authority's rural community consultation effectiveness, by extending efforts beyond consultations with community representatives (e.g., traditional leadership) to reach community members and affected resource users through information-sharing, communication skills development and knowledge-building workshops (see 1.2.3 below).
 - *Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator and Stakeholder Engagement Assistant, full-time, 4 years.*

- Stakeholder Engagement Training Workshops for Authorities (2 x 2-day Workshops, each x20 staff).
- SE Plans integration workshops for Authorities (2 workshops, 2 days each, 20 people)

1.1.3 MPA Stakeholder Forum meetings. Support the establishment and annual meetings of an inclusive iSimangaliso Stakeholder Forum (including civil society stakeholders, and relevant authorities, i.e. iSimangaliso, Ezemvelo, EDTEA, DWS, DFFE, Health, Rural Development, Traditional Authorities, SAEON/SFTEAN/SMICRI). In addition to discussion and inputs to the management planning process, this forum will allow stakeholders to engage regularly with Park management to address problems and share information. The project will use these meetings to also introduce and explain EbA approaches and benefits. New Activity.

- Four (4) Forum's meetings, one (1) per year in Years 1-4, 100 people per workshop,
- Total unique people reached +-160 (due to variation in attendance between workshops)

1.1.4 Rural Community Knowledge Building Workshops.

Organise and facilitate workshops aimed at (1) sharing indigenous and scientific knowledge about ecosystems and climate impacts, (2) improving understanding of MPA benefits; (3) the zonation and restrictions affecting the rural communities living adjacent to iSimangaliso MPA and associated estuarine systems, (4) making biodiversity and social survey, monitoring and research results available in a manner accessible to rural stakeholders, and (5) empowering community members to engage constructively with authorities at formal public participation processes, around grievances and to hold their own in meetings with other more capacitated stakeholders. These workshops will include information on demarcation/zoning/regulations (see 1.3.1 below) and improving accessibility to Management Planning stakeholder engagements by funding transport and ensuring all information is shared in a manner and language that is understood by all project-affected people. A key goal will be to provide these stakeholders with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to participate in Management Planning consultation processes and the MPA Forum meetings. This is a critical need because a recurrent complaint is that previous consultations for the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) largely excluded these stakeholders due to lack of access to information, poor information dissemination and inappropriate communication methods (including lack of effective translation to the local language).. Ongoing translation of key project and MPA documentation into isiZulu will be done throughout the project, and a dedicated Translator will be appointed for the project.

New focused activity, including additional communities.

- Four workshops a year at 5 primary areas (eNkovokeni, KwaDapha, Mabibi, KwaZibi, eHlanzeni - in 2 TAs, Sokhulu and Tembe) in Year 1 and 2, 30 people per workshop days.
- Total unique people reached: +-700 people.

1.2.1 Management Effectiveness assessment processes for adaptive management. Conduct a METT assessment annually for the iSimangaliso MPA, incorporating climate mitigation and adaption criteria, to provide a baseline and to measure progress against. Thereafter conduct annual METT assessments and attend annual meetings with the MPA and estuarine functional zone managers to assess progress and implementation of management measures and to develop an annual plan to respond to shortfalls and opportunities. Annual workshops (4 workshops, 1 per year, 30 pax). This is an ongoing activity that will provide continuity and embed adaptive management approaches, as well as initiate new management staff to the methodology and process.

1.2.2 Marine and estuarine enforcement and monitoring support. Purchase of vehicles (bakkies and all-terrain light buggies), and support for maintenance and running of one offshore vessel and 4 coastal and 3 estuarine boats (on trailers), and purchase and donation of 10 hand-held radios and 2 radio base stations, five (5) vehicles for towing and launching boats and beach patrols (1 land-cruiser, 3 single-cab 4x4 bakkies (for cadets, enforcement officers and field-rangers), 1 double-cab 4x4 bakkie (for Eco-advice)), 2 quad bikes, and 1 all-terrain buggy for patrols, conservation activities and surveys. Conservation Management Infrastructure provision and renovation. Follow-up activity, as 1 offshore boat and 2 quad bikes have already been provided to Ezemvelo, but the provision of additional vehicles is critical because this is a major factor hindering effectiveness.

1.3.1 Refresher legal compliance training. Provide refresher legal compliance training for MPA and estuarine management staff annually (1 course a year, in Years 1 and 3, 20 participants).

1.3.2 Refresher species identification training. Provide refresher species identification (fish, sharks and rays, and invertebrates) training for MPA and estuarine management staff annually (1 course a year, in Years 1 and 2, 20 participants).

1.3.3 EbA focussed MPA and Estuarine Managers Course to broaden the skill set and perceptions of management staff, including EbA principles and approaches, legislation, biodiversity and environmental conservation, partnerships and stakeholder engagement processes, conflict resolution and human rights considerations, gender awareness and gender-based violence, and nature-based solutions to climate change in the context of MPAs and the coastal ecosystems. This course will be piloted in the BAF uThukela MPA project and adapted for roll-out in iSimangaliso (1 course, 20 participants).

1.3.4 Essential skills training of fifteen (15) MPA managers and field rangers/ law enforcement personnel, in basic requirements like swim and water confidence using the “I am water” model. Year 2.

1.3.5 Vessel safety and confidence. Management staff will also be provided with competency and safety skills on vessels and in equipment operation and maintenance. Additional swim and water confidence training as required (eight (8) officers).

- *Legal and Standard Operating Procedures Refresher Training – 4 annual courses, 20 participants*
- *Fish ID Refresher courses – 4 annual courses, 20 participants*
- *MPA and Estuaries Manager Training with EbA component – 1 course, 20 participants*
- *Skipper and cadet deployment for 1 month to dive operators for sea confidence & boating familiarity. Year 2.*

1.3.6 Train and employ local skippers from the communities and provide mentorship for sustainability. Three full-time skippers from local communities will be trained and appointed to skipper the vessels, taking marine officers on patrols at sea and in the 3 estuarine/lake systems. These local skippers will be mentored by a full-time project Senior Skipper and Marine Equipment manager during the project period to build their confidence and capacity to ensure sustainability. (3 trained skippers). New Activity.

Senior Skipper and Marine Equipment Manager x 1, 2 years

Community-Sourced skippers x 3, 4 years

Cadet deployment for 1 month to dive operators for at sea confidence and boating familiarity. Year 2.

1.4.1 Park Boundary Clarification for MPA communities. 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 demarcation methods (markers) to clarify these on the ground. This will be conducted as part of relationship building activities related to Activity 1.1.1 in year 2 and 3 of the project. New activity.

Workshops to develop shared understanding about park boundaries and allow dialogue and voices to be heard in this regard. 2 workshops for each of the 9 clusters of communities in Year 2. 30 people per workshop.

Two (2) Site visits between iSimangaliso, Ezemvelo and Induna-led community delegations in Year 2 and 3 to confirm Park boundaries at each of 25 community areas and to erect sensitive demarcation poles/markers. 5 Primary Community areas and surrounding 10 Secondary Community areas, and 10 Peripheral Communities (in 3 Tribal Authority areas, with 7 clusters). Demarcation poles and markers x 50 (2 per community).

1.4.2 Boundary demarcation area maps and information dissemination. Develop local area maps (for 25 community areas, with 7 clusters) 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. New Activity.

- *Signage x 20 board at 10 beach access points*
- *32 Area maps with boundary delineations produced, printed, and disseminated in English and Zulu.*

- *Spatial Data, GIS Analyst and Data Manager Appointed.*

1.5.1 Co-management for small-scale fishing. 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) at the following communities, with potential to roll-out to other willing communities in the future.

- kwaSokhulu (linefish and marine intertidal invertebrates)
- kwaMabibi (linefish and marine intertidal invertebrates)
- kwaDapha (linefish and marine intertidal invertebrates)
- eNkovukeni (linefish, estuarine, and marine intertidal invertebrates)

This new activity will comprise the following sub-activities:

- Facilitate processes to pilot establishment and implementation of 3 functioning Co-management committees, composed of fisher representatives, MPA managers and supported by NGOs and/or researchers.
- Conduct focal group/workshops with fishers in each of the pilot communities to gather traditional and indigenous local knowledge and practices with regards harvesting areas and species (20 people per workshop).
- Provide training in sustainable fisheries management to small-scale fishers to underpin co-management (by project science team and with Oceanographic Research Institute for fish identification support).
- Conservation and fisheries managers training workshops for co-management and in community compliance and participatory approaches(100 people per workshop)
- Organize exchange visits between co-management case study committees.
- *Co-management Co-ordinator (50% time, matched by 3-year SFF project funded by Oceans 5 and Iconique Ocean Lab), 100% in Year 4.*
- *Fisheries/Resource Use Scientist 50% time, matched by 3-year SFF project funded by Oceans 5 and Iconique Ocean Lab), 100% in Year 4.*
- *Exchange visits uThukela to iSimangaliso Year2, vice versa Year 3*

1.5.2 Implement community small-scale fishery monitoring programmes. Employ, train, and equip community members to monitor subsistence harvesting of invertebrate organisms (crabs, mussels, red-bait, limpets, etc.) from mangrove and intertidal shoreline ecosystems and fishing in estuarine and shoreline areas. New activity.

- Implementation of community-based participatory research and monitoring.
- Conduct marine intertidal rocky shoreline community participative surveys - stocks and recruitment for small-scale fisheries invertebrate species.
- Shoreline intertidal line fishing and invertebrate harvesting: Sokhulu Tribal Authority (Hlanzeni, Manzamyama, Ntongonya, Thukweni, Hoyinyoka and Malaleni) and Tembe Tribal Authority Coastal Forest Reserve communities: (eNkovukeni, KwaDapha, Malangeni, Novunya, KwaMqobela, KwaMpukane, Mabibi)
- Mangrove crab fishery: eNkovukeni
Appoint 8 Community SSF Monitor Supervisors and 24 SSF Monitors
Annual training workshop for supervisors and monitors.

1.5.3 Community Turtle monitoring programme. Support implementation of turtle monitoring programme, in collaboration with Mbila and Tembe Tribal Authorities. Follow-up activity, supporting as sustainable finance mechanisms are piloted and dependency on donor sources reduces.

Approximately 45 unique individual beneficiaries.

1.6.1 Establish a team to implement and guide Sustainable Financing strategies development. Appoint a Sustainable Finances Researcher/Developer and collaborate with Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (IORRA). , building on the evaluation of financing requirements and funding deficit analyses already conducted in the BAF Oceans Alive Project. The team will contribute to a community of practice around MPA sustainable financing initiated in the parallel BAF uThukela MPA project, engaging with international experts and potential finance partners and ensure dissemination of information through regional platforms. We will also explore tax exemption, insurance, and voluntary market incentives for payment of ecosystem services by commercial private businesses reliant on the Park's natural assets. Collaborate with the BAF uThukela MPA project which will be implemented parallel with this project will provide access to experts from the public and private sector as well as civil society under the banner of the ORRAA to assess what types of products might be developed and to provide the seed funding for their development. Follow-up activity to build on the evaluation of financing requirements and funding deficit analyses already conducted in the BAF Oceans Alive Project, to identify potential financing and insurance coverage options linked to green/blue and insurance/risk markets.

*Sustainable Finances Developer
ORRAA Consultancy*

1.6.2 Carbon asset identification. Conduct baseline economic valuation of ecosystems and natural assets in MPA and associated estuaries in Year 2 to explore the development of potential financing products needed to ensure longer-term sustainable financing for the site that also support local communities. This study will also estimate the tonnage of sequestered carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂ eq.) in the natural coastal ecosystems, and the potential for developing a trading market. These economic valuations also to be used to inform government authorities of importance and value of protecting these areas, and to inform mechanisms to leverage funding opportunities through carbon/green revenue. Identification of qualifying carbon sequestration asset and protection/rehabilitation costs using baseline ecosystem survey data (Activity 2.1.3). New activity.

Consultant – Economic Valuation of ecosystem services and assets in the MPA and associated estuaries

1.7.1 MPA Benefits Awareness Campaign. Communicate the benefits of MPAs for socio-ecological resilience, including to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and support sustainable fisheries, to stakeholders, community leaders and government decision-makers creating a more receptive environment for effective resourcing and implementation of MPAs.

- *Match-funded by Oceans 5 and Iconique Ocean Lab (SSF project)*

1.7.2 Community Ocean Literacy and sustainable fisheries knowledge-building. Co-develop and implement a community focused ocean literacy and sustainable fisheries knowledge-building programme, including focused field and classroom sessions with small-scale fishers and children via the schools and YES programme.

- *Match-funded by Oceans 5 and Iconique Ocean Lab (SSF project)*

1.8.1 Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) developed, implemented, and monitored: Final E&S Safeguards will be developed and integrated into processes planned. As part of this WILDTRUST will assist with the ongoing use of an MPA-level Grievance Mechanism (developed in the existing Oceans Alive project) that will allow community members to report grievances and a stakeholder analysis and formulation of an initial iSimangaliso Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This will also include assessment, monitoring and reporting of the ESMS processes throughout the project lifespan. This is an on-going activity as ESMS implementation and monitoring has been done throughout

the previous project, but is an essential activity, not focussed on the suite of activities being pursued during the 4 years of this project.

- Includes feedback and training workshops for Project Team, Park Authorities and key stakeholders (six (6) in-person workshops, x20 PA staff each in year 1) focused on ESA and Safeguard findings, and the other on gender mainstreaming. Annual refreshers workshops will be held online as needed.
- Contracting of (1) Gender Expert for design and facilitation of Gender Mainstreaming workshops, and (2) ESMS law enforcement specialist consultations to conduct legal GAP Analysis on EKZNW LE SOPS

1.8.2 ESMS Legal Review and Gap Analysis developed and communicated: Full legal review and report of South African legislation related to the 10 ESMS principles conducted, followed by a gap analysis and recommendations developed to assess shortfalls against Blue Action's International Safeguard requirements. Findings and recommendations presented as part of Activities 6.1.1 and 6.1.3 and shared with relevant park authority and provincial and national government.

- One (1) legal review report and one (1) Gap analysis report; at least 2 x forum/conference presentations.

2.1.2 Socio-economic and project baseline surveys and assessments (climate-risk inclusions).

Two Baseline surveys will be conducted (in Year 1 (inception period) and 4) focused on the 5 Primary beneficiary communities and associated Secondary communities (see Activity 5.1.1). These assessments will include a baseline and project closure assessment of the understanding of climate risks and existing mitigation measures. These surveys will be conducted by UKZN under the direction of Dr Cathy Sutherland.

Along with establishing socio-economic, livelihoods, perceptions and other key project baselines, the surveys will also serve as impact assessment to:

- Inform mitigation planning for the revision of the ESMP, MPA stakeholder consultation and engagement process, selection of area's where climate-smart agriculture is required and will not have any negative social and environmental impacts.
- Identify the natural resource-dependent social groups most likely to be affected by law enforcement during the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and Estuarine Management Plans and thus act as social baselines to ensure inclusion of the most affected in secondary livelihoods activities
- Generate understanding of climate risks & mitigation measures (See Activity 2.1.1), indigenous knowledge and practices used for food and water security in the region, and identify gender context, barriers, risks, and opportunities for women.

This data will be combined with research currently being conducted by SAEON focused on impact of land use and climate on the water resources of the region and potential economic consequences in northern part of the project site. Follow-up activity, broadened to climate-related issues These assessments will include a baseline and project closure assessment of the understanding of climate risks and existing mitigation measures. It will be used to assess target achievement within the project.

Follow-up activity – expanded geography and potential livelihoods linked to new ecosystems and communities, and introduction of EbA approaches.

Two surveys in Years 1 and 4; 250 people.

Feedback workshops for Park Authorities (online), Traditional Authorities (at TA meetings), communities (4 x feedback workshops for 50pax each), project staff (online), partners (online) and other stakeholders (online).

2.1.3 Ecosystem baseline survey and assessment. Aerial survey of the entire coastal zone in Year 1 (inception period) and Year 4 (by SAEON, SMACRI) and drone surveys of the Estuarine Functional Zones of the 3 estuarine systems will establish a baseline for dune and wetland riparian and littoral ecosystems and allow assessment for rehabilitation efforts. These baselines surveys and associated GIS mapping will also inform assessment of areas requiring intervention to rehabilitate damaged climate-relevant ecosystems and allow the selection of specific areas where climate-smart agriculture is required and will not have negative social and environmental

impacts. These surveys provide the aerial imagery for Activities 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.3.1) *New Activity.*

One (1) aerial survey?, each in Year 1 and 4 of the projects.

2.2.1 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Knowledge Building Workshops.

Organise 2 EbA and NBS information sharing and knowledge building workshops with iSimangaliso Authority, DFFE (Department Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Traditional Authorities, relevant district municipalities and representatives of key stakeholder groups to foster understanding and support for the implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation elements in the iSimangaliso MPA and Estuarine Management Plans. The workshops will build understanding and report project progress, illustrating EbA approaches. *New Activity.*

Two (2) workshops, one in Year 2 and one in Year 4, 50 people per workshop.

Total unique people reached: +- 70 (due to variation in attendance between workshops).

2.2.2 Installation of Climate Monitoring Equipment. Installation of data-capture technologies and data collection from coastal climate, environmental, oceanography observation and monitoring tools, including offshore and estuarine moored equipment and weather station. This is part-funded by SAEON via the SMCRI (marine) Satellite sentinel site at Sodwana, which is installing weather stations and climate sensors. The project will augment this by installation of additional flowmeters, water level gauges, UTRs in estuaries, lakes and on offshore coral reefs. This will allow tracking of water levels, drought risk, bleaching risk, and climate-relevant ecosystem damage drivers (such mangrove die-backs due to lack of tidal exchange).

Biodiversity and Climate Scientist, and Technician appointed, 4 years.

2.2.3 Ocean Stewards: 24 new iSimangaliso Ocean Stewards (6 per year) actively involved in the annual WILDOCEANS Ocean Stewards Learning Workshop (2023 to 2026), receive communication and leadership training, and participate in ocean awareness events. Ocean Stewards participate in field monitoring and surveys of mesophotic habitats, corals and estuaries and community development and awareness activities at the iSimangaliso MPA and gain an understanding of Socio-ecological Climate Vulnerability and EbA approaches. Internships provided to 2 female Ocean Stewards annually (2 years) to work within the project on iSimangaliso conservation and livelihoods activities, and 4 Ocean Stewards have post-graduate assignments associated with the iSimangaliso MPA. This is an ongoing (follow-up) activity: the value of this programme is consistency and building a supportive fellowship over time, adding individuals every year). This initiative has been catalytic for development of other youth movements such as Youth4MPAs and Justice4Jaws, as well as the African Youth Summit (30x30)

Total Oceans Stewards supported: 24

2.2.4 Community based drought, flood and storm tracking and information system. Develop an accessible community-based climate risk (flood, drought, high winds, temperatures, cyclones) information system, facilitated and hosted by the 5 Community Hub Centres where a “Dashboard” report will be displayed, and Hub staff will keep a WhatsApp group for the 25 Indunas (village leaders) up to date and inform local radio stations of expected floods and storms or effects of events. This information will be provided via the partnership with SAEON.

Dash-board infrastructure at Community Hubs (x5), including Noticeboards and associated interactive computer stations and screen in the Hub libraries.

5.1.1 Development of co-created livelihoods beneficiation processes. Meetings and workshops with community leadership and designated representatives in each partner community to work with the Project team 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, 20 people per workshop. One (1) workshop annually with IWPA to align approaches to beneficiation where there is opportunity to enhance livelihoods and benefits for communities through collaboration. Four (4) Workshops, 15 people per workshop.

5.1.2 Small Business incubation This activity seeks to strengthen the socio-ecological resilience of communities in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, by supporting a cohort of local enterprises that draws on ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to protect and restore natural resource, while simultaneously creating local economic development opportunities through job creation., and Enterprises across community focal areas, in collaboration with new social development partner **Indalo Inclusive:**

- Support for ten (10) enterprises in year 1 and 2. Businesses supported to advance their business and enable them to commercialize their products and/or services. This includes a 5-day workshop divided into two workshops of 3 days and 2 days respectively (including learning toolkit), combined with a guided product testing phase to gather feedback on the business ideas from customers/partners. The product testing phase prepares the enterprises to enter the market. Participants in this stage will also receive a grant to the value of R20 000 to test their ideas and formalize their businesses. Enterprises will be selected from the following sectors (among others): Eco-tourism; Sustainable Agriculture; Sustainable Fishing; Water Conservation; Circular Economy.
- Based on enterprise performance, five (5) enterprises will progress to a growth programme which will be implemented in year 3. Enterprises will be supported through the identification of opportunities, and challenges, business planning, organization development, and enterprise growth resulting in solid business and financial plans. This also includes a learning toolkit. Participants in this stage will also receive a larger grant amount to the value of R40 000 to leverage and grow their business to start realizing tangible results.
- One (1) successful enterprise profiled in a publication and impact video.
 - Ten (10) entrepreneurs supported, 10 x R20 000 grants awarded, at least 5 of which are women, 5 training days and additional mentoring per entrepreneur.
 - Five (5) entrepreneurs supported further (at least 3 of which are women), 5 x R40 000 grants.
 - 1x publication and video

5.1.3 Employment, training, and career development opportunities. Two hundred and twenty (240) employment, training and career development opportunities created for youth associated with the iSimangaliso MPA and associated estuaries. These will be enabled through one-year YES internships in the project's climate ecosystem services restoration work, awareness-raising activities at schools, monitoring and survey activities and training and awareness activation at the community hubs. Traditional Authority leadership and community councillors will be included in selection criteria generated for employment opportunities. Career development support & networking provided through the YES programme and hub training to support longer-term employability/small businesses for 15% of the youth. Follow-up activity and expansion to southern community (kwaSokhulu)

One hundred and twenty (120) youth supported per year for 2 years, supported via the 5 Community Centres.

Total unique individual beneficiaries: 240

5.1.4 Leveraging the Community Levy Funds for Vulnerable Groups. Work with EKZNW and IWPA to better leverage the community levy for communities by (1) supporting communities with design and application to the levy fund and (2) engaging with IWPA to institute Community Levy's in the northern gates e.g. Sodwana and increasing the tourism levy for focused tourism funding for local communities and the employment of guards to operate the boom gates.

- At least one (1) community levy application supported each of the 5 primary/secondary community areas, and 1 for each of the outlying and peripheral community clusters (x3).

- 5.1.5 Vulnerable youth support for tertiary education.** Provide bursaries and living cost stipends to 20 school-leavers to obtain a diploma or degree so that they can obtain employment elsewhere and support families to get out of the poverty trap. Four (4) students from most vulnerable households supported at each of the 5 primary community areas.
Matched 100% by Light Foundation
- 6.1.1 Participation in Regional WIO Workshop.** Collaborate with the BAF uThukela MPA EbA project that is hosting of a 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. Recorded presentations, resources, outcomes, and suggested solutions will be broadcast throughout the WIO region, through participant networks and via our collective social media platforms. New activity, in collaboration with uThukela EbA Project.
*One workshop; 220 participants total. New activity.
iSimangaliso project will provide funds for iSimangaliso project members and partners (20 representatives) to join the workshop and prepare materials.*
- 6.1.2 Exchange Visits between EbA projects.** Organise exchange visits between MPA managers and national agencies involved in this Blue Action EbA with other relevant projects in South Africa and Mozambique i.e., WILDTRUST uThukela MPA project and Peace Parks Foundation PPR MPA project. Two (2) project team exchange visits to the other 2 projects, and 1 to host a visit in iSimangaliso from the 2 projects (together).
- 6.1.3 Contribute to online Webinar Series.** Participate in webinar series to be organised by the uThukela MPA EbA project. At least one thousand (1000) people reached through an online webinar series aimed at reaching a broad audience in the WIOMSA region. Marine EbA themes will be unpacked by a series of EbA experts (from WIO region as far as possible), youth and women-led case studies will be profiled. *6 webinars (4 by uThukela), 1000 participants.* New activity, in collaboration with uThukela EbA Project
iSimangaliso project will provide funds online hosting and preparation of materials for 2 of the 6 webinars.
- 6.1.4 International and regional symposia attendance.** Members of the project team will attend and present project results and lessons at national, regional, and international Symposia.
Three (3) attendees at 3 Symposia.
- 6.2.1 Community Radio.** Use community radio to build awareness of EbA approaches and MPA benefits and engage in on-radio interviews and discussions. New activity.
At least two (2) radio “engagements” a year.
- 6.2.2 Social Media.** *At least one hundred (100) social media posts over four (4) years* (across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp) and engagement by the project team; at least 15% focused promoting gender equity and profiling female leadership in the MPA. Professional project imagery will be captured (x50) and at least 2 social media videos will be produced to capture the project/ activities/ deliverables.
- 6.2.3. Articles.** 4 articles will be published in regional publications (one (1) per year) and one (1) in an international online publication.
- 6.2.4. Media hosting,** One (1) media trip a year over four (4) years 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. Aim for balance of six (6) regional and national media representation on each trip from influential publications.

6.2.5 Coastal EbA Case-study Publication and Video. A document detailing the project approaches and outcomes and achievements, and lessons, aimed at government, NGO's, communities, businesses, and the scientific community, will be prepared. These will also be translated into simple, easy to understand bite-size chunks for the public (in multiple languages) in social media posts and press releases produced for online and print media.
Ten thousand (10 000) people reached across these various dissemination platforms.

7.2.1 iSimangaliso Climate Resilience Governance Liaison Forum. Forum established 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. This Forum is planned for the duration of the project, but opportunities to sustain it thereafter will be explored further once its operational use is tested and buy-in from authorities obtained. A project launch is planned for the first quarter to which all these players will be invited, to introduce the project objectives and approaches and invite full participation by the wider governance sector. New activity.
*Bi-annual meetings held at a different Hub each time. 30 participants
Broad community benefit, so total unique individuals reached is unknown; forum attendance: approximately 70 unique individuals reached.*

7.2.3 Small-scale Fisheries Reference Group. Establish a 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, to 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. New Activity. *This is 100% match-funded (by Oceans 5 and Iconique Ocean Lab)*

7.2.4 Small-scale Fishers' National Meetings Attendance. 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 issues. New Activity. *This is 100% match-funded (by Oceans 5 and Iconique Ocean Lab)*

7. Implementation Arrangements

This section includes the following subsections:

- The organization framework
- Capacity building

7.1 The Organizational Framework

The WILDTRUST has strong relationships with DFFE, IWPA and EKZNW. As part of the stakeholder engagement mechanisms detailed in **Section 3 of the SEP**, WILDTRUST will provide support and guidance to partners on implementing necessary safeguards. It is intended that these governance structures initiated will initiate the kind of collaboration and multi-level collaboration needed to ensure a more systemic approach to governance of the MPA. WILDTRUST will be leading many of these collaborative meetings and providing insight at others. WILDTRUST will be responsible for implementation of all livelihood interventions and the ESMS and Project teams at the WILDTRUST will ensure effective delivery of related activities.

7.2 Capacity-building

This project includes a number of capacity building initiatives to support improved stakeholder engagement, not just through the stakeholder engagement mechanisms detailed in the **Section 3 of the SEP (Annex A to the ESMP)**, but also through building the capacity of local communities and partners to engage effectively. The following activities and ESMS functions have relevance:

1.1.1 Create and support implementation of platform for dialogue and trust between iSimangaliso and rural community stakeholders.

1.1.2 Improve MPA & Estuarine stakeholder engagement (SE).

1.1.3 MPA, Estuary and Catchment Stakeholder Forum meetings.

1.1.4 Rural Community Knowledge Building Workshops.

1.3.3 EbA focussed MPA and Estuarine Managers Course.

1.8.1 Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) developed, implemented, and monitored.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

This section describes the proposed M&E approach related to the Process Framework. This will include information on how the project will undertake its monitoring and evaluation using a number of indicators.

The monitoring and evaluation will be done on an on-going basis, and it will include the following indicators:

1. Resolution of grievances and access restriction related grievances:
 - Number of grievances received and recorded in grievance register (eligible and eligible)
 - Number of grievances resolved and unresolved
 - Mitigation measures effective to address access restricted related grievances
2. Tracking implementation of mitigation measures:
 - Tracking progress that mitigation measures are implemented as per schedule.
3. Tracking of stakeholder engagement activities (mechanisms):
 - Track if the stakeholder engagement activities take place and recorded in SEP.
4. Tracking progress of participatory processes such as MPA management plan consultation:
 - Track if consultations took place timeously and all affected stakeholders were able to be included in consultations and input.
5. Changes in baseline information overtime affected communities:
 - Evaluation of socioeconomic conditions, livelihood conditions and perceptions of affected communities in project area.

Participatory monitoring has taken place in the project in a number of ways involving some project stakeholders, some examples of these are the construction of the Community hubs in consultations with Traditional Authority; Traditional Authority assisting in framing surveys for the project; community members appreciating the Community hubs and using them for their benefit; and attending activations at the hubs. Also, with communities being able to attest that they have benefited from the project in a number of ways, such as job opportunities, is a form of monitoring as they will be able to report on the involvement they had. This shows the project has managed to build and manage trust with communities and met some of its commitments promised to communities. These approaches will be taken to management of the Process Framework stakeholder engagement implementation as well.

This section will be updated in the Interim Process Framework.

9. Change Management

The development of the Process Framework should be an iterative 'process', and therefore several iterations will be developed. The Interim PF will be developed in the Inception Phase of the project to include the research gaps identified in **Section 3** above, and to incorporate the socio-economic baseline data completed in the Inception phase of the project. The Final PF will be developed once all the proposed management measures have been disclosed and discussed with key stakeholders, and their views incorporated, and the outcomes of the Security Risk Assessment have also been incorporated before the end of Year 1.

10. References

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Annexures

- Annexure C.1** Non-Technical Summary of Process Framework
- Annexure C.2** Draft Best Practice Community Stakeholder Engagement Principles and Participatory Recommendations
- Annexure C.3** *Oceans Alive Project: Socio-Economic Baseline (Available on request)*
- Annexure C.4** *Oceans Alive Project: Social Research to inform Projects Process Framework (Available on request)*
- Annexure C.5** *iSimangaliso Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Project: Environmental & Social Assessment (ESA) (Available on request)*
- Annexure C.6** iSimangaliso MPA Zonations and Regulations



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

Summary of the Preliminary Process Framework

Version 1.0

1. Introduction

1.1 Rationale for the Process Framework

This Preliminary Process Framework has been developed for the WILDTRUST's iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area (MPA) Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Project. It is one of several Safeguards that have been developed under the umbrella of the Project Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Its' purpose is to direct the participatory process whereby affected populations can meaningfully participate in project design, identification of impacts, development of adequate mitigation measures, and ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of measures.

The Process Framework is a specific requirement of the Blue Action Fund's Safeguarding Principles and Requirements and is needed because the project includes activities which may result in enhanced enforcement of access restrictions (through existing protected area zoning and regulations) in the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area. Given the complex issues that intersect in the project area, including legacy issues, conflict mediation is required between some stakeholder groups as part of the project. This, and the recognition that livelihood-focused interventions need to be carefully framed to help mitigate the impact of enhanced access restriction enforcement, the Process Framework is considered a key safeguard to ensure that negative social and economic impacts are managed in the Project.

The structure of this Preliminary Process Framework includes the following:

1. Introduction
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Participation
3. Institutional and Legal Framework
4. Project Area Baseline Data Collection & Analysis
5. Identifying, Assessing and Minimising Impacts
6. Mitigation Measures

7. Implementation Arrangements
8. Monitoring and Evaluation
9. Change Management

1.2 Project Background

The Project is located in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site on the east coast of South Africa, which falls within the Maputaland-Albany-Pondoland Global Biodiversity Hotspot. The Park contains nationally and globally significant biodiversity and is recognised as a significant sea turtle breeding area. The Park includes the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area (MPA), which is 10,700 km² in extent and is South Africa's largest Marine Protected Area. This MPA was proclaimed in 2019 and is a combination of the former (now de-proclaimed) St Lucia and Maputaland Marine Protected Areas (originally proclaimed in 2000), combined with an expanded offshore area.

The project area covers the extent of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area (see Figure 1) and extends up to 10km inland, with activities focused on the restoration and rehabilitation of mangroves, and beach and dune vegetation, and livelihoods and community stakeholder engagement support.

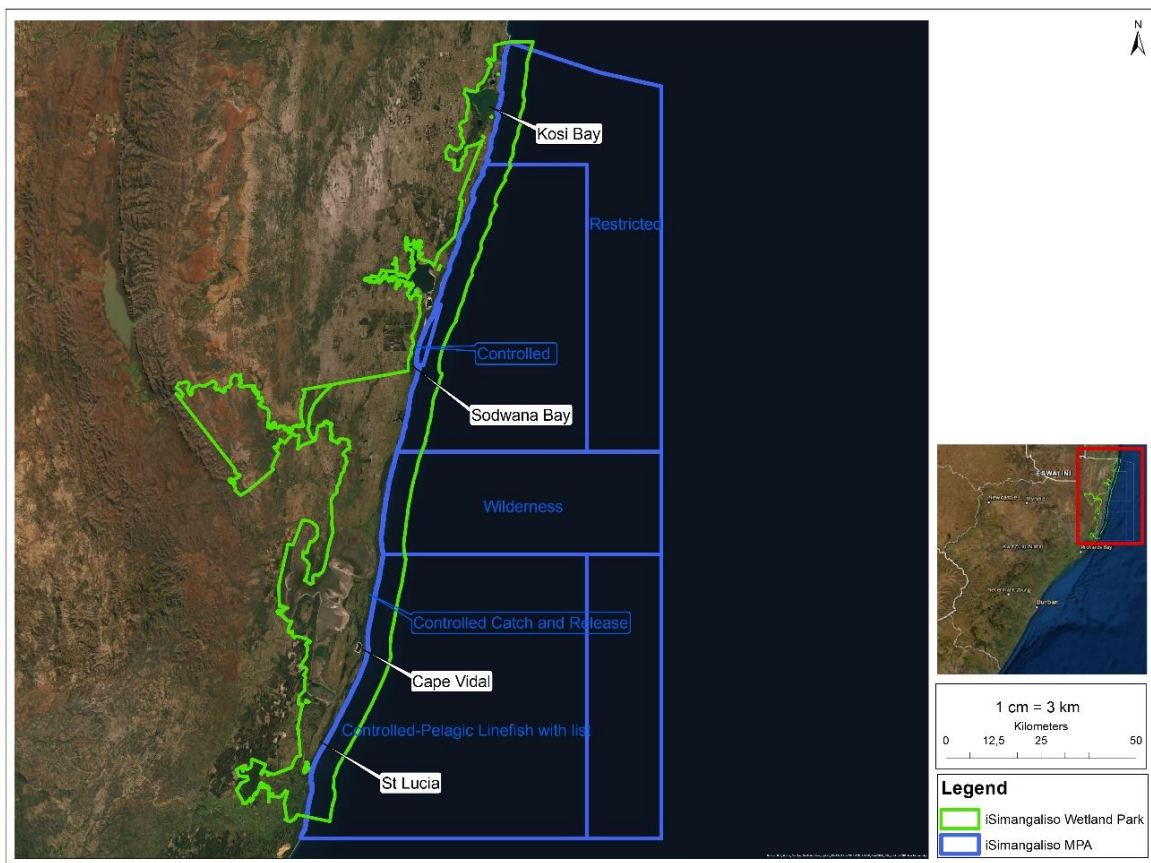


Figure 1: The iSimangaliso Wetland Park and new iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area situated in northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

The overall objective for the Project is to build socio-ecological resilience to climate change for the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area, its connected estuarine systems, and the dependent communities

that live in and around the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. To achieve this objective, the project will focus on:

1. Strengthening the management and protection of ecosystems that are important for building climate resilience,
2. Rehabilitating and improving coastal and marine ecosystem health,
3. Improving livelihoods and food security for vulnerable communities, and
4. Improving knowledge and capacity for ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.

WILDTRUST is the lead implementing partner for the Project and will report directly to the Blue Action Fund. The timeframe for the project is 4 years with a proposed start date on 1st July 2023.

The project builds on the WILDTRUST's Oceans Alive project, also funded by the Blue Action Fund, which was implemented from July 2019 to June 2022. The project has achieved several objectives, including providing a youth-focused work experience and training program, establishing three Community Resource Hubs, conducting various offshore surveys to improve biodiversity knowledge and understanding, and supporting effective management of the iSimangaliso MPA. The project has also helped to create job opportunities and increase the employment rate in iSimangaliso, benefiting the local community members. As part of the Oceans Alive project, a Grievance Mechanism and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan were developed, and later a Process Framework, on which the current document builds.

1.3 Preliminary Potential Access Restrictions & Related Social Impacts

There are several project activities that could potentially bring about involuntary natural resource access restrictions for project affected peoples. These include

- 1) **Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness:** Improved MPA managements effectiveness through implementation of measures stipulated in MPA Management Plan
- 2) **Marine Protected Area Management Staff Capacity Building:** Improved human capacity for management of the MPA and associated estuaries
- 3) **Park Boundary Demarcation:** Legal Demarcation of boundaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park is clarified, understood, and communicated to affected communities
- 4) **Community Co-management and Monitoring:** Cost-effective monitoring, control, and enforcement techniques to prevent illegal fishing/use of unsustainable practices are successfully adopted.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement Objectives & Principles

It is important to manage stakeholder expectations to avoid potential frustrations during the project implementation. The Project objectives for stakeholder engagement include: (i) identifying and analysing stakeholders, (ii) obtaining input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, (iii) providing stakeholders with clear and timely information, (iv) providing opportunity for stakeholders to engage, (v) building stakeholder capacity, (vi) working directly with stakeholders, and (vii) providing stakeholders with timely feedback. The overall goal is to build strong relationships and mutual understanding between the project and its stakeholders, particularly the project-affected people, while ensuring that expectations are realistic and informed.

The Project has adopted eight key principles for best practice stakeholder engagement, aimed at promoting optimal outcomes for nature and people. These principles include providing supportive and transparent leadership, fostering a safe and trusting environment for input, early community involvement with clear expectations, sharing decision-making and governance control, acknowledging power imbalances, investing in stakeholders lacking skills, creating tangible wins and continuous feedback, and considering both community and organisational motivations. Implementing these principles will ensure inclusion, mainstreaming of community considerations, respecting human rights, and ensure participation and consent through open and transparent engagement mechanisms, trust, mutual commitment, and inclusive participation methods.

2.2 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

WILDTRUST and consultants who conducted the Environmental and Social Assessment during the Project design phase undertook a stakeholder identification exercise that identified the following groups, which have been included in the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

- **Collaborating Authorities and Partners:** National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (IWPA), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)
- **Project Livelihood Sub-grantees:** Mahlathini Development Foundation, Africa Ignite!, and Indalo Inclusive
- **Sub-grantees:** South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
- **Local & other Authorities:** Traditional Leadership (Amakhosi and iziNduna), National COGTA, South African Heritage Research Agency (SAHRA), AMAFA Institute, KZN EDTEA, KZN DARD, Tourism KZN, District Municipalities (uMkhanyakude and King Cetshwayo District Municipalities) uMhlosinga Development Agency, Local Municipalities (uMhlabuyalingana, Jozini, Big 5 Hlabisa, Mtubatuba, uMfolozi)
- **Law Enforcement and Security:** Local magistrates, SAPS Marine Unit, SA Navy
- **Research and Monitoring Organisations:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR).
- **Rural communities:** Communities within the direct (and partial/indirect) influence of the project and outside the sphere of influence, vulnerable/ marginalized groups (women, youth and people with disabilities; and subsistence and Small Scale Fishers.
- **Recreational Users of iSimangaliso MPA:** Recreational Fishers/ Boating Clubs, Tourists, Scuba-Diving individuals
- **Commercial users of iSimangaliso MPA:** Tourism operators inside MPA, Commercial line fishing Operations (offshore) – illegal, SCUBA Diving Concessionaires, Boat charters, Small Scale Fishers (co-operatives)
- **Civil Society Organisations, Local NGOs and Business Interests:** Media, Private Property Owners/ Developers, Commercialisation investors, Ratepayers/ residents, Conservation NGOs, Ecological / Human Rights Activist Groups, Friends of Small Scale Fishers

A detailed Stakeholder Analysis is included in the Project Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). This assesses the Project impact on each stakeholder, identifies their level of interest and influence

on the Project, and includes an analysis of the role of the stakeholder in the project and in relation to access restrictions. A diagrammatic representation of this analysis is indicated in **Figure 2** below.

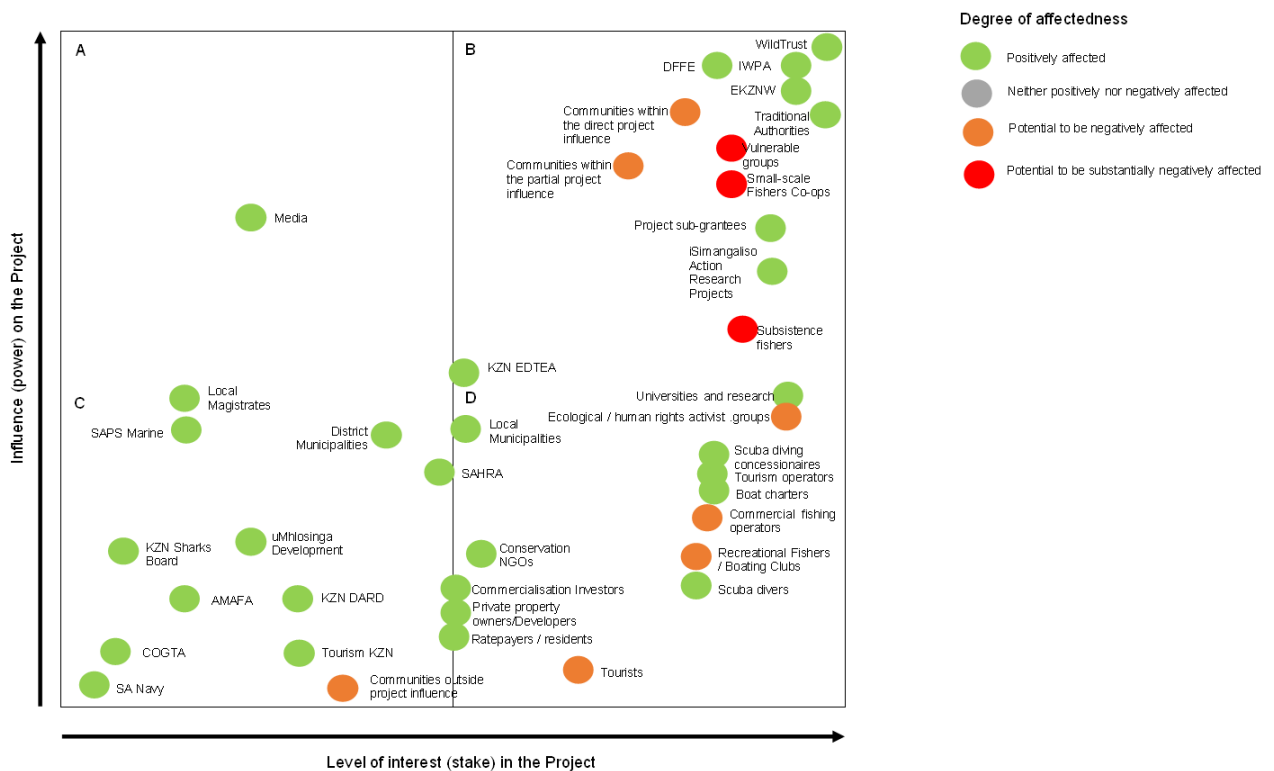


Figure 2: iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project Stakeholder Analysis

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement to Date

Various stakeholder engagement activities have already been undertaken by WILDTRUST during the planning stages of the Project (this is detailed in the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan). These build on the ongoing engagements which have been taking place over the past four years through the Oceans Alive project, also funded by Blue Action Fund and implemented by WILDTRUST. WILDTRUST has therefore been working with stakeholders in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park for some time, and has conducted meetings with Traditional Authorities, community members, and Small Scale Fishers to introduce the project and gather feedback on the proposed project.

The stakeholder analysis conducted as part of the Environmental and Social Assessment for the Project prioritised two groups for further engagement in the short-term: (1) key stakeholders involved in the governance and management of the park, and (2) local leadership and communities in the project implementation areas. Expert consultants hired by WILDTRUST to undertake an objective Environmental and Social Assessment of the proposed project conducted individual interviews with key stakeholders and facilitated focus group discussions with project partner communities in the Tembe and Sokhulu Traditional Authority areas between September 2022 and January 2023.

These engagements highlighted multiple legacy issues in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, including a history of apartheid and dispossession, land evictions, perceptions of a "fences and fines" approach to conservation, and a lack of delivery of benefits to local communities. Limited communication and engagement with communities in the past has negatively impacted the relationship between the park and

communities, though efforts to improve this relationship are underway. Some community members view Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as being under the influence of "whites" and associated with the legacy of apartheid and control over land and livelihoods. However, the study also revealed that there are positive perceptions of MPAs among some communities, including their role in conserving nature, protecting animals and the marine environment, and creating economic benefits such as job opportunities and economic growth through tourism.

2.4 Planned Stakeholder Engagement

WILDTRUST has planned several types of engagements with stakeholders during the Project, which are detailed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and which are designed to enhance accessibility and context-relevance of the engagement process for different groups. These methods include online and in-person meetings, workshops, focus group meetings, webinars, written publications (appropriately translated), a facilitated partnership building and dialogue series of engagements, facilitation of reference groups to support research processes, perception surveys, media information days, and radio, print and social media releases / publications.

Prior to Project inception, WILDTRUST will facilitate disclosure of the Project Safeguards, continue to engage with key stakeholders around the proposed Project, and conduct stakeholder engagement to inform a targeted Security Risk Assessment.

During Project inception, information on the Project will be released through various public media platforms. Introductory meetings will be held with key Project partners, community leadership and government agencies, and with vulnerable groups potentially affected by the Project, such as Small Scale Fishers.

During the implementation phase, a comprehensive programme of meaningful stakeholder engagement will be facilitated in accordance with the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan. These engagements will be focused on participatory planning with key stakeholders to ensure they have adequate opportunity to input into and influence the project design and adaptive management decision-making. Development of Estuarine Management Plans as part of the Project process will be a specific area of consultation, to ensure that stakeholders are effectively engaged in the preparation of these plans.

All stakeholder engagement activities will be registered in a Project Stakeholder Engagement Register.

2.5 Grievance Mechanism

A project level Grievance Mechanism has been prepared and included as Safeguard within the Project Environmental and Social Management Plan. Furthermore, the Project will work with the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (IWPA) to develop a Marine Protected Area-level Grievance Mechanism to receive and resolve those grievances that are within IWPA and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's mandates.

3. Institutional and Legal Framework

3.1 Institutional Framework

Management of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site and Marine Protected Area has been delegated to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (IWPA) as per section 38(1) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) by the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment. IWPA is responsible for the operations of the Park and must ensure environmental and cultural protection, and that the values of the World Heritage Convention are respected including managing tourism, creating jobs and implementing the Park's Management Plan. Ezemvelo KZN

Wildlife (EKZNW) is mandated through the World Heritage Regulations as the conservation management agent for the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and is contracted by ISWP with respect to the MPA to manage law enforcement, management of plant and animal species and populations, management of ecosystems and habitats, fire management, water pollution control, and soil erosion control. The KZN Tourism Authority assists the IWPA with tourism marketing. IWPA has a mandate to enter into co-operative governance agreements other institutions across all spheres of government, including local government, to fulfil its core functions. The rights and duties of IWPA, EKZNW and the KZN Tourism Authority in the management and development of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park are regulated through legislation and have been defined through a management agreement signed in August 2001 by these three parties.

South Africa is governed by wall-to-wall district municipalities, which form the 'local' authority of the three spheres of government: national, provincial and local government. District municipalities are comprised of local municipalities, which govern and fulfil their mandates at the closest interface with citizens and hence are important to the WILDTRUST project.

The Ingonyama Trust holds 32% of land in KwaZulu-Natal, which vests in the Ingonyama, King Misuzulu, as a trustee on behalf of the members of the Zulu nation. The areas where community livelihood activities will be implemented in the Project are located predominantly on Ingonyama Trust Land. In these areas, the *amakosi* and *izinduna* are responsible for land allocation, and social cohesion, addressing social conflict and ensuring the development of their people, and are therefore key stakeholders in the Project.

3.2 Legal Framework

The marine environment is the responsibility of National Government (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment), which controls access to and use of associated resources. International laws and agreements as well as National Acts and Policies underpin the proclamation of Marine Protected Areas and direct the associated planning and operational management activities. In addition to national and provincial statutes, local government is responsible for preparing Integrated Development Plans, Spatial Development Frameworks and Local Area Plans (and associated policies and by-laws) that regulate development in and adjacent to coastal areas in response to identified environmental threats and priorities.

There are several applicable global legal instruments bind South Africa to protect and manage the sea and its marine resources (including fisheries), given the internationally connected nature of the world's oceans. Key amongst these are: the United Nations Law of the Sea, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973), the Convention on Biological Diversity, World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation (2002), Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, Port State Measures Agreement, African Integrated Maritime Strategy, and Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The Project is also governed by international standards such as the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, including the Environmental and Social Standards, and Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines. These Standards are aimed at providing guidance on how to identify risks and impacts, and are designed to help to help avoid, mitigate, and manage risks and impacts as a way of doing projects in a sustainable way. To make these Standards relevant and practical for conservation projects, Blue Action Fund has developed safeguarding Principles which will be adhered to in the Project, which include:

- **Principle 1:** Environmental and social assessment and risk management
- **Principle 2:** Stakeholder engagement

- **Principle 3:** Health, safety and security of communities and project personnel
- **Principle 4:** Protection, conservation and sustainable management of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources
- **Principle 5:** Livelihoods and access restrictions
- **Principle 6:** Gender equity and vulnerable groups
- **Principle 7:** Cultural heritage
- **Principle 8:** Indigenous Peoples
- **Principle 9:** Grievance management
- **Principle 10:** Human rights

Adherence to these Principles requires that adequate public consultation and disclosure is carried out by the Project so that Project Affected Communities are fully informed about the project and their views and concerns are considered.

WILDTRUST has conducted a preliminary review of the South African legislation relating to the Project and has identified several gaps that need to be addressed. These include: (i) the absence of a legal requirement for socio-economic baselines to be conducted as part of Marine Protected Area (MPA) establishment, and (ii) the lack of entitlement to compensation for affected persons due to access restrictions resulting from MPA establishment. However, the Project has already completed social baselines across the project community implementation sites. Regarding the second gap, Project livelihood restoration efforts will be carefully planned in collaboration with the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority to ensure equitable outcomes for communities within the MPA.

4. Baseline Data Collection and Analysis

Baseline data collection and analysis allows for the identification, analysis and management of impacts associated with enhanced enforcement of existing Marine Protected Area access restrictions that may result from the Project. The first step has been to review existing available information Oceans Alive project social baseline study (primary data), additional social research completed to inform the Oceans Alive Process Framework (primary data), Environmental and Social Assessment conducted in the development of the Full Proposal for Project (primary data), Project maps relating to surrounding communities (generated by the project), Draft Management Plan for iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area, and Published Regulations for iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area.

The data review highlighted that while existing legislation dictates the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area zonations and access restrictions, the extent to which these are enforced, and the range and concentration of law enforcement and monitoring across the different regions in the park is not known. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has limited resources and a large stretch of coastline to monitor, so it will be important to better understand the extent of existing resource use / access monitoring and enforcement efforts, and whether approaches to law enforcement differ depending on the area, and type of illegal activity. Further insight is also needed on the actual economic displacement caused / potentially caused by the increased / more effective enforcement made possible by the Project. In the Inception Phase of the project, further focus groups, in-depth interviews and qualitative surveys need to be held with subsistence fishers, Small Scale Fishers and law enforcement personnel / management.

An identified gap is the type of analysis used for the data collected so far. There is a need to develop a more *quantitative* approach to evaluating the data when seeking to understand the impact of access restrictions, rather than just basing the analysis on qualitative information. This will form part of the Project's socio-economic and baseline surveys and assessments that will be conducted in Years 1 (inception) and Year 4 (close-out) of the Project.

5. Identifying, Assessing and Minimising Impacts

The type and **significance** of possible impacts to stakeholders from enhanced enforcement of access restrictions have been identified through the various stakeholder engagements undertaken to date.

The Environmental and Social Assessment conducted during Project planning has already identified several issues related to access restrictions and human rights in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. These build on the insights gathered from the social baseline conducted for the Oceans Alive Project. Access restrictions are reported to have increased the economic pressures on communities, dependency on the park for livelihoods, and potential economic displacement. Enforcement of access restrictions may unintentionally increase people's exposure to food insecurity and other climate change-related risks. In addition, customary rights issues have not been adequately addressed, and current enforcement measures are perceived as heavy-handed, and lacking consideration for poverty and unemployment levels. Some community members, particularly women, report feeling threatened by enforcement staff, which poses risks to both park officials and community members. These issues highlight the need for careful consideration of access restrictions and enforcement measures in relation to economic, social, and human rights concerns in the protected area.

The significance of potential negative impacts to **community stakeholders, including small-scale and subsistence fishers**, include:

- **Substantial impacts:** Threat to people's food security and livelihoods through increased patrols, and the exacerbation of people's already substantial fears of further restriction to their livelihoods. Increase in conflict between communities and conservation authorities, legacy issues associated with exclusion of communities from opportunities to meaningfully participate in protected area planning and decision-making (this includes lack of inclusive approach to engaging communities, lack of clarity amongst communities regarding the division of responsibilities between different government departments / agencies, perpetuating perceptions of exclusion that compounds the erosion of trust between park authorities and communities), and inequitable benefit sharing with vulnerable groups, particularly women, who are disproportionately affected by access restrictions and are marginalised in planning and decision making processes;
- **Moderate significance impacts:** Livelihood impacts to those arrested for using marine resources illegally, insufficient or ineffective stakeholder engagement (which could lead to increased conflict between communities and conservation authorities), additional livelihood impacts on groups with specific restrictions e.g. bag limits reduced, and restrictions to cultural uses natural resources in the Marine Protected Area.
- **Low significance impacts:** Increase in conflict (and possibly serious incidents) between law enforcement officers and turtle poachers (low significance due to low likelihood of this occurring).

Potential negative impacts to **recreational and commercial users** of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area include possible loss of tourist operators' revenue, increased discontent among recreational users,

displacement of fishing pressure, conflict between users and the conservation authorities due to the Project's increased enforcement of regulations and restrictions, and exclusion of commercial and recreation stakeholders from meaningful opportunities to participate in protected area planning and decision-making (associated with Marine Protected Area and Estuary Management planning). While several negative impacts have been identified, none of these are considered major or severe. Negative impacts are considered moderate or low in significance, and mostly mitigable.

6. Mitigation Measures

The Project has been designed to avoid or minimise the impact of enhanced access restrictions and/or displacement wherever possible, and to mitigate unavoidable negative impacts. **Table 1** details the eligibility and entitlements in place for access restriction and loss that may be contributed to by the Project.

Table 1: Entitlement Matrix

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
1	<p><i>Permanent access restriction to harvesting fish, invertebrates and bait resources in wilderness and restricted use zones in Marine Protected Area</i></p> <p>Changes in the Management Authority's capacity to enforce access restrictions in these areas will change current use patterns by subsistence and recreational users.</p>	Loss of access to areas for harvesting fish and marine resources	<p>Small scale subsistence fishers / Households from project affected communities.</p> <p>Recreational fishers</p> <p>Illegal commercial fishers</p>	<p>Communities: Ongoing access to the controlled zones in the Marine Protected Area where fishing and resource harvesting is permitted.</p> <p>Communities: Access to Community Hub Resource Centre.</p> <p>Small scale subsistence fishers / Households from project affected communities: Eligibility to participate in co-management initiatives, livelihood improvement, enterprise development, work experience and training programmes, and awareness and education interventions.</p> <p>Recreational fishers: Awareness raising and enhanced demarcation of restricted areas to support compliance with zonation and associated restrictions.</p> <p>Illegal commercial fishers: Enhanced demarcation of Marine Protected Area and zones to support compliance with Marine Protected Area restrictions.</p>
2	<p><i>Permanent restrictions to non-extractive activities and behaviour patterns by commercial and leisure operators in the Marine Protected Area.</i></p> <p>Changes in the Management Authority's capacity to enforce access and use restrictions in these areas will restrict</p>	Restriction to non-extractive activities in all zones in the Marine Protected Area	Commercial operators (concessioned and non-concessioned) operators and leisure users	<p>Concessioned commercial operators: Effective awareness raising and communication by Authorities (iSimangaliso Authority and EKZNW) about zonation and in-shore and offshore restrictions, and associated requirements in terms of their commercial operations.</p> <p>Non-concessioned commercial operators: Effective awareness raising and communication by Authorities (iSimangaliso Authority</p>

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
	activities and behaviour to within Marine Protected Area regulations by all non-extractive users.			and EKZNW) about zonation and in-shore and offshore restrictions, and associated requirements in terms of their commercial operations. Leisure users (e.g. whale watching, leisure craft, etc.): Clear demarcation of zones in Marine Protected Area and awareness raising about associated in-shore and offshore restrictions.
3	<i>Permanent access restriction to mangrove forests, dune vegetation and riparian vegetation in floodplains (reed beds and swamp forest) in the IWP.</i> Rehabilitation and protection interventions by the management authority will change current use patterns by subsistence resource users	Reduced access to resources by subsistence users who depend on these resources to contribute to food security and livelihoods.	Households from project affected communities.	Communities: Ongoing access to areas where resource harvesting is permitted. Communities: Access to Community Hub Resource Centre. Households from project affected communities: Eligibility to participate in livelihood improvement, climate-smart agriculture; enterprise development, work experience and training programmes, and awareness and education interventions.
4	<i>Short term exposure to food insecurity and other climate change related risks due to unintentional investment in maladaptive agricultural and livelihood interventions</i>	Reduced food security for households who currently depend on subsistence agriculture and resource use to meet food security and livelihoods	Households from project affected communities.	Communities: Access to Community Hub Resource Centre. Households from project affected communities: Eligibility to participate in livelihood improvement, climate-smart agriculture; enterprise development, work experience and training programmes, and awareness and education interventions.
5	<i>Exclusion from meaningful opportunities to participate in protected area planning and decision-making (e.g., delineation of park boundaries and preparation of Estuarine Management Plans).</i> The legacy of inadequate engagement by government and park authorities has left stakeholders feeling excluded and disempowered from meaningfully participating in the process of	Exacerbating perceptions of exclusion and dispossession of land and access and use of protected area compounds the erosion of trust between park authorities and stakeholders and undermines cooperation and support for the management of the protected areas.	Small scale subsistence fishers / Households from project affected communities. Recreational and commercial users	All stakeholders: Opportunities for co-creation approach to protected area management planning and development, through appropriate consultation and engagement.

No.	Restriction or Loss	Impact	Eligibility	Entitlements
	developing and updating management plans.			

A range of Project activities have been included as management measures to mitigate risks identified relating to access restrictions, including livelihood improvement focused programs. Key amongst these is:

1. Facilitate a dialogue and trust building process between iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and rural community stakeholders to facilitate development of a shared vision, common agenda, and joint action partnership.
2. Support the establishment and annual meetings of an inclusive iSimangaliso Stakeholder Forum (including civil society stakeholders, and relevant authorities, i.e. iSimangaliso, Ezemvelo, EDTEA, DWS, DFFE, Health, Rural Development, Traditional Authorities).
3. Facilitate improved participation of rural community stakeholders in Marine Protected Area and Estuary management planning and management, including through co-management approaches and platforms. Employ and train community members in Park law enforcement functions (including boat skippers).
4. Enhance community understanding and awareness of access restrictions, sustainable resource use approaches and adaptation to climate change through workshops, social media campaigns, and through involving communities in Park monitoring activities (e.g. turtle breeding).
5. Train Marine Protected Area Enforcement Officers and Estuarine Managers on partnerships and stakeholder engagement skills, conflict resolution and human rights considerations, gender awareness and gender-based violence avoidance.
6. Support community skills development and enterprises (including climate smart farming) through providing information (e.g. weather and disaster early warning systems), mentorship and business incubation support, training courses, support for funding access, and study bursaries for high vulnerable youth.

7. Implementation Arrangements

Project governance structures are designed to facilitate the multi-level collaboration needed to enable a more systemic approach to governance of the Marine Protected Area. WILDTRUST will be responsible for implementation of all livelihood interventions, the Environmental and Social Management System and associated Safeguards, and all other proposed Project activities. WILDTRUST will provide support and guidance to all Project partners on implementing the necessary Safeguards.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Updating the Process Framework

Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Process Framework will be undertaken on an on-going basis, and will utilise the following indicators to determine effectiveness of the measures included in this document:

1. Resolution of grievances and access restriction related grievances:

- a. Number of grievances received and recorded in grievance register (eligible and eligible)
 - b. Number of grievances resolved and unresolved
 - c. Mitigation measures effective to address access restricted related grievances
- 2. Tracking implementation of mitigation measures:
 - a. Tracking progress that mitigation measures are implemented as per schedule.
- 3. Tracking of stakeholder engagement activities (mechanisms):
 - a. Track if the stakeholder engagement activities take place and recorded in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- 4. Tracking progress of participatory processes such as Marine Protected Area management plan consultation:
 - a. Track if consultations took place timeously and all affected stakeholders were able to be included in consultations and input.
- 5. Changes in baseline information overtime affected communities:
 - a. Evaluation of socioeconomic conditions, livelihood conditions and perceptions of affected communities in project area.

The development of the Process Framework should be an iterative 'process', and therefore several iterations will be developed. The Interim Process Framework will be updated in the Inception Phase of the project to incorporate the socio-economic baseline data gathered during this phase, and additional research data in relation to identified gaps. The Final Process Framework will be developed once all the proposed management measures have been disclosed and discussed with key stakeholders, and their views incorporated, and the outcomes of the Security Risk Assessment have also been incorporated before the end of Year 1.

WORKING DRAFT**ANNEX C.2: WILDTRUST Best Practice Community Stakeholder Engagement Principles and Participatory Recommendations**

This document is still in working draft form and contains some text that is not yet adequately referenced in the document. Please do not disseminate further.

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1. Introduction

The objectives for any stakeholder engagement (SE) should be that the majority (if not all) stakeholders feel positive about the engagement and feel their needs have been heard, and if not met, at least considered.

Through extensive research and field-based experience with various communities, WILDTRUST has identified (1) 8 Key Principles for Best Practice Community Stakeholder Engagement, and (2) Participatory recommendations to be used in community engagement for the MPA and EMP planning (Estuarine Management Planning Protocol) process. These are detailed in this document, contextualized with the current legislated requirements for public consultations in the environmental sector. It is recommended that these principles are integrated into all community stakeholder engagements and consultations whenever possible to ensure the best possible outcome for the engagement.

The WILDTRUSTs vision is “a thriving and resilient world” and our mission is to “empower, to regenerate the connectedness of all things, to create opportunities to restore socio-ecological resilience and balance between people and nature, for a just and thriving planet”.

We believe the principles and recommendation in this document are a critical step towards achieving our vision and mission, and we are striving to instil these principles in our teams and in our partners.

2. Legislation

2.1 National legislation

South Africa has relatively strong legislation on stakeholder engagement guided by our constitution. However, there is lack of consistency and effective execution of this legislation, lack of awareness of the practical application of it, and a disempowered public in most instances with regards the legislation. Public participation is a statutory requirement in most, if not all, recently promulgated environmental legislation. In South Africa, the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) (NEMA), forms the basis of stakeholder consultation.

The participation of all stakeholders (defined as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in NEMA) in environmental governance is required to be promoted, and everyone must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation. Furthermore, and one which is essential for MPAs is the participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured. The purpose of public participation is to ensure that stakeholders are provided with the opportunity to raise issues and concerns

In the environmental sector, stakeholder engagement is informed by the following legislation:

- **South African National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA)** is the underlying legal framework which gives effect to the environmental right contained in section

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24 of the Constitution. It stipulates environmental management principles and the objectives of the principle of integrated environmental management based on the requirement of environmental authorisations for certain listed activities. It also aims to ensure that South Africa meets its international obligations in terms of international environmental instruments and provides for measures to ensure effective compliance and enforcement, including provisions on judicial matters.

Specific clauses in NEMA relevant here:

2. (2) Environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably.

2. 4(f) The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured.

(g) Decisions must take into account the interests, needs and values of all interested and affected parties, and this includes recognizing all forms of knowledge, including traditional and ordinary knowledge.

- **Promotion of Access to Information Act (Act of 2 of 2000) (PAIA)**, contained in section 32 of the Constitution ensures that everyone has a right of access to any information that is required to exercise or protect any rights, that is held by the state, government, and private bodies. It aims to promote transparency, accountability, and effective governance of all public and private bodies, by empowering and educating everyone to understand and exercise their rights in terms of PAIA in relation to public and private bodies. It further aims ensure that everyone understands the functions and operation of public bodies, and to promote participation in decision making by public bodies that affects their rights.

Specific clauses in PAIA relevant here:

31. A requester whose request for access to a record of a public body has been granted must, if the record:

- a. exists in the language that the requester prefers, be given access in that language; or*
- b. (b) does not exist in the language so preferred or the requester has no preference or has not indicated a preference, be given access in any language the record exists in.*

- **Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act 3 of 2000) (PAJA)** gives effect to the right of administrative action that is lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair as well as to the right to written reasons for administrative action as contemplated in section 33 of the Constitution. It seeks to make the administration effective and accountable to people for its actions.

Specific clauses in PAJA relevant here:

4. (1) In cases where an administrative action materially and adversely affects the

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rights of the public, an administrator, in order to give effect to the right to procedurally fair administrative action, must decide whether-

- a. *to hold a public inquiry in terms of subsection (2);*
 - b. *to follow a notice and comment procedure in terms of subsection (3);*
 - c. *to follow the procedures in both subsections (2) and (3);*
 - d. *where the administrator is empowered by any empowering provision to follow a procedure which is fair but different, to follow that procedure; or 5*
 - e. *to follow another appropriate procedure which gives effect to section 3.*
- **National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) (NEMBA)** intends to provide for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the NEMA, the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection, the use of indigenous biological resources in a sustainable manner, and the fair and equitable sharing among stakeholders of benefits arising from bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resources and lastly, the establishment and functions of a South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and for matters connected therewith.

Specific clauses in NEMBA relevant here:

47. (1) Before adopting or approving a national biodiversity framework, a bioregional plan or a biodiversity management plan, or any amendment to such a plan, the Minister must follow a consultative process in accordance with sections 99 and 100.

47. (2) Before adopting a bioregional plan, or any amendment to such a plan, the MEC for Environmental Affairs in the relevant province must follow a consultative process in accordance with sections 99 and 100.

99. (1) Before exercising a power which, in terms of a provision of this Act, must be exercised in accordance with this section and section 100, the Minister must follow an appropriate consultative process in the circumstances.

99. (2) The Minister must, in terms of subsection (1)-

- (a) consult all Cabinet members whose areas of responsibility may be affected by the exercise of the power;*
- (b) in accordance with the principles of co-operative governance set out in 10*

Chapter 3 of the Constitution, consult the MEC for Environmental Affairs of each province that may be affected by the exercise of the power; and

- (c) allow public participation in the process in accordance with section 100.*

100. (1) The Minister must give notice of the proposed exercise of the power referred to in section 99-

- (a) in the Gazette; and*
- (b) in at least one newspaper distributed nationally, or if the exercise of the power may affect only a specific area, in at least one newspaper distributed in that area.*

100. (2) *The notice must-*

- (a) *invite members of the public to submit to the Minister, within 30 days of publication of the notice in the Gazette, written representations on, or objections to, the proposed exercise of the power; and*
- (b) *contain sufficient information to enable members of the public to submit meaningful representations or objections.*

100. (3) *The Minister may in appropriate circumstances allow any interested person or community to present oral representations or objections to the Minister or a person designated by the Minister.*

100. (4) *The Minister must give due consideration to all representations or objections received or presented before exercising the power.*

- **National Environmental Management: Marine Protected Area's Act (Act 57 of 2003) (NEMPA)** intends to provide, within the framework of NEMA, for the declaration and management of protected areas, for cooperative governance in the declaration and management of protected areas; for effecting a national system of protected areas in South Africa as part of a strategy to manage and conserve its biodiversity and for a representative network of protected areas on state land, private land and communal land, and for matters in connection therewith.

Specific clauses in NEMPA relevant here:

9. A management authority may establish one or more advisory committees in respect of a nature reserve.

10. In establishing an advisory committee contemplated in regulation 9 a management authority must -

- (a) invite community organisations, non-governmental organisations, residents of and neighbouring communities to the nature reserve to nominate persons, who could be taken into consideration when members of the advisory committee are appointed.
- (b) set the minimum requirements and other criteria which it must take into consideration when deciding which persons to appoint as members of the advisory committee; and
- (c) determine a method which will enable the invitation contemplated in (a) to reach the greatest number of residents of and, neighbouring communities to the nature reserve

2.2 International best-practice requirements

IFC's 2012 Performance Standards (PS) on Environmental and Social Sustainability, including PS1 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure) ensure that community engagement is an inclusive consultation process with affected communities. It states that stakeholder engagement shall be conducted on the basis of timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, provided in a culturally appropriate format. In line with Blue Action Fund requirements, should align with the following:

- Identification of key stakeholders, including people or communities that could be affected by implementation, as well as other interested parties;
- Meaningful consultation with project-affected or other interested parties on environmental and social issues that could potentially affect them;
- Disclosure of appropriate information and appropriate notification about this disclosure at a time when stakeholder views can still influence the development of the projects and/ policies;
-
- Stakeholder consultation during the whole lifecycle of the project, and starting as early as possible;
- Operation of a procedure by which people can submit comments and complaints (Grievance Mechanism);
- Maintenance of a constructive relationship with stakeholders on an ongoing basis through meaningful engagement during project implementation; and
- Special provisions shall apply to consultations which involve Indigenous Peoples as well as individuals belonging to vulnerable groups.

3. The principles

Eight key principles for identified for Best Practice Community Stakeholder Engagement. These principles have been developed with the intention of promoting best practice SE for optimal outcomes for nature and people:

1. Ensure staff provide supportive and facilitative leadership based on transparency
2. Foster a safe & trusting environment to enable communities to provide input
3. Ensure communities 'early involvement', with clear expectations
4. Share decision-making and governance control with communities
5. Acknowledge and address communities' experiences of power imbalances between communities and conservation management and authority
6. Invest in citizens who feel they lack the skills and confidence to engage
7. Create tangible wins and continuous feedback
8. Take into account both communities' and organizations' motivations

These principles are detailed below:

1. Ensure staff provide supportive and facilitative leadership based on transparency
 - Provide communities access to all relevant resources (accessible points of communication)
 - Implement two-way communication with the community - includes building supportive (and accessible) organizational structures
 - Facilitate communities' understanding of key topics

Staff's support and facilitation makes communities feel valued. Such support should be based on transparency and respect allowing both communities and professionals (staff) to easily share information with each other. This helps to ensure that all those involved in project interventions and are clear on the expected outcomes. Engagement leads (staff) openly listening to community problems and ideas, improves staff's understanding of communities' needs. Transparency about limited resources can prevent communities from feeling frustrated.

2. Foster a safe & trusting environment to enable communities to provide input
 - Invest resources in the building of trusting relationships with communities
 - Tailor strategies to community needs and preferences
 - Hold meetings outside organizational sphere – preferable to host engagements within the community – decreases reliance on transportation, promotes a sense of comfort and improves the potential quality of representation (including of men, women, the youth and the elderly) for engagements.
 - Hire demographically and culturally diverse staff in order to better reflect and connect with a variety of communities
 - Staff should ensure that conflict is never perpetuated and deescalated as efficiently as possible
 - Adjust meetings and activities to communities’ needs guided by the following:
 - i. The use of appropriate local language to boost understanding (e.g., less jargon)
 - ii. Choosing a convenient timetable for your audience
 - iii. Providing transportation to engagements if needed
 - iv. Ensuring activities are aimed at ethnic minorities and are culturally sensitive
 - v. Ensuring adequate representation of men, women and youth – consider engaging separately or at different times for all groups to be heard and included.

Culturally safe spaces build communities’ confidence to discuss their needs. Engagement processes and activities should, therefore, be adjusted to suit communities’ needs and organizations should take steps to reduce practical as well as cultural barriers to enable their full participation. Additionally, staff who create safe environments and address communities’ supportive needs help build trust and cohesion and are more likely to meet the objectives of the engagement. By building accessible organizational structures, community members feel included in governance and leadership of intervention and engaged in decision-making processes. It is important to pre-establish trusting relationships with communities. Management’s efforts to build trust with communities can mean that communities are more likely to come forward and volunteer their own time. It is important for organizations to consider communities potentially differing needs and cater to different groups so that safe spaces can be created for those different groups (e.g. a youth only steering group, separate from adults, targeted engagements for the youth only or women separate to men). Creating a safe and trusting environment is especially important in contexts of marginalization.

3. Ensure communities ‘early’ involvement, with clear expectations
 - Discuss with communities the stage at which they want to be involved
 - Align organizational and community priorities
 - Include communities in needs assessments and identification of priorities at early development/ implementation

Communities should be involved as early as possible. Early involvement motivates and enables all stakeholders to bring about change. Early involvement of some communities can trigger others to become involved as well. It is important to identify financial resources/ avenues to source funds that

have the potential to promote far-reaching change. Organizations should ensure that their priorities are aligned with those of the community, or if not so, provide opportunity for community inputs to leverage required changes. Failing to do so early on can negatively affect the outcome of interventions. For example, organizations will struggle to involve communities early on if contextual power imbalances between professionals and communities are not addressed and organizations maintain overall control of interventions' projects and plans. Ultimately, communities who are shut out of strategic and decision-making stages end up feeling disempowered and demotivated to continue their engagement. While it is important to promote early involvement of communities, from experience, communities often struggle to participate if organizations have not yet worked out any concrete goals or plans, as they prefer having something tangible to discuss. It also suggested that organizations support communities to turn their own ideas into workable plans and strategies.

4. Share decision-making and governance control with communities
 - Place communities in leadership and decision-making positions
 - Share relevant resources and tools with engaged communities
 - More in-depth collaboration between partners
 - Interventions initiated by communities themselves
 - Organizations willing to address power imbalances

Organizations should encourage communities to take on governance and decision-making roles within project interventions. Government Management and Co-Management may be the best structures for Protected Area management since government management allows for some level of public engagement but retains a centralized authority, while co-management arrangements allow shared responsibility. It is vital to engage local communities early in the protected area establishment process and to include local communities in the planning process. Sustained engagement will foster a sense of ownership over an area and its resources, facilitating the meeting of local needs.

Ways in which organization unethically maintain control/ power of management over communities:

- monopolizing the meetings by working through large quantities of complex paperwork
- cancelling meetings at the last minute
- limiting transparency – sharing only what is needed when required
- utilizing culturally inappropriate mechanisms to engage
- limiting participation through virtual engagement

5. Acknowledge and address communities' experiences of power imbalances between communities and conservation management and authority
 - Acknowledge and address communities' experiences of power imbalance - Invest in communities with low levels of readiness to build their capacity and adjust organizational approaches and structures

Addressing power imbalances between communities and conservation authorities is crucial to the success of conservation interventions. There are several factors, which contribute to communities' relative powerlessness:

- Communities are often subject to the regulations and restrictions implemented by governing bodies and management authorities with little to no effective engagement
- Organizational structures and hierarchies are tipped towards professionals rather than community members co-leading decision-making and governance
- Governance and management have the potential to undermine the contributions that communities offer through engagement.
- Ineffective stakeholder engagement - through the use of “foreign” language, without/ too much technical support, lacking cultural sensitivity - limits communities in the type and scope of contributions they are able to make.

Achieving a sense of balance would require open and honest discussions between management and communities about their representation in decision-making, effects of law enforcement and access restrictions.

6. Invest in citizens who feel they lack the skills and confidence to engage
 - Invest in communities who feel they lack the skills and confidence to engage
 - Provide professional or leadership training, e.g. in chairing meetings, conducting support-group sessions
 - Provide learning opportunities highlighting causes of citizens’ disadvantage and tools to alleviate these
 - Provide workshops to allow communities to identify and map accessible resources and/ opportunities within their community

Organizations should offer learning opportunities to community members who feel they lack the skills and confidence to engage. Without being offered the opportunity to learn the required skills and capabilities, many, more vulnerable, community members will likely feel unable to effectively engage. Culturally sensitive training programmes may empower disadvantaged communities with to recognize their own entitlement to participation and enable them to successfully input into decision- making processes.

7. Creating tangible wins and continuous feedback

Creating quick wins are important for stakeholder community engagement to build and maintain momentum among communities. The quicker communities receive feedback on grievance/ concerns, the quicker the organization builds a trusting, results- driven relationship with communities. If a local community express pressing and visible needs, the early successes in the initial stages of the intervention can provide momentum and energy for community to come together towards other common and achievable goals, promote engagement and willingness in the future. A lack of quick, concrete improvements can worsen citizens’ feelings of powerlessness and will likely result in communities being less likely to participate in future interventions. Regularly relating to communities how their input is being used and how it contributes to successful outcomes can be helpful in maintaining their interest.

8. Take into account both communities' and organizations' motivations
 - Be flexible and allow citizens to also focus on those issues that interest them during engagements
 - Be transparent about organizational motivations and requirements
 - Be open and receptive to communities' negative service delivery related experiences

Listening openly to communities whilst being transparent about the capabilities that the organization has offer has the potential to identify areas of alignment whilst managing community expectations. Aligning motivations can enhance community members personal connections with organizations and

4. Participatory recommendations to be used in community engagement for the MPA and EMP planning (Estuarine Management Planning Protocol) process

4.1 Guidelines for effective participation

There are 6 main guides to effective participation. These include ensuring:

- **Capability:** The members are capable of dialogue.
- **Commitment:** Mutual benefit beyond self-interest.
- **Contribution:** Members volunteer and there is an environment that encourages members to 'have a go' or take responsibility / risks.
- **Continuity:** Members share or rotate roles and, as members move on, there is a transition process that sustains and maintains the community's corporate memory.
- **Collaboration:** Reliable interdependence. A clear vision with members operating in an environment of sharing and trust.
- **Conscience:** Embody or invoke guiding principles / ethics of service, trust and respect that are expressed in the actions of the community.

4.2 Create a plan for meaningful community engagement processes

I. For any legislation/ policy should make community involvement mandatory prior to implementation

Engagement leaders of projects and management authorities may see community organizing and mobilization as part of their mission, or they may recognize the strengths of community engagement: its potential to enhance the ethical foundations of action, the identification of issues, the design and delivery of programs, and translational research. "Requirement for participation should be viewed as part of a broader thrust to deepen democracy in post-apartheid South Africa as well as part of the context of environmental justice that the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 also known as NEMA Act advocates ensuring that the ecological effects of projects are not inordinately placed on the poorer and less powerful segments of society" (Bennie, 2019).

- It is important not to raise false expectations, but rather to promise less, yet deliver more, and quickly to show tangible benefits to local communities.

- It is also essential to plan for change; change in local community circumstances, structures and representatives, and changes in regional and national political, social and economic factors – including changes related to access restriction signage, and zonation.
- Support and encourage participants, government and community institutions, and others to work together to advance the common good.

II. For project related engagement - In the Project planning/ Planning Phase for implementation

- Clarity: Be clear about the purposes or goals of the engagement effort and the populations and/or communities you want to engage

Those wishing to engage the community need to be able to communicate to that community why its participation is worthwhile (simply being able to articulate that involvement is worthwhile does not guarantee participation).

- Preparation: Those implementing the effort should be prepared for a variety of responses from the community

Those implementing the effort should be prepared for a variety of responses from the community. There may be many barriers to engagement. The processes for involvement and participation must be appropriate for meeting the overall goals and objectives of the engagement. A clear guideline for reasons to community participation can include either seeking data, information, advice, and feedback. It is essential to address the issues that the community identifies as important, even if those are not the ones originally anticipated.

- Adequate Prior research: Become knowledgeable about the community's culture, economic conditions, social networks, political and power structures, norms and values, demographic trends, history, and experience with efforts by outside groups to engage it in various programs. Learn about the community's perceptions of those initiating the engagement activities.

It is important to learn as much about the community as possible, through both qualitative and quantitative methods, and from as many sources as feasible. Social ecological theories, for example, emphasize the need to understand the larger physical and social/ cultural environment and its interaction with individual health behaviours. An understanding of how the community perceives the benefits and costs of participating will facilitate decision making and consensus building and will translate into improved program planning, design, policy development, organization, and advocacy.

4.3 Considerations for effective engagement

4.3.1 Inclusion and Demographic diversity

Ensure that men, women, the youth, and the elderly (including any marginalized groups) are provided with platforms to input openly. Equitably incorporate diverse people, voices, ideas, and information to lay the groundwork for quality outcomes and democratic legitimacy.

4.3.2 Meaningful participation

Table 1: Meaningful, effective, and informed consultation processes

Meaningful community participation extends beyond physical involvement to include generation of ideas, contributions to decision making, and sharing of responsibility. Among the factors that motivate people to participate are wanting to play an active role in bettering their own lives, fulfilling social or religious obligations, feeling a need for a sense of community, and wanting cash or in-kind rewards. Whatever people’s motivations, obtaining meaningful community participation and having a successful, sustained initiative require that engagement leaders respect, listen to, and learn from community members. An absence of mutual respect and co-learning can result in a loss of time, trust, resources, and, most importantly, effectiveness.

To be considered “meaningful community consultation/ public participation”, the implementor (Park Authority) should:

- Fully explain the context of the engagement and for the implementation of management plans
- Fully explain the rationale for any changes in management, zonation and/ restrictions and the extent of the changes
- Highlight the effect on existing rights/interest
- Highlight additional avenues for sourcing relevant information
- Record and mention oral comments in reports
- Engagement should be in local language and published in local language in addition to English
- Should not assume that all participants have access to the internet but should utilize all forms of access including, but not limited to, local traditional council and municipality to convey messages and information.
- “get it right first time” as a lack of participation and building relations is very difficult to cure later

4.3.3 A comprehensive plan for stakeholder engagement

Table 1: Meaningful, effective, and informed consultation processes included in comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan

CHARACTERISTIC	CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN
<i>Free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, and intimidation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timelines for stakeholder engagement need to be realistic and respectful of stakeholder decision-making processes and preferences (e.g. respecting seasonality (not during harvest periods), festivals, etc.) - No acts of intimidation or violence or provision of bribes
<i>Gender and age-inclusive and responsive</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure stakeholder analysis accounts for differentiated roles and interests of men and women, and those women stakeholders are appropriately identified - Include culturally appropriate mechanisms/processes to facilitate the increased participation of women, youth, and the elderly
<i>Culturally appropriate and tailored to the language preferences and decision-making processes of each</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural understanding and awareness is central to meaningful stakeholder engagement. Design consultations/workshops to specificities of each stakeholder group, including respect for local decision-making processes and preferences (including appropriate time frames).

WORKING DRAFT

<p><i>identified stakeholder group, including disadvantaged or marginalized groups</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure materials and outreach methods are understandable and accessible to the range of stakeholders involved. - Apply principles of accessibility and make reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. - Consider diverse forms of communication: fact sheets, flyers, community postings, press releases, newsletters, hotlines, graphics, oral representation, posters, community bulletin board postings, local press announcements, public hearings, community meetings, informal meetings, videos, electronic media (websites, SMS messages), community radio, local plays and dramas, use of liaisons (community elders, religious leaders, NGO supporters)
<p><i>Prior and timely disclosure of accessible, understandable, relevant, and adequate information, including draft documents and plans</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure information on project's purpose, nature, scale, duration, and potential risks and impacts is available in timely, accessible manner - Ensure that draft social and environmental assessments and management plans are disclosed and stakeholder feedback is considered - Disclose final social and environmental assessments, management plans, and screening reports (appended to Project Document or disclosed during implementation) - Provide summaries of technical information in accessible and understandable manner
<p><i>Initiated early in the project design process, continued iteratively throughout the project life cycle, and adjusted as risks and impacts arise</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage stakeholders early in project planning process - Update stakeholders about upcoming activities and issues that may require their input - Provide adequate lead time to accommodate stakeholder decision-making processes
<p><i>Addresses social and environmental risks and adverse impacts, and the proposed measures and actions to address these</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with stakeholders on assessment of social and environmental risks and development of mitigation and management measures. Ensure those who may experience potential adverse impacts are fully consulted - Consider participatory assessment techniques
<p><i>Seeks to empower stakeholders, particularly marginalized groups, and enable the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision-making processes, such as project goals and design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide iterative opportunities to stakeholders to express concerns, ideas and knowledge and reflect stakeholder input in project goals, objectives, and design - Provide for stakeholder representation at different levels (national, regional, local) on project boards, monitoring committees and other key project structures - Allocate budget for capacity building where needed (and available), as well as payment for accessibility and reasonable accommodation, and expenses incurred by stakeholders, especially rights holders, to secure technical advisors and/or legal counsel to accompany them to consultations and if applicable, negotiations
<p><i>Documented and reported in accessible form to participants, in particular the measures taken to avoid or minimize risks to</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarize each consultation with project stakeholders, circulate to participants for feedback, and publicly disclose (withholding identifying information where confidentiality is necessary) - Ensure that stakeholders are regularly informed of relevant information and new developments, including setbacks and delays, throughout the life of the project.

WORKING DRAFT

<i>and adverse impacts on the project stakeholders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Include reporting intervals in stakeholder engagement/communications plan- Include feedback mechanism for stakeholder input on project progress, and how feedback is addressed- Disclose monitoring reports in a culturally appropriate format
<i>Consistent with the duties and obligations under international law</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure Stakeholder Engagement Plan consistent with domestic laws and regulations regarding public engagement (e.g. public hearings and access to environmental and social assessments and comment periods)- Support international obligations of governments to ensure public participation and, where relevant, consent processes, transparency, redress for grievances, and accountability

4.3.4 Building community relationships

Often, such communities are mistrustful of local services, especially if past engagement efforts have failed to bring any improvements. Failing to accommodate citizens' needs would result in citizens feeling intimidated by/ resisting engagement. Before implementing any plans, organizations will need to invest time and resources into addressing these factors

Developing a relationship with communities includes:

- Know the community, its constituents, and capabilities
- Establish positions and strategies that guide interactions with constituents
- Build and sustain formal and informal networks and maintain relationships, communicate messages, and leverage resources
- Mobilize communities and constituents for decision making and social action

4.3.5 Capacity Building

Building capacity to improve community participation involves the development of sustainable skills, resources, and organizational structures in the affected community. For engagement efforts to be equitable, effective, and sustainable, all stakeholders must be ready for collaboration and leadership. Thus, building capacity also includes fostering shared knowledge, leadership skills, and an ability to represent the interests of one's constituents. Because capacity building is deeply rooted in the social, political, and economic environment, it cannot be conducted without an understanding of the specific environment in which it will take place. When carried out with context in mind, capacity building is an integral part of community engagement efforts, necessary for challenging power imbalances and effectively addressing problems

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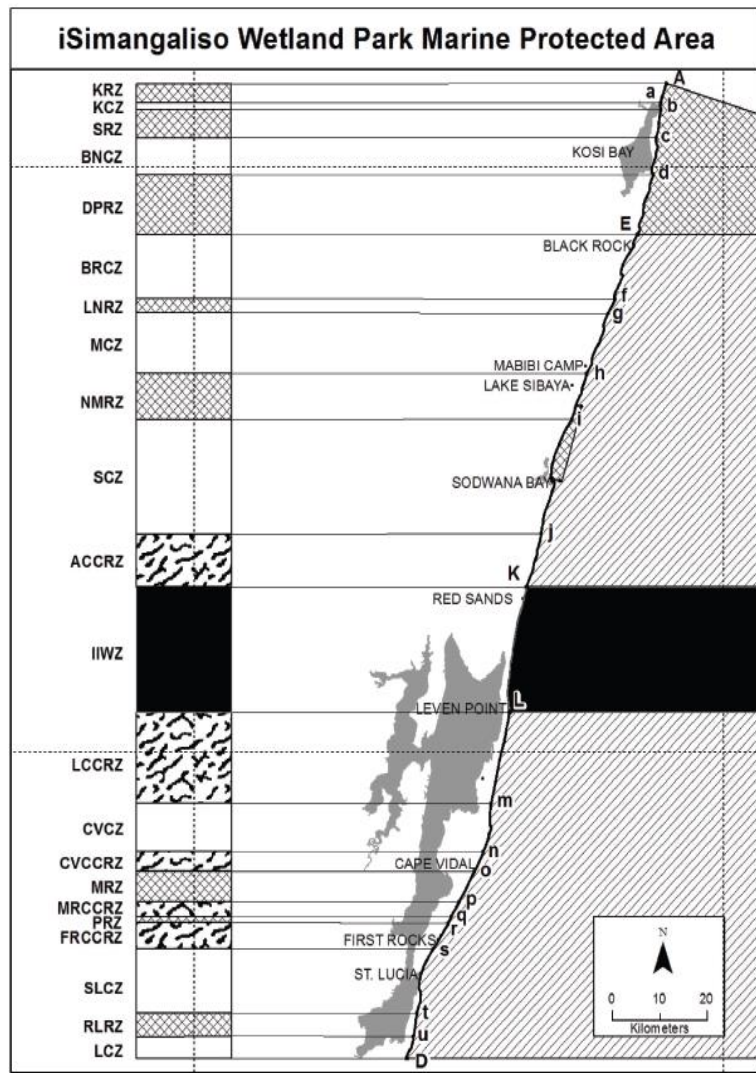
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ANNEXURE C.6: ISIMANGALISO MPA ZONATIONS AND REGULATIONS

**NEAR SHORE ALTERNATING CONTROLLED AND RESTRICTED ZONES WITH WILDERNESS ZONE IN MIDDLE:**

NEAR SHORE = <200m from high water mark

RZ = Restricted Zone 24% is zoned Restricted

CZ = Controlled Zone roughly 64% of the shoreline is zoned Controlled

- Includes **CCRZ = Controlled catch and release zone**

IIWZ = Inshore Wilderness Zone 12% of the shoreline is designated Wilderness

Eleven major public access points associated with existing roads and park tourism infrastructure are located at (from south to north):

- Maphelane, (south)
- St Lucia, (south)
- Mission Rocks, (south)
- Cape Vidal(south)
- Sodwana Bay
- Mabibi
- Manzingwenya (Island Rock)
- Lala Nek
- Rocktail Bay
- Black Rock
- Bhangane Nek

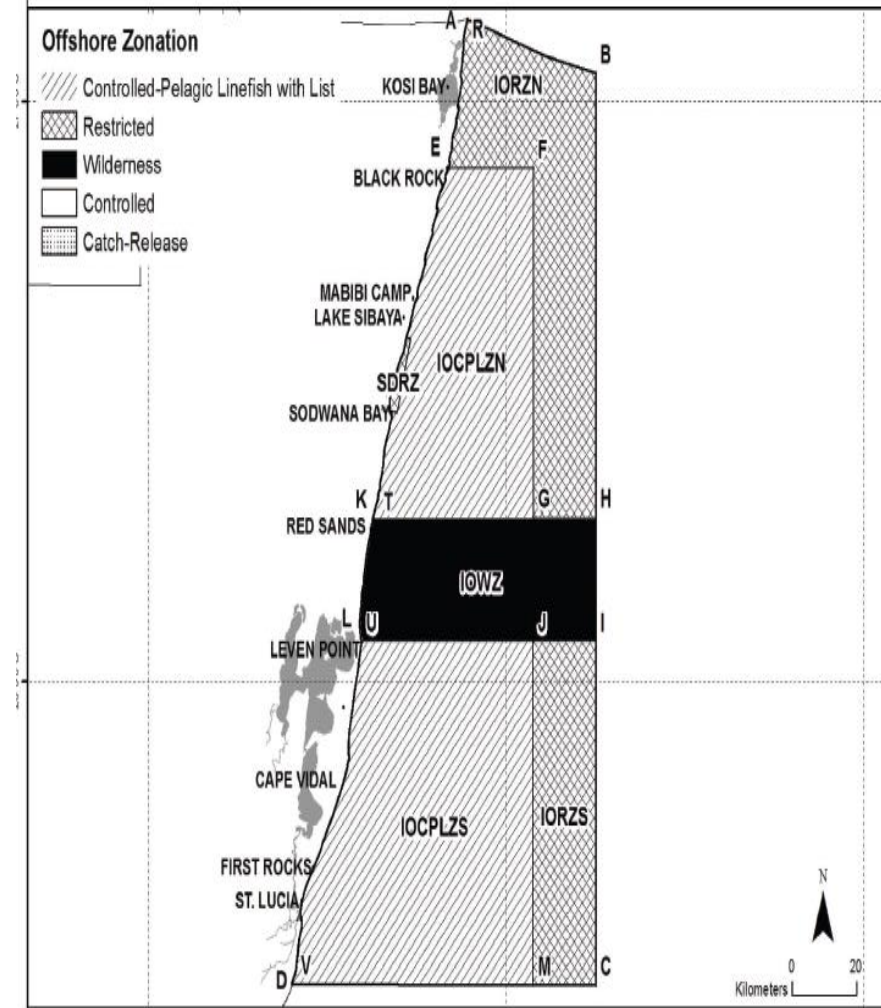
“Controlled Zone” means an area within the Marine Protected Area where limited fishing or any other activity are controlled.

“Controlled Pelagic Linefish Zone” means a Controlled Zone within a Marine Protected Area where only pelagic line fishing may be undertaken

“Restricted Zone” means an area within the Marine Protected Area where no fishing may take place, but where any other activity in terms of section 48A(1) of the Act may take place if authorised

“Wilderness Zone” means an area within the Marine Protected Area where no fishing may take place, but where ecotourism activities that maintain wilderness characteristics and attributes may take place if authorised

iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area



OFF SHORE ZONATION

OFF SHORE - >200m up to 10nm offshore

- iSimangaliso Offshore Restricted Zone North (IORZN) = from 200m offshore of the high water mark including entire outer 10 nautical miles between the southern Wilderness zone boundary at Red Sands (Liefeldt's Rocks) and the northern MPA boundary at the Mozambican border.
- iSimangaliso Offshore Restricted Zone South (IORZS) comprises the southern offshore section and includes the outer approximately 10 nautical miles of this MPA between the southern Wilderness zone boundary at Leven Point and the southern MPA boundary south of the Cape St. Lucia lighthouse.
- iSimangaliso Offshore Controlled-Pelagic Linefishing Zone North (IOCLZN) comprises a northern offshore of the high water mark, along the line 200m from the high water mark, and excludes the Sodwana Diving Restricted Zone (N-O-P-Q-N); This includes the offshore area between the northern Wilderness Zone boundary at Red Sands (Liefeldt's Rocks) to the offshore area north of Black Rock (offshore of turtle beacon 30N) and inshore of the iSimangaliso Offshore Restricted Zone North (IORZN), including Diepgat Canyon and offshore of Mabibi, offshore of and including Island Rock, offshore of the area between Lala Nek and Rocktail Bay and offshore of the area between Black Rock and turtle beacon 30N;
- iSimangaliso Offshore Controlled-Pelagic Linefishing Zone South (IOCLZS) comprises the southern offshore section of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area and is defined as the area within straight lines sequentially joining the following points; U, J, M, V and a line joining the first co-ordinate to the last along the line 200m offshore of the high water mark; This includes the offshore area between the southern Wilderness zone boundary at Leven Point and the southern Park Boundary south of the Cape St. Lucia lighthouse and inshore of the iSimangaliso Offshore Restricted Zone South (IORZS), including Oscar Reef;
- iSimangaliso Offshore Wilderness Zone (IOWZ) comprises an offshore section of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area and is defined as the area within straight lines sequentially joining the following points; T, H, I, U and a line joining the first co-ordinate to the last along the line 200m from the high water mark; This includes the offshore area between the northern Wilderness Zone boundary at Red Sands (Liefeldt's Rocks) and the southern Wilderness Zone boundary at Leven Point including Leadsman's Shoal.
- Sodwana Diving Restricted Zone (SDRZ) comprises an offshore section of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area and is defined as the area within straight lines sequentially joining the following points; N, O, P, Q and a line joining the first co-ordinate to the last along the line 200m offshore of the high water mark. This includes two-mile reef to a depth of approximately 35m and the full extent of four-mile reef northwards to and including the five-, six-, seven- and nine-mile reef complexes

SUMMARY OF KEY MPA REGULATIONS

a) **Wilderness Zone:**

- No extractive use is permitted in the wilderness zone.
- No person shall fish, or attempt to fish, in the Wilderness zone, including spearfishing and fishing for or collecting invertebrates.
- All vessels and their owners, skippers or operators must be compliant with all relevant permits and certificates and be in compliance with requirements of relevant legislation.
- No person may be in possession of any fish or have any fish on board a vessel.
- No fishing gear including lines, hooks, lures, nets, trawl doors, warps, spearguns, buoys, traps or any other gear or equipment used for fishing, may be deployed overboard from any vessel within a Wilderness Zone.
- No vessel may be launched in the Wilderness Zones.
- No vessel in the wilderness area may stop for more than 3 minutes or exceed the maximum travel speed designated to the size of the vessel.
- No scientific research within the Marine Protected Area, except on the authority of a scientific research permit
- Only swimming, snorkelling, walking and highly regulated, guided low impact activities are permitted on near shore areas

b) **Restricted Zone:**

- No littering or discarding of waste is permitted in the MPA
- No extractive use such as shore angling, shore-based spearfishing, harvesting of invertebrates or netting (e.g. beach seine-netting)
- No person shall fish, or attempt to fish, in the Restricted zone, including spearfishing and fishing for or collecting invertebrates.
- All vessels and their owners, skippers or operators must be compliant with all relevant permits and certificates and be in compliance with requirements of relevant legislation.
- No person may be in possession of any fish or have any fish on board a vessel.
- No fishing gear including lines, hooks, lures, nets, trawl doors, warps, spearguns, buoys, traps or any other gear or equipment used for fishing, may be deployed overboard from any vessel within a restricted Zone.
- No vessel in the Restricted zone may stop for more than 3 minutes or exceed the maximum travel speed designated to the size of the vessel.
- No scientific research within the Marine Protected Area, except on the authority of a scientific research permit
- No anchoring is allowed and vessels traveling through a Restricted Zone must have all fishing gear stowed.
- Stopping for more than 3 minutes is not allowed in an Offshore Restricted Zones.
- Vessels traversing the offshore restricted zone are required to maintain a speed of at least 5 knots (≥ 10 m vessel) and 3 knots for a vessel < 10 m.
- No bottom or reef fishing is allowed.
- No boat-based night fishing is allowed
- No commercial fishing is allowed in the MPA.
- No boat-based fishing for sharks and rays is permitted in the MPA.
- Any fishing gear on board vessels inside the Restricted Zones must be appropriately stowed (
- Vessels with fishing gear on board that enter the Restricted zone of the MPA must have an active GPS trail
- The Sodwana Diving Restricted Zone extends from 200 m offshore to include all the main SCUBA diving reefs in the iSimangaliso MPA (Two-mile reef to a depth of -35 m, the full extent of Four-mile reef northwards to and including the five, six, seven and nine-mile reef complexes).
- Non-extractive activities such as walking, swimming, snorkelling, surfing, paddling, etc. are permitted

c) **Controlled Zone:**

- All fishing activities are permitted in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act (Act No. 18 of 1998) and the regulations thereunder.
- Recreational fishing permits allow general rock and surf fishing as well as spearfishing for pelagic species only.
- Recreational fishers may only collect invertebrates and bait in Controlled use zones south of Cape Vidal.

- Small-scale fishing permits allow general rock and surf fishing and intertidal bait collection in all Inshore Controlled Zones.
- In Controlled Catch and Release Zones, only barbless hooks may be used, and all fish must be returned unharmed to the water.
- All shark and ray species (Elasmobranchii) must be returned unharmed to the water wherever they are caught.
- The regulations promulgated in Government Gazette No. 42479 (May 23 2019) specifically allow spearfishing in all Controlled Catch and Release Zones but spearfishing is a non-permissible activity in Inshore Controlled Zones
- Within the Offshore Controlled Pelagic Linefish Zone only listed pelagic gamefish and baitfish species may be caught by line fishing or
- No bottom or reef fishing is allowed.
- No boat-based night fishing is allowed and no commercial fishing is allowed in the MPA.
- No boat-based fishing for sharks and rays is permitted in the MPA.
- No littering or discarding of waste is permitted in the MPA
- No person may fish in an Inshore Controlled Zone or Inshore Controlled Catch and Release Zone, unless they are in possession of a valid fishing permit, subject to the species restrictions, quantity, fish size limits, allowable effort, closed seasons and bag limits authorised by such fishing permit.
- No person may undertake fishing in any Inshore Controlled or Inshore Controlled Catch and Release Zones between sunset in the evening and sunrise of the following day, except with the permission of the management authority
- Any person in possession of a small-scale fishing permit and fishing in an Inshore Controlled Zone, may only undertake rock and surf linefishing and harvesting of intertidal organisms.
- Any person in possession of a recreational fishing permit—(a) may only undertake spearfishing for specified pelagic species, to these regulations, or rock and surf linefishing, in an Inshore Controlled Zone; and (b) may only fish for or collect invertebrates or bait, in the Cape Vida, St Lucia and Lighthouse Controlled Zones south of Cape Vidal.
- Only barbless hooks may be used in an Inshore Controlled Catch and Release Zone of the Marine Protected Area.
- All fish in a Controlled Catch and Release Zone must be carefully handled and released alive and unharmed back into the water from which it was caught.
- Spearfishing is prohibited in any Controlled Catch and Release Zone.
- Fishing gear onboard a vessel or in possession of any person that enters or is present in any Controlled or Controlled Catch and Release Zone must be stowed in accordance with regulations
- No anchoring is allowed in the controlled pelagic linefish zones.
- Fishing from jet skis and any craft in which passengers are not contained within a hull is prohibited.
- No person may operate a personal water craft in an Offshore Controlled Pelagic Linefish Zone