

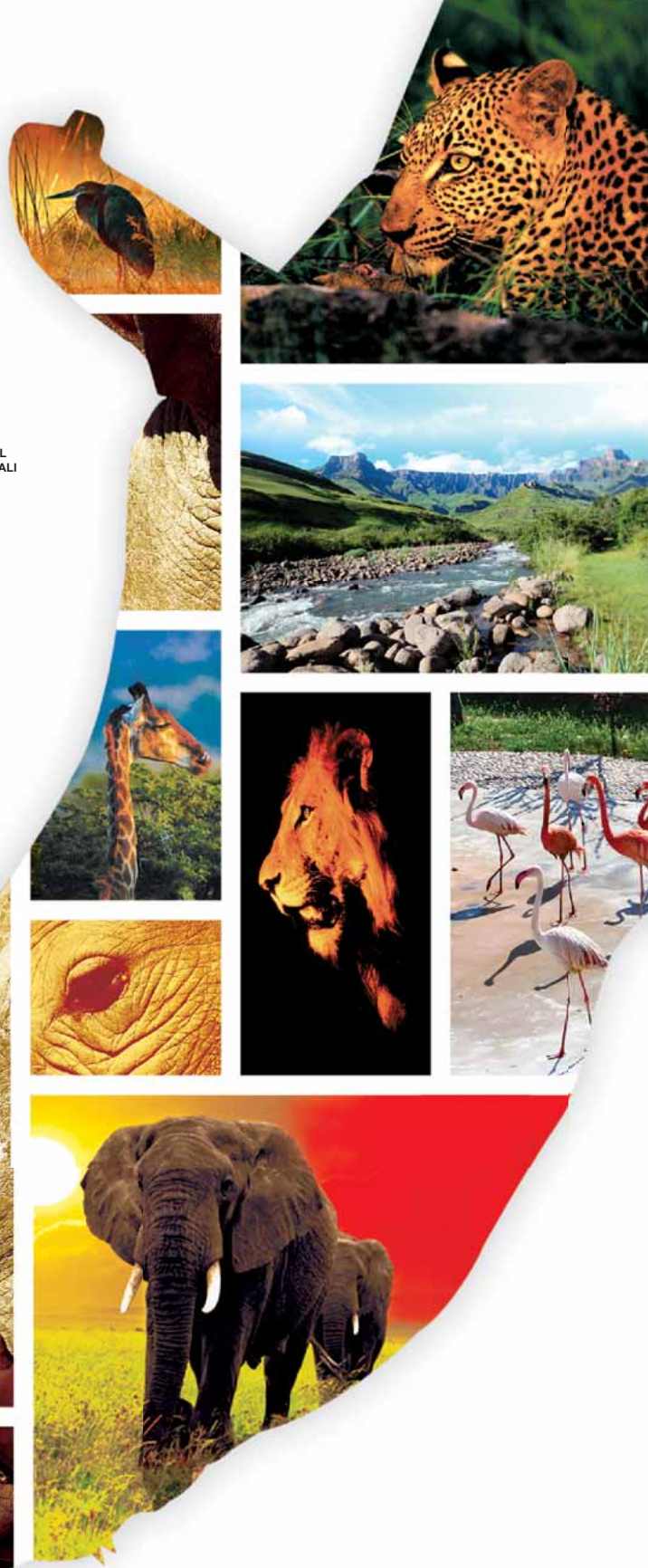


Conservation, Partnerships & Ecotourism



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL
ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU-NATALI

*“To be a world renowned
leader in the field of
biodiversity conservation”*





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Conservation, Partnerships & Ecotourism



PART 1:

OVERVIEW

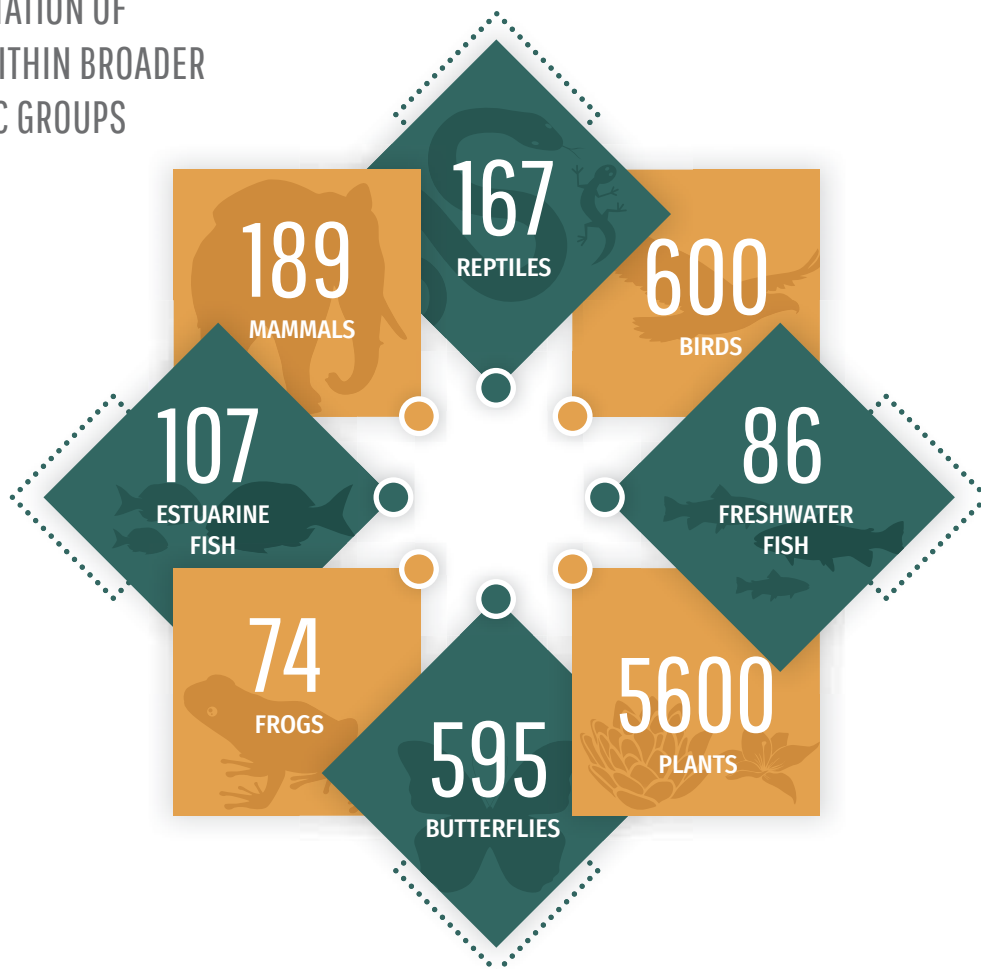
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FEATURES

- ♦ Ezemvelo's mandate is derived from the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act (Act No.9 of 1997), which is to direct the management of nature conservation within the province, including protected areas (PAs). This includes the development and promotion of ecotourism facilities within the PAs.
- ♦ Ezemvelo manages more than 120 PAs, including terrestrial, coastal and marine reserves.
- ♦ Ezemvelo, as a state-owned entity, remains committed to deliver on the priorities of Government, which include job creation. This is achieved by the organisation either entering into partnerships or implementing programmes that enable job creation. These programmes are also aligned to further conservation efforts.
- ♦ Community development has been high on Ezemvelo's agenda, as conservation must create tangible benefits to people, especially for those who reside in the buffer zones i.e. adjacent to PAs.
- ♦ Management plans continue to be implemented by Ezemvelo to stabilise key species, many of which have been considered vulnerable or were once on the brink of extinction. Examples of such species include vultures, white and black rhino, loggerhead turtles and wattled cranes.
- ♦ Ezemvelo is entrusted with the responsibility for managing the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage site, as well as performing conservation and ecotourism activities within the iSimangaliso Wetlands Park World Heritage site. The organisation also manages a number of Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance), such as Ndumo Game Reserve, Kosi Bay and Lake Sibaya.
- ♦ Ezemvelo is considered as one of the leading conservation authorities in South Africa, by its peers.
- ♦ Ezemvelo is forging a distinctive identity in the field of Community Conservation, as part of its integrated approach to enable job creation, as well as environmentally sensitive land-use activities.
- ♦ Ezemvelo is cognizant that conservation is a land-use in direct competition with other land-uses.

REPRESENTATION OF SPECIES WITHIN BROADER TAXONOMIC GROUPS



APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

SCOPE AND BOUNDARY OF THIS REPORT

The Annual Report covers the performance, financial and non-financial, of Ezemvelo for the year ended 31 March 2018. The entity operates in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, within the Republic of South Africa.

Our financial reporting complies with Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP). Management has also considered the draft guidelines on integrated reporting, provided by the Integrated Reporting Committee of South Africa.

ASSURANCE

Assurance of this Annual Integrated Report is provided by the accounting authority and management of Ezemvelo. The Auditor-General has provided external assurance on the financial and non-financial performance reports and the report appears on pages 89 to 93.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL INTEGRATED REPORT

The accounting authority acknowledges its responsibility to ensure the integrity of the Annual Integrated Report. The members of the accounting authority are satisfied with the content and have approved this Annual Integrated Report.



Mr. Zwile Zulu
Board Chairman



CORPORATE PROFILE AND ACTIVITIES

BRIEF HISTORY

The history of Ezemvelo is a source of considerable pride for all associated with it. This organisation has been at the forefront of South Africa's conservation effort for many decades and its reputation has a strong international standing as well. The success of Ezemvelo can be attributed to a pioneering history, as well as an ongoing adherence to strategies and plans that are in line with international best practice.

Ezemvelo is the offspring of a merger between two former conservation bodies, following the country's democratic elections in 1994, the Natal Parks Board (formed in 1947), and the former KwaZulu-Natal Directorate of Nature Conservation (formed in 1972). Both contributed equally, and often innovatively, to the subsequent formation of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board, with its operational body being the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Service.

The amalgamation was formalised in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Management Act (Act No.9 of 1997). The entity is a Schedule 3C public entity, in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (Act No. 1 of 1999), reporting to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.

CORPORATE IDENTITY

Modern day conservation is particularly challenging, owing to the dynamic economic and social environment we live in. This challenge is compounded

by the escalating pressures of a developing society. Our vision, mission and values have been worded to encapsulate these challenges, as well as to distinguish us in all facets of our business.

We seek to fulfil our vision, mission and core values by focusing on Conservation, Ecotourism and Partnerships.

VISION

"To be a world renowned leader in the field of biodiversity conservation"

MISSION

"To ensure effective conservation and sustainable use of KwaZulu-Natal's biodiversity, in collaboration with stakeholders, for the benefit of present and future generations"

CORE VALUES

- ♦ **Passion** – We shall be passionate in what we do.
- ♦ **Respect** – We shall perform our duties in a professional, ethical manner.
- ♦ **Trust** – We shall act transparently, with integrity and honesty in all we do.
- ♦ **Innovation** – We shall embrace a culture of learning, adaptation and creativity at all times.
- ♦ **Excellence** – We shall strive to apply best practices to achieve the highest quality and standards at all times.

AIMS OF EZEMVELO

Ezemvelo, in terms of the KZN Nature Conservation Management Act 9 of 1997, is mandated to:

- a) Direct the management of
 - i. nature conservation within the province;
 - ii. protected areas; and
 - iii. the development and promotion of ecotourism facilities within the protected areas.
- b) Ensure the proper, efficient and effective management of the Conservation Service.

PART 2:

EXECUTIVE REPORTS



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MESSAGE FROM THE MEC

MR. SIHLE ZIKALALA

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)



It is our pleasure to table the 2017/18 Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Annual Report. During the year under review, Ezemvelo continued to work diligently and with the necessary tenacity to carry out its mandate, often under very trying circumstances.

Principal among these adverse circumstances has been the lack of stability in the entity, owing to the change in leadership at executive level, as well as the issue of budget cuts that have affected the whole of government.

The organisation did not allow the impact of recent budget cuts to prevent it from marching on towards the attainment of their mandate, which is "to be a world-renowned leader in the field of biodiversity conservation".

Key among the successes of Ezemvelo is the publication of the KwaZulu-Natal Environment Outlook Report, which we successfully launched in the first quarter of the current financial year. The participation of Ezemvelo, both during the compilation and the subsequent launch of the Report, was commendable and contributed to the quality of the Report which, itself, is a lodestar for development going forward in our province. We have no doubt that as we engage with stakeholders and implement the recommendations of the Report, Ezemvelo will continue to play its critical role.

Within the context of advancing radical economic transformation, the gauntlet has been thrown down for Ezemvelo to shift its mindset and reinterpret its mandate from one that is perceived to be exclusively pro-environment protection to one that interrogates how natural capital can be used as a leverage to advance inclusive economic growth, particularly in rural areas. The agility with which Ezemvelo has adapted its mandate to the demands of our times is exemplary and has proven that nature conservation and economic development are not mutually-repellent, but can be mutually-reinforced with the right approach.

In this regard, I am encouraged by the strides already undertaken by Ezemvelo towards seeking approval for the use of the Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) programme. COMPACT is an innovative model for engaging communities in conservation and shared governance. We now await, with bated breath, the approval of our submission by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Community involvement is very critical for the sustainability of our Protected Areas.

It is also exciting to see more and more non-governmental organisations (NGOs) supporting conservation efforts undertaken by the state. It would not have been possible for Ezemvelo to achieve so much without their support as funding remained a challenge throughout the year. I wish to express my appreciation for their role and trust that the partnerships already established will propel us to new heights. Let us continue to make conservation everybody's business.

"It is critical that we continue adding new sites under our portfolio, considering that today the development initiatives happen at a very fast pace."

We are also pleased to note that Ezemvelo managed to add two new nature reserves through its Stewardship Programme. These new reserves are Umgano Nature Reserve, which is located in the Umzimkulu area, on the road between Creighton and Franklin, and 10 km south of Coleford Nature Reserve, as well as Ingula Nature Reserve located in both the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. It is critical that we continue adding new sites under our portfolio, considering that today the development initiatives happen at a very fast pace. Not all developers have respect for nature conservation. It is up to all conservation organisations to work hard to ensure that future generations will still enjoy our landscape with its flora and fauna as we currently do. The addition of 4 000 hectares of land under Ezemvelo management during the year under review is welcomed. Ezemvelo will work hard to ensure that these hectares are kept in their pristine condition.

I am committed to the economic benefits that commercialisation will bring to the entity. I have taken interest on this process and am fully focused on ensuring that it is taken to its completion in a structured and orderly manner and within the acceptable timeframe.

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank our former CEO, Dr. David Mabunda for his contribution to this organisation; and Mr. Bheki Khoza who agreed to steer the ship when Dr. Mabunda left. My appreciation also goes to the rest of the executive for their commitment to the cause of Ezemvelo.

Mr. Sihle Zikalala, MPL

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MR. ZWILE ZULU

Board Chairman

It is an honour for me as the Chairman of the Board to present the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board's Annual Report for the 2017/2018 financial year. The Board commenced its one-year term of office towards the end of the 2016/2017 financial year, which was later extended by four months. It is important to note that the 2017/18 year has been the year at which the Board had to plan and implement the Ezemvelo Strategy while dealing with a number of challenges facing the organisation.

During the year under review, risk management was regarded as one of the key pillars of corporate governance. To this end, the Board adopted the CURA Risk Assessment System which was implemented through Provincial Treasury. The Audit and Risk Committee was strengthened by adding two additional members. One member was tasked to focus on the long outstanding Auditor-General findings in relation to Information Technology (IT), whilst the other member was tasked to assist management with Risk Management, by serving as the internal Risk Committee Chairperson.

The scourge of Rhino Poaching within our Parks remains a critical cause for concern. With the support of the Provincial Government, the South African Police Services and other stakeholders, we continue to apply new innovative control measures and to seek new solutions to these challenges. Due to the pressures placed on our National and Provincial Governments, the organisation has not been immune to budget cuts which have led to a lack of funding for key operations and the inability to fill critical vacant positions. In an effort to manage the situation, the Board reviewed the organisation's business operating model with the view of realigning its organisational structure and consolidating regional functions in anticipation of the long outstanding merger of entities.

The proposed rationalisation of public entities by National Government led to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council resolution in December 2017, endorsing the merger of the conservation activities of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the majority of the activities of the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board. This will result in one Board overseeing the function of the two entities. The merger will be implemented by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

At the same time, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council endorsed a proposal that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife change its operating model and outsource a significant portion of its ecotourism facilities and services to the private hospitality industry. The commercialisation process that will attract



"During the year under review, risk management was regarded as one of the key pillars of corporate governance. To this end, the Board adopted the CURA Risk Assessment System which was implemented through Provincial Treasury."

private investors to fund key tourism projects, includes a number of various initiatives. Pre-feasibility studies for various projects have been finalised and are waiting for the MECs signature. Due to the impact of severe budget cuts, the commercialisation process is critical for the financial sustainability of the organisation and the generation of additional revenue to carry out the organisation's biodiversity conservation mandate.

I acknowledge the support of the Provincial Government and the support of the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. S Zikalala.

I express my thanks to our Acting Chief Executive Officer, all our staff, and our many stakeholders for their support and commitment.

I thank my fellow Board Members who have displayed commitment and enthusiasm towards carrying out the work of the Board and serving the people of our Province. I welcome the incoming Board and wish them well for the task that lies ahead of them.

Mr. Zwile Zulu
Board Chairman



BOARD MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:



MR. ZWILE ZULU
BOARD CHAIRMAN



MS. SEENG PAT LEBENYA
DEPUTY BOARD CHAIRMAN



**DR. FRANCIS
MHLAWUMBE NZAMA**



DR. SANIL SINGH



MR. THULISA NDELELA



MR. MAURICE MACKENZIE



MR. VUSI MVELASE



ADV. SMANGA SETHENE



ADV. NOMUSA KUZWAYO



MS. NTHABELENG MOLEFE



MR. SIPHO MTOLO



MRS. NELI MTHEMBU



**INKOSI BONGINKOSI
MTHEMBU**

MR. ZWILE ZULU (BOARD CHAIRMAN)

Mr. Zulu holds the following qualifications: MBA, Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Management, BA (Business Technology), and a Diploma in Labour Economics. Mr Zulu is a management consultant with more than 20 years of experience as a provincial organiser, facilitator, and advisor, working mainly with communities and district, and local municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal.

ADV. SMANGA SETHENE

Adv. Sethene holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Law), Bachelor of Social Science (Hon) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Natal. He is a practising Advocate and Member of the Johannesburg Society of Advocates. He has extensive experience in the public sector, having worked in local and provincial spheres of government at senior management level.

DR. FRANCIS MHLAWUMBE NZAMA

Dr. Nzama holds the following degrees: Doctor of Mathematics Education, M Ed (Curriculum Studies), and BA Hon. (Human Resources Development) and BA (Ed.), including the following diplomas: Masters Diploma (Human Resource Management) and a further Diploma in Education (Education Management). He has held various senior positions within the KZN Department of Education (KZN DoE) and the Department of Basic Education (DoBE), where he was mainly involved in Education Management and Governance, as well as Teacher Education and Development, the last being, General Manager in the Office of the KZN DoE HOD (2014-2016).

DR. SANIL SINGH

Dr. Singh holds the following degrees: B.V.Sc, MS, LAS, and CVE. He is a practicing Veterinarian with extensive ties in research and community projects. He also holds the position of Designated Veterinarian and HOD of the Biomedical Resources Unit at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is presently the Chair of the Mitchell Park Zoo Trust, Vice Chair of Animal Research Ethics Committee (UKZN) and former President of South African Association of Laboratory Animal Sciences (2008-2010), Chair of SA Vet Association KZN (2007-2009) and Board Member of KZN Sharks Board (2007-10).

MR. THULISA NDLELA

Mr. Ndlela is the Chairperson of the Board's Finance and Governance Committee. He holds a BA Degree (Legal Studies) and a BSc. Hon (International Relations). He held the position of Programme Officer, Operations Division for the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (2013-2016).

MR. VUSI MVELASE

Mr. Mvelase is the Chairperson of the Board's Ecotourism and Business Development Committee. He holds a Diploma in Mass Communication and a Diploma in Marketing, Management and Finance. He is currently the Director of Vusi Mvelase & Associates CC., a communications consultancy, and Vusi Mvelase & Associates CC. Construction Co., and Chairman of Kukhanyakwezwe Social Development Initiatives NPO.

MRS. NELI MTHEMBU

Mrs. Mthembu is serving her second term on the Board, and was appointed to represent organised agriculture on the Board. She holds the following degrees: B Paed, B Ed, and M Ed. She is a local farmer within the Ndumeni Municipality region and an active member of the Dundee Farmer's Association. She took early retirement from the KZN Department of Education, where she held the position of Chief Director: Infrastructure.

MR. MAURICE MACKENZIE

Mr. Mackenzie is serving his second term on the Board. He is a former Member of the Provincial Legislature, a farmer, and experienced conservationist with various business interests.

ADV. NOMUSA KUZWAYO

Adv. Kuzwayo holds an LLB Degree and is a Practicing Advocate with over 14 years of post-admission experience. She has been running an active practice as an advocate since December 2002 and is a member of the Durban Bar. She was recently appointed as an Acting Judge for a brief period.

MS. NTHABELENG MOLEFE

Ms. Molefe is the Chairperson of the Human Resources and Remuneration Committee. Ms Molefe is the Provincial Treasurer of COSATU and Provincial Secretary of POPCRU. She holds a Master's Degree in Policing (MTech in Policing), B Tech in Policing, and a National Diploma in Deeds Registration: Civil Service.

MR. SIPHO MTOLO

Mr. Mtololo is the Chairperson of the Biodiversity and Community Affairs Committee. He is a former member of the South African Defence Force and Umkhonto Wesizwe. He is currently a businessman involved in construction.

MS. SEENG PAT LEBENYA

Ms. Lebenya is serving her second term on the Board, and was nominated to represent the Provincial Tourism Authority. She holds a Diploma in Business Management, and is a former Member of Parliament in the National Assembly.

INKOSI BONGINKOSI SHILO MTHEMBU

Inkosi Mthembu was officially bestowed as Inkosi of Somopho area in 2008, which is the traditional council area on the outskirts of Empangeni. Before his appointment as Inkosi of Somopho, Inkosi Mthembu worked for a number of companies in the financial sector from 2001-2007, where he held various positions. Inkosi Mthembu is the Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, as well as the Deputy Chairperson of King Cetshwayo District Local House of Traditional Leaders. He also serves in the District and Local Municipalities of uMhlathuze. Inkosi Mthembu is the Director of Nselweni Bush Camp. Inkosi Mthembu was nominated by the House of Traditional Leaders to serve on the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board in June 2017.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE



**MR. BHEKABANTU
WILFRED NGUBANE**



**MR. NJABULO
FREEMAN MCHUNU**



**MS. NOMPUMELELO
MTHEMBU**



MR. SANDILE DLONGOLO



MR. THULISA NDELELA



ADV. SMANGA SETHENE



MS. NATHI MTHEMBU

MR. BHEKABANTU WILFRED NGUBANE

Mr. Bhekabantu Wilfred Ngubane has been an independent Audit and Risk Committee member since January 2013, and has been the Chairman since the 1st of December 2014. He is a partner, and the CEO of Ngubane & Co. Chartered Accountants. He was appointed for his extensive knowledge of the business sector. He holds a BCompt (Unisa), DipAcc (UDW) and he is an accomplished Chartered Accountant (SA). He has served on various Audit Committees and various Boards in the past.

MR. NJABULO FREEMAN MCHUNU

Mr. Njabulo Freeman Mchunu was appointed as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee on the 1st of November 2014. He is a Director in a consulting company and has extensive experience in the private and public sector, due to his previous positions in Accounting and Auditing. He also serves on various other Audit Committees. He holds a B.Com (UKZN) and is a Chartered Accountant. He has served his articles with the Office of the Auditor-General in Durban.

MS. NOMPUMELELO MTHEMBU

Ms. Nompumelelo Mthembu is an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee since the 1st of November 2014. She holds a B.Com degree, a post-graduate diploma in Business Management, and a master's degree in Business Administration. Ms. Mthembu is the Marketing Director of uShaka Marine World and Vice-President of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She has 15 years of management experience within the fields of

marketing and communications. Among the organizations Ms. Mthembu has worked for are; Hulamin, Investec and Old Mutual. She also serves on the Board of Morgan Advanced Materials (Pty) Ltd and the Pietermaritzburg YMCA

MS. NATHI MHLONGO

Ms. Nathi Mhlongo is the Managing Director at Keydimensions Risk & Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd. KRS specialises in Enterprise Risk Management, Internal Audits and Training. Nathi previously served in the public sector management space for over 25 years as Chief Risk Officer, Executive Manager: Internal Audit, Process Manager (Expenditure), a Deputy Director (Municipal Finance) and Senior Educator. She has served as Chairperson of Risk Management, Audit and Performance Management Committees at a Provincial Government Department, District and Local Municipalities, as well as Public Entities. Nathi is an Associate member of the Institute of Risk Management South Africa (IRMSA) and Chairperson of KZN IRMSA Sub-Committee. She delivered papers at various national and local conferences and workshops in Finance and Risk Management. Nathi has a MBA, BComm; Diploma in Secondary Education; and Course in Public Entities Accounting and Auditing.

MR. SANDILE DLONGOLO

Mr. Sandile Dlongolo is a Director at Senzakwenzeke Consulting Group (SG) (Pty) Ltd. SG specialises in New Venture Creation, ICT Audit and SMME Development and Business Re-Engineering. Sandile is a Bcom Accounting professional with Internal, External and ICT Audit experience gained from various public and private sector reviews. He is a member of the South African Institute of Business Accountants and COBIT5 Foundation certified through APMG.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

MR. BHEKI KHOZA

Acting Chief Executive Officer



It was Haruki Murakami who said "...and once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain, when you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in". Ezemvelo has faced challenging times in recent years which, every so often, I did not know how we would maneuver. However, the commitment of our staff, as well as the support received from various stakeholders, both national and international, has made it possible for the organisation to again proudly present the 2017/18 Annual Report.

Being largely a conservation entity, it is without a doubt that our success is mainly measured by the achievements of our conservation related programmes. It is thus proper for me to begin by highlighting achievements of those men and women in green who make us what we are.

Rhino poaching reached new heights during the year under review with 222 rhinos poached in both private and public protected areas. The figures are concerning. The consequences of losing our fight against rhino poaching endemic are dire. We dare not give up. We are dealing with international rhino poaching syndicates who keep on developing new poaching strategies. We must also continue revising the methods we use to manage our protected areas and strengthen our informer networks. It is too late to make an arrest once a rhino has died.

Our vision to be a world-renowned leader in the field of biodiversity conservation, is easily demonstrated by our Scientific Services whose publication record during the year under review was impressive. Thirteen publishing conservation scientists achieved an impressive publication record of 30 scientific publications, and a cumulative publication RG Score of 145.29. Some of this research assisted with the identification of six endemic and near endemic lepidoptera species and subspecies that are threatened or are of an unknown status. This research has been lodged with the International Union of Conservation Nations (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species database updated. This database is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation

"Thirteen publishing conservation scientists achieved an impressive publication record of 30 scientific publications, and a cumulative publication RG Score of 145.29. Some of this research assisted with the identification of six endemic and near endemic lepidoptera species and subspecies that are threatened or are of an unknown status."

status of plant and animal species and serves to highlight the extinction risk of species and subspecies.

Other groundbreaking research undertaken includes research on KZN grasslands that has resulted in the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park World Heritage site being included as one of the 100 global research sites identified by Nutrient Network (NUTNET). This prestigious inclusion highlights the superlative international standard of Scientific Services grassland research and has enabled Ezemvelo to contribute to global climate change monitoring and, importantly, South Africa's strategy to further its mitigation and resilience to climate change.

Over the last five years, Ezemvelo has run an increasingly, internationally-recognised symposium that has attracted an average of 310 delegates and 140 presentations per year, making it one of the largest ongoing environmental conferences in the country. Our improved performance on protected area management has been illustrated by the attainment of an

above average score (69,25%) from the minimum standard of management effectiveness score set at 67%.

In the recent past, the relationship between Ezemvelo and the Honorary Officers has been strangely distant at times. A number of reasons, including the internal development within Ezemvelo management and non-renewal of marine compliance duties by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, contributed to this untenable situation. I am, however, excited that whatever might have caused the relationship to be distant, is being addressed. Honorary Officers are very critical to Ezemvelo, particularly at the regional levels as they are better positioned to close the gaps. They contribute their resources like time and finances for the benefit of conservation without expecting anything in return. I acknowledge their selfless acts during the year under review, which resulted in them travelling a distance of more than 1 409 496 Km in their efforts to contribute to the success of conservation programmes in the province.

“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”, so declares the book of Romans. This unfortunately is not always possible, particularly when two groups with opposing viewpoints meet, as was the case in some protected areas. Human-wildlife conflict was the main reason for tensions between Ezemvelo officials and communities living adjacent to protected areas. In areas like Tembe and Ndumo, progress was made towards mending the strained relationships. They are unfortunately still some pockets of discontent with some community members in these areas.

Ezemvelo respects the views of the local communities and, where possible, will implement their recommendations. For example, the process of removing wild dogs from Tembe Elephant Park is at an advanced stage. The removal of wild dogs followed community outcry and subsequent meetings Ezemvelo held with the local communities and affected stakeholders.

It is encouraging to note that the government initiatives aimed at encouraging local travel like “short left” are producing some levels of desired results. This is evidenced by the fact that most of our visitors during the year under review were South Africans. We need to increase our drive to woo more international visitors to our game reserves. To achieve this, we should rethink the methods we use to sell our reserves to international markets and seek to establish new partnerships with international role players in the ecotourism sector.

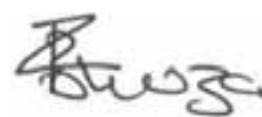
Commercialisation is one of the strategies that is hoped to go a long way in directing more of our financial resources to our conservation mandate.

Ezemvelo has embarked on a Commercialisation strategy that would, once fully investigated, supported and approved, involve private sector investment in the form of infrastructure investment and/or operations. Facilities like Didima, Giants Castle, Ntshondwe, Umlalazi/Amatiguli, Ophathe, Mpenjathi, Highmoor, Bushcamps, Beachwood and Umhlanga Reserve are currently going through some feasibility testing for this process. The identity of facilities that may end up being commercialised will only become clear once the feasibility testing is completed. It is still a long way to go before this strategy is fully realised. It is my intention to keep all stakeholders updated on each and every milestone achieved during this process.

As the curtain falls on my association with Ezemvelo, I look back and I am excited with what the organisation has achieved over the past 37 years that I have been a part of. There is much that one has been through with this organisation, good memories like when it celebrated 100 years of its existence and bad memories like when our colleagues were killed in defense of not only this organisation but of conservation as a whole. I could walk down memory lane but this is neither the time nor the platform for sentimental messages.

As I pass on the baton, let me conclude by quoting the former USA President, Theodore Roosevelt. He once said, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greed interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”

Those words by the former USA president sum up my feelings about how all those associated with this illustrious organisation should strive to protect it. Let its employees, stakeholders and local communities continue to ensure that it attains its vision, “to be a world-renowned leader in the field of biodiversity conservation”. It is possible, and you dare not fail!



Mr. Bheki Khoza

Acting Chief Executive Officer

PART 3:

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A. CONSERVATION AND PARKS

1. UKHAHLAMBA DRAKENSBERG PARK

INTRODUCTION

The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board (later referred to as the Board) is the appointed Management Authority of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park.

This report forms part of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board's Annual Integrated Report 2017/2018. This section of the report is submitted in compliance with Section 42 of the World Heritage Convention Act (Act No. 29 of 1999). The management of the site is guided by the approved Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The Integrated Management Plan for uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park is the primary and overarching management document for the World Heritage site. The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) forms the framework within which the Park is managed.

All reports for the year under review indicate that this was not an easy year for the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board. However, as an Authority, we feel that we have succeeded in meeting our obligations in terms of the convention, the operational guidelines and fulfilment of performance indicators for the World Heritage site. A five-year independent review of the overall performance is not applicable at this point in time, due to the fact that our IMP was approved in 2013. An independent review will be undertaken in the next financial year.

We would also like to confirm that all procurement activities for the Park were conducted through the Board's Supply Chain Management systems, the Board did not acquire any land or rights in land by contract or otherwise.

The KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Board would like to express its profound and sincere appreciation for the unwavering support from the Acting Chief Executive Officer and his staff for the hard work; and the staff from the Department of Environmental Affairs for their support.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The IMP for UDP is the primary and overarching management document for the World Heritage site. It was developed in 2011 and approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs in July 2013 for the period 2013 to 2018. The protected area's management objectives are operationalised and reflected through an Annual Plan of Operation (APO) in Table 1. The Board is committed to the implementation of this plan.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

To review the IMP and submit it to the Department of Environmental Affairs for the Minister's approval.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The most prevalent illegal activities in the Park include arson, illegal entry, poaching and cattle incursions. A number of illegal incidents in different categories were also recorded in the Park (Figure 1 and 2). A high number of illegal incidents occurred between June and September (these include arson fires, illegal entry and poaching). A total of 173 illegal incidents recorded in the Park as opposed to 91 in the last financial year, this is almost double compared to the previous years. Most frequent illegal activities include arson fires, illegal entry, cattle incursions, prohibited activity, poaching, search and rescue (not an illegal incident), theft and damage to property. 194 head of cattle were impounded inside the Park. 14 search and rescue operations were reported.

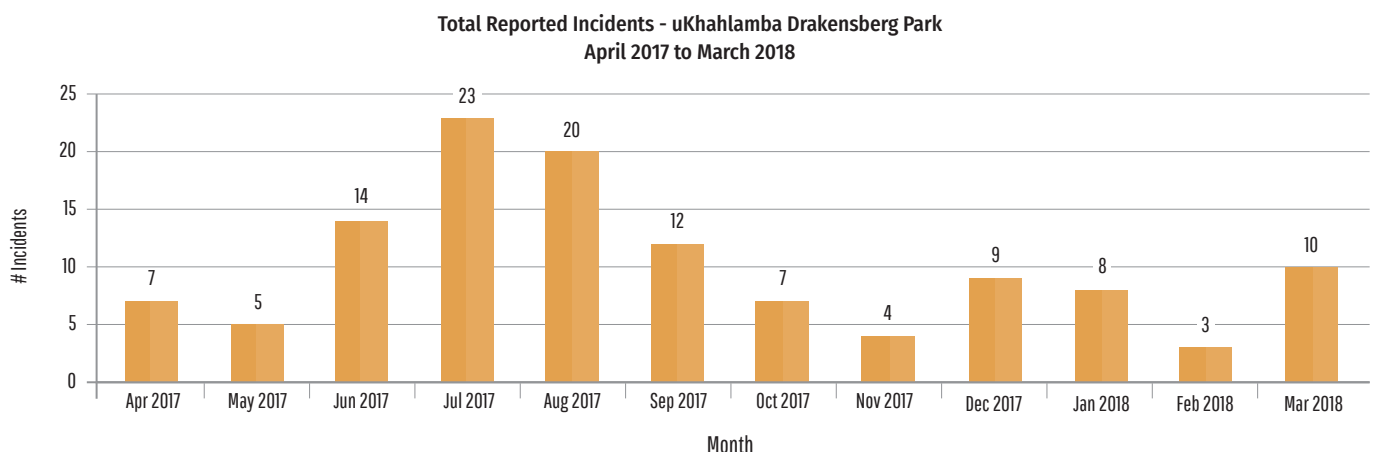


Figure 1: Total Reported Incidents for the Period April 2017 to March 2018

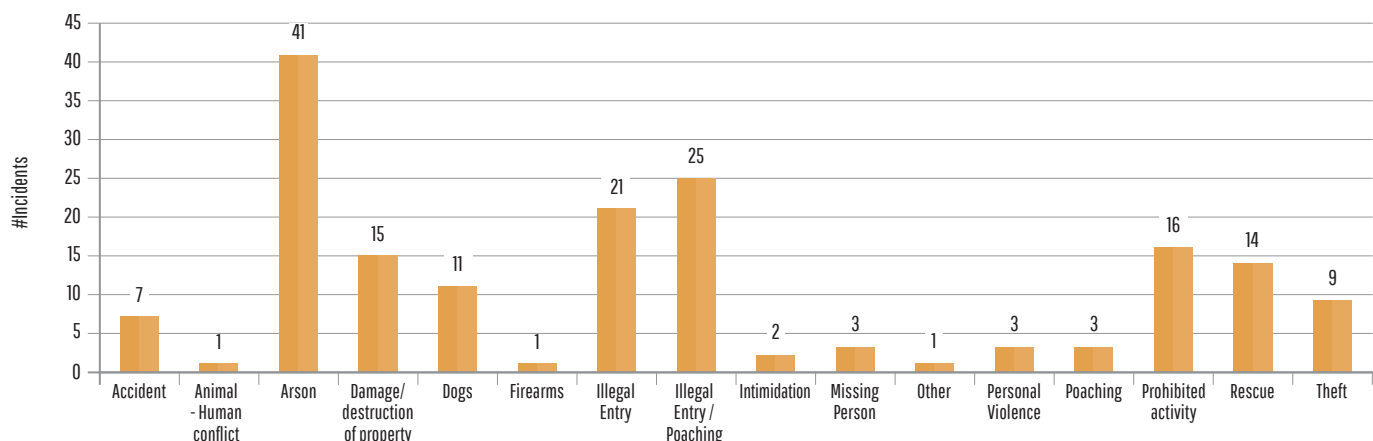
Incident Categories - uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park
April 2017 to March 2018

Figure 2: Incident Categories for the Period April 2017 to March 2018

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As part of the Board's commitment towards stakeholder engagement, a number of Neighbour Relations Liaison Forum meetings were held quarterly. Meetings were held with Traditional Authorities, the Local Board, local and provincial authorities, as well as interested and affected parties. Stakeholder engagement and consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) programme in and the around the property. This project was officially launched by UNESCO World Heritage Centre in March 2017, this project is now in the final stage of completion and it has been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for approval. With regard to the IMP review, various stakeholders were engaged and consulted as part of the plan review process. The review process started in August 2017.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

To undertake stakeholder engagement and consultation as part of the IMP review process.

HONORARY OFFICERS

The Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officer Groups fall under the supervision of the Conservation Manager Southern uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park. A combined report of their projects and activities has been compiled for the financial year 2017/18. There are currently 33 Honorary Officers. The Honorary Officers undertook the following activities. A total of 12 801 km were covered and 3 355 hours were spent in the Park. The Honorary Officers assisted with the following in the Park:

- ♦ Secured curtains for the Pholela Hikers Hut in Cobham
- ♦ Made metal platform for "weather station"
- ♦ Secured donation of Braai Grids for Vergelegen
- ♦ Arranged a Sani Pass clean-up
- ♦ Advised Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife on the "baboon problem" at Drakensberg Gardens Resort

- ♦ Serviced three Ezemvelo vehicles – possible value of R15 000
- ♦ Assisted Ezemvelo and the roads consultant with advice on signage on Sani Pass – entrance signs, tourist signs and restrictive signs
- ♦ Annual game/bird counts – vulture count, cape parrot count and oribi count.
- ♦ Ultra-Trail Run
- ♦ Giants Cup Trail Run
- ♦ Sani2C – assisted Sisonke Bird Club
- ♦ Joberg2C – assisted Sisonke Bird Club
- ♦ Drak Descent MTB Race
- ♦ Sani Stagger Marathon

Dr. Jacques Flamand, an Honorary Officer with the Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officer Group, carried out his annual inspection of all horses within the southern sub-region of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park. The Honorary Officers raised R14 000 through the various events they assisted in. The Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers maintain donation boxes at the Underberg Spar and the Drakensberg Gardens Leisure Resort.

BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION AND REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

As an authority for the site, one of the major obligations is to establish a Buffer Zone around the World Heritage site. A Buffer Zone is defined as, "an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property". The Buffer Zone Policy aims to address issues of co-operative governance and Norms and Standards for the management of protected areas. The Draft Buffer Zone Policy was approved by Ezemvelo Board and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for further processing.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

The 2018/19 financial year goal is to meet the World Heritage Committee conditions with regards to the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage site inscription and submit the State of Conservation report timeously.

ECO-CULTURAL TOURISM

Subsequent to stakeholder engagement and consultation process, a draft Sustainable Tourism Strategy (2016-2025) was submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for consideration before final approval. The strategy was developed in close collaboration with the Lesotho. The main purpose for the strategy is to develop heritage-based tourism that is based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

The 2018/19 financial year goal is to finalise Sustainable Tourism Strategy with UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

The national minimum protected area management effectiveness score is 67%. For the past few years, the average management effectiveness score for the UDP has been set at 70%. The previous years of assessment showed a healthy increase over the Park's assessment in 2010/11 which was recorded at 64.3%. In 2011/12, the score was 72%; in 2012/13, it was 78%; in 2013/14, it was 75.16%; in 2014/15, it was 79.74%; in 2015/16, it was 57.38%; and in 2016/17, the score was 63.35%. The score for 2017/18 is 70.33%, an increase of 6.98% from the previous year's score. Despite this increase in score, our management effectiveness score is affected by lack of staffing, insufficient budget for maintenance, and lack of budget for critical management functions (capital budget and infrastructure maintenance). It is also important to note that Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) was changed in 2015/16, hence a decrease in our management effectiveness score in that financial year.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

Freezing of posts and budget cuts made this financial year under review very challenging. Despite these challenges, we aim to maintain the management effectiveness score for the 2018/19 financial year.

FIRE

Fire is one of the most important ecosystem drivers that requires management to maintain the biodiversity of the UDP. Mandatory and strategic firebreaks were maintained as per statutory requirements. The application and management of fires aims to achieve the fire management objectives of each protected area that make up the UDP WHS. Through a process of adaptive management, the fire management strategies are evaluated and revised to ensure best fire practice for the World Heritage site.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

Unscheduled wild fires and freezing of posts made this financial year under review very challenging. The 2018/19 financial year goal is to continuously implement our Fire Management Plan and monitor the results.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Invasive and alien species have been identified globally as one of the most significant threats to biodiversity, second only to habitat destruction. Invasive alien plants are the biggest threat to South African protected areas. The authority has developed an Alien and Invasive Species Management Plan, which sets up objectives and targets for the Park. A total of R2.7 million to clear an area of 11 769 ha was granted by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs' Alien Invasive Species Programme. A total of 12 928 person days (employing 292 local community members) was achieved through this programme and significant progress has been made. Almost all work undertaken in the last 13 years has been from external job-creation funds.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

To finalise the Joint Alien and Invasive Species Management Plan.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The authority has policies and guidelines to regulate natural resource utilisation inside the Park. There is a number of monitoring programmes that have been implemented to ensure sustainable resource utilisation.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan is currently being consolidated with the Sehlabathebe National Park's Plan. Routine cultural heritage sites monitoring is in place. However, it is critical to improve the authority's institutional capacity with regard to cultural heritage management.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

Currently, the management authority lacks institutional capacity with regard to cultural heritage management. We need to focus on sourcing funds to secure institutional capacity in cultural heritage management and finalise the Joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

An Environmental Awareness Plan is in place. The S'fundimvelo Environmental Education Programme is also implemented in neighbouring schools around the Park. This programme is aligned to the Grade 6 National Curriculum syllabus. In the 2017/18 financial year, S'fundimvelo conducted an exciting three-day educators' environmental education excursion. A total of 12 educators from 4 Schools (Kholokazana, Mamponjwana, Didima and Senzokwethu) visited Mlalazi Nature Reserve. A total of 4 overnight Park visits were undertaken. The purpose of organising overnight trips was to extend a hand to areas that are distant to Ezemvelo's Protected Areas. The overnight trips' objective was to create an unforgettable out-of-the-classroom educational experience to young school children who were previously disadvantaged. In total, 144 learners and 44 educators participated. Groups were educated about ecosystem goods and services, pollution, poaching, water conservation, sustainable tourism and the importance of nature conservation inside protected and communal areas.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

The Park has a serious lack of resources, both human and financial, to effectively deal with the operations and infrastructure maintenance backlog. There is a serious budget shortfall for hiking trails maintenance, boundary fencing, roads and tracks, which needs urgent attention for the Park to succeed in achieving its objectives. A significant amount of effort has been directed towards applying the best management principles, this has yielded good results in many instances. However, there is still a lot to be accomplished in the coming years.

OUTLOOK (2018/2019)

The current condition of our hiking trails, roads, fences and staff accommodation is disastrous. We need to urgently secure funds to improve our infrastructure.

PRIORITIES FOR STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

The purpose of prioritising activities is to direct funds and resources to the most important activities. As a result, priorities are placed in an order of three categories which have been determined in Table 1 as follows:

Priority 1 (red): a management target that is central to the responsibilities and mandate of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, or that addresses an aspect of management that is fundamental to the protection of the values and purpose of the UDP.

Priority 2 (green): a management target that addresses an aspect of management that contributes towards community involvement and support for the conservation of the UDP which is a key principle of effective protected area management.

Priority 3 (yellow): a management target that indirectly contributes towards the protection of biodiversity or the development of social and/or economic benefits and opportunities for the and/or its surrounding local communities.

The priorities are presented in the table below using the colour system above, which depicts the level of priority shown for the particular strategic outcome. In addition, a date is indicated in the priorities column for each strategic outcome, which is intended to convey the end date by which the management target must be achieved.

BUDGET

The figures presented in this report were extracted from the audited financial statements as presented in the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board's Annual Report 2017/2018.

The estimated present (2017/18) management cost for the Park, after revenues have been deducted, is **R258.31** per annum (R62 768 000 / 243 000 ha) as opposed to R247.12 in the last financial year. This is slightly more compared to the last financial year (see Appendix 1B).

Appendix 1A shows the income and expenditure trends for the Park over eighteen financial years (April – March) from 2000/01 to 2017/18.

The figures only represent the income and expenditure (salaries and operating expenses) of the conservation management and tourism operations components. **Other Park expenditure, from corporate components, e.g. major technical works, capital expenditure, special projects and donor funding, are not included here, as these figures are not readily available for the Park specifically.** The figures therefore do not reflect the total expenditure for the Park.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT: 2000/01 TO 2017/18

Expenditure on Conservation Management increased from R14.6 million to R64.5 million over the last eighteen years. The main contributing factor to this increase was the improvement of staff conditions of service over the period. Since the year 2000, not only have basic salaries been increased at a higher than inflation rate, but other benefits have been introduced, such as payment for overtime, standby allowances, night shift allowances, housing allowances and medical aid. However, a concern at present is the fact that personnel-related expenses account for more than 80% of the total conservation management expenditure budget. This is significantly higher than generally accepted norms and this trend has been the experience since the start of this reporting period. This also indicates that the current conservation operating expenditure budget is under-funded.

ECOTOURISM OPERATIONS: 2000/01 TO 2017/18

Income increased from R11.9 million to R35.5 million. This is relatively high compared to the previous year's income of R34 million. Financial performance varies greatly from resort to resort.

It is felt that with more focus and innovation, the Ecotourism Operations within the Park will be able to generate a more substantial financial contribution to conservation operations. The potential is certainly there for a significant improvement in these figures.

The Operating Surplus from Ecotourism Operations increased from R258 000 to R1.7 million over the financial period. It must be noted that the 2017/18 year shows an increase, compared to the last financial year, conversely there was also a significant increase in salaries and operating expenses. The recent slide can be attributed to poor revenue growth and a failure to market and promote the Park as a destination.

External Funding

The Park has benefited enormously over the years from external investment. Some examples are the Invasive Alien Species Programme and the Working on Fire Programme. External funding is likely to play a greater role moving forward, considering the number of unfunded projects that have been identified. It is **imperative that sufficient funding is obtained** over the next few years in order for the infrastructure to be effectively maintained and sustained.



TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.2.1 Framework for Legal Compliance, Law Enforcement and Stakeholder Engagement [UDP Page 79]						
Legal Compliance and Law Enforcement	Comply with and enforce legislation pertaining to the protection, development and management of the Park.	Confirmation, demarcation and interpretation of the exact boundaries of the Park.	Survey those sections of the Park that have not yet been surveyed and implement a phased programme for the demarcation of all boundaries.	Survey report for relevant sections.	The following areas (Management Units) within the Park were surveyed: Sani Top and iKanti at Cobham, Garden Castle, Royal Natal, Cathedral Peak and Lotheni. All management unit boundaries have now been surveyed except Hillside.	Year 2
			Negotiate a joint understanding with Lesotho on the exact boundary with South Africa.	Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Lesotho/South African Boundary.	The assistance of the Department of Environmental Affairs is required in this regard. [Land Surveyor General Report – the Department of Environmental Affairs has been requested to facilitate the process of appropriate western boundary demarcation (Lesotho and RSA)]. There is no progress in resolving international boundaries, this issue falls outside the Management Authority's jurisdiction.	Year 2
			Ensure that the title deeds reflect the World Heritage status.	Title deeds that reflect the protection status of the Park.	As part of the process of clearly defining the boundaries of the South African component of the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage site, the professional surveyor service provider provided a list of 450 parcels of land, in South Africa, that constitute the Park. This information is critical for the Registrar of Deeds to endorse parcels of land with their protected area status and therein add an additional layer of protection to the World Heritage site. Unfortunately, the provisions in the NEM: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 does not empower the Registrar to give effect to endorsement of Deeds for World Heritage protection. It is for this reason that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife elected to re-declare the Park (in addition to the world heritage declaration) as a nature reserve, which provides the Registrar with the necessary legal authority for this exercise. This declaration will be finalised in the 2018/19 financial year.	Year 3
		Consolidate and facilitate proclamation of wilderness areas.	Initiate a process to proclaim candidate wilderness areas.	Increase in proclaimed wilderness areas.	The baseline view shed analysis, measuring the location and extent of visual impact of human disturbance, has been completed. The amalgamation of the modelled surfaces into a sensitivity index still has to be completed. A field verification exercise will then be initiated before the zonation is finalised.	Year 3

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.2.1 Law Enforcement [UDP Page 80]						
Legal Compliance and Law Enforcement	Comply with and enforce legislation pertaining to protection, development and management of the Park.	Address security issues and illegal activities to ensure the integrity of the Park, in participation with stakeholders, security services and the justice system.	Work collaboratively with external security stakeholders to implement the MDP WHS security strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular patrols covering strategic areas in the Park. Prosecution of any offender caught committing an offence. Regular documented reports on security incidents. 	<p>There is currently a low number of law enforcement staff due to the freezing of vacant posts, hence law enforcement operations are hindered due to the resource constraints. There are a significant number of Field Ranger and three Officer-in-Charge (OIC) posts that are currently vacant and urgently need to be filled. That has a significant impact on the number of patrols conducted. Most Field Rangers within the Park have undergone EMI training and are now designated EMIs.</p>	Ongoing
			Implement a Cyber Tracker based programme of patrols of the Park and its boundaries.		<p>1 652 routine law enforcement patrols were conducted throughout the Park, and meetings are held on a quarterly basis with local SAPS. All illegal incidents are reported centrally using the Ezemvelo incident report format.</p> <p>The Law Enforcement and Prosecution Officer post has been filled. Law enforcement designated staff members attended South African Police Service and Rural Safety Committee and policing forums monthly meetings.</p> <p>A total of 173 illegal incidents recorded in the Park. Most frequent illegal activities include arson fires, illegal entry, cattle incursions, prohibited activity, poaching, search and rescue (not an illegal incident), theft and damage to property. Total of 194 head of cattle were impounded for illegally grazing inside the Park. 14 rescue operations reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 arrests made. 7 suspects charged. 3 cases opened: under investigation. Results of court appearances: Found guilty and repatriated to Lesotho. R2000 fine for theft of boundary fence. One case for illegal hunting of an eland was withdrawn due to lack of evidence. Two court cases still pending with regard to illegal entry into the Park and animal cruelty. 32 donkeys impounded and handed over to the SPCA. 	
			Implementation of the Reaction Unit.	Functional Reaction Unit.	Law Enforcement and Prosecution Officer has been appointed, suitable candidates for other positions have been identified but not appointed due to the restructuring process and freezing of posts.	Year 2
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a Park Air Space Norms and Standards. Develop a joint position statement on air space use over World Heritage sites with iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Formalise relations and operating rules for military and police use of air space, as well as for stock theft pursuit. 	Documented Air Space Norms and Standards.	<p>Within the financial year of 2017/2018, five (5) flight applications were received and processed, requesting to fly over the Park.</p> <p>Most of these applications were for high altitude training; and filming. Interim decision-making process and guidelines with respect to aircraft use within the air space of uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage site is in place.</p>	Year 2

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.2.1 Stakeholder Engagement [Page 80]						
Stakeholders' Engagement	Maintain effective linkages with affected communities and other stakeholders in order to ensure collaboration management.	Constructive stakeholder involvement in the Park management through an effectively functioning local board and liaison forums.	Regular meetings of a functional UDP WHS Local Board. Regular meetings of the Liaison Forums for the separate management units within the UDP.	Quarterly meetings of the Local Board and Liaison Forum.	Local Board term of office expired in March 2018. Three Local Board meetings were convened during the 2017/18 financial year. The Neighbour Relations Liaison Forum meetings are taking place on a quarterly basis for different Management Units (15) within the Park.	Ongoing
		Provision of support to the community in developing its capacity to make inputs into the management of the Park.	Ongoing development and mentorship programme for the UDP WHS Local Board for new members.	Implemented mentorship programme for the UDP WHS Local Board.	South UDP Officers -in-Charge attended five Drakensberg Honorary Officer meetings.	Ongoing
		Provision of support to the community through externally funded projects and the Community Levy Fund.	Facilitation of development projects in the community through the Community Levy Fund in line with the Conservation Partnership Policy of Ezemvelo.	Community development projects reflected in the Annual report and audit report of Community Levy Fund.	The construction of Busingatha Community Lodge started in 2017/18 financial year.	Ongoing
		Engage internal and external stakeholders in an effort to brand the MDP as a World Heritage site.	Develop and implement an MDP branding strategy including a communication strategy to communicate the IMP to communities, visitors and other stakeholders.	Documented branding strategy.	A draft Sustainable Tourism Strategy (2016-2025) has been developed and submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for approval.	Year 1

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.4.1 Framework for Buffer Zone Protection and Regional Management [Page 84]						
Buffer Zone Protection and Regional Management	Protect the Park values from activities, processes or land uses outside of its boundaries, which may threaten it, through an established buffer zone, which is accepted by the broader communities and stakeholders.	Prioritisation of key buffer zone area within the provincial protected Area Expansion plan.	Focus efforts of the Biodiversity Stewardship and Protected Area Expansion Programme on priority areas in the buffer zone around UDP's boundaries.	Legal protection of key buffer zone areas through establishment of biodiversity management plans or protected environments.	<p>The KwaZulu-Natal Biodiversity and Protected Area Bill make provision for the MEC to declare a buffer zone. The farms, Wostijn, Diedlof and Maatschapi in the Northern UDP have expressed interest in joining the Stewardship Programme. An application has been submitted by a private landowner (sub-division of farm, Wostijn, to join the Stewardship Programme. The application is being dealt with. Similarly, several private landowners bordering on Culfargie/Bell Park wish to join the Stewardship Programme. These two applications will be processed in the current year. The Cathkin Connection Conservancy has been successfully recognised and registered.</p> <p>Status of the Stewardship sites along the Park. The Stewardship unit has very little capacity to unlock the challenges posted by the proposed Upper uThukela Community Conservation Area. There are various challenges, which hinder the progress of this site. There are disputes amongst the participating communities regarding land ownership. This issue also affects the finalisation of the land survey. Efforts to cooperate with the Ingonyama Trust Board have not been successful.</p> <p>Allendale: The complete approved documents were approved by the Board in March 2014. The landowner is however not willing to sign the final documents and until this is completed, the process has been placed on hold. The facilitators for the site have since left and no further work has been done on this site.</p> <p>Snowflake: Stewardship progress on the site was delayed by issues of negotiating grazing leases between the landowner and the surrounding community. The site was placed on hold by the Stewardship Working Group in February 2016. A Buffer Land Agreement was signed (February 2018) by the landowner and Ezemvelo.</p>	Annually
		Maintain the Transfrontier linkages between the Park, authorities and communities of the bordering Lesotho.	<p>Maintain collaborative Transfrontier structures through regular meeting with the Joint Management Committee.</p> <p>Work collaboratively with the MDTP to achieve joint objectives of Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area Conservation and Development Strategy (2008-2028).</p>	<p>♦ Quarterly meetings of the Joint Management Committee.</p> <p>♦ Achievement of objectives and outcomes of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area Conservation and Development Strategy (2008-2028).</p>	<p>No Joint Management Committee meetings held in 2017/18. South MDP management organised and attended the joint sub-regional annual fire workshop at Sehlabathebe National Park. The six monthly management meetings between Sehlabathebe and Garden Castle (Ezemvelo) are held at Sehlabathebe National Park (Lesotho).</p> <p>Ezemvelo contributes to MDTP through annual financial obligations as a Lead Agent in South Africa. Ezemvelo is represented in various working groups such as Cultural Heritage Working Group, Protected Area and Biodiversity Working Group, National Coordination Committee, Bilateral Security Working Group, and Tourism Working Group. MDTP is also facilitating the establishment of a Community Conservation Area in Witsieshoek, which will form a buffer on the Free State side.</p>	Ongoing

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.4.1 Local and Regional Planning [UDP Page 85]						
Buffer Zone Protection and Regional Management	Protect the Park values from activities, processes or land uses outside of its boundaries, which may threaten it, through an established buffer zone, which is accepted by the broader communities and stakeholders.	Ensure tourist infrastructure to access the UDP (access roads) safely are identified and maintained.	Liaise with the South African National Roads Agency in determining agreed upon access roads to UDP WHS that require upgrade and maintenance.	Adoption of agreed upon access routes to the various protected areas within the UDP WHS. Upgrade and maintenance of degraded access routes.	There is a formal and continuous engagement with the Local Department of Transport to maintain and repair access roads to iNjesuthi, Cathedral Peak, uMkhomazi and Cobham. Minor maintenance has been carried out but major repairs were requested to be attended to, however, there is no progress because funding was not made available. Roads were maintained by filling potholes. The main access road leading up to Garden Castle is well maintained by the Department of Transport. Giants Castle access road is also being rehabilitated by the Department of Transport. The Authority has engaged Provincial Treasury to secure funding for Cathedral Peak access road. R37 million has been secured.	Year 1, thereafter, annually
		Declaration of the Park buffer as the buffer for the World Heritage site.	Submit proposed buffer zone requirements to UNESCO for approval.	Gazetted buffer zone.	The buffer delineation has been finalised. The stakeholder engagement and participation process was completed in August 2016. In April 2017, an extra-ordinary meeting was convened with the Underberg Farmers Association members to discuss the details of the proposed, a Buffer Zone Policy. The proposed Buffer Zone Policy was submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for further processing.	Year 1
		Evaluate and respond to development applications within the Park buffer through a coordinated and consistent process.	Implement the standard policy to guide responses to development applications in the MDP WHS buffer area.	Consistent documented responses to development applications.	Formal comments on all land use change applications received and formal responses were provided. A total of 4 applications were received and processed in the 2017/18 financial year.	Ongoing
Table 6.5.1 Framework for Eco-cultural Tourism [UDP Page 88]						
Eco-cultural Tourism Development	Respect and give access to the Park's biodiversity, cultural and wilderness values in order to sustainably capitalise on the tourism potential for the Park and its surrounding areas.	Integrate Park tourism activities with tourism strategies and plans for the region.	Capture visitor information and statistics.	An understanding of annual tourist numbers.	The Park is confident that the data for guests accommodated overnight in the Park is accurate. Auditable data is collected in all major entry points, however, there is still a challenge of the credibility of day visitor numbers entering the Park through smaller control points as well as informal entry points. Whilst it is desirable to improve on this, the cost of implementation is high and the potential return both as data and as income is questionable. The management authority continues to explore more affordable payment and monitoring methods, including electronic payment prior to arrival at the Park.	Daily
			Develop and implement a Park Tourism plan including strategies to address the following: ♦ Branding and marketing. ♦ Linkages with other bioregional tourist initiatives. ♦ Income generation opportunities, legislative and zonation constraints of new developments and activities.	MDP WHS Tourism Plan.	This target has not been achieved, but the process to develop the plan has been initiated. A draft Sustainable Tourism Strategy (2016-2025) has been developed and submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for approval.	Year 2

TABLE 1: UDP IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.5.1 Framework for Eco-cultural Tourism [UDP Page 88] ...continued						
Eco-cultural Tourism Development	Respect and give access to the Park's biodiversity, cultural and wilderness values in order to sustainably capitalise on the tourism potential for the Park and its surrounding areas.	Implement standards developed for signage.	Implement a phased programme for replacing signage with the standardised formats.	Appropriate signage, located at all access routes to the Park. Trail signage that conforms to Ezemvelo standards.	A total of 16 entrance signboards were erected at different entrance gates in the Park. The new signboards were amended to reflect the new Park name. Furthermore, 100 "Unauthorised Entry" signboards were erected along the eastern boundary fence where illegal entry into the Park occurs. uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park Visitor Information Directory - Trail signage standards and guidelines have been developed.	Year 1
		Ensure that energy efficiency measures are implemented in all resorts.	Implement a phased programme to retrofit all resort infrastructures with energy efficient technology.	Increase in energy efficient technology in resorts.	This project has been initiated and project proposals have been submitted to potential funders. This has been incorporated into the Climate Change Adaptation Response Plan. A meeting was held with Professor Smith of the University of KwaZulu-Natal to investigate the possibility of establishing hydro power within the Park, focusing at Monk's Cowl and Injesuthi management units but there is no positive progress to date.	Year 4
		Development of Transfrontier activities and travel in line with new vision for Transfrontier Conservation Areas (Walking-based lower carbon footprints tourism activities) in South Africa.	Develop a detailed project proposal and costing for establishment of a world-class trekking route.	Submitted proposal for trekking route.	The proposal was completed and submitted to the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme and is now awaiting further processing and funding. Drakensberg Ways Hiking Trail - project proposal submitted to DEA through EPIP.	Year 1
		Development of indigenous gardens around resorts.	Implement a phased programme to remove alien plants from resort gardens. Implement a phased programme to interpret natural vegetation around resorts.	Reduction in alien plants in camp gardens. Interpretation material for resort gardens.	Giant's Castle Resort indigenous garden manual has been developed. Interpretation material for resort gardens is still to be developed. Alien trees are removed on an as and when basis within intensive use areas in the Park.	Year 2

TABLE 1: UDP IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.6.1 Framework for Conservation Management – Fire Management [UDP Page 94]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Implement a comprehensive five-year fire management plan for the Park.	Implement the 5-year fire management plan that addresses the biological, legal and operational requirements.	Implementation of the fire management plan.	The fire management plan was successfully implemented during the fire season (March to September). An annual fire report has been produced which incorporates Sehlabathebe National Park in Lesotho.	Ongoing
		Ensure adequate fire safety within the Park.	Maintain a system of firebreaks within the MDP that are legally compliant and of adequate extent. Become a paid up member of the local Fire Protection Association, or if one does not exist, champion the creation of one (three outstanding management units).	Compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998.	Mandatory and strategic firebreaks are in place. A total of 1 170 km of firebreaks were completed. A total of 652 fire events were recorded in the 2017/18 financial year. All Management Units were paid up members of their respective Fire Protection Associations. Scheduled burn 12.34% (29 322ha) Invasive fire (non-scheduled) 1.21% (2 883ha) Lightning (non-scheduled) 0.25% (601ha) Runaway (non-scheduled) 2.12% (5 047ha) Arson (non-scheduled) 13.41% (31 867ha) Accidental (non-scheduled) 1.14% (2 715ha) Firebreaks 6.88% (16 359ha) Unknown 0.34% (817ha) Total area burnt 38.03% (89 621ha). All management units (15) are full members of the local Fire Protection Association and have paid up annual subscription fees. The Park has been allocated three Working on Fire teams. These teams are allocated a budget of R2 million each per annum by DEA. This equates to R6 million per annum.	Ongoing
Table 6.6.2 Framework for Conservation Management – Wilderness Management [UDP WHS Page 96]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Maintain the wilderness character of naturalness and solitude of the zoned wilderness areas in the MDP. [Table 6.6.2]	♦ Manage managerial and recreational impacts on the Wilderness areas to maintain Wilderness character. ♦ Remove all evidence of the presence of man (e.g. infrastructure). Undertake an audit of management- and tourism-caused noise, and implement strategies to minimise noise generation and propagation, and make recommendations for future monitoring.	Implemented Wilderness Management Plan.	The Limits of Acceptable Change process of monitoring visitor impacts has been initiated. Protocols for monitoring visitor impacts on trails and caves have been developed and implemented. The location of infrastructure in wilderness has been mapped and the removal of infrastructure will be included in annual work plans. Viewshed project takes into account the impacts of noise to some extent. No further noise identification and, monitoring or mitigation project has been implemented.	Year 2, thereafter, ongoing
		Consolidate and facilitate proclamation of wilderness areas.	Initiate a process to proclaim candidate wilderness areas.	Increase in proclaimed wilderness areas.	The baseline view shed analysis, measuring the location and extent of visual impact of human disturbance, has been completed. The amalgamation of the modelled surfaces into a sensitivity index still has to be completed. A field verification exercise will then be initiated before the zonation is finalised.	Year 2, thereafter, ongoing

TABLE 1: UDP IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.6.3 Framework for Conservation Management – Invasive Plant Control and Soil Erosion [UDP WHS Page 99]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Development and implementation of an invasive species control plan for the Park and within a 2km area (buffer) of the boundary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a detailed inventory of the listed invasive species. Map the areas and extent of invasive species infestations. Describe previous efforts to control and eradicate invasive plants. Outline the measures required to monitor, control and eradicate the listed invasive species. Identify measurable indicators of progress and success in implementing the invasive species control plan. Determine priority areas for implementation of control. 	Compliance with the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004.	<p>An Alien and Invasive Species Plan is currently in place for the Park.</p> <p>High altitude pine infestation mapping and eradication from Didima Gorge to Injesuthi River has been undertaken by the Vertical Endeavour team (Volunteer Group).</p> <p>A High Altitude Team (HAT) is based at Cathedral Peak and at Injesuthi and a third team is based at Monk's Cowl. The teams are responsible for alien plant eradication from Cathedral Peak to Injesuthi. A Service Level Agreement has been signed between FFA Operations (Pty) Ltd T/A Working on Fire (WoF) and Ezemvelo. These teams are allocated a budget of R1.5 million each per annum by DEA. This equates to R4.5 million per annum.</p>	Year 1
		Achievement of a significant reduction in levels of invasive plant infestations in the Park.	Implement Invasive alien plant: Monitoring, control and eradication plans for each management unit to facilitate concerted, sustained control efforts in prioritised areas of invasive plant infestation.	Reduction in infestations of prioritised invasive plants in five years.	Alien trees are removed on an as and when basis within intensive use areas in the Park.	Ongoing
			All tourism nodes and management nodes will be assessed for alien species, and all prioritised alien plants will be controlled.		Not achieved - this will be undertaken in the next financial year. At Cobham, a number of trees were rescued along Sani Pass road and planted at the campsite.	Year 1
			Develop partnerships with Working for Water and other strategic programmes. Negotiate for funding for initial treatments (R10 million/annum), including a 2km buffer to the Park (R10 million/annum).	Funded projects to facilitate alien and invasive plant control.	<p>Working on Fire's High Altitude Team (HAT) is working in the Park. An amount of R4.5 million has been allocated to teams. Operational costs will be borne by HAT. Ezemvelo, being the base partner, is responsible for providing accommodation, a storeroom, ablutions, an interaction room with necessary gas and/or electricity as well as access to communications (telephone, fax and email) for the crew leaders to ensure effective reporting.</p> <p>For these additional expenses, budgets will have to be adjusted accordingly. The HAT teams are available to work through the entire financial year.</p> <p>Direct working costs, as well as training costs are the responsibility of HAT. An Annual Plan of Operations is agreed upon and timeous pre- and post-progress inspections are conducted.</p> <p>Partnerships are maintained by signed Service Agreements and regular communication between HAT (WoF) and Ezemvelo.</p> <p>Vertical Endeavour High Altitude Team work on an ad hoc basis in the Park. Alien plant species have been mapped and significant progress made. This healthy partnership will continue to receive support. Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers have followed up along the Sani Pass Road and at the SAPS Border Post.</p> <p>The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Alien Invasive Species Programme granted a total of R2.7 million to clear an area of 11 769ha. A total of 12 928 person days was achieved through this programme and significant progress has been made.</p>	Year 2

TABLE 1: UDP IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.6.3 Framework for Conservation Management – Soil Erosion [UDP Page 99]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Implementation of procedures to identify, rehabilitate and manage areas that have been significantly impacted by accelerated human caused soil erosion.	Implement soil erosion control and rehabilitation measures, focusing strategically on key areas such as those impacting on watercourses or that are growing larger.	<p>A detailed map depicting areas of soil erosion within the Park.</p> <p>Implementation of soil erosion control measures in areas of accelerated soil erosion.</p>	<p>Due to financial constraints, only a few km of hiking trails were maintained in the Park.</p> <p>Maintenance was carried out on the Giant's Cup Trail both at Cobham and Garden Castle. A new section of the Giant's Cup Trail for the third day has been surveyed and approved.</p>	Ongoing
Table 6.6.4 Framework for Conservation Management – Alien Animal Control and Resource Utilisation [UDP WHS Page 103]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Implementation of procedures to manage alien animals found within the MDP.	<p>Develop and implement an equitable policy for keeping personal and official domestic animals and livestock in the Park that includes procedures for dealing in a consistent manner with alien animals that stray into the Park. This policy must clearly address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Threats to biodiversity conservation as a priority. ♦ Reducing the numbers of such animals to an absolute minimum. ♦ Designating areas where these animals must be kept. They must not be allowed to roam or feed in the Park (except for official patrol horses when on patrol) or interfere in any way with tourists. ♦ The proper and hygienic care of these animals. ♦ Minimum standards (aesthetic acceptability, sizes, neatness and cleanliness) of facilities housing these animals e.g. stables, camps, cages, etc. ♦ Disciplinary measures for staff transgressing these regulations. ♦ Community awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Control of alien animals found in Park. ♦ Awareness of communities of the implemented strategy. 	<p>Standard Operating Procedure - Confiscation of stray livestock in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park is in place.</p> <p>Horse care and stable management guidelines have been developed. Horse care, stable management and correct horse riding procedures were covered during the horse riding training course offered by the SAPS Mounted Academy, Potchefstroom.</p> <p>Horse sickness vaccinations were administered from October to December 2017. Horses were dewormed in October to December 2017. Dr. J Flamand carried out an annual horse inspection at Vergelegen, Lotheni, uMkhomazi, Garden Castle and Cobham. Horse registers maintained as well as horse rotation register.</p> <p>An Environmental Awareness Plan has been produced and agreed upon.</p> <p>S'fundimvelo Environmental Education Programme is implemented in neighbouring schools around the Park; this programme is aligned to the Grade 6 National Curriculum syllabus.</p>	Year 2 Ongoing

TABLE 1: UDP IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.6.4 Framework for Conservation Management – Alien Animal Control and Resource Utilisation [UDP Page 103] ...continued						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Implementation of procedures to manage alien animals found within the MDP.	Develop and implement a management strategy that will minimise the negative impact of alien fish, specifically trout.	Reduction of alien and invasive fish species in UDP.	Trout is addressed in the Park's Alien and Invasive Species Management Plan. Trout have demonstrated impacts on biodiversity globally and locally. However, it is also acknowledged that trout have some economic value to the Park (although very limited); trout fishing has heritage value to sectors of society. The Park therefore acknowledges that trout have historically, and are continuing to, have impacts on aquatic systems but recognise that no large-scale eradication is feasible or indeed possibly even desirable. Consequently, a number of natural barriers to the upstream movement of trout have been identified and these can serve as places above which eradication operations can take place in future if the need arises; eradication of trout from rivers without natural barriers is impossible because of constant reinvasion from outside the Park.	Year 3
			The grazing concession in the south of the Park must be reviewed, confirmed, clarified and documented to allow the relevant manager to effectively monitor compliance and biodiversity impact.	Reviewed and documented grazing concession.	The Ikhamti/Mqatsheni and Cathedral Peak Grazing Concession Agreements are currently being revised with Regional Land Claims Commission and Ingonyama Trust Board. The Ingonyama Trust Board has agreed in principle for a discussion document to facilitate grazing concession's agreements with the Traditional Councils.	Year 1
Table 6.6.4 Framework for Conservation Management – Resource Utilisation [UDP WHS Page 103]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Ensure that if extractive resources use is undertaken, it is done legally and conforms to Ezemvelo policy	Raise awareness on the Park approach to sustainable, extractive, natural and cultural resource use in the Park.	A communicated approach to extractive resource use.	Resource use returns are submitted on a monthly basis and report on the State of Biodiversity produced for the Park.	Ongoing
			Manage resource use in accordance with the Park Resource Use Guidelines and Park Zonation Plan.	Documented resource use application and records.	Biological returns were analysed and a report produced (State of Biodiversity Report).	Ongoing
		Ensure that if bio prospecting is undertaken, it is done legally and conforms to Ezemvelo policy.	Only allow the collection of biological materials or samples if the appropriate permits or permission has been given in accordance with national, as well as Ezemvelo policy.	Records of permits for bio prospecting.	Not applicable – bio-prospecting permits are issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) responsibility. Ezemvelo is responsible to control and issuing relevant collection permits within the Park where bio-prospecting permits have been issued by DEA.	Ongoing

TABLE 1: UDP IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.6.5 Framework for Conservation Management – Wildlife Management [UDP Page 107]						
Conservation Management	Conserve the full range of Biodiversity in the Park including the natural processes that maintain it.	Development and implementation of a strategy for management of the wildlife in the MDP in accordance with Ezemvelo policies and norms and standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a Disease Control Contingency Plan.Develop operational guidelines for the management of feeding sites for vultures.	Disease Control Contingency Plan. Guidelines for vulture feeding sites.	A Draft Disease Risk Management Protocol is in place. Adopted – Endangered Wildlife Trust Guidelines for establishment of vulture feeding sites. A feeding site management plan still to be developed for Giant's Castle and Cathedral Peak.	Ongoing
		Development and implementation of a strategy for human-wildlife conflict that comply with provincial and national norms and standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Annually meet with stakeholders, as required in the Drakensberg Eland Management Strategy to discuss permits, fencing and human-wildlife conflict.Undertake preventative measures, such as boundary fence construction and maintenance, and removal of all exotic fruit and oak trees to minimise the need for human-animal conflict control.Implement the human-wildlife conflict control strategy for the Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes of annual stakeholder meetings, as per the Drakensberg Eland Management Strategy requirements.Effective procedures and good working relationships with hospitality staff and neighbours in dealing with damage causing animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A strategy to address Human-Wildlife conflict pertaining to baboons in the Park is currently in place.Ezemvelo Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy is currently in Place.An Environmental Awareness Plan has been produced and agreed upon.Animal proof bins have been installed in various resorts and staff accommodation units.	Ongoing
		Capacitate managers, as well as Community Conservation Officers to deal with human-animal conflict in neighbouring communities and with landowners.	Trained staff members to deal effectively with human and animal communities.	Training and awareness presentations are currently on going.	Ongoing	
Table 6.7.1 Framework for Cultural Heritage Resource Management [UDP Page 109]						
Cultural Heritage Management	Promote the conservation management and public appreciation of all cultural and heritage resources within the Park in accordance with statutory regulations.	Manage the globally significant cultural heritage and living heritage to ensure their preservation for present and future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the Cultural Heritage Management Plan including a monitoring programme for the Park in accordance with the relevant legislations: World Heritage Act and NHRA.Develop specialist institutional capacity to ensure and champion the effective heritage management process of the Park's diverse cultural heritage.On-going survey for new cultural heritage sites.Develop control mechanisms for research and tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An implemented Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Park.Institutional capacity exists to manage cultural heritage.Identification and documentation of various types of heritage resources within the Park.Ensure a working partnership and management of stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been produced.A Rock Art Clustering Programme is currently in place and being implemented. Finalisation of the condensed report needs further refinement. At this stage, rock art monitoring cards are being used until the electronic monitoring form is finalised.The Cultural Heritage Specialist post is still vacant due to financial constraints.A Built Environment and Public Memorial Survey Report was completed.Quarterly Cultural Heritage Management and Amafa/Ezemvelo Liaison meetings are taking place.MDTP Cultural Heritage Working Group is also active and meets quarterly, this working group focusing largely on Maloti-Drakensberg Park.	Year 1 Ongoing

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.8.1 Framework for Environmental Education and Awareness [UDP WHS Page 111]						
Environmental Education and Awareness	Create awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Park's natural, cultural and wilderness values.	Development and implementation of a Park specific environmental education and awareness programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an environmental awareness programme specifically for MDP WHS's neighbouring communities, visitors and special interest groups. Develop and implement an interpretation programme in a standard format for each management unit within the Park. 	Implemented Park specific environmental education and awareness programme.	<p>An Environmental Awareness Plan has been produced and agreed upon.</p> <p>The Management Unit specific plan has been developed for 2018/19 financial year.</p>	Year 3
Table 6.9.1: Framework for Research, Ecological Monitoring and Reporting [UDP WHS Page 114]						
Research, monitoring and reporting	Facilitate adaptive management through the assessment of management intervention and the provision of information for achieving the objectives of the Park	Comply with legislative requirements for reporting in terms of NEMPA, WHCA and the Ramsar Convention.	<p>Prepare and submit the following reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report to the Minister on the status of the WHS. Six yearly report to the WHS Committee on the status of the WHS. Reporting on the status and integrity of the Ramsar Site. 	Legislative compliance in terms of reporting.	Annual Report for 2017/2018 in terms of World Heritage Convention Act – section 42 has been produced.	As Required
		Provide opportunities for both applied and theoretical research in the MDP WHS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a standard for assessment of research requests. Investigate the potential in or near the Park for the development of a permanent research facility in the South. Maintain a prioritised Park biodiversity and cultural heritage research project list. Develop a Park bibliography, reference library facilities and procedures to maintain hard and digital copies of all Park related research work, all documents listed as management supporting documentation. Strict curation rules must apply and the ultimate responsibility for the curation of this library must be allocated to the most senior reserve management position and the Ecological Advice Co-ordinator at the uKhahlamba Regional Office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for assessment of research projects. Prioritised research list. Accessible research records and supporting documentation. 	<p>Ezemvelo research application and approval process is in place and being fully implemented. Protocol has been updated to fully meet the requirements of the ToPs, BABS and administration of World Heritage sites regulations.</p> <p>The priority research list has been finalised. There is a priority research project list available on the Ezemvelo website, but will never be finalised – it is a living document that is continuously updated.</p> <p>The uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage site Reference list has been completed. This is a living database that is continuously updated as new references are found or as new publications are released.</p>	Year 2, thereafter, annually
		Critical ecological processes and functions are maintained within the MDP WHS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a monitoring programme for water quality below all water treatment plants. Work collaboratively with SAEON on catchment monitoring and fire exclusion plots. 	Monitoring and water quality reports.	<p>Water samples are collected for testing on a monthly basis at Royal Natal, Didima, Injesuthi Monk's Cowl and Giant's Castle and water quality reports are produced.</p> <p>The water technician from Midmar monitors water quality throughout the Park on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Officer-in-Charge Kamberg takes water samples and are posted direct to the Department of Water and Sanitation.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Agreement between Ezemvelo and SAEON (monitoring project and equipment worth over R2 million) is in place.</p>	Ongoing

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.9.1: Framework for Research, Ecological Monitoring and Reporting [UDP WHS Page 114] ...continued						
Research, monitoring and reporting	Facilitate adaptive management through the assessment of management intervention and the provision of information for achieving the objectives of the Park	Rare and endangered species management is undertaken using the best available scientific knowledge.	Adopt procedures for the management of rare and endangered species within the Park, particularly those for which specific conservation targets have been set, based on available literature and known best practices (Eland, Oribi and all Crane and Vulture species).	Maintenance and increase in population numbers of rare and endangered species within the Park.	The Eland and; Bearded and Cape Vulture Management Plan are in place and actions are implemented according to existing plans. Monitoring plans are being developed. Provincial Crane, Oribi and Cycads Management Plans are in place and monitoring is conducted according to existing plans.	Ongoing
			Undertake monitoring of key rare and endangered species (Eland, Oribi and all Crane and Vulture species).	Monitoring of flagship species.	The Oribi; Crane; Eland; Otter and; Bearded and Cape Vulture Annual Monitoring Programme is in place. Oribi counts were carried out in August. Eland counts were carried out during December and January. Annual game observation counts were carried out from April to June. Bearded Vulture nest monitoring was carried out in September. A remote camera was installed at a Bearded Vulture nest at Cobham (Emerald Stream) a couple of years ago. These species have an approved management plan (not Otter) and monitoring is conducted in accordance to specific schedules (monitoring calendar). These species are monitored at specific times of the year.	Ongoing
		Processes are established to determine the success of management interventions in protecting the ecosystems, communities and species of the Park.	Develop and implement surveillance and monitoring plans for key management interventions in accordance with the Ezemvelo policies and norms and standards.	♦ Surveillance and monitoring plans for key threatening processes. ♦ Monitoring plans for key rare and endangered species.	The following plans and programmes are in place: ♦ Fire Management Plan ♦ Wilderness Management Plan ♦ Alien and Invasive Species Plan ♦ Trails Maintenance Manual ♦ Provincial Crane, Oribi and Cycads Management Plans ♦ Oribi; Eland; Otter and; Bearded and Cape Vulture monitoring programme ♦ Brotherton Plots ♦ Burgess Plots ♦ SAEON Long-term catchment research and surveillance ♦ Fixed Point photographs	Ongoing
Table 6.10.1 Framework for Operational Management – Financial and Human Resources, and Facilities and Infrastructure [UDP WHS Page 119]						
Operational Management	Provide adequate human resources, equipment and funding to enable the effective protection, development and management of MDP WHS.	Develop a five-year financial plan that identifies the resource needs to achieve the objectives for the Park.	Undertake an assessment of past income and expenditure trends in the Park. Develop a five-year projection of income and expenditure targets that will allow for the effective achievement of the Park's objectives.	Adequate funding to achieve the objectives of the Park.	The Park Strategic Plan and Annual Financial Plan in terms of World Heritage Convention Act – section 36 and 37 were produced to secure funds.	Year 1

TABLE 1: UDP WHS IMP - OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES – ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATION ...continued

Key Performance Area	Objective	Strategic Outcome	Management Activities	Management Targets	Progress	Priority
Table 6.10.1 Framework for Operational Management – Financial and Human Resources, and Facilities and Infrastructure[UDP WHS Page 119] ...continued						
Operational Management	Provide adequate human resources, equipment and funding to enable the effective protection, development and management of MDP WHS.	Ensure that the Park is adequately staffed for its effective management and operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ sufficient, appropriately skilled staff to meet the management and operational requirements of the Park. Undertake regular training and skills development to ensure that staff members are able to effectively complete their duties. 	Appointment of staff in all positions in the Park.	<p>Park staff establishment is not adequately resourced. There are also staff incapacity challenges and frozen vacant posts. Five Field Rangers are on secondment to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park.</p> <p>Park staff establishment is 565 posts excluding support services. Out of 565 posts, only 395 are filled, 170 positions are vacant (30% vacancy rate). Approximately 425 staff employed on fixed term (seasonal) contract. Total employment on permanent and seasonal/fixed term contract is 820 excluding Working on Fire and Joint Venture Programmes.</p> <p>Routine annual shooting practices were carried out.</p>	Year 2
		Ensure that all facilities and infrastructure in the Park are adequately maintained.	Develop and implement a schedule maintenance programme to maintain facilities and infrastructure in a condition that meets relevant environmental, health and safety requirements.	Regular scheduled maintenance of all facilities and infrastructure.	<p>A Facility Maintenance Schedule is in place but is not operationalised due to budget constraints and as result, it is therefore limited.</p> <p>Occupational Health and Safety Compliance Register is in place.</p>	Ongoing
		Ensure that existing and new roads, tracks and paths in MDP WHS are maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain roads, tracks and paths according to standards that ensure safety and avoid environmental harm such as erosion. Undertake regular assessments of the condition of roads, 4x4 tracks and specifically paths to determine and implement scheduled maintenance needs. 	Rehabilitation and maintenance of roads, tracks and paths that are unsafe or are causing environmental damage.	A road and trails maintenance plan is in place but is not operationalised due to budget constraints.	Ongoing
		Service infrastructure and practices in MDP WHS must not cause environmental harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where service infrastructure, including that for water supply, electricity and sewerage is causing environmental harm, ensure proper maintenance is being undertaken and if necessary, upgrade infrastructure or modify practices to address this. Develop an integrated waste management plan for the Park. Develop, install and maintain effective standardised solid waste receptacles for the Park that are animal proof. All sewage systems in the Park must be investigated for legal compliance and a phased programme to upgrade existing systems and septic tank/French drain systems must be implemented. Develop a phased programme to install standardised (reliable and tested) water and energy-saving devices throughout the Park. Conduct an assessment of all landfill sites and implement a rehabilitation programme. Assessment of all redundant infrastructures in the Park. 	Appropriately functioning service infrastructure and systems that do not cause harm to the environment.	<p>A road and trails maintenance plan is in place but is not operationalised due to budget constraints.</p> <p>A concept Integrated Waste Management plan has been developed. All refuse in the Park is transported to the local municipal dumps.</p> <p>Animal proof bins have been installed throughout the Park in resort facilities.</p> <p>All raw sewage plants in the Park are monitored on a weekly basis, water samples are collected weekly for testing.</p> <p>Problems with the sewerage plant at Royal Natal was rectified, the system is now fully functional.</p> <p>Water and energy saving mechanisms have been incorporated in a climate change and adaptation response plan.</p>	Year 2 and scheduled maintenance ongoing

ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK

OVERVIEW 2017/2018

iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage site remains a premier tourist destination with amazing attributes and diversity that include marine protected areas, beaches, wetlands, coastal plains and savanna bushveld – one of the gems in the Province! This past year, the Park highlights achievements and specific challenges experienced during 2017/2018 as well as outlook for 2019/2020. iSimangaliso Wetland Park is committed to the National and Provincial Priorities of Government, ensuring a mandate of sustainable conservation, whilst incorporating economic development.

The most noteworthy achievement in the last 12 months is to be the best managed Park in KZN and among the top performing Parks in South Africa with a score of 83.3 in Protected Area Management Effectiveness. Through iSimangaliso, staff accommodation, tourist facilities and road network were upgraded and significantly improved as part of an infrastructure upgrade project. The project included a significant portion of job creation to benefit local communities. There have been a number of other infrastructural projects initiated, which include revamp of Fannies Ireland, St Lucia visitor facility upgrade and visitor access upgrade in Mkhuze, Cape Vidal and Dukuduku. This will improve visitor experience in the Park.

Rhino poaching in iSimangaliso has been dramatically reduced during the reporting period through a number of effective interventions. In 2017, we have lost only 11 rhinos when compared to 2016 where we lost 23 animals. The KZN population status and trend for black rhino and white rhino are reflected in the graphs below. The black rhino, despite the poaching, have remained fairly stable, but the white rhino, the hardest hit by the poaching, have declined significantly in State Protected Areas.

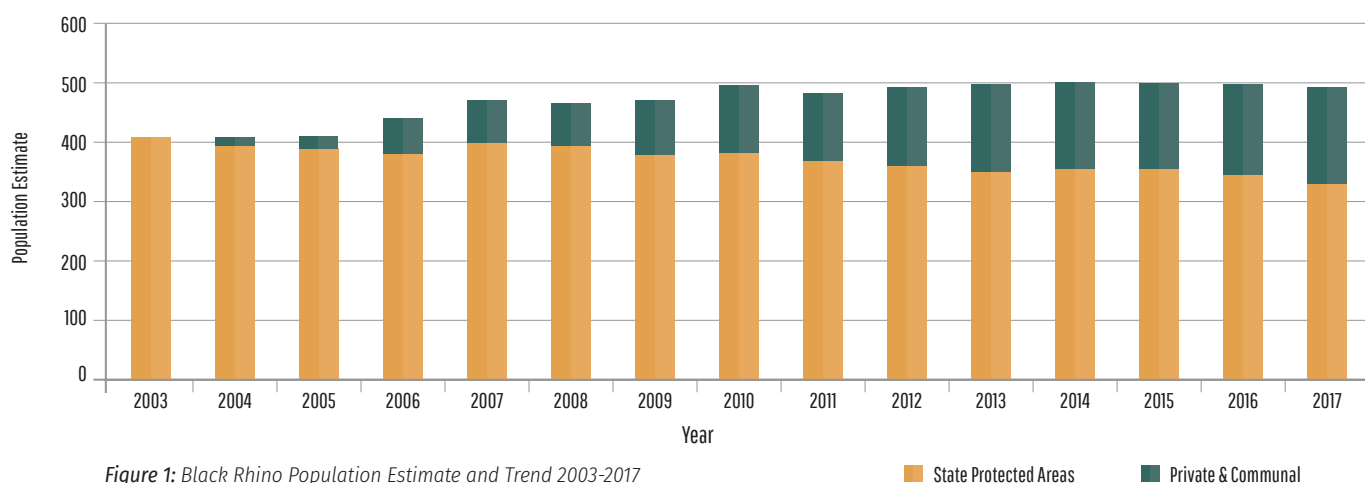


Figure 1: Black Rhino Population Estimate and Trend 2003-2017

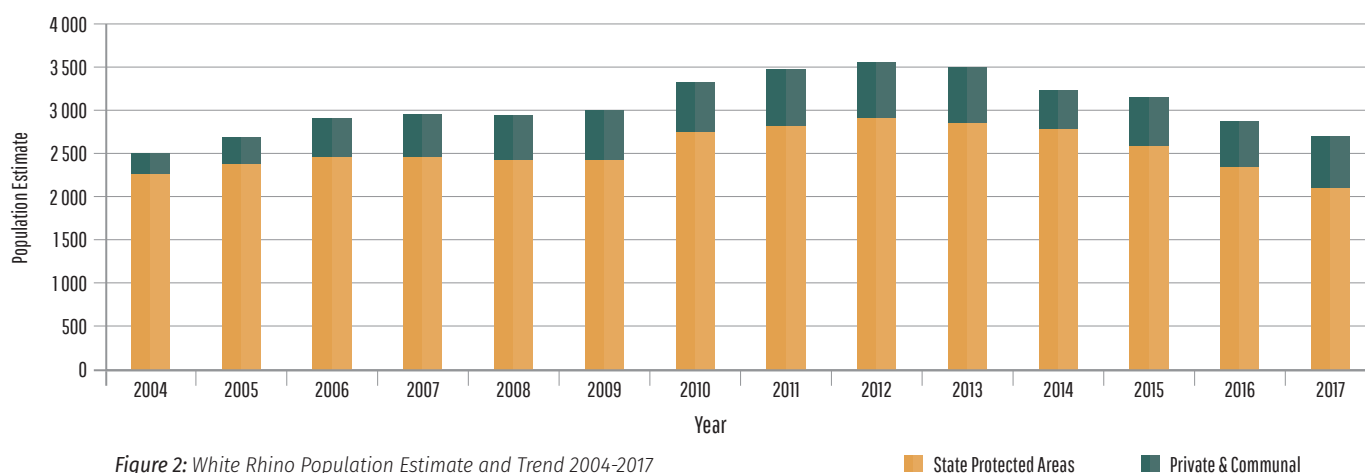


Figure 2: White Rhino Population Estimate and Trend 2004-2017

Bush meat poaching however, remains an on-going threat in uMkhuze, Ozabeni and Western Shores. The recorded data below classifies and categorises poaching incidents per month and type.

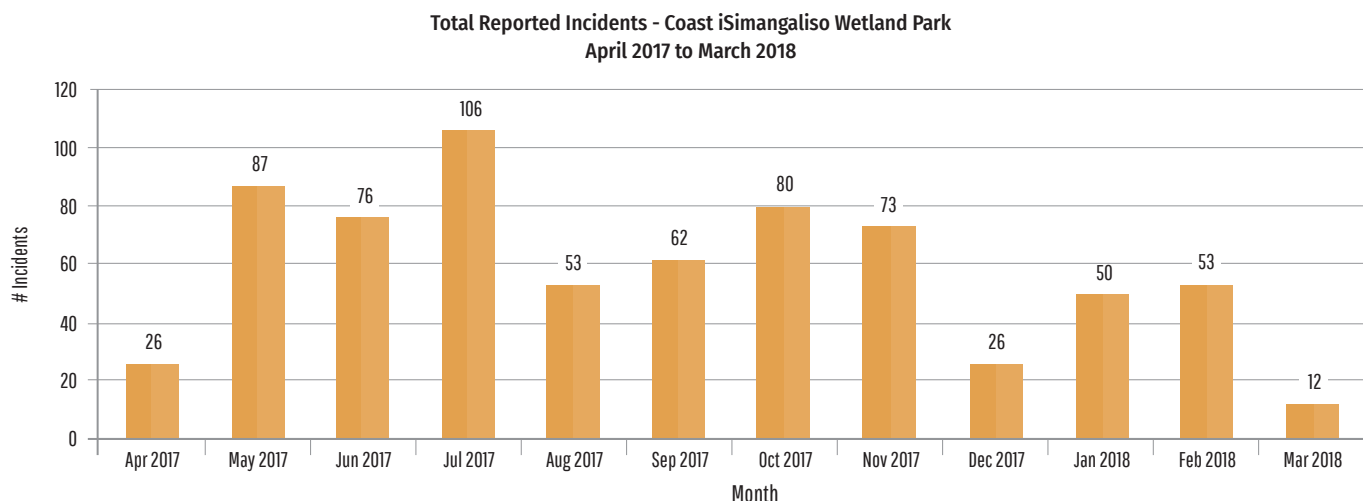


Figure 3: Total Reported Incidents from Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

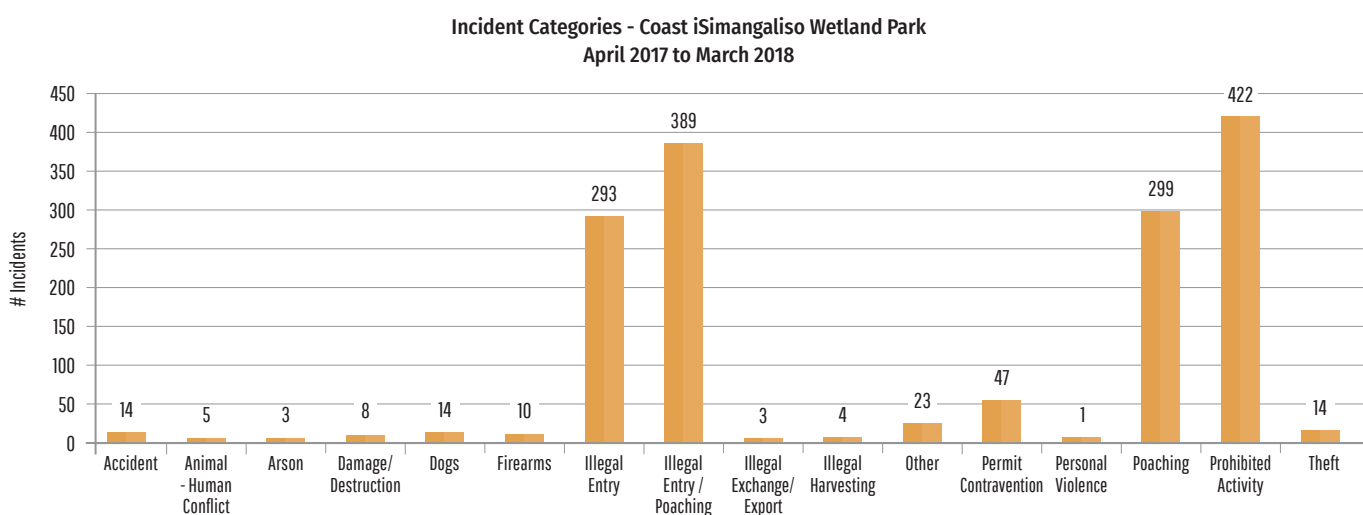


Figure 4: Incidents Categories from Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

The sea turtle monitoring season started on the 1st of November 2017 and ended on the 15th of March 2018 and covered the stretch of beach from Sodwana Bay to the South African/Mozambique border and provided jobs for 38 community members. This season has shown a decrease in the number of emergences and the number of nests laid for loggerhead turtles. There has been a greater number of “first time” nesters recorded this season i.e. turtles that have not been tagged before that are new

to the programme. The season seems to have been quite successful for leatherback turtles which have realised the highest number of tracks and nests for the past 7 seasons. Just over 90% of the emergences resulted in a successful nesting event. There is concern however as to the hatching success rate. The beaches were severely eroded during October 2017. Nests that were laid may have been inundated at the high tides, affecting their hatching success.

Patrols	
Vehicle Seashore Patrols	1 013
Km	11 413
Hrs	7 386
Foot patrol seashore	2 599
Km	6 113
Hrs	11 276
Boat sea (ski boat)	16
Km	451
Hrs	36
Dive patrols – Scuba	3
Vehicle estuary shore patrols	153
Km	298
Hrs	808
Foot estuary/lake shore patrols	743
Km	6 298
Hrs	4 389
Boat estuary/lake patrols	190
Km	2 529
Hrs	1 089

Figure 5: Ocean and Cost Compliance Monitoring from Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

CHALLENGES

The continuous budget cut and not filling some of critical vacancies remains a major challenge, unauthorized development in Coastal Forest and agricultural practices in Ngoboseleni and in other areas pose an immediate risk to a wetland ecosystem with devastating effects to our global coral reefs in Sodwana. Staff will do their very best to protect the biodiversity assets and ensure relevance of the Park to neighbouring communities is maintained.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-2020

In terms of infrastructure, we are planning to revamp five field ranger camps within the Park through iSimangaliso project funding; kickstart a robust community engagement through iSimangaliso Cup which will involve 12 Traditional Authorities around the Park, this community initiative is aimed at easing tensions between the Park and our neighbouring communities; and continue to reduce rhino poaching within the Park to the bare minimum.

HLUHLUWE IMFOLOZI PARK REPORT

RHINO MANAGEMENT

WHITE RHINOCEROS (*CERATOTHERIUM SIMUM SIMUM*)

The Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park (HiP), hosts the most important population of White Rhino in the world. For this reason, the importance of the protected area cannot be over emphasized and a broader perspective must be looked at in order to appreciate the role which is being played at the HiP towards the conservation of this species. The Provincial perspective, in terms of the HiP, is relevant to be discussed in the annual report for the HiP in 2018.



White rhino is considered a Near Threatened species internationally (IUCN 2012) and Least Concern in South Africa (Friedman and Daly, 2004). This species was driven to near extinction in South Africa and KZN by hunting, as human populations expanded their settlements and agricultural practices onto the fertile plains and valleys of the province. By the 1950's, the only populations remaining in the country were to be found in the iMfolozi Game Reserve and adjacent Corridor land. White rhino occur naturally at moderate densities in semi-arid savannah and the achievement of the population target, signals that there are adequate areas set aside with appropriate habitat, where land-owners are accepting and able to benefit from their presence on their land, and where the appropriate levels of protection are in place.

The population trend is evaluated for the 13-year period from 2004 to 2017.

♦ State Protected Areas

The population grew steadily between 2004 (2 284) and 2013 (2 939) at an average of 2.6% per annum but since then has shown successive declines to the 2017 estimate of 2 119 animals (Figure 1).

♦ Private land

The population is much smaller than in State Protected Areas but showed a much greater initial growth from 193 in 2004 and then peaked at 655 in 2011. Subsequent to this, the population has declined to 549 in 2013 but over the last four years has fluctuated between 540 and 567 (Figure 1).

Overall

The provincial population grew at an average rate of 3.9% per annum between 2004 and reached its peak in 2012 (3 543). From 2012 to present, the population of white rhino has showed an annual decline of 5.6% per annum (Figures 1 and 2).

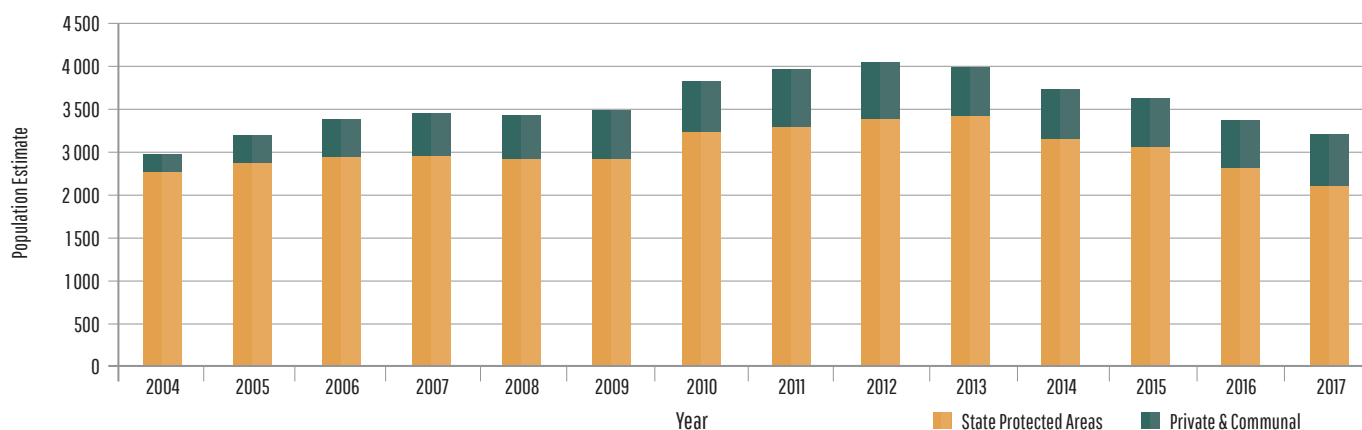


Figure 1: Trend in the Population of White Rhino in Protected Areas and in Private and Communal Land in KZN 2004-2017.

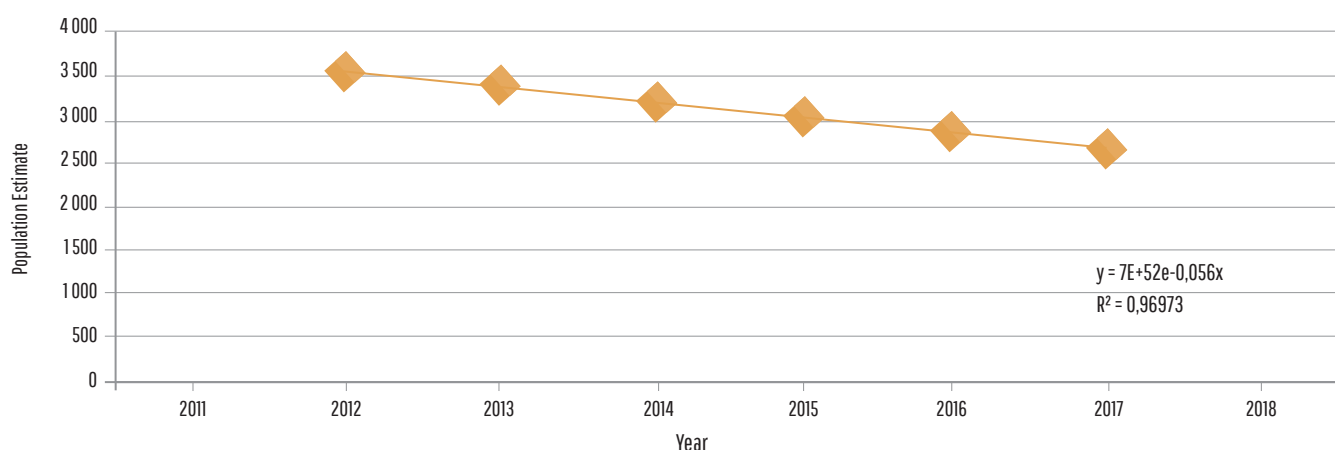


Figure 2: Recent Decline in the Population of White Rhino in State Protected Areas and in Private and Communal Land in KZN 2011-2017.

The trend in the number of populations follows to a large degree that of the population (Figure 3). Both the number of protected areas with white rhino and the number of private and communal reserves with rhino declined between 2011 and 2015 but has remained constant since then (Figure 3).

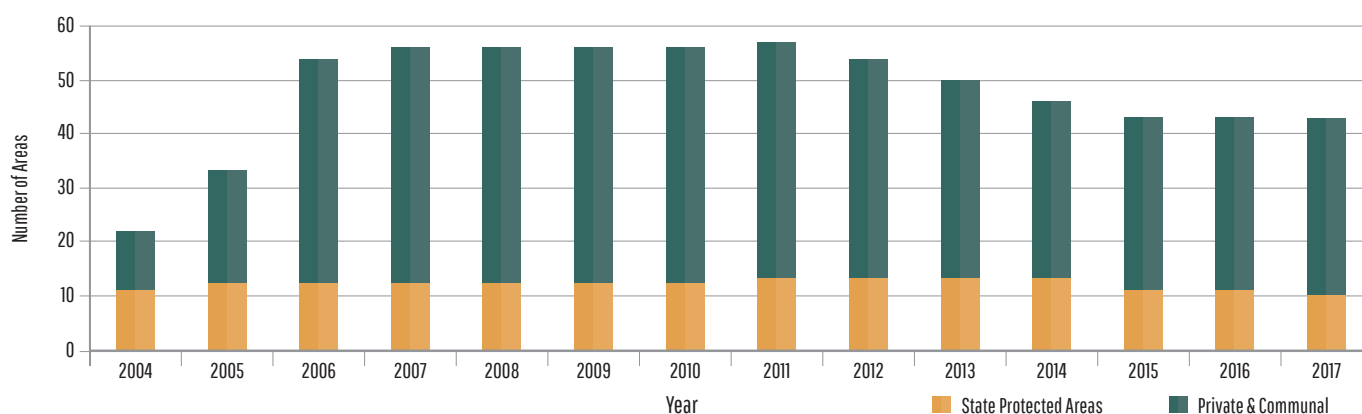


Figure 3: Trend in the Number of State, Private and Communal Protected Areas and Properties with White Rhino Populations 2004-2017.

The declines, both in the population size and number of protected areas and properties with rhino, are a function of past pressures on the population, which for the moment, include poaching, sport hunting and live removal and export.

The primary pressure on, and future threat to this population is that of poaching. Poaching was generally low prior to 2008, but this situation has changed radically in the last six years, indicating an exponential increase in poached mortality (Figure 4). In 2017, the poaching rate was the highest on record, amounting to 7.75% of the population. This was well above 2013 and 2014 levels and more than three times the maximum acceptable rate of 2% per annum (Figure 4).

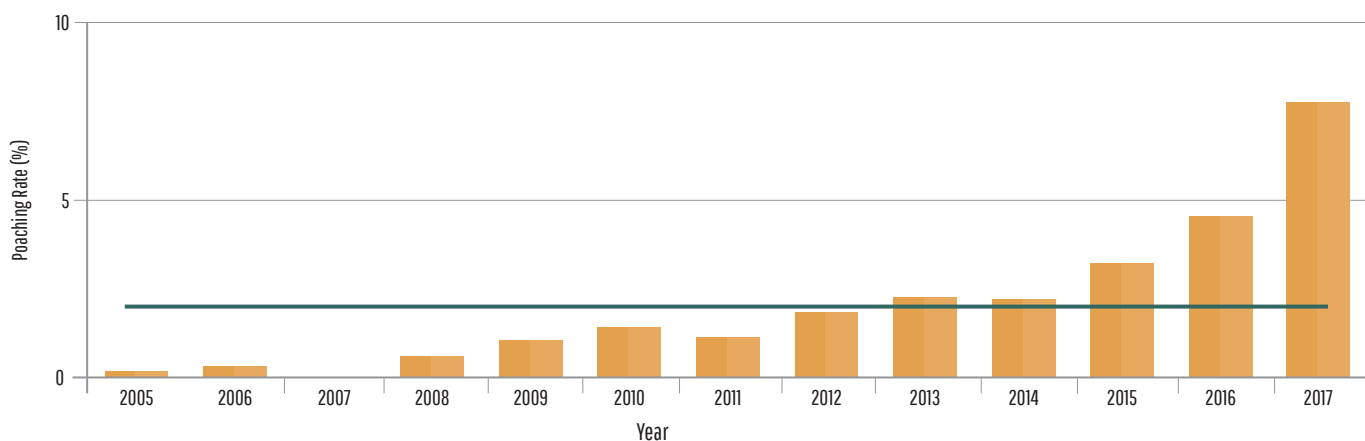


Figure 4: Trend in the Poaching Rate (Proportion of the Population) of White Rhino in KZN.

Key Management Actions for 2018 and 2019 include:

1. Improve capacity and level of legal compliance – minimise poaching risk.
2. Intensify the status monitoring and reporting of all existing free ranging populations.
3. Finalise monitoring parameters and draft monitoring plan.
4. Allocate scarce resources available for rhino conservation to the most strategic and critical rhino conservation management actions.
5. Develop norms and standards for hunting permit allocation and monitoring.

BLACK RHINOCEROS (*DICEROS BICORNIS MINOR*)



Black rhinoceros (*ssp. minor*) is a critically endangered species worldwide (Emslie 2012), which is evaluated as vulnerable in South Africa (Friedmann and Daly, 2004). It was driven to near extinction in South Africa and KZN by hunting as human populations expanded their settlement and agricultural practices onto the fertile plains and valleys of the province. By the early 1960's, the only populations remaining in the country were to be found in the current Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, Mkhuze Game Reserve and the Makhatini flats adjacent to the latter. Black rhino occurs naturally at low densities and the achievement of the population target, signals that there are adequate areas with suitable habitat of appropriate size set aside for its survival, where land-owners are supportive of their presence, and where the appropriate levels of protection can and are provided.

♦ Provincial population

The population has shown a mean annual growth rate of 2% per annum between 2003 and 2013, but since 2014, the population has declined from 500 (2014) to 492 at the end of 2017 (Figure 1).

State Protected Areas

The number of populations of black rhino in state protected areas has declined from a peak of 9 effective populations in 2012 to 6 effective populations in 2017. The population itself has declined from a peak of 410 in 2003 to 330 in 2017 (Figure 5). These declines are explained by a decline in the number of populations; the expected decline resulting from harvesting to establish new populations; loss of habitat to human invasion (Ndumo); poaching losses (HiP, uMkhuze, Opathe, Ozabeni, Tembe and Western Shores); and overestimation of initial carrying capacity (Eastern Shores, Tembe Elephant Park and Western Shores).

Private Land and Communal Land

The number of populations on private and communal land has increased from nil in 2003 to 9 effective populations in 2017. This is the primary outcome of the BRREP programme to date. The population on private and communal land has grown steadily over the review period (both as a function of population establishment and growth), from zero in 2003 to 162 at the end of 2017 (Figure 6). Since 2013, the population growth rate has slowed considerably, mainly as a result of populations reaching carrying capacity, but also as little new land has been added (Figure 6). A single new population was established in 2017, namely Dinokeng.

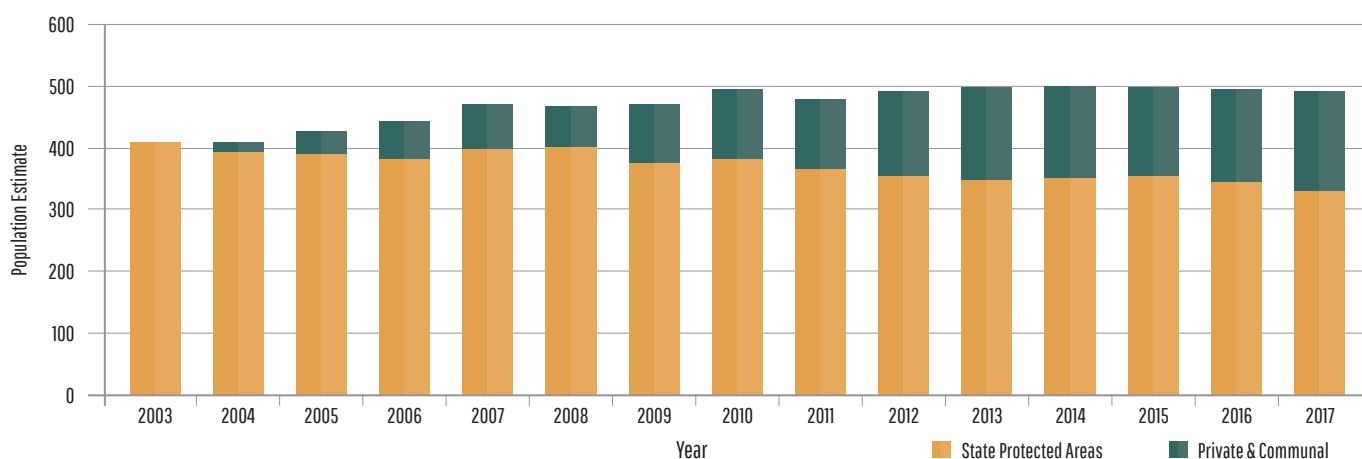


Figure 5: Trend in the Population of Black Rhino in Protected Areas, Private and Communal Land in KZN.

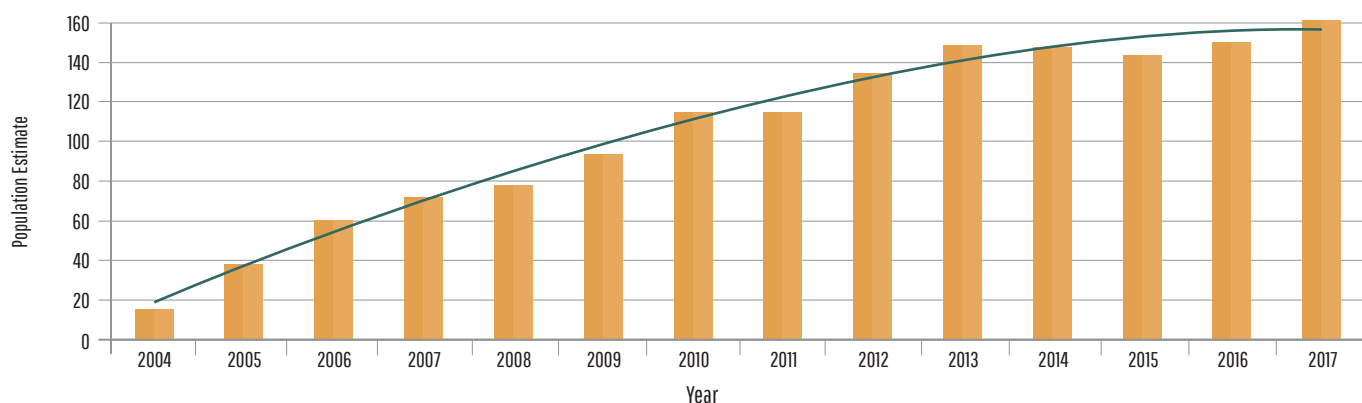


Figure 6: Growth in the Population of Black Rhino on Private and Communal Land

The primary pressure and future threat to this population is poaching. The poaching rate for 2017 was 3.43% (Figure 7). Poaching has been relatively low (< 1% of the population between 2003 and 2011) but has risen rapidly from 2012 onwards with the mean annual poaching rate for the last six years at 2.86% and the last 3 years at 3.14%, both of which exceed the 1% per annum threshold set by the KZN Black Rhino Management Strategy (Conway and Goodman, 2013).

Note: There are no perceived risks to biodiversity with the continued growth and expansion of this population. However, the fight against poaching is diverting scarce resources away from other important conservation programmes.

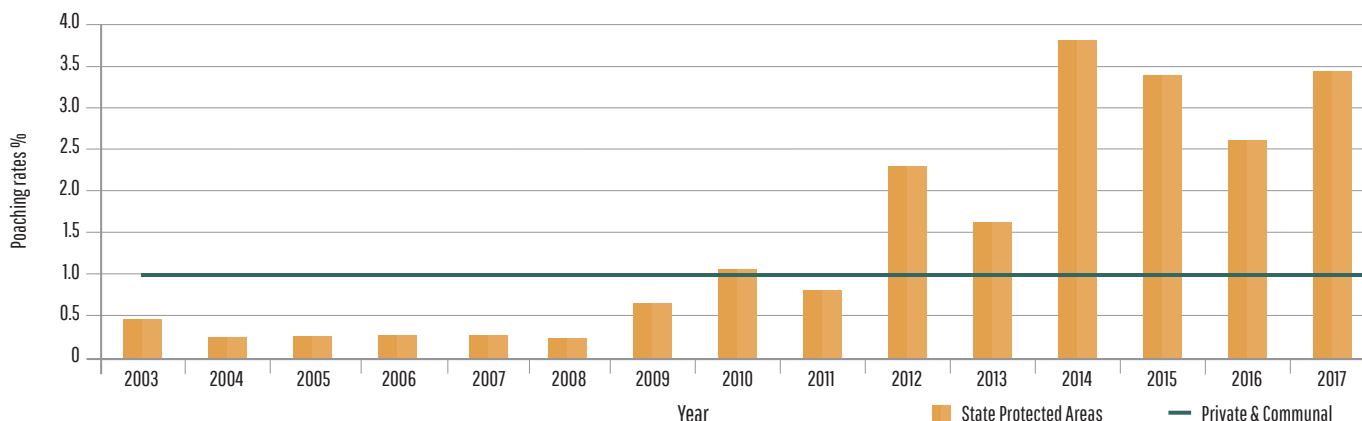


Figure 7: Trend in the Rate of Black Rhino Recorded as Being Poached on Private and Communal Land and State Protected Areas Over the Last 15 Years. NB: Data Adjusted to Reflect Estimated Date of Death, Not Date of Detection or Case (CAS) date

Key management actions for 2018 must be seen in the light of the current manageable limitations to the population size and its growth rate which in order of priority are:

1. Minimise poaching loss - improve staff capacity to implement and ensure highest level of legal compliance in both operational and intelligence disciplines.
2. Secure existing land and acquire more land for black rhino conservation – continue to actively support the black rhino range expansion programme – in particular, support public/private/community partnerships.
3. Implement highest level of monitoring standards in all black rhino reserves.
4. Allocate scarce resources available for rhino conservation to the most strategic and critical rhino conservation management actions.
5. Expansion plan – complete the long awaited black rhino range expansion plan.
6. Strategy – revise provincial black rhino management strategy.

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT - CHALLENGES

Due to the excessive poaching pressure, mainly rhino, biodiversity management has unfortunately had to take a back seat for the past few years. This has resulted in problems developing, especially with the fence on the boundary, alien plant control and infrastructure management.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Concerns with the Community's surrounding the Park need to be highlighted. A number of reasons are contributing towards community unhappiness with Ezemvelo and the Park.

These are Human-Wildlife Conflict where predators, exiting the Park, are involved in community owned domestic stock mortalities. Compounding this problem is the fact that both Leopard and Hyena are not catered for in the Organisation's Predator Compensation Policy. The current Policy only caters for predators which were introduced or reintroduced into State Owned Protected Areas. The situation pertaining to the Compensation Policy is currently under review.

DEVELOPMENTS

Staff are being trained in the use of firearms and these will be used to protect the workers in the field. There will be a total of 40 contractors, all of whom will be employed from neighbouring communities.

NORTHERN PROTECTED AREAS

RHINO MANAGEMENT

Whilst the scourge of rhino poaching continued throughout the Province, the Protected Areas within the Northern Protected Areas were relatively fortunate and were not targeted as intensely as some of the other rhino reserves. A total of two (2) white rhino were lost to poaching at the Tembe Elephant Park and these were the only animals lost during the course of the year.



Figure 1: White Rhino Bull

It must be stated that de-horning took place at the Ithala Game Reserve, Ophathe Game Reserve, Phongolo Nature Reserve and Ndumo Game Reserve. Unfortunately, funding and time prevented the process from taking place at the Tembe Elephant Park. A management decision was taken to remove the remaining white rhino from the Ndumo Game Reserve as the population size was not considered viable and the threat of poaching from Mozambique remained severe.

NDUMO GAME RESERVE (EAST BOUNDARY)

There are still subsistent gardens present within the Ndumo Game Reserve along the eastern boundary. This is a politically motivated activity under the guise of subsistence agriculture. Management at Ndumo Game Reserve, with the assistance of a consultant sponsored by the Peace Parks Foundation (NGO), worked tirelessly with the three communities situated along the eastern boundary. Progress with the Bhekabantu community and leadership was made and there is now a willingness for the eastern boundary fence to be re-erected. There is still resistance from the Mbangweni community and this is holding up progress.

Two boreholes were provided solely for the provision of fresh water to the community. Both Mbangweni and Bhekabantu had boreholes sunk and small reservoirs constructed. This development was extremely well received by the respective communities. Unfortunately, funding and contracts have expired and the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) have withdrawn their sponsorship of an independent consultant and this has not been renewed as yet. In general, relations are mediocre and this is an improvement on past years when relations were extremely strained with Ezemvelo.

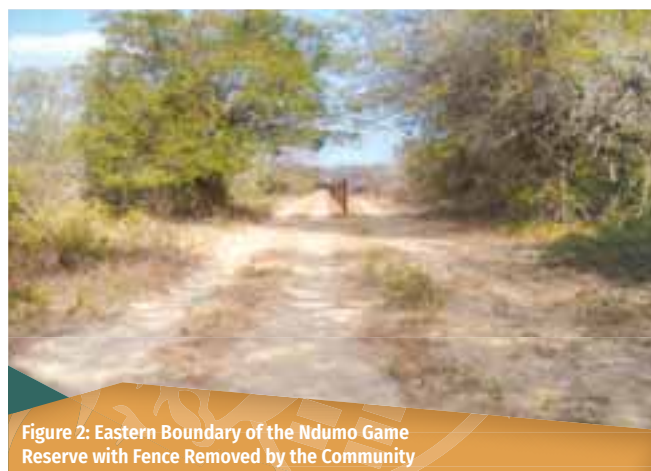


Figure 2: Eastern Boundary of the Ndumo Game Reserve with Fence Removed by the Community

REMOVAL OF WILD DOGS FROM TEMBE ELEPHANT PARK

Possibly the most notable development was the decision to remove the Wild Dog from the Tembe Elephant Park. This was as a result of pressure from the community residing on the western boundary of the Park. In 2015/2016, the small pack of 8 animals which resided in the southern western section of the Park learned that a source of easy food was to be found outside of the boundary fence. This resulted in the pack leaving the Park on a regular basis in order to hunt and feed. The community became extremely unhappy and after a number of very aggressive meetings with the Tembe management team, a decision was taken to remove the Wild Dog from the Park. To-date, compensation claims amounting to approximately R1 000 000 have been received from aggrieved community members. Unfortunately, the removal of these animals from the Park has not been unanimous and there is currently legal proceedings underway with the Tembe Safari Lodge who are contesting Ezemvelo's decision to have these animals removed.

The decision to remove and subsequent legal challenge to the removal of the Wild Dogs at the Tembe Elephant Park has proven to be a massive challenge. The community on the western boundary are demanding their removal whilst the Tembe Safari Lodge are wanting the Wild Dogs to stay as a tourist attraction for their business. This is currently in court and the matter is being challenged by Ezemvelo. There are currently 14 Wild Dog in the Tembe boma waiting for translocation to a new home within the meta population sub-region.



Figure 3: Wild Dog at the Tembe Elephant Park are being Removed Due to Community Pressure on the Western Boundary of the Park.

CO-MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS – ITHALA GAME RESERVE

A community benefit hunting initiative was introduced to the Ithala Game Reserve in 2015. The main aim of the initiative was to provide meaningful benefits to the land owners and community emanating from the Ithala Game Reserve. The project affords an opportunity to recreational hunters to hunt and be accommodated within the Protected Area at a cost. The Mhlangeni Bush Camp in the eastern section of the Ithala Game Reserve is used as the accommodation facility. This camp was refurbished in 2016 and this was funded by the Ithala Community Conservation Trust and is now extremely comfortable for the hunters. In 2017, the hunting and accommodation reached R296 000 after expenses were deducted and these funds were paid across to the Trust bank account by Ezemvelo. The initiative is an annual event and will take place again in the 2019 winter.

PREDATOR BOMA – PHONGOLO NATURE RESERVE

A new predator boma has been completed at the Phongolo Nature Reserve. The boma was primarily constructed to house Wild Dog however, it has been improved to now accommodate Lion and other predators. Predator bomas in KZN are in great demand and as such, the Phongolo Nature Reserve facility has improved the availability of management being able to hold predators within the Province. For most of 2017, a pack of 9 adult male Wild Dogs were accommodated at the Phongolo Nature Reserve and these were recently translocated to the Goronzolo National Park in Mozambique as part of the sub-regional meta population programme. A great step for the conservation and survival of this endangered species.

CHALLENGES

A number of challenges were experienced by managers during the course of the year. The most notable being the severe budget reduction which had a huge effect on the operational plans for the various Protected Areas:

- ♦ Maintenance of infrastructure such as buildings, fences and roads did not receive the attention that they deserved, resulting in these facilities degrading substantially.
- ♦ Bad condition of the internal roads at the Ithala Game Reserve. The condition of the roads had deteriorated to such an extent that a motivation was submitted to restrict vehicular movement to high rise and 4x4 vehicles only.
- ♦ Fortunately, local managers managed to fund the regarding of 76km of internal roads which has improved the situation immeasurably. This is only a temporary solution as the introduction of quarry and hardener is essential for the long term maintenance of the road network within the Park.
- ♦ Numerous staff vacancies - the staff at the eMakhosini Ophathe Heritage Park (EOHP) have focused on the small white rhino population on the Ophathe Game Reserve. There is no more rhino on the eMakhosini section of the Park and as such this is an area which has suffered to a degree in terms of staff coverage.
- ♦ The management of elephant numbers is a continuous challenge for management and Protected Areas hosting this species. Within the Northern Protected Areas Region, elephant are found in the Tembe Elephant Park and the Ithala Game Reserve.
- ♦ Unfortunately, the carrying capacity of this species at the Ithala Game Reserve has been exceeded considerably even though a contraception programme has been introduced. The number at the Tembe Elephant Park is at a maximum for that PA.
- ♦ With National Norms and Standards (N&S) being in place, there is strict criteria in place to ensure that the animals well-being is catered for before any form of dead removal can be considered.
- ♦ Elephant have done extremely well throughout the Province and this has resulted in a mini-population explosion. There is no more further space or areas available to introduce this species within the country.

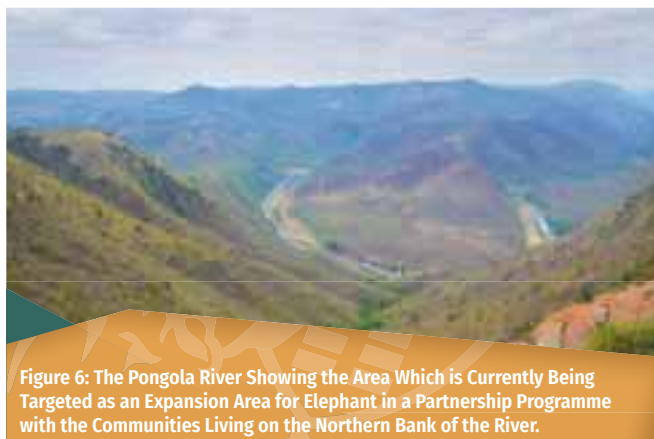


Figure 4: Roads and Other Infrastructure in the Protected Areas is Essential and if Not Attended to by Management, They Become Problematic and in Many Instances, Impassable to Both Management and Visitors.

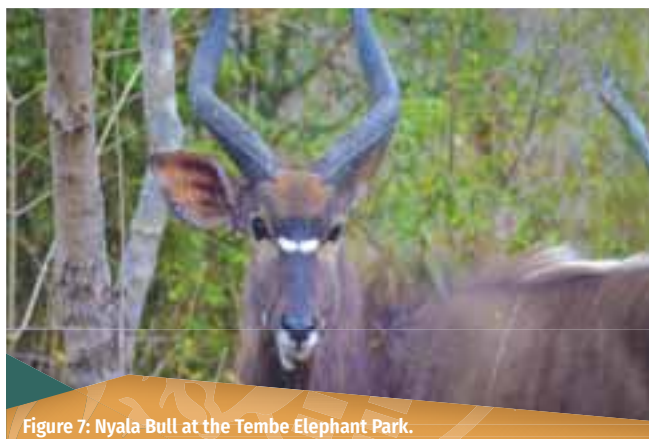


DEVELOPMENTS

The elephant expansion initiative adjacent to the Ithala Game Reserve is progressing well, however, it is somewhat slower than initially intended. It must be realized that the community must be accepting of the project from grass roots level to the iNkosi (TA Level). This initiative intends to expand an area of approximately 20 000 ha of community land on the northern bank of the Pongola River.



Live translocation of game (Buffalo and Nyala) from the Tembe Elephant Park to the Maputa Special Reserve (MSR) in southern Mozambique. This is an important development in that these two species cannot be relocated in South African PAs due to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). There are plans to sell 40 Buffalo and 500 Nyala to the MSR in 2018. This will be an excellent source of revenue for the Tembe Elephant Park and the organisation. Funding for the purchase of these excess animals will be via the Peace Parks Foundation.



There are excess animals which will be translocated live to the MSR in Mozambique. Funding will be made available via the Peace Parks Foundation in 2018.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

The purpose of Scientific Services is to undertake active research, monitoring, specialist evaluations, and provide the information to internal and external officials and the public to ensure that biodiversity conservation decision-making is based on sound science and best universal practice. Against this backdrop, it is the intention of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to have and maintain a Scientific Services that achieves and continues to achieve an exceptional standard of research and evaluation, and by doing this, maintain its reputation as a world leader in conservation science and research.

Below is a sample of Scientific Service's achievements for this financial year. A detailed Scientific Annual Report may be viewed on www.kznwildlife.com and the individual profiles of its scientists and specialist planners may be viewed on www.researchgate.net/institution/Ezemvelo_KZN_Wildlife-Scientific_Services.

WORLD RENOWNED LEADER IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

The achievement of the vision of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife - "To be a world renowned leader in the field of biodiversity conservation" is easily demonstrated by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Scientific Services. The map (below) provides a simple representation of the international collaborations with other scientific and research institutions (by way of peer-reviewed scientific publications) that have been forged by a number of Scientific Service staff. At the close of 2017/18, Scientific Services' 13 publishing conservation scientists achieved an impressive publication record of 30 scientific publications, and a cumulative publication RG Score of 145.29. This RG Score (despite the resignation of a number of active scientists during this year, which are not represented in this statistic, and publication research not being a primary function of the organisation) is equivalent to pure research institutions such as the renowned and well-funded Tanzania Wildlife Research.



Figure 1: Institutions that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife - Scientific Services Researchers Have Collaborated With. (Source: Research Gate -www.researchgate.net/institution/Ezemvelo_KZN_Wildlife_Scientific_Services)

In addition to the journal publications, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Scientific Services identified six endemic and near endemic lepidoptera species and sub-species to be threatened or are of an unknown status. This research has been lodged with the International Union of Conservation Nations (IUCN) to have the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species database updated. This database is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species and serves to highlight the extinction risk of species and sub-species. The need to have the Red List updated underpins the concern that KZN endemic butterflies are becoming more threatened with time as a result of habitat loss.

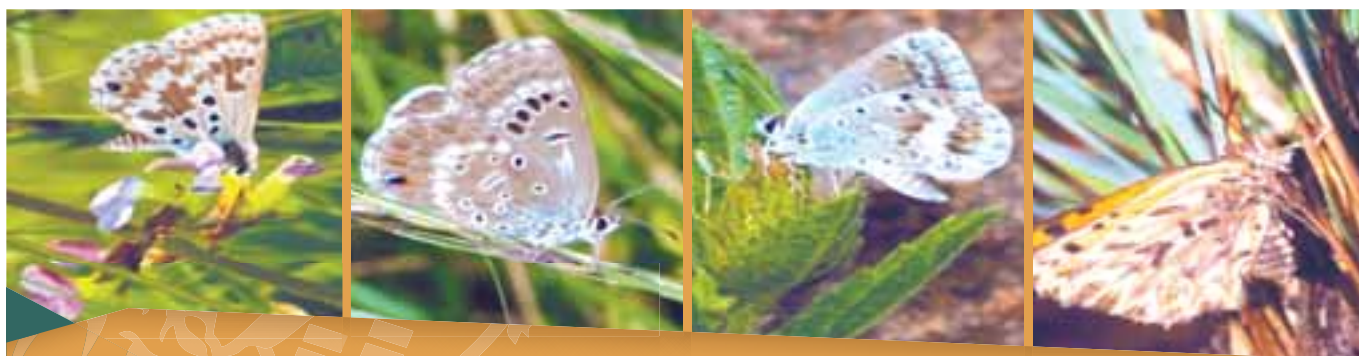


Figure 2: Sample of the Butterflies Studied. Clockwise from the top left: Estcourt Blue; White Blotched Kesi Blue; Clairmont Chrysoritis Oreas; Karkloof Blue Female (Source: Dr. Adrian Armstrong, Scientific Services, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)

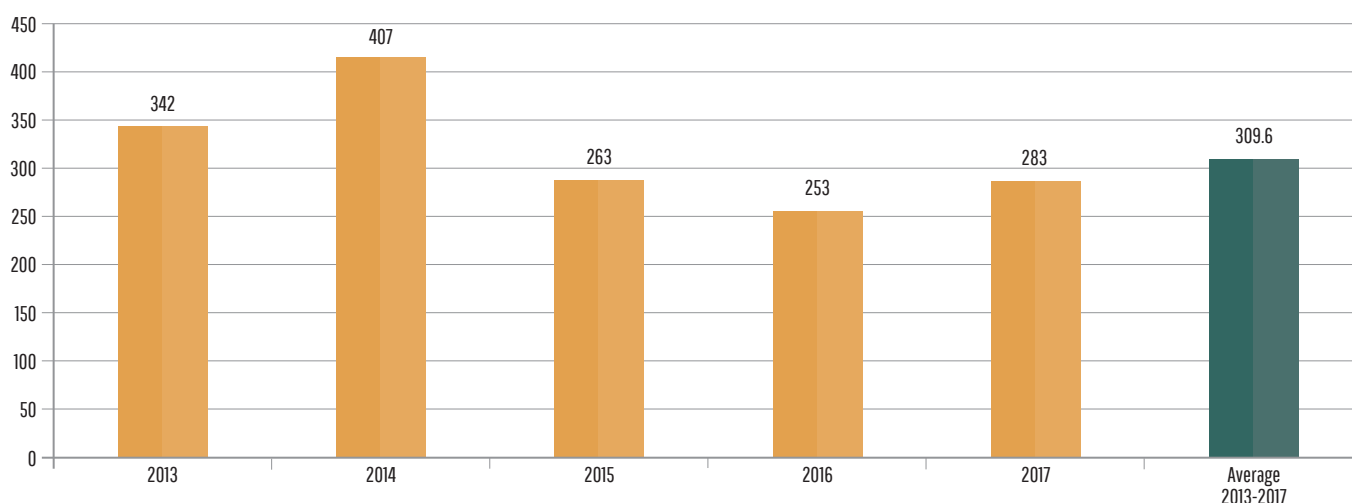
The research undertaken on KZN grasslands has resulted in the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage site being included as one of the 100 global research sites identified by Nutrient Network (NUTNET). This prestigious inclusion highlights the superlative international standard of Scientific Services grassland research. The value of this inclusion lies in that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife research will contribute to global climate change monitoring and, importantly, South Africa's strategy to further its mitigation and resilience to climate change.

Finally, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife scientists, given their high standard of competence, are regularly requested to peer review the research undertaken by national and international scientists and conservation researchers. It is estimated that Scientific Services reviewed the products of approximately 50 scientists and researchers. This review also includes theses and dissertations produced at a Masters and PhD level.

SYMPOSIUM OF CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATION PRACTICE 2017/2018

The Symposium of Contemporary Conservation Practice (SCCP), a partnership between Ezemvelo Scientific Services, Wildlands, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Environmental Law Association and University of Zululand, continues to grow in delegates and stature.

Delegates



The symposium facilitates the development and exchange of cutting edge ideas pertaining to contemporary conservation issues in southern Africa. It serves as a bridge between practitioners, scientists, environmental law practitioners and policy makers in a conducive environment to solve 'real-world conservation' challenges. It serves to integrate a broad range of disciplines in a meaningful way, and to create or strengthen connections both within and between disciplines. It also provides a platform for training on methods for conservation and monitoring, and to learn first-hand from successful interventions. The 2017 symposium included a partnership, the Nature, Environment and Wildlife Filmmakers Guild (NEWF) with the primary aim of closing the gap between conservation science and wildlife film documentaries. In doing so, the SCCP has extended its national and international leadership into previously uncharted territories.

Over the last five years, the symposium has attracted an average of 310 delegates and 140 presentations per year, making it one of the largest on-going environmental conferences in the country. It is also globally seen as the one of a very few conferences that specialises in the interface between the variety of disciplines focussed on or influencing biodiversity conservation. In 2017, 283 delegates attended, of which no less than 14 were non-South African - originating from Australia, England, India, India, Kenya, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

The Symposium is, therefore, achieving its goal as Africa's premier gathering of conservation practitioners.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF EZEMVELO PROTECTED AREAS

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's protected areas are the backbone biodiversity conservation, and hence the ensuring integrity of these areas forms a major component of this organisation's fiducial trust mandate. Given this importance of PA to biodiversity conservation, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is subject to an Annual Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessment to demonstrate to the public that the organisation is safeguarding their and future generations' heritage. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife set a target of 50% of its protected areas achieving minimum standard of management effectiveness score 67% (of the conservation estate, and per the METT-SA ver.3 Assessment Tool). The average score achieved for this financial year was 69.15%. This represented an overall improvement on the 2015/16 assessment, except for the criteria measuring the legal integrity and Cultural Heritage Resource Management which remained unchanged. A visual summary of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Protected Area Management Effectiveness is given below (Figure 3).

Management Sphere Average Scores: 2017/2018 vs 2015/2016

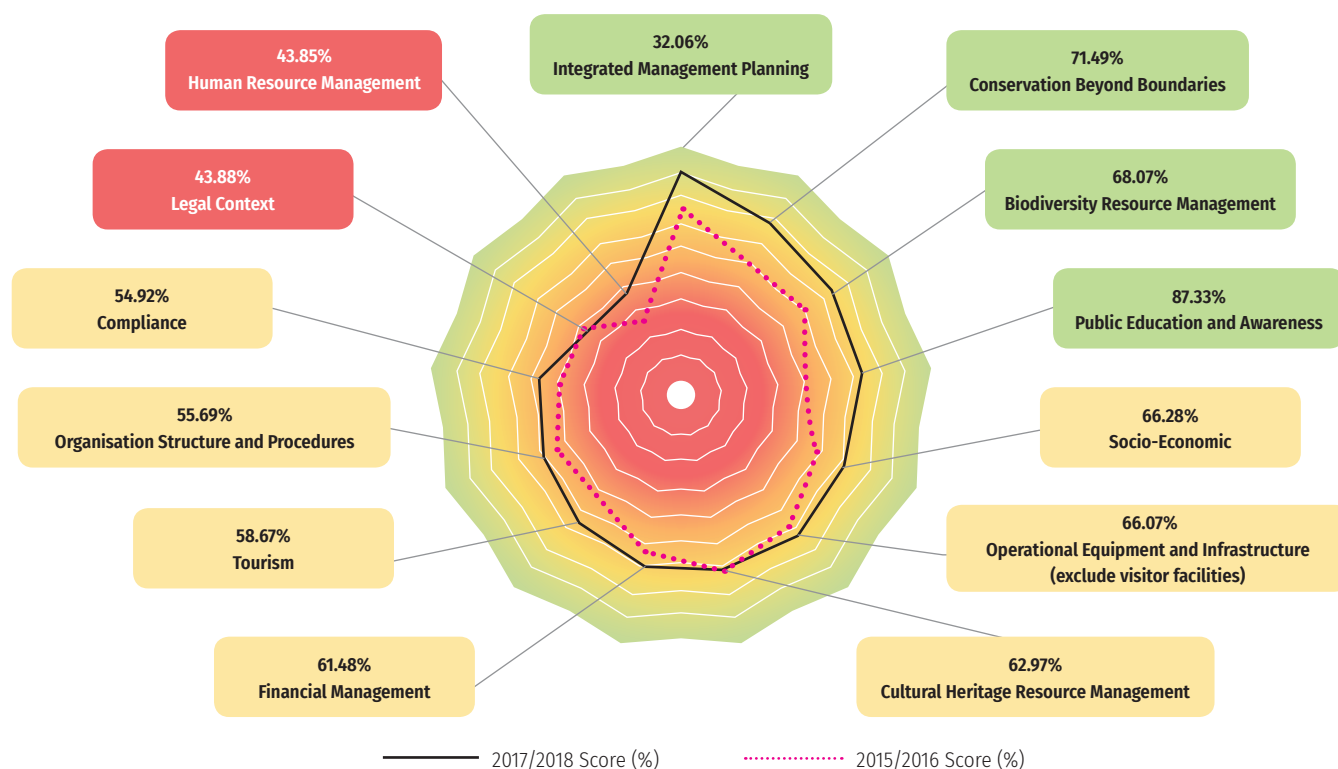


Figure 4: Graphic Representation and Comparison of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Protected Area Management Effectiveness for the Current Financial Year and the Baseline Established in 2015/16 Financial Year.

TURTLE RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The Annual Turtle Monitoring Programme which takes place on the beaches within iSimangaliso Wetland Park remains the longest running programme of its kind in the world. This programme monitors the nesting and egg hatching success of both nesting leatherback and loggerhead turtles. The conservation South Africa's, and hence Africa's eastern seaboard, leatherback and loggerhead populations and their recovery from their threatened (caused by poaching) to vulnerable status is primarily as a result of the protection of the northern iSimangaliso sandy beaches, and importantly, the involvement of neighbouring rural community nesting monitors, as part of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's security programme. The annual monitoring continues to demonstrate that the population numbers of these two species are improving with time. So much so that the monitoring programme has introduced and continues to support ecotourism based/citizen science monitoring of the nesting and hatching. The information gained from the community monitors and ecotourism observation have not only made a significant contribution to the science around the turtles, but more importantly, have created a vibrant rural economy that is dependent on the welling and health of the turtles. In doing so, the communities, and importantly, the impoverished

neighbouring rural community, have been able to take meaningful ownership of these species and from this, derive significant financial benefit from the presence of the turtles. In addition, this involvement (as seen in the sustainable muscle harvesting programme) has facilitated participant's growth in specialist skills in hence career opportunities.



Figure 5: The Recently Graduated Turtle Monitoring Team Ready to Embark on the 2017/2018 Turtle Survey

PREDATOR COMMUNITY CONFLICT RESEARCH

The threat, and in certain circumstances, impact, of various predators on communities is becoming a growing concern. In Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's efforts to reduce the conflict, and therein continue to conserve and protect problem predator species, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Scientific Services has identified that a significant gap exists in our conservation knowledge regarding the movement of these species, and particular problematic individuals, with the protected areas and within the neighbouring communities. This information is vital to understanding the interaction of predators with communities and therein vital to deriving a sustainable and effective conservation management solution. To this end, Scientific Service staff within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park monitor the movement of predators and derive an identikit for each predator (so problem animals can be accurately identified). This monitoring involves an extensive array of camera traps, which is to be augmented with tracking collars. This information will provide full life history of individual animals and provide vital information in management of these animals. Information collected includes mortality rates, fecundity, breeding status and birth rates of hyena and various prides and family groups for Cheetah, Wild Dog and Lion in the Park.

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION UNDERPINNING SOUTH AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

One of the key research and monitoring products generated by Scientific Service Staff is the information that allows various organs of state to

apply their statute laws in a manner that renders development and land transformation of the province sustainable, and in this, protect important biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Recent research has indicated that the biodiversity conservation requirements (at a species, habitat and landscape level) are often similar to environmental protection requirements administered by other organs of state. For example, there is a high degree of similarity between the protection of untransformed natural resources for agriculture and the conservation of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs). Thus, the protection of the province's CBAs contributes significantly to food security – a prime function of the Agricultural Department. Likewise, the protection of the province's natural grasslands and forests ensures the health and wellbeing of, in particular, grazing, which forms the backbone of rural communities' economic and cultural heritages, as well as drives the conservation catchment's water production and climate change amelioration. To this end, Scientific Services have engaged with and made, for instance, their research products available to KZN Department of Agriculture and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs for the these three organs of state to drive a single land use scheme (under the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013 - SPLUMA). This scheme underpins the environmental conservation and protection requirements for water, agriculture, forestry and landscape heritage, and in doing so, makes a significant contribution towards fulfilling the environmental right encapsulated in the Bill of Rights of the country's Constitution. It also facilitates simplified decision-making and hence improves the efficiency of government when considering proposed development and land use change.

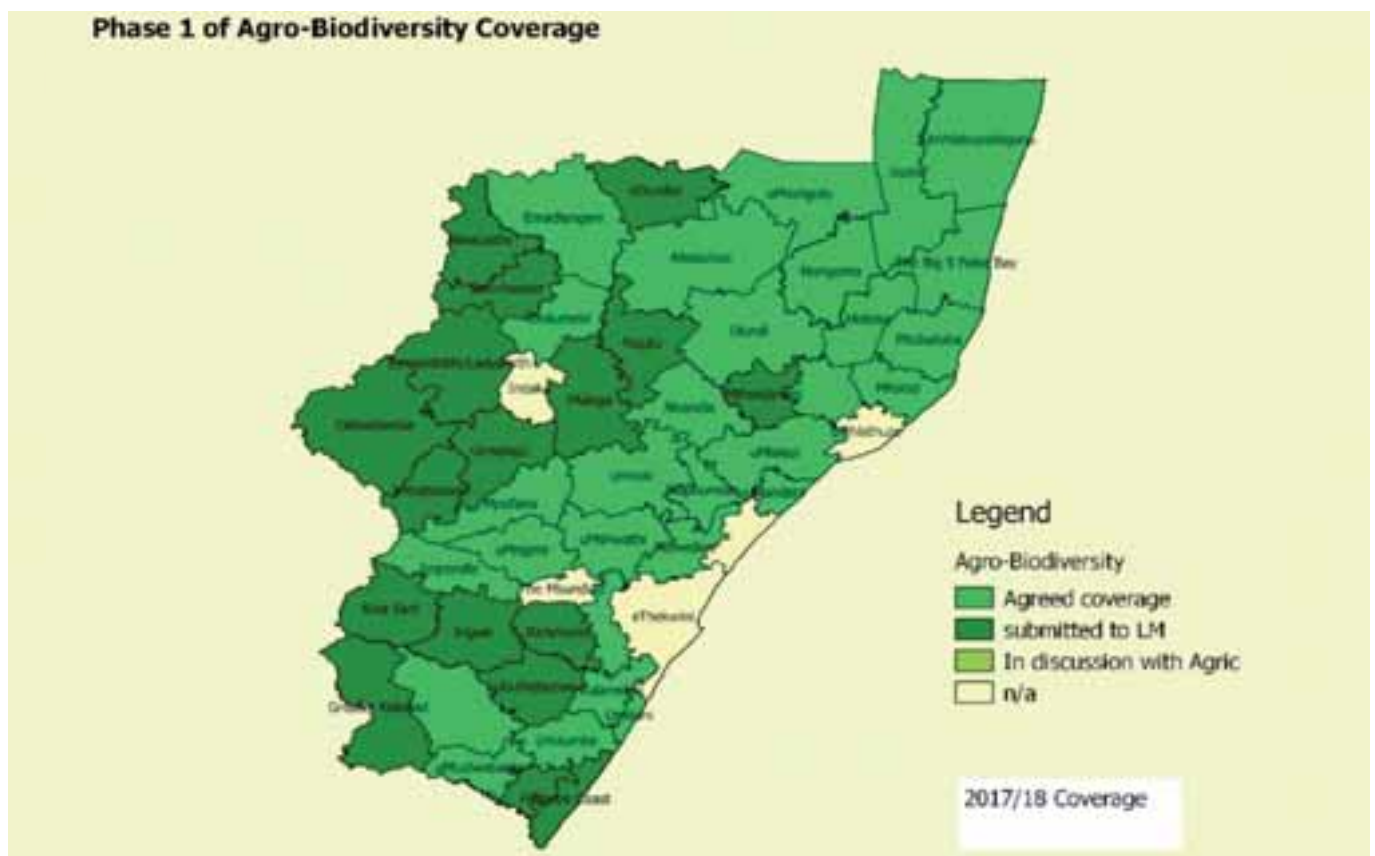


Figure 6: An example of an Agro-Biodiversity Coverage Researched to Fulfil One of the SPLUMA Requirements

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Development and land use change is recognised universally as the most significant cause of the loss of the world's biodiversity, and exceeds the cumulative impact of alien and invasive species, poaching and climate change. South Africa, and particularly KwaZulu-Natal, is no exception. Currently, this province is rapidly approaching the threshold of 50% transformation beyond which the province would be considered unsustainably developed in that the natural environment would cease to adequately sustain its biodiversity and in this, support a healthy environment for its people. The extinction of species and natural habitats within the province is becoming a reality, so to the loss of free-ecological services that provides for the wellbeing of people. Against this backdrop, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife received 347 new development applications within the remaining natural or near natural areas of the province with 22% of these occurring within Critical Biodiversity Areas. This represents a significant increase on the developmental pressures being placed on the CBAs. For the 2km Zone of Influence (Zoi) to Ezemvelo's Protected Areas (the prime focus of Scientific Services Specialist Planners due to unfilled posts), 36% were considered unsustainable developments in that they had potentially significant impacts on biodiversity and/or the Protected Areas. Finally, of the 45 Environmental Authorisations were issued during this reporting period, 13% did not provide for the protection of important or critical biodiversity and thus considered unsustainable decisions.

Application by Development Category

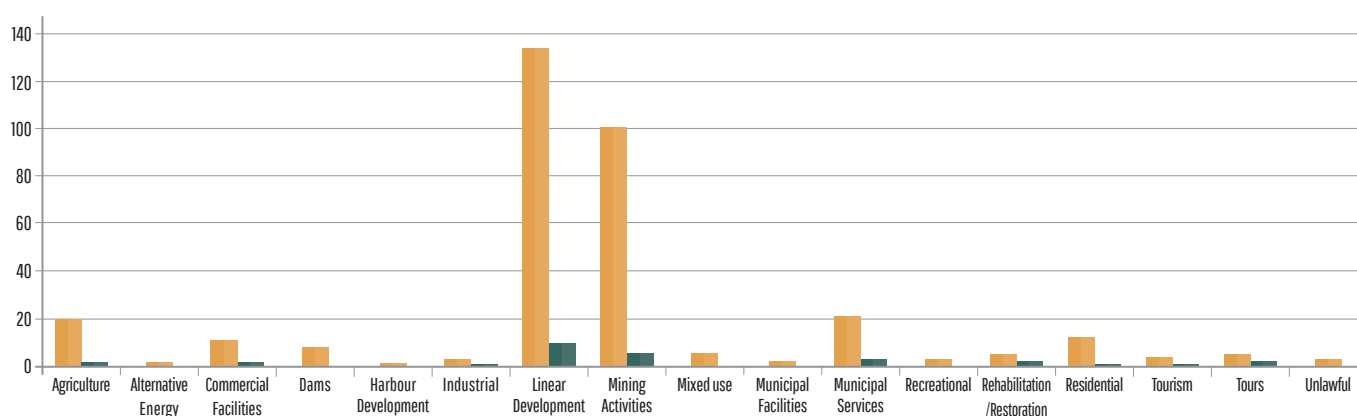


Figure 7: Breakdown of the Development Applications Received for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to Evaluate the Potential Biodiversity Risk.

NOTEWORTHY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Existing and proposed anthracite coalmines, within the Zoi to the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP), continues to pose a significant, long-term and irreversible threat to the HiP. A New Order Mining Right issued by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) grants Tende Coal (Pty) Ltd the right to mine a 5 260 ha area within the 5km buffer area to HiP. The Mining Right Area directly abuts the HiP boundary fence for a distance of 5.3km (refer to figures 1 and 2). A High Court Application against Tende Coal (Pty) Ltd (Somkhele Mine) has been lodged by NGO groups. Ezemvelo is cited as the eighth respondent in the application.

Agriculture was largely responsible for the "Unlawful" development category. Unlawful cultivation for the establishment of Macadamia orchards was identified as a serious and emerging threat to biodiversity and in many cases – the province's protected areas. Discussions with the Southern Natal Macadamia Association (SNMA) have been initiated and a number of intervention measures to alert farmers to (i) the legal process and approvals required to cultivate virgin grassland and (ii) the biodiversity risks associated with chemical spray drift into Nature Reserves, have been identified.

Two significant biodiversity offsets have been secured through the EIA process. A 426-hectare area of endangered mist-belt grassland has been secured as an offset for a residential development approved in Hilton. The offset will be proclaimed as a Nature Reserve and managed for conservation. The well-known Sea slopes-Uplands site in Margate, is to be secured as a Nature Reserve to offset the residual impacts associated with a Municipal Bulk Water Pipeline. The Sea slopes-Uplands site supports the White-blotched Ketsi Blue Butterfly, and endangered and locally restricted species between Margate and Port Edward. The site is also of high botanical importance. The grassland is critically endangered and is known to support plant species of high conservation importance.

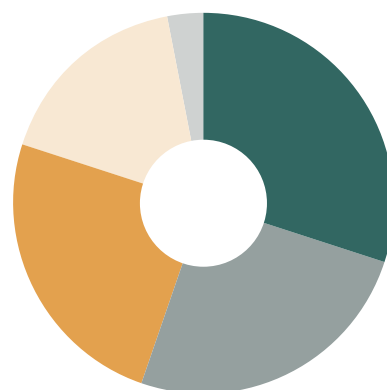
STATE INFRASTRUCTURE THREATS TO PROTECTED AREAS

The 2017/18 financial year witnessed an increase in the number of state driven infrastructure developments actively targeting the province's protected areas. Protected areas are viewed as 'available' and undeveloped government land for which the organ of state requiring the development will not be required to pay compensation, will not be required to relocate

people or risk the loss of municipal rates. Furthermore, protected areas are generally fenced and patrolled to secure the infrastructure from interference or theft. To date, 13 undesirable state infrastructure developments have been received and for most it, not all viable alternative options outside to the protected areas exist, but involve either private or communal land. The following are the infrastructure developments proposed to be located in protected areas managed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife:

- ♦ Midmar Nature Reserve – Mphophomeni Bulk Pipeline to Howick Treatment Works proposed in protected area.
- ♦ Pongola Nature Reserve – Swazi Rail Upgrade through Pongola Nature Reserve.
- ♦ Bulwer Forest – Water supply pipeline illegally placed through the nature reserve.
- ♦ Coleford Nature Reserve – Eskom supply line illegally placed through the nature reserve.
- ♦ Ongoye Nature Reserve – Observatory proposed in nature reserve.
- ♦ Ongoye Nature Reserve – Water supply pipeline proposed through the protected area as it is too expensive to avoid.
- ♦ Tembe – Mozambique border wall that will foreclose transfrontier options.
- ♦ Pongola Nature Reserve – Swazi border fence that will foreclose transfrontier options.
- ♦ Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve – Eskom power supply to community – illegal line already placed through the protected area.
- ♦ Ophathe Nature Reserve – MogoJane road to improve access and facilities to pocket of community living within the protected area boundary.
- ♦ Lebombo Nature Reserve – Quarry to service road requested within protected area.
- ♦ Pongolapoort Nature Reserve – New water abstraction pump house within the protected area.
- ♦ Umlalazi Nature Reserve – Scour Wall proposed at estuary mouth to manipulate mouth.

Protected Area Management Plans indicates the status of management plans for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife protected areas, 60% of protected areas have approved management plans, of these protected areas, 49.02% of plans are pre-2013 and require review whilst 50.98% have approved and up to date plans. Currently, 34.12% of Ezemvelo protected areas have no approved management plans.



- PA's with an Approved Management Plan (2010 - current) **60%**
- PA's with a Management Plan up for Review **49.02%**
- PA's with an up to date and Approved Management Plan **50.98%**
- PA's with No Management Plan **34.12%**
- PA's currently in the PAMP process **5.88%**

Figure 8: Status Quo of Protected Area Management Plans as at end of March 2018

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS 2017/2018

The development of protected area management plans for Blinkwater Nature Reserve, Hlathikhulu Forest Reserve, Queen Elizabeth Park Nature Reserve and Ophathe Game Reserve were completed during this financial year. The process to revise the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage site Integrated Management Plan is currently in process and will be completed during 2018/2019. During the 2017/2018 financial year, management plans for Tembe Elephant Park, Isandlwana Forest Complex, consisting of 7 protected areas, were approved by the MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. Figure 8: Status Quo of

THE KEY CHALLENGES FACING SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

The key challenges facing Scientific Services is the loss of competent research and scientific staff and an inability to attract and appoint new staff. The limited ability due to escalating workloads as a result of reduced funding and loss of staff, to take on new challenges and obligations as they arise. These challenges and obligations arise spontaneously (i.e. unforeseen alien and invasive species) or predictably through changes in legislation (e.g. SPLUMA) or policy (biodiversity offsets, climate change amelioration, etc.). The addition of new priorities risks the quality and quantity of Scientific Services products being reduced with a concomitant reduction in the efficiency and effectiveness of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to fulfil its mandate. At the end of 2017/18, Scientific Services had between 45% and 70% vacancies, with some disciplines experiencing 100% posts not being filled. These figures exclude those additional posts requiring Scientific Services to deliver on new and expanding mandates. Thus, the reduction in its operating budget by over 50% complexed with diminishing number of capacitated positions, the prospect of Scientific Services being able to continue providing a world class service to, at least, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in its efforts to protect biodiversity, in the absence of a political intervention, is not positive.

GAME CAPTURE OPERATIONS

GAME SALES

The Game Capture Unit is responsible for undertaking the capture and delivery of all game allocated to game sales. In the 2017 season, a total of 1 888 animals were sold, realising a turnover of over R10 million.

GAME CAPTURE SERVICE DELIVERY

The game capture unit was responsible for the capture of 2 557 animals.

TABLE 1: TARGETS ACHIEVED AGAINST PLAN

	Target	Achieved	Percentage
Total animals captured	2 749	2 557	93%
Capture mortalities	< 2%	37	1.4%
Boma mortalities	< 2%	25	5.1%
Transport mortalities	< 1%	4	0.1%
Game sold	2 030	1 888	93%
Game translocated internally*	112	70	63%

*The underachievement of the internal translocation targets was due to insufficient operating budgets.

The unit was also successful in the capture and translocation of 14 black rhino in support of the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project. This brings the total number of rhino translocated since the inception of this programme to 140.

PRIORITY SPECIES MANAGEMENT

The following species were immobilised for the purposes of fitting tracking devices and identification notches.

Species	Number
Lion	21
Wild dog	13
Cheetah	5
Elephant	5
Black Rhino	4
White Rhino	2

The unit was also successful in dehorning a total of 49 rhino in support of the organisation's rhino horn demand reduction strategy.

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER - LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

DISEASE MANAGEMENT - BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

A total of 179 HiP buffalo from three different herds were captured and tested for Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis (BTB) during 2017. Of those tested, a total of 33 (18.4%) buffalo were selected for further lethal testing at the Mpila abattoir and after completion of the post mortems, the initial results indicate a prevalence of approximately 11%. These results are significantly lower than the prevalence of 33.7% detected in the same area in 2013.

The ongoing BTB control programme has the principal objective of limiting the prevalence of BTB in the HiP buffalo population, thereby reducing the risk of spill over into other species. No new herbivore spill over hosts have been identified since it was last diagnosed in kudu in 2003. There has however been a slight increase in the number of lions reported suffering from BTB and 7 lions that were in poor condition were euthanized and confirmed to be positive for BTB.

There has also been an alarming increase in the presence of TB in various private reserves in the northern Zululand area. Some of these reserves are black rhino range expansion sites and this new development is going to have serious conservation implications for the future translocation of black rhino from these areas.

Kruger National Park remains under quarantine restrictions for both black and white rhino subject to the approval of a disease management plan which would include the development of a reliable test protocol for rhino.

Risk: TB remains the most important disease threat for biodiversity conservation in the Province. The increase in the number of positive cases throughout the Northern Zululand Region is a cause for concern. We anticipate that stricter quarantine measures may be applied by the Department of Veterinary Services in the future and that these stricter control measures could also be extended to rhino in both Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park (HiP) and Mkhuze.

BRUCELLOSIS

Ongoing sampling of the buffalo in HiP and on the eastern shores confirms the absence of the disease. Brucellosis is however present in the communal cattle surrounding the Park.

Risk: Minimal impact on buffalo population performance. There are however zoonotic implications for staff handling infected material and additional constraints on the movement of buffalo out of Protected Areas.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

In February 2014, the Office International des Epizooties (also known as World Organisation of Animal Health) reinstated South Africa as a FMD free country. Despite the fact that FMD has never been diagnosed in Tembe before, both Ndumo and Tembe are included in the infected zone. The northern area of iSimangaliso is a designated high surveillance zone while the northern area of the FMD control fence, excluding the two reserves, is within the protection zone. Strict movement restrictions affecting game and game products from the Ndumo/Tembe complex are still in force and no game product can be moved from the protected zone without a veterinary permit. Additional control measures for livestock movement and control check points have not yet been implemented.

Risk: Until such time as adequate control measures are implemented along the Mozambique border, the risk of another outbreak and subsequent spread to wildlife populations remains at a high level.

RABIES

KZN has experienced an upsurge in animal rabies over the past two years. This outbreak started in the King Cetshwayo district and has spread south

through iLembe and into Inanda with four human fatalities confirmed for 2018. Dogs are the main source of the disease in KZN (>80%) with the main source areas for the disease being the poorer rural communities where service delivery is poor. By 2014, animal rabies in KZN had been reduced by 93% and human cases had ceased, through effective mass vaccination campaigns conducted by Veterinary Services, in collaboration with other stakeholders. However, with additional responsibilities, limited resources and fading public interest vaccinations have declined and the disease has increased.

Risk: While rabies has been traditionally successfully controlled through extensive vaccination of domestic dogs, the development of a jackal cycle is difficult to control and remains a concern.

FORENSIC POST MORTEMS

The organisation's veterinary unit conducted a total of 176 forensic post mortems on rhino that were suspected to have been poached during the year under review. The temporary increase in veterinary capacity through the employment of a contract veterinarian ensured that all crime scenes were timeously attended to. The ability to continue to provide additional veterinary capacity in the medium to long term is vital to maintaining a competent veterinary service.

TREATMENT OF FREE RANGING GAME AND DOMESTIC STOCK

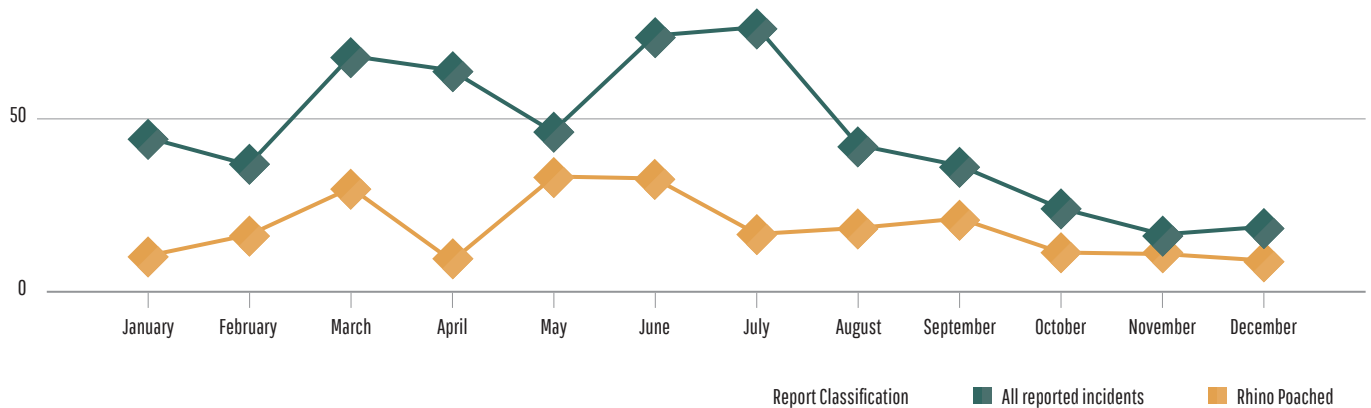
A total of 37 treatments were carried out on a variety of species during the year.

RHINO SECURITY

Review 2017/2018* The statistics presented in this report are for the calendar year (01 January to 31 December 2017) that aligns with national reporting by The Department of Environmental Affairs.

The rhino poaching pressure continued in KwaZulu-Natal as displaced poaching efforts from mainly Mpumalanga and Kruger National Park. This pressure was growing and peaked between March and September 2017. This displaced poaching effort was confirmed as the vast majority of suspects arrested originated from Mpumalanga.

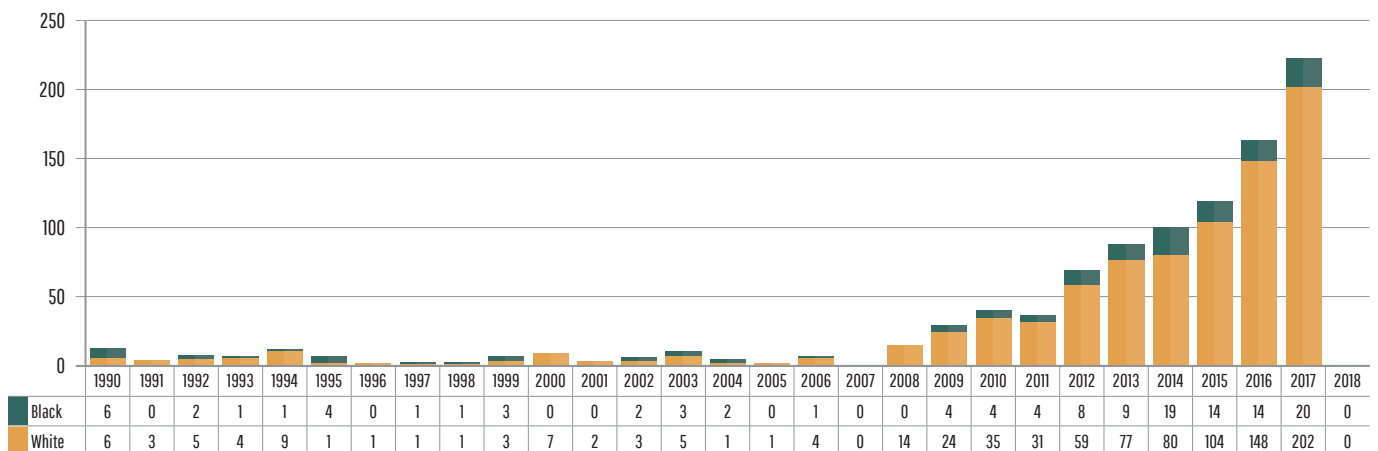
Rhino Poaching Pressure Against Rhino Poached 01 January to 31 December 2018



Rhino crime continued to threaten rhino reserves throughout the country. On 25 January 2018, the National Minister of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Minister Edna Molewa, reported on the stats for 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. There was a slight decrease in the national rhino poaching mortalities with 1 054 in 2016 to 1 028 in 2017, a total reduction of 26. The Kruger National Park reported a 24% decrease in rhino poaching mortality as per calendar year 2017. The National Minister stated that the Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ), currently in the Kruger National Park, will be implemented in KwaZulu-Natal.

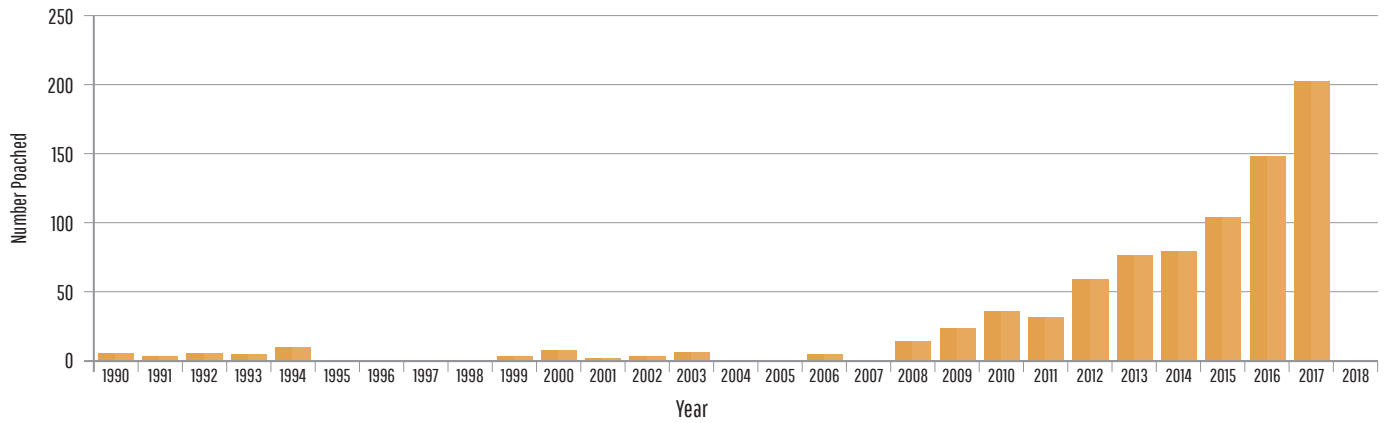
KwaZulu-Natal had an increase in number of rhino poached with a total of 222 having been poached in 2017, compared to the 162 poached in 2016. Of the rhino poached in KwaZulu-Natal, 202 were white rhino and 20 were black rhino. 210 of these rhino were poached in state game reserves and 12 in private game reserves. Poaching was at its most from March to June 2017, as 107 rhino were poached during this period. The total rhino poached in KwaZulu-Natal represented 6.9% of the total population.

KwaZulu-Natal Rhino Poaching Mortalities as at 31st December 2017



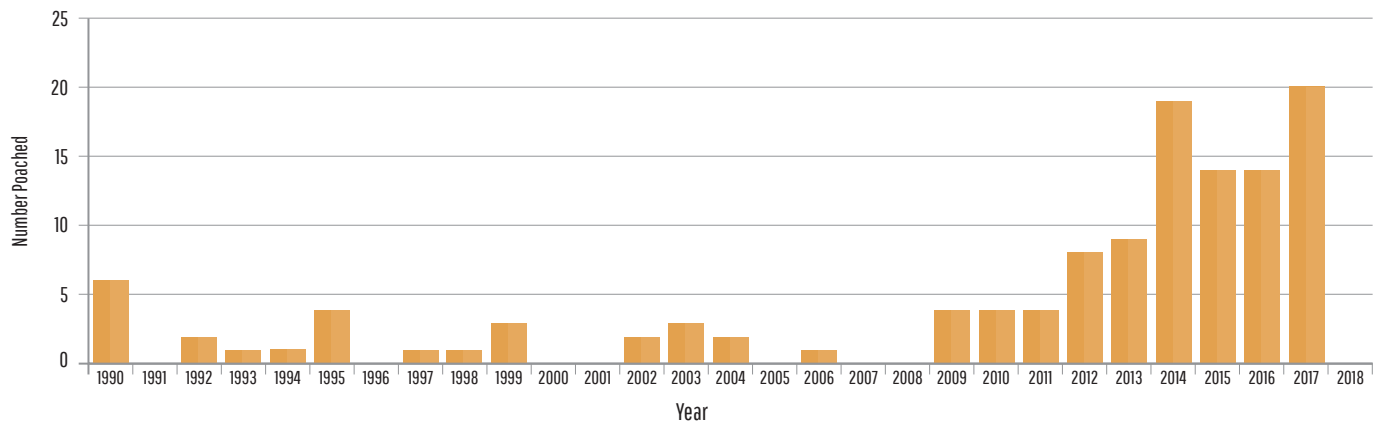
White Rhino (as at 31st December 2018)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened



Black Rhino (as at 31st December 2018)

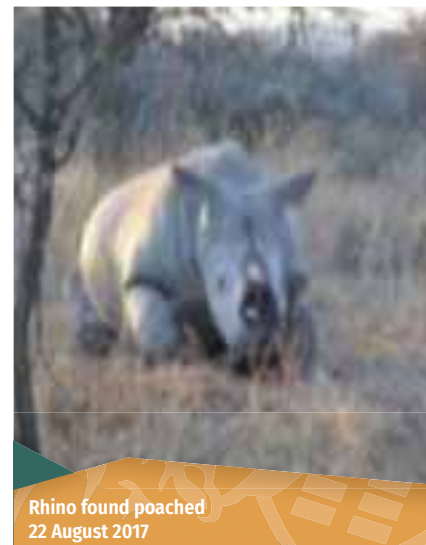
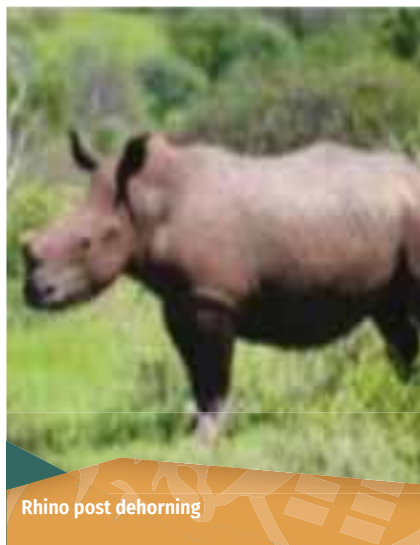
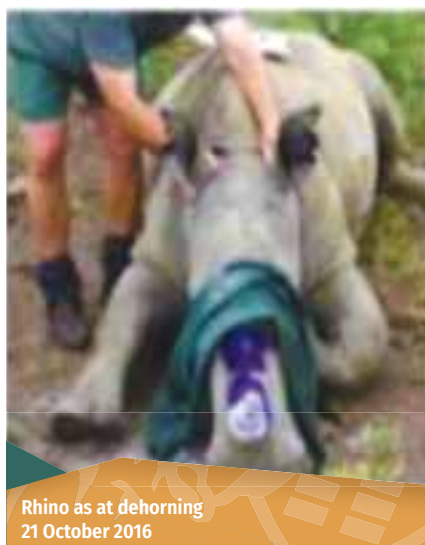
IUCN Status: Critically Endangered



The dehorning of rhino on smaller populations of rhino, especially in the private sector and Ezemvelo, reduced the risk at these reserves. It is critical to note that dehorning does not eliminate risks as these dehorned animals do still get targeted, as was the case with 11 dehorned animals poached in 2017 compared to 5 in 2016. Therefore, law enforcement even at these reserves where dehorning has taken place, will remain in place and a priority.

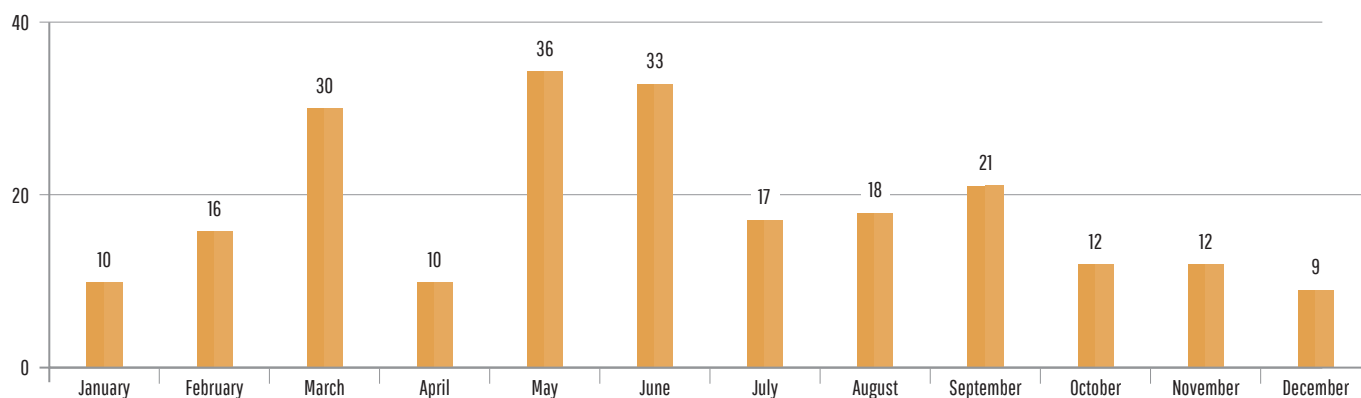
DEHORND RHINO POACHED WEENEN GAME RESERVE 21 AUGUST 2017

WEENEN CAS 39/08/2017



To combat this increase in poaching, the joint operations with SAPS Rhino 8 were increased with focus joint operations on the syndicates coming from Mpumalanga. Ezemvelo also set up a joint operation strategy with South African National Parks (SANParks) Environmental Crime Investigations (ECI) to plan on suspects that were already known by them. At this same time, the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) projects were starting to establish early detection and rapid response operational support technologies. The Rhino Reserve staff, especially Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park Sections Rangers were able to undertake some strategic tactical operations within the Parks, and outside the Rhino Reserves joint South African Police Service (SAPS), and Ezemvelo Investigations were able to make some significant arrests. This resulted in a consistent reduction in rhino poaching mortalities in KwaZulu-Natal, with the exception of September.

Total Rhino Poaching Mortalities by Month (01 January to 31 December 2017)



The majority of rhino, 198, were poached in the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, of this, 148 rhino were poached in the iMfolozi Game Reserve and 42 in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve.

The Ezemvelo strategy is aligned to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Strategy (National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros Populations in South Africa), the South African Police Service (SAPS) and National Joint Instruction 3/2011. The strategy was reviewed by the KwaZulu-Natal Cabinet Provincial Task Team that was set up and appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council, via the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster. This Task Team were mandated to work with all stakeholders and state departments to undertake:

- ♦ A full assessment of the current measures and capacities of the anti-Rhino Poaching initiatives in the province with reference to best practices in other provinces, particularly the Kruger National Park;
- ♦ An assessment of the criminal justice processes in relation to poaching incidents at all levels;
- ♦ An assessment of the sustainability of provincial human and logistical resources currently deployed; and
- ♦ To provide a report with recommendations within six months of the establishment of the task team.

The recommendations of this task team are to be included in the 2018 to 2021 Strategic Plan. The Task Team processes and report recommendations had not been completed by 31 December 2017, it must be noted that any delay in this report will have a direct impact on the KwaZulu-Natal Operation Rhino Strategic Plan being produced. It must be noted that Ezemvelo are presently working within the National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking (NISCWT), and the Rhino Lab Anti-poaching Initiatives, as prescribed by DEA. The Zululand rhino reserves fall into the SAPS National Operation Rhino Mission Area Joint Operations Command (Rhino 8 MAJOC), this requires all rhino law enforcement operations outside Protected Areas to fall under the command of the Hluhluwe Tactical Joint Operations Command (TACJOC), which is under the direct command of Rhino 8 MAJOC. This Hluhluwe TACJOC has all sections of the SAPS assigned under one command structure, this includes the Detectives, Forensics, Crime Intelligence and Intervention Units. This initiative has proved to be very effective as the majority of arrests have been done by SAPS Hluhluwe TACJOC as joint operations with Ezemvelo and private owners.

Ezemvelo continued to work with the private sector and facilitated the liaison of private rhino owners and the SAPS, by holding liaison and debrief operation meetings. The liaison with the Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA), where they are represented at the SAPS Provincial Priority Committee Rhino Poaching, which facilitates state security capacity, continued with their Provincial representation.

Ezemvelo does work with and has agreements with a number of non-government and/or profit organisations that fund and implement identified projects. The effort during the year was to ensure these projects are strategically beneficial to rhino reserves and in particular, the Intensive and Joint Protection Zone (IPZ & JPZ).

PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION (PPF)

Ezemvelo has had significant support from the Peace Parks Foundation from the Rhino Protection Programme, which is a national project. The programme facilitated the setting up and testing of key projects:

1. Smart Park and Rhino Tracking Project
2. United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Risk and Threat Management
3. Rhino Crime Information Systems
4. Rhino Protection Programme

These projects have all aligned to ensure IPZ & JPZ are communicating as one command and control to ensure improved planning and execution of tactical operations combating rhino crime inside and outside of rhino reserves. The Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park Operations (Nerve) Centre was initiated and this Park is now fully functional to digital monitoring of and sensor technology, which is designed to improve detection and reaction times. This is designed and aligned to ensure the rhino anti-poaching staff are fully functional at night, as well as day. It also ensures that data and information is used effectively to plan anti-poaching and disruption operations. The linking of these systems with DEA and SANParks is proving to be very effective as joint suspects are identified.

WILDLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST (WCT)

The Wildlands Conservation Trust continued to support the Joint Operations co-ordination staffing in Zululand, in that the Detection K9 operations and Joints Operations co-ordinator are both funded by this programme. These are strategically linked with SAPS Hluhluwe Tactical Joint Operations Command (Hluhluwe TACJOC) as required in the National Strategy and provincial operations.

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE SOUTH AFRICA (WWF-SA)

The World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa has supported Ezemvelo with equipment and renovations of key facilities that will support Ezemvelo's Night Vision Goggles (NVG) air support operations.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (AWF)

The African Wildlife Foundation programme supports the rhino security monitors on the R618 Corridor Road that transects the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. Security project works closely with SAPS Hluhluwe TACJOC to monitor this high risk area.

AFRICAN CONSERVATION TRUST (ACT)/PROJECT RHINO

The Project Rhino programme continued to support the Zululand anti-poaching fixed wing aircraft, which monitors predominantly private game reserves and the Hluhluwe TACJOC, which acts as a central command for the SAPS Operation Rhino program in the mission area of Zululand, this is done at no cost to the SAPS and/or Ezemvelo.

DUNADVENTURES CC

Dunadventures, with support from Wildlife Environmental Society South Africa (WESSA), initiated the establishment of a Tracking Dog Unit in the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. The objective was to set and operationalise tracking dogs in the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park by introducing tracking dogs and handlers. This was mostly achieved despite a number of logistical and operational challenges being experienced. The use of tracking dogs definitely allows improved reaction to incursion and operational standards need to be developed to ensure optimal use of this unit.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

As the majority of KwaZulu-Natal's poaching threat comes from outside the Province, it is critical that the strategic partnerships with other state law enforcement agencies are sustainable and maintained. The analysis of threat information reveals that an estimated 90% of poaching efforts is planned and executed from outside the province. The participation of SAPS Rhino 8 and Provincial Visible policing provides the majority of rhino crime proactive and preventative capacity. Ezemvelo will continue to actively support and participate with these law enforcement agencies within the National Security Cluster.

The sustainability of projects is critical and further to this, these projects do complement the National and Provincial strategies and operations. The prime example is the setting up of a Smart Park at the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve which supports the development and connectivity of early detection technology, and supports management of the command and control of law enforcement resources. These requirements are noted in initiatives such as the National Integrated Strategy Combat Wildlife Trafficking (NISCWT), and the National Department Environmental Affairs Rhino Lab Rhino Anti-Poaching Programme (RAP).

The need to ensure private, smaller state rhino reserves form part of the priority is critical in that poaching pressure moves to these areas when other areas are deemed to be high risk, low reward for poaching activities by the poachers. The Joint Operations Zone supports this principle and must be supported by all role players. The monthly private rhino owners meetings are not well attended and efforts will be made to improve this

in 2018/2019. The Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA) who are the officially recognised association for the rhino owners have not been regular attendees at the Provincial Priority Committee Rhino Poaching and this has restricted information dissemination to the private rhino owners. However, a detailed Weekly Report is sent to all private rhino owners, to ensure they are kept informed of current threats and poaching pressures.

The Provincial Rhino Crime Combating Task Team that was required to advise on strategic direction of the Province to combat rhino crimes has not made its finding and or recommendations as yet. This has a direct impact on not being able to finalise provincial strategy and resources. These recommendations will also guide the Provincial Joint Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) in its setting up of Provincial targets and strategies.

OUTLOOK FOR 2018/2019

The continuation of National SAPS Operation Rhino (Rhino 9) into the 2018/2019 year is extremely positive, and the impact of this team to combat and react must be noted as a very key intervention.

Ezemvelo have initiated the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park Command and Control Centre (Nerve Centre), which now has early detection equipment feeding directly into the facility, which is improving early detection and rapid response. The use and continued use of the Cmore operating platforms, which has now been fully operationalised at the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, has allowed for improved use, coordination and accountability of law enforcement operations.

The finalisation of the helicopter air support operation to Night Vision Goggles (NVG) has allowed Ezemvelo to gain better advantage into the night hours. The night operations facilities have been put in place and night operations will continue in 2018/2019.

Ezemvelo will continue to ensure the Integrity Testing Policy is prioritised for implementation with progress negotiations during the past year, producing some very positive progress.

The organisation started with the filling of Field Ranger post in its rhino reserves, and the plans are to continue with this recruitment into 2018/2019 with more Field Ranger recruitment and training taking place.

The Joint Operations, with other state and conservation agencies, will continue, especially where joint threats have been identified. The National Minister forum MINMEC has identified and instructed that provincial conservation agencies, and National Parks work jointly in combating rhino crime. This is being prioritised and facilitated through the National Working Group 4.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION UNIT PROGRAMMES

1. S'FUNDIMVELO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

S'fundimvelo Environmental Education Programme engages primary schools that are situated in the communities on the borders of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Protected Areas. The main objective of S'fundimvelo Environmental Education Programme is to educate learners and teachers about the importance of biodiversity conservation which is linked to The Department of Education annual curriculum, inspiring them to take ownership and responsibility for conserving their own environment.

Areas covered were uThukela District, Inkosi Langalibalele and uKhahlamba Local Municipalities; uMkhanyakude District Big 5 Hlabisa and Mtubatuba Local Municipalities; uGu District, Ray Nkonyeni, Umdoni and uMuziwabantu Local Municipalities; Harry Gwala District, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality; uMgungundlovu District, Msunduzi and uMngeni Local Municipalities.

There is a noticeable difference in greening of school grounds and gardens, attitude towards the environment in both learners and educators has changed significantly and positively. A total number of 106 schools, 330 educators and 8 000 learners were covered throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal. The importance of biodiversity conservation was taught and a number of environmental issues such as, climate change and global warming, poaching, drought and hydraulic fracking were covered.



2. LAND CLAIMS AND CO-MANAGEMENT

HOW MANY HECTARES OF LAND HAS BEEN SETTLED TO DATE IN EZEMVELO PROTECTED AREAS

The Regional Land Claims Commission (RLCC) have settled 8 land claims in terms of S42D, a memo that is signed by the Minister, awarding the claimants restoration of land or financial compensation as a form of final settlement for their claim. After S42D has been signed, the second last phase will be the transfer of those properties from current landowners to claimants. The total extent of settled but not transferred land is 93 698 Ha. The following claims are settled: Ithala (Zulu and Buthelezi), Hluhluwe (Mlaba Ximba, Okhukho, Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni), Ndumo (Mbangwini and Usuthu Gorge), Tembe, and Vernon Crookes. The whole of Hluhluwe has been re-surveyed to get the correct portions for each community. The new diagrams for Mlaba Ximba, Okhukho, Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni have been approved. Vernon Crookes has been settled through financial compensation which is a final settlement for them. Mbumbazi was at S42D stage however, RLCC recommended that the office, together with claimants re-start the process.

LAND THAT HAS NOT BEEN SETTLED IN OUR PROTECTED AREAS

3 claims have been researched and gazetted but not settled in Impendle Nature Reserve (KwaDushu, Rest and Clayborn communities), Pongola Game Reserve (Ntshangase Community), Lebombo Nature Reserve (Mnyeni-Tsinde). Once settled, Ezemvelo hopes to enter into Co-Management agreements with these communities, and that the Regional Land Claims Commission office will complete research and gazetted especially for the remaining Northern uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park claims.

HOW MANY CO-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES, AND IN WHICH MUNICIPALITIES ARE THEY?

4 co-management agreements have been implemented; Ndumo, Tembe, and Hluhluwe Imfolozi (Corridor of Hope) are under uMkhanyakude District

and Ithala Game Reserve in the Zululand District. The co-management agreement is currently being implemented in terms of ensuring that communities benefit from the Protected Areas (through Park visits, harvesting of natural resources, game donations).

Although some community representatives feel that the beneficiation is not adequate and want the co-management agreements to be reviewed. The claimant communities make mention of development grant money that was promised to them once their claims have been settled. This has not happened to date.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS IN TERMS OF EXPENDITURE ON CO-MANAGEMENTS AND WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT?

The Trusts from the co-managed reserves receive R250 000 each (4 co-managed Protected Areas) each year to use for any community income generating projects. These funds are made available to the various Trusts that have co-management agreements with Ezemvelo each financial year, and are derived from rhino sales that occur annually. The Ndumo co-management committee has been able to use these funds to develop a business plan that will address the socio-economic needs, and are awaiting developmental grant funds to implement the business plan. Ithala has established a hunting facility and the profits generated benefit the community Trust.

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR?

Land claims and co-management plans to strengthen the relationships with its 2 major stakeholders in 2018/19, the Regional Land Claims Commission and the Land Claimant Communities. The Community Conservation Unit wants to ensure that Parks' neighbouring communities see tangible beneficiation from the Ezemvelo Parks, and will continue to work closely with the various co-management committees to assist in developing, monitoring and implementing their budget plans for the community income-generating project funds. As well as ensuring effective partnerships in DEA initiatives, targeted at empowering previously disadvantaged communities.

Table 1: The following Community Claims are in Ezemvelo Protected Areas. Some Have Been Settled in Terms of Section 42D (Which Approves the Land Restitution Rights), However Settlement Agreements Have Not Yet Been Signed. Some Are Still Being Researched (Such as UDP).

PA	Communities	Trusts	Size of Claim Hectare	Approved According to Section 42D	Settlement Agreement Signed	District Municipality	Co-Management Agreement (Y/N)
1. Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park	1. Hlabisa/Mpukunyoni 2. Mlaba/Ximba 3. Okhukho	5	24 210 Not known	Approved Approved Approved	Draft phase	uMkhanyakude District	Yes
2. Ithala Game Reserve	1. Zulu Community 2. Buthelezi Community	2	2 911.7360 Total: 27 121.736	Approved Approved	No	Zululand District	Yes
3. Ndumo Game Reserve	1. Mbangweni 2. Usuthu Gorge	2	1 993 11 898.3422 Total known: 13 891.3422	Outstanding Approved	No	uMkhanyakude District	Yes
4. Tembe Elephant Park	1. Tembe	1	30 000	Approved	No	uMkhanyakude District	Yes
5. Vernon Crooks Nature Reserve	1. Umnyengelezi Community	1	2 092.916	Claimants opted for Financial Compensation	N/A	uGu District	No
6. Umbumbazi Nature Reserve	1. Umbumbazi Community	1	2 098.6283	Referred to Advocate Mbili	N/A	uGu District	No
7. Impendle Nature Reserve	1. Kwa Dushu 2. Rest and Clayborn	2	1 703.6946 2 421.761 Total known: 4125.4556	No	No	Harry Gwala District	No
8. Drakensberg WHS	1. Amangwane 2. Mhlwazini 3. Amaswazi 4. Amangwe	4	15 000 Not known yet Not known yet Total: 15 000	Research	No	uThukela District	No
9. Phongola Game Reserve	1. Ntshangase Community	1	Not known	Drafting S42D	No	Zululand District	No
10. Lebombo Nature Reserve	1. Silwane Development Trust	1	480	Approved	No	uMkhanyakude District	No
Total	18	19					

3. PEOPLE AND PARKS PROGRAMME

People and Parks Provincial Forum had annual quarterly meetings on the 08-09 June 2017, 08-09 September 2017, 28-29 November 2017 and 15-16 February 2018. Dates for 2018/19 have already been set. On the first day, community meetings are held and the Forum on the second day. The People and Parks Provincial Forum provides an opportunity for the different Community Conservation structures (Co-management, Local Boards, Youth Conservation and the Traditional Health Practitioners) to discuss community participation in park initiatives. Upcoming Community Conservation activities, report feedback from the various communities involved provincially as well as community projects, information on Environmental Infrastructure Protection Programmes and feedback from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The stakeholders that attend these meetings is the National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Public Works and the Regional Land Claims Commission.





4. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Environmental Awareness has a target of eight environmental calendar days to commemorate. This is stipulated in the Annual Performance Plan. In the financial year 2017/18, this target was met through partnering with other government departments and NGOs. Eleven environmental calendar days were done in the financial year through other programmes within the Community Conservation Unit. It reached out to 650 communities, 30 traditional healers, 450 school learners and 8 schools all around the province. A donation of two JoJo tanks was given to the Mistake Farm on the South Coast.

Ezemvelo also donates game meat to community events to strengthen relationships with the community surrounding the Protected Area. uMthayi Amarula Festival, which is an event held in Tembe at eMfihlweni Royal House and hosted by Inkosi Tembe. The aim of the event is to celebrate the Amarula fruit which is believed to be the first fruit and one of the indigenous trees. Ezemvelo supports this event to strengthen the relationship with the community and to promote conservation and planting of indigenous trees. Another event that is supported, UMKhosi wamaGanu, was commemorated by His Majesty, King Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, at Ingwavuma Royal Household. It is also an Amarula tree that is being celebrated. In these events, 30 Nyala, 1 Hippo and 1 Buffalo were donated.





KZN BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE 2017/2018

The KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme is led by the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Stewardship Unit, being strongly supported by 6 conservation NGOs, including Conservation Outcomes, WWF-SA, EWT, Botanical Society, BirdLife SA and Wildlands Conservation Trust. KZN Wildlife also provides a significant amount of support to the Stewardship Programme via District Conservation officers and Scientific Services with regard to participation in the KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Working Group, Technical Advisory Group (TAG), site assessments, Advisory Forums and contribution to the development of stewardship management plans.

The programme is further supported by The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the SANBI CREW Programme. The programme and all its partners are currently engaging with 76 different biodiversity stewardship sites throughout the province, comprising more than 284 000 ha. Twenty (20) of these sites are either land reform or communal sites, comprising 155 500 ha. Since the inception of the programme in 2006, a

total of 28 new nature reserves have been declared, comprising 75 173 ha, while a further 6 Protected Environments have been declared, comprising 16 015 ha. Despite capacity constraints and during the past year, 2 new nature reserves have been declared, namely the Ingula Nature Reserve, an area of 2 600 ha surrounding the Eskom-managed Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme, and the Umgano Nature Reserve, 1 400 ha of land owned and managed by the Umgano community in the Umzimkhulu region.

Of the 42 remaining sites around the province that are currently under negotiation with the landowners, 11 of these are planned to be formally declared during the 2018/19 financial year, comprising 45 144 ha. The Biodiversity Stewardship Mechanism is contributing massively to KZN achieving its biodiversity targets, and particularly in addressing and contributing to protected area expansion targets. The partnership between state entities and the NGO sector has been essential in achieving the outcomes in the programme to date. It is essential that the organisations involved in coordinating the programme continue to be resources, both financial and human capacity, in order to ensure the conservation gains achieved by the programme continue to be realised.

EZEMVELO KZN HONORARY OFFICER CORPS ANNUAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To detail the support and work that the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Honorary Officer Corps (HO Corps) have achieved for the period March 2017 to May 2018.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Honorary Officer Corps mandate is:

- ♦ To maintain good relations between Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EZEMVELO) staff and the Honorary Officer members.
- ♦ To promote the interests of Ezemvelo and its biodiversity conservation mandate and service to the people of KZN.
- ♦ To render assistance to Ezemvelo staff wherever possible and as required.
- ♦ To promote the learning and understanding of all aspects of the environmental education and protection with the public.

In the present financial climate, the HO Corps has been very active in many areas, augmenting the work of Ezemvelo and providing much needed support.

3. EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE HONORARY CORPS

At the end of November 2017, the HO Corps has 762 Honorary Officers as members of 51 Groups in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The Groups are located in four areas as follows:

Region	No. of Groups	No. of HOs
West (Ukhahlamba)	20	316
East (Terrestrial)	9	92
East (Marine)	9	123
Zululand	12	224
Specialists	1	7
Total	51	762

At the time of preparing this report, the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has not renewed the contract with EZEMVELO in respect of marine conservation and compliance. This has left the Marine Section without a mandate. However, they are still active and support the staff along the coast.

3.1 HONORARY OFFICER CORPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The HO Corps Executive Committee in 2017, before the May 2017 AGM, was:-

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife General Manager	Sifiso Keswa
Provincial Co-ordinator	Brian Van Der Bank
Deputy Provincial Co-ordinator	Allan Williams
Provincial Secretary	Tracy Weakly
Provincial Membership Co-ordinator	Darlene Bond
Regional Co-ordinator West	Riaan van Rooyen
Regional Co-ordinator Zululand	Ronnie Henderson
Regional Co-ordinator East, Marine	Louis Fourie
Regional Co-ordinator East, Terrestrial	Allan Williams
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator West North	Geoff Muller
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator West South	Drummond Densham
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator Zululand	Vic Meyer
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator East, Marine	Nigel Eady
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator East, Terrestrial	Brad Phillips
Regional Secretary West	Janine Smith
Regional Secretary Zululand	Rosemary Muldoon
Regional Secretary East, Marine	Vacant
Regional Secretary East, Terrestrial	Brenda Angus
Co-opted member - Communications	Herman Bos

At the HO Corps Provincial Annual General Meeting held in May 2017 at St. Lucia, there were changes to the Committee as Brian van der Bank stood down as Provincial Co-ordinator and Drummond Densham was elected to this position.

Brian van der Bank continues to serve on the Executive Committee, heading up the Training Team and his invaluable wealth of experience in leading the HO Corps for over a decade is still available to the Committee.

The current Committee is:

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife General Manager	Sifiso Keswa
Provincial Co-ordinator	Drummond Densham
Deputy Provincial Co-ordinator	Allan Williams
Provincial Secretary	Tracy Weakly
Provincial Membership Co-ordinator	Darlene Bond
Provincial Training Co-ordinator	Brian van der Bank
Regional Co-ordinator West	Riaan van Rooyen
Regional Co-ordinator Zululand	Ronnie Henderson
Regional Co-ordinator East, Marine	Louis Fourie
Regional Co-ordinator East, Terrestrial	Allan Williams
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator West North	Geoff Muller
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator West South	Alan Jack
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator Zululand	Vic Meyer
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator Marine South	Nigel Eady
Deputy Regional Co-ordinator East, Terrestrial	Brad Phillips
Regional Secretary West	Janine Smith
Regional Secretary Zululand	Rosemary Muldoon
Regional Secretary East, Marine	Vacant
Regional Secretary East, Terrestrial	Debbie King
Co-opted member, Communications	Herman Bos

Since the 2017 AGM, the only change to the composition of the Committee has been the resignation of Vic Meyer as the Deputy Regional Co-ordinator Zululand and Fanie van Jaarsveld has taken his place.

3.2 HO CORPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The HO Corps Executive Committee has been very active in a number of areas and dealing with issues that affect the Honorary Officer Groups. In addition, the Committee has dealt with the administration of the HO Corps in general.

It is encouraging that Sifiso Keswa is attending the executive committee meetings on a regular basis and he is giving valuable advice and contributing to the discussions and decisions.

3.2.1 GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Ezemvelo indicated, in the latter part of 2016, that the HO Corps was not part of the organisation's general insurance that was valued with the former Natal Parks Board in respect of general liability or emergency medical assistance. This situation was confirmed in early 2017 and this led the Committee to seek insurance cover and it approached SATIB, a specialist SA Tourism and Wildlife Insurance Broker that provides general liability and emergency medical insurance. This step was taken for two reasons. The first reason is that Honorary Officers in the execution of their duties may do something that could lead to a member of the public instituting legal steps against them.

The second reason is that when the Honorary Officers are on duty in the field and assisting the Ezemvelo staff, they could be severely injured and need expert medical attention and evacuation.

The HO Corps currently has a general liability cover that covers all the Honorary Officers. The Honorary Officers have been offered emergency medical cover that will operate with their own medical aid cover and give access to an enhanced emergency medical assistance. To date, none of the Honorary Officers have taken out additional cover for any injury while on duty with SATIB. However, the Committee have started discussions with SATIB to explore a blanket cover for the Honorary Officers. There is no finality at this stage but if it is possible it will come at an additional cost to all the Honorary Officers.

3.2.2 THE POSITION OF THE HONORARY OFFICER CORPS WITHIN EZEMVELO

I am pleased to say that our discussions with Ezemvelo Executive staff during the review period have been very positive and the work that the Honorary Officers doing is much appreciated.

However, there are a number of concerns that will affect the on-going working relationships with Ezemvelo. These are:

- ♦ KwaZulu-Natal Environmental, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Bill of 2016 excluded Honorary Officers but gave the Ezemvelo authority to appoint volunteers;
- ♦ Legal status of the Honorary Officers in light of KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act 9 of 1997 repealing sections of the Natal Nature Conservation Ordinance, 15 of 1974 in respect of the appointment of Honorary Officers;
- ♦ The withdrawal of the Marine compliance by the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from Ezemvelo; and
- ♦ The amalgamations of the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board and Ezemvelo and the implications for the HO Corps.

The current legal status is that the Honorary Officers who were appointed before 1 April 1998 remain appointed under the Natal Nature Conservation Ordinance, 15 of 1974, in respect of Section 27 of this Ordinance, (which is still in force), and section 42(2) of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act 9 of 1997. However, Honorary Officers who joined the HO Corps after this date are appointed in respect of the Honorary Officer Group constitutions. In addition, the fact that Honorary Officers perform their duties on a voluntary basis, they cannot be “appointed” in terms of the current legislation as they are not “paid or salaried staff”. (This is also the fact that Honorary Officers are not included in Ezemvelo’s general or group insurance scheme as well).

The HO Corps has a long history going back to 1916 when the first honorary fisheries inspectors were appointed. In the course of time, the HO Corps was developed to where it is now. The work of the Honorary Officers has greatly assisted the formal organisations, the Natal Parks Board and now Ezemvelo. During the discussions throughout the year, Ezemvelo staff said that they appreciated the work of the Honorary Officers. However, many members of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board have difficulty understanding who the Honorary Officers are and why there is the need

to retain the legal appointment by the Board as in the past. They seem to understand the role of “volunteers” more easily.

In order to formalise the working relationships between the HO Corps and Ezemvelo, the Acting CEO has requested that a Service Level Agreement be drawn up. A draft is being developed and should be ready for discussions between our two bodies by the end of May 2018. This, hopefully, will lead to the HO Corps becoming the official volunteer group.

3.2.3 BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP AREA PROGRAMME

The HO Corps approached the Biodiversity Stewardship Unit to see where Honorary Officers can assist the unit in anyway. Derrerk Ruiters has given presentations to a number of Regional Meetings and at the Provincial AGM/Workshop. There are a number of the Honorary Officers that are able to assist in this programme. The discussions are still on-going.

3.2.4 ASSISTANCE IN RHINO SECURITY

There was a call for Honorary Officers to assist the staff in the rhino security operations at the end of 2016. This led to a number of meetings with the General Manager Rhino Security, Cedric Coetzee, and the Projects Manager, Des Archer, to discuss where the Honorary Officers could be deployed in addition to the work they were already doing. These additional tasks were:

- ♦ Assist in the Nerve Centre in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park;
- ♦ Maintenance of equipment, mainly electronic and software programmes;
- ♦ Manning observation posts/towers;
- ♦ Operating a mobile Spider Camera;
- ♦ Horse patrols – mainly outside the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, (Honorary Officers have upgraded the horse stables at Mbuzane and Makhamisa Ranger Outposts for the horses that had been provided by a donor);
- ♦ Patrols along the fence lines and on roads in and outside the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park);
- ♦ Gate monitoring, assist with searching vehicles; and
- ♦ Fundraising.

A meeting was held at Enseleni Nature Reserve Conference Centre on 25 March 2017 where more than 50 Honorary Officers from Durban and in Zululand attended. There was an encouraging enthusiasm from the Honorary Officers in wanting to assist the staff. A schedule of the skills was drawn up of Honorary Officers who were keen to help.

Although this meeting was specifically arranged to discuss how the HO Corps could assist in the Zululand rhino reserves, there is a need to duplicate the Honorary Officers involvement in the KZN Midlands rhino reserves as well.

All Honorary Officers present understood that if they come on board, it’s for the long haul and that confidentiality is key to the operation.

At the end of the meeting there was an agreement that Honorary Officers could assist in three ways.

Firstly, the Regional Coordinators and Group Chairmen would meet with the respective Reserve Conservation Managers and develop a plan of action to address the specific needs and then draw up a duty roster of Honorary Officers to provide a 24/7/365 presence in the protected areas. Secondly, to form a small Group of Honorary Officers as a Special Projects Unit who have IT experience and can be called upon to use sophisticated surveillance equipment – e.g. Spider Camera

Thirdly, there would be the need for donor funding to cover the costs of the surveillance work. Fundraising – if a regionally coordinated campaign is done and equipment purchased through EZEMVELO, better prices can be attained.

It is very sad to report that a lot of what was discussed and agreed on never came about. The Zululand based Honorary Officers were already assisting the rhino reserves in many ways such as conducting road patrols, manning the observation posts, gate controls and fence patrols. The main reason for this is that Honorary Officers found that they could not commit more of their time and especially on a long-term basis so that there would be a 24/7/365 presence although there was general agreement that this was required at the Enseleni Meeting.

3.2.5 CHALLENGES

3.2.5.1 NEW AND MORE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

The HO Corps continues trying to attract new younger people of all ethnic groupings. There are very few people wanting to join. The need to join

organisations such as the HO Corps is not something many of the younger generation seem to want to do. However, this remains a concern and a priority. In order to achieve this, the work of the Honorary Officers must become more widely known so the general public are aware of what they do. The achievements of the Honorary Officers, and the staff they work with, needs to be more widely publicised in the media. This is an issue that the HO Corps is aware of and a process will be put in place to improve the visibility of the HO Corps and its work. There are many instances of really good work being done that would give both organisations a positive image in the general public that just does not get reported.

3.2.5.2 VALUE OF HONORARY OFFICER SUPPORT TO EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE

The HO Corps Executive Committee has found it difficult to accurately reflect the value that the Honorary Officers contribute in supporting the Ezemvelo to fulfil their legal mandate. A greater effort is going to be made in the coming year to collect the data to state the value of the work done by the HO Corps on an annual basis.

The statistics that were presented at the 2018 Provincial AGM are shown below and illustrate the need to have accurate statistics to demonstrate the value of the HO Corps to the official organisation.

Table 1: Honorary Officers Contribution to the Work of Ezemvelo

Funds raised by 10 Groups	R1 620 022	Possible funds raised by all groups	R8 424 114
Hours contributed by 19 Groups	53434 hrs	Possible hours by all groups	146 240 hrs
Mileage contributed by 19 Groups	505 296 km	Possible mileage by all groups	1409 496 km

The extrapolated figures are an estimate of all the work that the Honorary Officers have contributed in the last year.

4. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Honorary Officer Groups have all been very active and involved in numerous projects throughout the KwaZulu-Natal Province. These have been both reserve and district based conservation support. Environmental education, awareness project, arranging fund raising events and promoting the Ezemvelo and the HO Corps.

4.1 WEST REGION

The West (uKhahlamba) Region has two Deputy Regional Co-ordinators to administer and monitor the work of the Honorary Officer Groups. The system is working well.

The Honorary Officer Air Wing Group was established during 2016 and falls under the West Region control. The group is providing a valuable aerial service to the Ezemvelo staff, Honorary Officer Groups, private wildlife property, other conservation NGOs and the South African Police Service. The group falls under the Ezemvelo Pilot, Greg Nanni. The group has held training exercises for observers and air-to-ground communications so that the ground teams can be directed rapidly to the trouble area.

The Honorary Officer Groups in the region have been very active with many projects. The KZN Midlands Groups have been very active in monitoring and responding to illegal hunts and game removals assisting the Ezemvelo District Conservation Officers and worked other law enforcement agencies such as the SAPS and SACAN. They have also been busy in nature conservation outreach programmes to schools and also been very active with the annual Aloe Festival, promoting the Ezemvelo and the HO Corps. The Lion's River Group have established a Children's Club called KRANE that meets once a month.

All of the Groups in this region raise funds for specific projects in a number of different ways. These include the Ride4Rhino Mountain Bike Challenge, the Aloe Festival and the Wings, Wheels and Whistles events.

The Weenen Group has been active on anti-poaching surveillance duties, refurbishing the Nyandu Education Camp and repairs to the reserves water reticulation system. The Group is also involved in planning and marshalling the annual Ride4Rhino mountain bike challenge. This attracts a number of keen bikers and the funds raised are used by the Group for equipment for the reserve's anti-poaching efforts. The Honorary Officers conduct observation patrols during the day and night in the reserve and along the public road through the reserve.

The Kamberg Group have been busy upgrading camp furniture, road repairs, removal of dangerous trees. The Group responded to the Kamberg staff needs for Trap Cameras and replacement Camp Office printer, fax and scanner machine.

The Ezemvelo staff nominated the Kamberg Group for an Excellency Award and received the award at the ceremony on 10th of November 2017. The Group Chairman and members of the Group attended the event.

The Newcastle Group assisted Amur Falcon Project Team to monitor and count the number of falcons visiting the area. There is an important roosting area within the town that the Falcons use when they return to South Africa from the Amur Plains in Russia in summer each year.

4.2 ZULULAND REGION

The Zululand Groups have worked with the staff on a wide range of projects. The Tembe Honorary Officer group replaced the sheeting at Game Capture Boma as well as repairing the electrical fence. The group contributed significantly towards the vet and helicopter costs for the dehorning of rhino and the contraception of elephants.

The Hluhluwe and Hluhluwe Hilltop Honorary Officer Groups are assisting extensively with research and have set up both a WhatsApp group and Facebook page for wildlife sightings that the members of public use comprehensively. They sourced and installed gym equipment for the Field Ranger outposts. Vast renovations and maintenance to the Savannah Hanger has been completed. Many Honorary Officers are assisting in day and night anti-poaching patrols.

The group provided and put up signage in the reserves, specifically "No Drones and Dangerous Game". The Imfolozi Honorary Officer group have installed various borehole pumps, as well as the EnviroLoo at Mfafa Hide. At the Nerve Centre, the group installed the new walkway, laid and connected cabling from Game Capture to the Nerve Centre. Ongoing repairs or replacements to the solar systems at three guard camps.

They have been involved in assisting the K9 dog unit in Hluhluwe-imfolozi Park. The annual HiP Mountain Bike Challenge is an important event for the Zululand Honorary Officer Groups.

4.3 EAST (MARINE) REGION

The fact that the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) did not renew EZEMVELO contract in 2017 to administer and manage

the marine environment has meant that the Marine Honorary Officers have not been as active as they have in past years. The Honorary Officers still visit the popular fishing and mussel spots but they do have any authority to carry out any law enforcement activities alongside the Ezemvelo staff. They have called the officials of DAFF to come and assist but they seem not to be able to respond to the law enforcement mandate they have taken over from Ezemvelo and arrest the law breakers. It has resulted in the Marine Honorary Officers despairing at the rampant illegal activities that are occurring along the coast to the point that they are very despondent. However, they assist the various skiboat clubs at their various events and fishing competitions and act as weigh-masters and ladies.

The good news is that it is very likely that the marine responsibility will be returned to Ezemvelo by the end of 2018 or early 2019 when funds become available.

The Sodwana Honorary Officer Group has members residing in various centres in KZN, Gauteng, and Eastern Cape. They are very busy in a range of activities. These are assisting in running the skiboat launching site, life guard duties, sea patrols to ensure all anglers are adhering to the rules and regulations and also with beach clean ups and checking beach permits. When they are at Sodwana, they undertake patrols in the camp area, and camp maintenance such as replacing a geyser in the ablution blocks, electrical power cable maintenance in the camp, water pump maintenance and replacing a pump with a new one.

They run marine education programmes and programmes for children such as storytelling art and games. They are planning to upgrade the Embetha Junior and Secondary Schools in the local Community area in 2018. They are organising New Year's Eve festivities and will also oversee the safety and security issues on the night.

4.4 EAST (TERRESTRIAL) REGION

The region's Honorary Officer Groups are involved in a range of activities that include maintenance work (to reserve infrastructure, i.e. fences etc, other facilities such as bides hides), public relations, environmental education to the public, cycle events, guided walks in the reserves, biodiversity conservation work (that includes, alien plant control, & species census/counts), trail maintenance, working with conservation NGOs, the SPCA and Conservancies, river and beach clean ups, fund raising events and providing catering at the reserve functions.

4.5 SPECIALIST GROUP

The Specialist Group caters for those people who have joined the Honorary Officer Corps and are involved in conducting research on behalf of the Ezemvelo. It was formed in 2014 in response to a request from Ezemvelo for a mechanism to place 3rd party specialists and scientists in uniform. The specialist scientists attend an HO induction course and sign Indemnity and Code of Conduct forms before starting work.

All members of the Specialists Group thus report to an Ezemvelo staff member who controls their activities but their work is coordinated by an HO who collects and collates the monthly statistics.

Birgit Eggers, Veterinary Services

Birgit has assisted with the annual buffalo TB testing in iMfolozi for the past 7-8 years, often running the testing programme when Dr. Dave Cooper is otherwise occupied. The programme involves the capture, immobilisation, testing and then reading of the tests 72 hours later. In the July 2017 season, approximately 160 animals were immobilised for the initial tests. Birgit also undertakes rhino post mortems when required.

Dr. Dave Ehlers-Smith and Dr. Yvette Ehlers-Smith

Dave and Yvette started as Specialist HO's when they undertook a joint bird and mammal Doctorial study of the fragmented indigenous coastal forest in the south of KwaZulu-Natal. This year, their time has been split between KZN an EC on post doc studies, working in the mistbelt forest-grassland mosaic doing camera trap and bird surveys. In the grasslands, they are focussing on Southern Ground-Hornbills, looking at distribution and threats. They have conducted about 270 face-to-face interviews with rural community members in rural KZN. They will be continuing this effort in other parts of KZN. They report jointly to Dr. Adrian Armstrong of Ezemvelo Scientific Services department and UKZN.

Ed Ostrosky

Ed retired as Ezemvelo Firearms Control Officer 2 years ago and was asked by Ezemvelo to continue as a Specialist HO. Ed carries out firearm training and certification of Ezemvelo staff, specialist patrols and has latterly been involved with planning for the Peace Parks Foundation and Ezemvelo to draft an Operational Plan for the HiP Intensive Protection Zone.

Stuart Affleck and Paul Smith

They report to Warren Burgess, from Ezemvelo. Their work is confidential and involves tactical training of field rangers and working with the Ezemvelo Specialised Operations Group. They are also developing some specialised software.

Wendy White

Wendy is a permit holding Bat Rehabilitator and undertakes field studies of bats in both protected and non-protected areas throughout KZN. She works with Dr. Adrian Armstrong of Ezemvelo Scientific Services and often assists visiting university teams with their bat field work in the province. Wendy also frequently gives public education talks on bats to schools and interested groups.

Tony Hewitt

Tony is an American with a degree in ecology. He has volunteered to assist Ezemvelo with the collection of data on elephant and rhino in Western and Eastern Shores of iSimangaliso for 12 months. He funds the project himself. Tony reports to Brigitte Church of Ezemvelo Scientific Services, iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

5. CONCLUSION

The past year has been a very busy one with all the HO Groups being very active working with the staff and giving tangible support to Ezemvelo across a very wide range of activities involving reserve and district conservation area maintenance, education awareness, anti-poaching and staff support. A service level agreement, which will detail the relationships between the two organisations is being prepared.

The HO Corps Executive Committee has been occupied in a number of initiatives during the past year. These are ensuring that the HO Corps remains an important volunteer organisation with the Ezemvelo in terms of the legislative environment at the moment. In addition, the HO Corps now has a group liability insurance scheme and hopefully in time, medical assistance if they are injured on duty.

The challenges of attracting new members to the HO Corps has been an on-going one and will continue to be an issue that needs to be tackled. Finally, the Honorary Officers in their work and interaction with the staff will continue:

- ♦ To maintain good relations between Ezemvelo staff and the Honorary Officer members.
- ♦ To promote the interests of Ezemvelo and its biodiversity conservation mandate and service to the people of KZN.
- ♦ To render assistance to Ezemvelo staff wherever possible and is required.
- ♦ To promote the learning and understanding of all aspects of the environmental education and protection with the public.

WD Densham

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Honorary Officer Corps Provincial Coordinator
May 2018



B. ECOTOURISM SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

For the year under review, Ezemvelo has recorded an increase of 1.6% (equivalent to 10 655) in the total number of visitors to its resorts, when compared to last year. Despite a decrease of 0.7% (equivalent to 3 738) in the number of local South African visitors to Ezemvelo resorts, there was a significant increase of 10.7% (equivalent to 14 391) in the number of visitors from other international countries, while SADC visitors remained stable, compared to the previous financial year. As a result, for the reporting period, our unit and camping accommodation occupancy rates have improved by 0.3% and 1.3% respectively, when compared to last year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

For the year under review, significant progress has been made in addressing a number of the challenges that the organisation was faced with. In no order of priority, the following key achievements can be noted:

- Despite many ecotourism infrastructure and human capital challenges, our 5 Year Sales and Marketing Strategy has showed signs of improving our revenue position, and with more capital investment into our ecotourism facilities, the strategy will definitely yield better results onwards.
- Successful rollout of a two-tier pricing structure across all our resorts. While ensuring fair pricing of our tourism products and services, the pricing model was based on visitors' country of origin (i.e. South Africans; SADC and international), including seasonal pricing adjustments based on the demand and supply of our products.
- Relaunching of our online Customer Feedback System, with more simplified questions to enhance our customers' responses, while giving more priority to critical areas of our ecotourism business such as our overnight facilities, nature experience, and game activities. This has enabled management to evaluate ecotourism performance individual resorts for timeous corrective actions.
- Since the launch of both Ezemvelo Heritage Week and "Mahala Friday" initiatives, more domestic tourists, particularly local communities, have had an opportunity to access our resorts during the September tourism and heritage month.
- Our continuous collaboration with various travel agents and tour operators has significantly contributed to improving the number of

visitors to our resorts, this has further enhanced our ecotourism sales, including prospects for future business.

- Through the use of our recently developed Tourism Standards Guidelines, various tourism softs, such as furniture, beds and linen have been upgraded.
- The roofing upgrades (rethatching) of various accommodation units at selected resorts were completed, and more will be rolled-out next year.
- A new game drive vehicle has been delivered in Giants Castle to commence tours to the vulture hides and other areas as a new product offering.
- Significant capital funding was sourced from the National Department of Tourism for the refurbishment of the accommodation units at Midmar, with construction work to commence in June 2018. This also included the refurbishment of the Meander Hut at Giants Castle, creation of a Universal Access trail at Giants Castle and Hluhluwe iMfolozi resorts.
- Funds have been secured and plans are in their final draft for the construction of an entry gate at Didima resort and to repair and reopen the Mike's Pass Road to guests.

ECOTOURISM PERFORMANCE

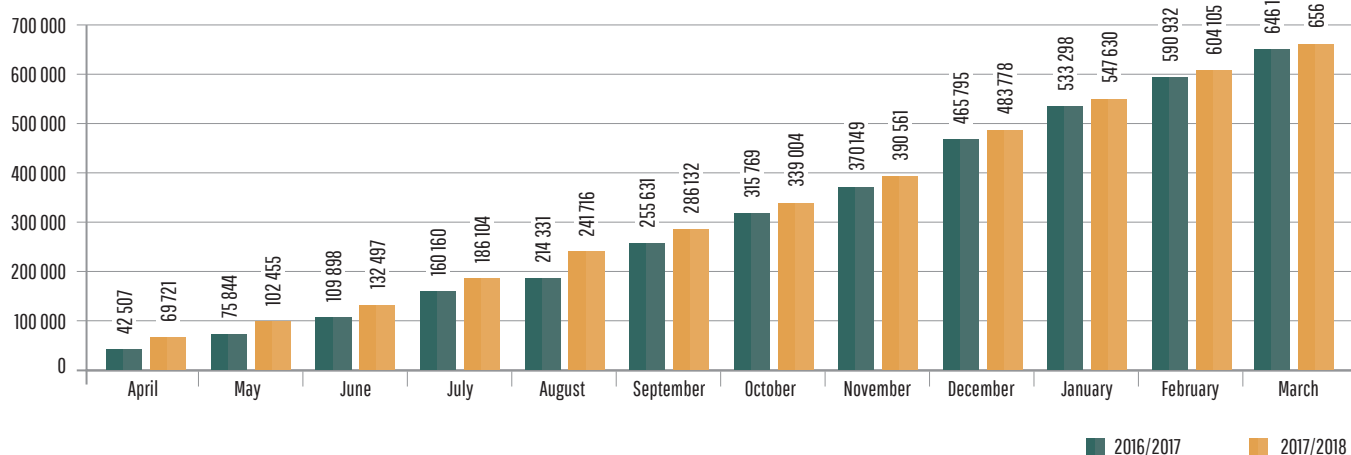
Emanating from our corporate strategic objectives, ecotourism had three (3) strategic objectives, namely, to position Ezemvelo as a wildlife destination of choice; increase visitor numbers to Ezemvelo resorts; as well as, optimise revenue generation. Although annual targets, as set in the 2017/18 Annual Performance Plan (APP), were initially achievable, continuous budget cuts, which were exacerbated by various unfavourable external factors beyond management's control, such as a decline in domestic travel and tourism in the province and increased tourism competition, made it impossible to achieve some of these goals.

More performance indicators have been provided in this report in order to illustrate a complete picture of Ezemvelo Ecotourism Performance.

VISITOR NUMBERS TO EZEMVELO RESORTS

For the period under review, the total number of visitors to Ezemvelo resorts was 656 796. This is 11.0% (equivalent to 64 996) better than the planned annual target of 591 800, and 1.6% (equivalent to 10 655) improvement when compared to last year, as illustrated by the figure and table below.

2017/18 - Total Visitor Numbers



Resort	2016/2017	2017/2018	Variance	% YoY Variance
Hluhluwe iMfolozi	238 063	229 654	-8 409	-3.5%
Royal Natal	86 621	95 724	9 103	10.5%
Midmar	74 701	86 226	11 525	15.4%
Chelmsford	26 991	28 627	1 636	6.1%
Umlalazi	32 569	28 043	-4 526	-13.9%
Wagendrift	29 821	26 116	-3 705	-12.4%
Monks Cowl	24 099	24 999	900	3.7%
Didima	26 695	20 333	-6 362	-23.8%
St Lucia	8 275	19 630	11 355	137.2%
Giants Castle	18 186	15 215	-2 971	-16.3%
Ithala	10 394	13 950	3 556	34.2%
Cape Vidal	12 990	13 057	67	0.5%
Kosi Bay	13 027	11 969	-1 058	-8.1%
Spioenkop	12 728	10 428	-2 300	-18.1%
uMkhuze	5 209	6 251	1 042	20.0%
Injisuthi	5 651	6 208	557	9.9%
Oribi Gorge	4 109	4 308	199	4.8%
Maphelane	4 174	3 900	-274	-6.6%
Weenen	3 505	3 876	371	10.6%
Lotheni	2 206	2 480	274	12.4%
Ndumo	2 644	2 352	-292	-11.0%
Sodwana Bay	2 036	2 120	84	4.1%
Kamberg	1 447	1 330	-117	-8.1%
Grand Total	646 141	656 796	10 655	1.6%

Although Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Royal Natal and Midmar, remain popular within Ezemvelo resorts, the resorts that have shown a significant increase in total visitor numbers, when compared to the same period last year were, St Lucia with a 137.2% increase to 19 630; and Ithala with a 34.2% increase to 13 950, while Didima and Spioenkop resorts have shown a significant decrease of 23.8% to 20 333 and 18.1% to 10 428 respectively.

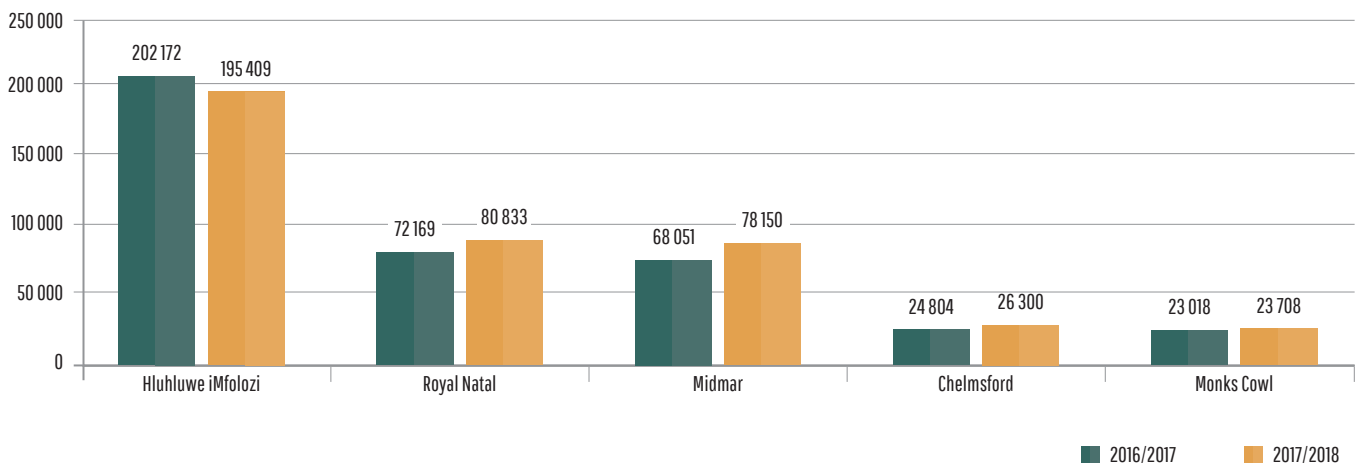
While the effects of earlier severe drought that affected most parts of the midlands to Northern KwaZulu-Natal areas cannot be ignored, this performance can mainly be attributed to a 1.1% decline in our domestic markets, a common trend to the rest of the South African tourism industry, as well as a financially depressed local market.

DAY VISITORS

For the same reporting period, the total number of day visitors to Ezemvelo resorts was 524 747. This is an increase of 1.8% (equivalent to 9 448) when compared to the same period last year.

Again, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Royal Natal and Midmar remain popular resorts within Ezemvelo with regard to day visitors, however, the resorts with the highest increase in day visitor numbers, when compared to the same period last year, were St Lucia with 219.7% to 15 446; Midmar with 14.8% to 78 150 and Royal Natal with 12.0% to 80 833. The resorts with the largest decrease in day visitor numbers were Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park with 3.3% to 195 409; Didima with 30.1% to 14 465 and Umlalazi with 18.8% to 23 505.

Top 5 Resorts with Highest Overnight Visitor Numbers



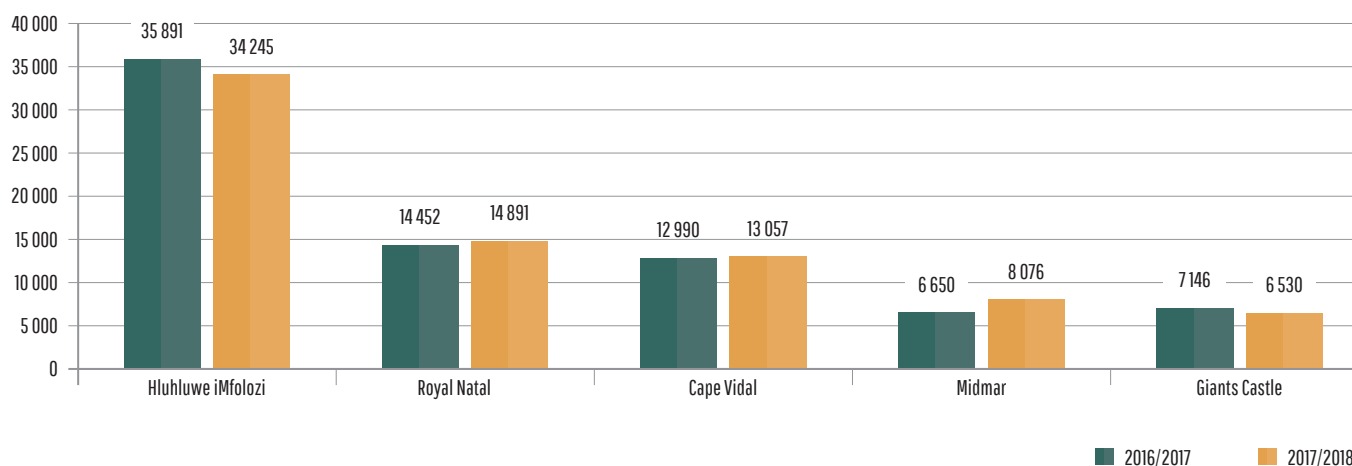
Please note that day visitor numbers exclude numbers from Sodwana Bay, Cape Vidal, and uMkhuze resorts, as these are accounted for by iSimangaliso Wetlands Park, which is a separate entity, even though Ezemvelo operates tourism facilities in the Park.

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

For the period under review, the total number of overnight visitors to Ezemvelo resorts was 132 049. This is a increase of 0.9% (equivalent to 1 207) when compared to the same period last year.

Although Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Royal Natal and Cape Vidal are popular when it comes to overnighting, the resorts which recorded the highest improvement in day visitor numbers were Midmar with 21.4% (1 426); uMkhuze with 20.0% (1 042); and Umlalazi with 24.8% (902). However, the resorts which showed a significant decrease were Wagendrft with 35.5% (2 461); Hluhluwe iMfolozi with 4.6% (1 646) and Giants Castle with 8.6% (616).

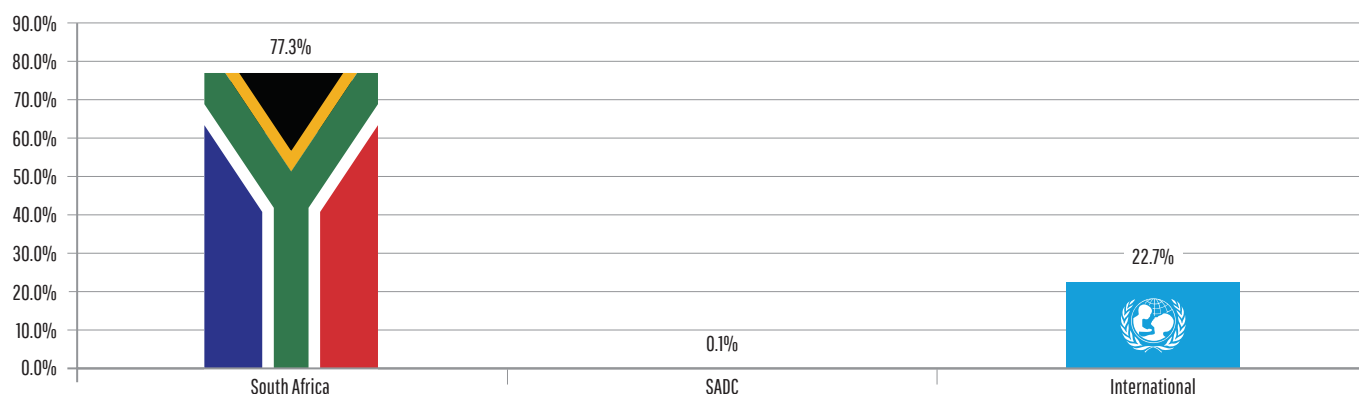
Top 5 Resorts with Highest Overnight Visitor Numbers



VISITORS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

South Africans remain the majority of visitors, accounting for 77.3% of the total visitors to Ezemvelo resorts for the period under review, while visitors from SADC and other international countries, accounted for 0.1% and 22.7% respectively, as illustrated by the figure below.

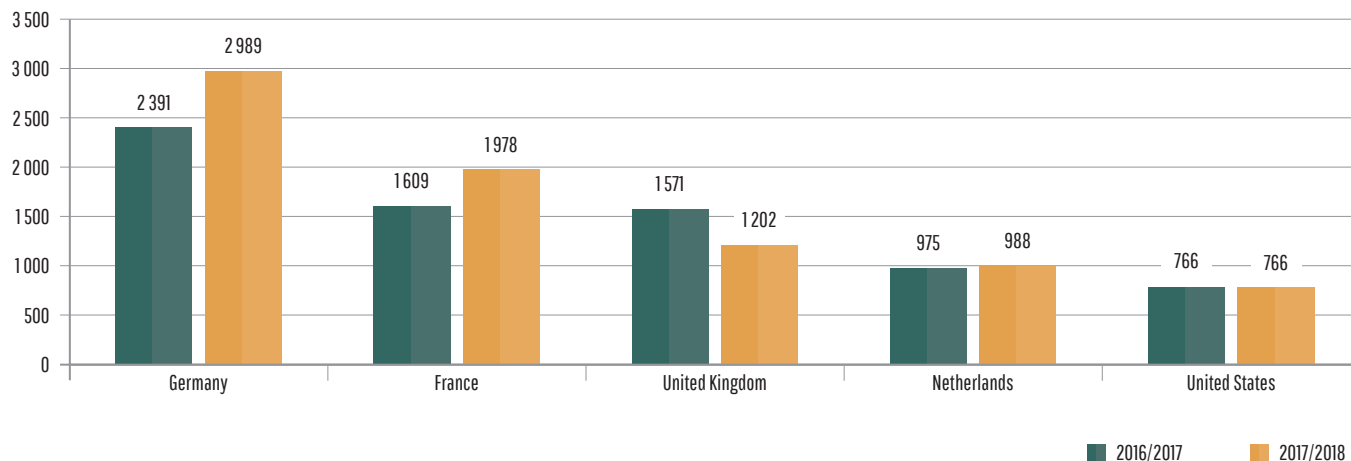
Visitors by Nationality



Despite a slight decrease of 0.7% (equivalent to 3 738) in the number of local South African visitors to Ezemvelo resorts, there was a significant increase of 10.7% (equivalent to 14 391) in the number of visitors from other international countries, while SADC visitors remained stable with only 0.5% increase, when compared to the previous financial year.

Of the top five (5) international visitors, the German citizens remain the highest, with a total of 2 989, followed by the French (1 978), the British (1 202), the Dutch (988) and the Americans (766). However, it is worth mentioning that of the abovementioned citizens, the Germans had a significant increase of 25.0% (equivalent to 598), while the British decreased by 23.5% (equivalent to 369) when compared to the previous year, as illustrated in the figure below.

Top 5 Foreign National Visitors



This performance can mainly be attributed to the favourable exchange rate of our local currency (ZAR) against major international currencies, such as the US Dollar, British Pound and Euro, hence enabling cheaper tourism travel for foreign markets into South Africa, even though the Rand has strengthened over the reporting period, by an average of 8.1% (from R14.15 to R13.01) against the US Dollar; 9.4% (from R19.35 to R17.54) against the British Pound; and 0.8% (from R15.64 to R15.51) against the Euro.

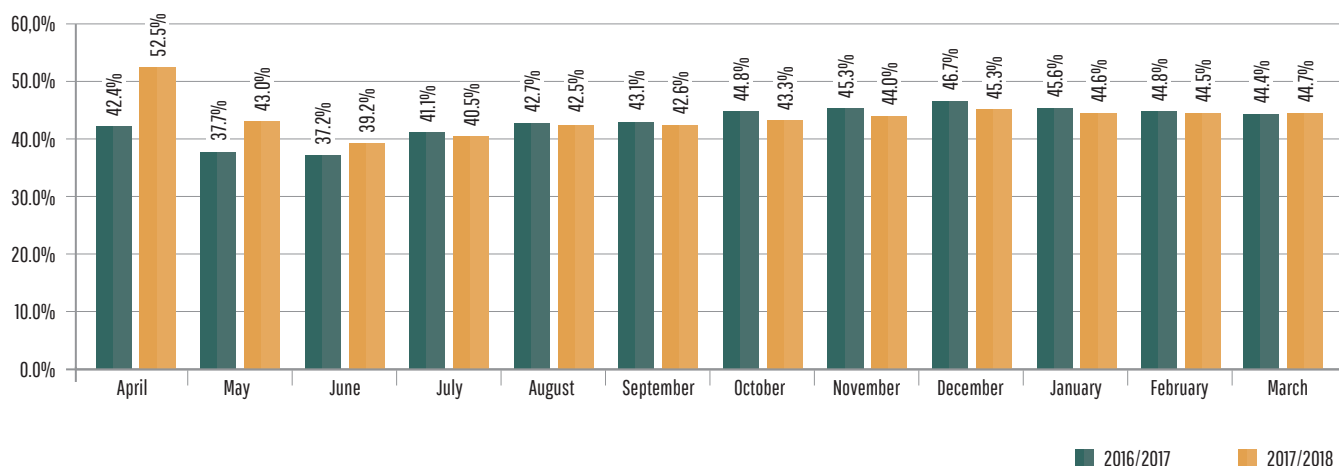
ACCOMMODATION OCCUPANCIES AT EZEMVELO RESORTS

Although there was a slow economic recovery in the tourism industry, particularly at the macro-economic level, Ezemvelo performance in terms of its tourism occupancy levels, has remained under pressure when compared to the rest of the tourism market.

UNIT OCCUPANCY

For the period under review, Ezemvelo average unit accommodation occupancy rate was 44.7%. This is 1.8% less than the planned annual unit occupancy target of 46.5%, however, 0.3% improvement when compared to the same period last year.

Unit Occupancy



PART 3: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES ...continued

Although Hluhluwe iMfolozi (71.1%), Royal Natal (63.8%) and Weenen (55.1%) have had relatively higher occupancies than other resorts, Didima (35.5%) and Ithala (22.4%) have shown improved unit occupancies when compared to the previous financial year, with growth of 4.4% and 3.0% respectively.

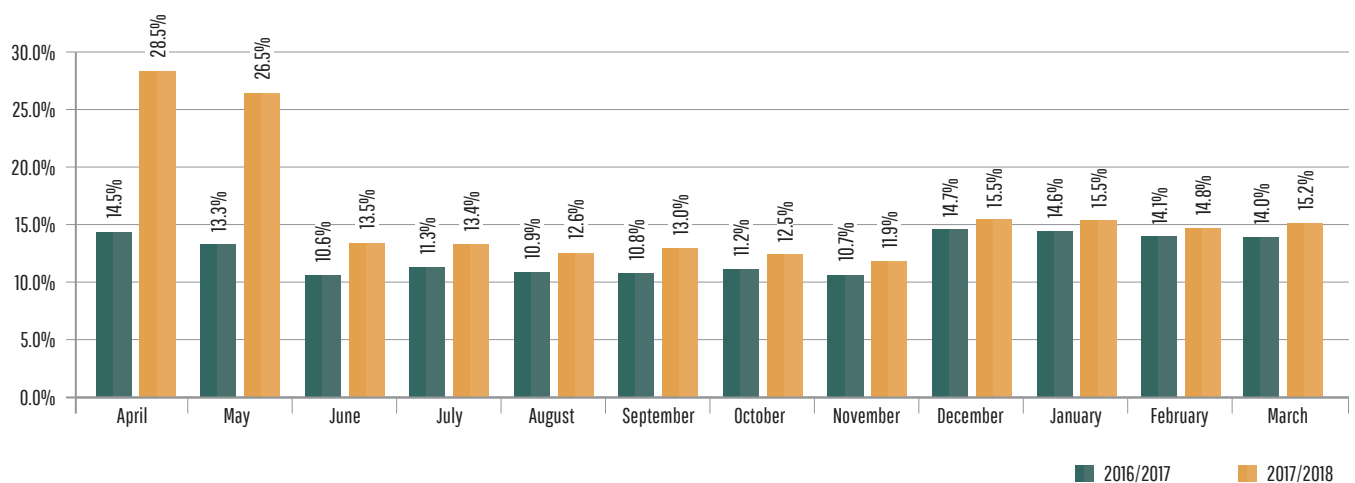
Resorts	2016/2017	2017/2018	Variance Points	Unit Night Variance
Hluhluwe iMfolozi	70.2%	71.7%	1.6	-325
Royal Natal	66.3%	63.8%	-2.6	-196
Weenen	53.6%	55.1%	1.5	13
uMkhuze	51.6%	51.0%	-0.6	6
Kosi Bay	56.3%	49.5%	-6.8	-75
Cape Vidal	53.0%	49.2%	-3.8	-422
Ndumo	45.8%	47.1%	1.3	33
Giants Castle	47.5%	43.9%	-3.6	-625
Injisuthi	36.5%	38.1%	1.5	112
Didima	31.1%	35.5%	4.4	1 051
Oribi Gorge	34.6%	35.1%	0.5	12
Mapelane	33.0%	34.0%	1.0	36
Midmar	35.7%	33.8%	-1.9	-471
Umlalazi	34.5%	32.8%	-1.6	-131
Chelmsford	32.9%	31.1%	-1.8	-52
Kamberg	28.1%	30.0%	1.9	43
Sodwana Bay	33.5%	28.9%	-4.6	-316
Lotheni	28.6%	28.1%	-0.5	-1
Ithala	19.4%	22.4%	3.0	545
Wagendrift	15.6%	17.5%	1.9	7

Despite the poor state of our ageing tourism facilities, which continue to make it difficult to sell our ecotourism products, competition continues to intensify its growth of the market-share. Our occupancy levels remained stable at most resorts, mainly due to positive performance, resulting from Easter, Festive Season and increased school holidays during the course of the year.

CAMPING OCCUPANCY

For the period under review, Ezemvelo average camping accommodation occupancy improved by 1.2% to 15.2% when compared to the same period last year. This performance can mainly be attributed to better rainfalls recently, which resulted in the improvement in the beauty and scenery of our resorts landscapes, including dam levels, all of which have been greater tourists' attractions, particularly during the summer and festive seasons.

Camping Occupancy



Camping at Cape Vidal, Kosi Bay, and Royal Natal remained popular with relatively higher occupancies than the rest of other resorts. However, it is worth noting that the resorts with the largest increase in camping bookings were Injisuthi at 13.7% (increase of 1 172), and Royal Natal at 31.6% (increase of 927), while the resorts with the highest decrease were Kosi Bay at 31.6% (decrease of 185), Ndumo at 18.9% (decrease of 179) and Spioenkop at 12.4% (decrease of 69).

SALES AND MARKETING

The South African ecotourism industry remains one of the highly competitive and constantly evolving businesses, with not only other African countries who are offering safari experience, but also other provinces in the country for the KwaZulu-Natal province to compete with, while customers are constantly looking for new adventures at an affordable price. Therefore, rivals are forever competing for every opportunity to increase their market share. As a result, this has elevated our sales and marketing initiatives to form an integral part of Ezemvelo business model for sustainability.

SALES AND MARKETING STRATEGY

Ezemvelo has developed an integrated 5 Year Sales and Marketing Strategy, in order to position its products and services advantageously. Through this strategy, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has established four (4) strategy goals, namely:

- ♦ To improve the number of visitors to Ezemvelo Resorts;
- ♦ To improve both unit and camping accommodation occupancies;
- ♦ To maximise revenue generation; and
- ♦ To improve Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife brand.

Although, not only limited to the above, the strategy has set three (3) fundamental strategic goals over the next 5 year period (2016-2021), namely:

- ♦ Improve the number of visitors to Ezemvelo Resorts = 14% growth;
- ♦ Improve Occupancy = 13% growth (both unit and camping); and
- ♦ Revenue generation through ecotourism operations = R1 billion.

Despite many ecotourism infrastructure and human capital challenges, the strategy has showed signs of improving our revenue position over time.

TRAVEL TRADE POLICY

In an effort to ensure Ezemvelo remains responsive to the needs of our trade market, the organisation has completed a review of its Travel Trade Policy, through an extensive consultative and benchmarking process. This policy is meant to regulate all transactions undertaken between the organisation and tour operators, while deriving mutual benefits for both the organisation and its trade partners.

Furthermore, while this policy optimises mechanisms for our ecotourism revenue generation, it also enables new entrants into the travel trade business, thereby contributing to the development of SMMEs in the ecotourism sector and thus, contributing to local economic transformation.

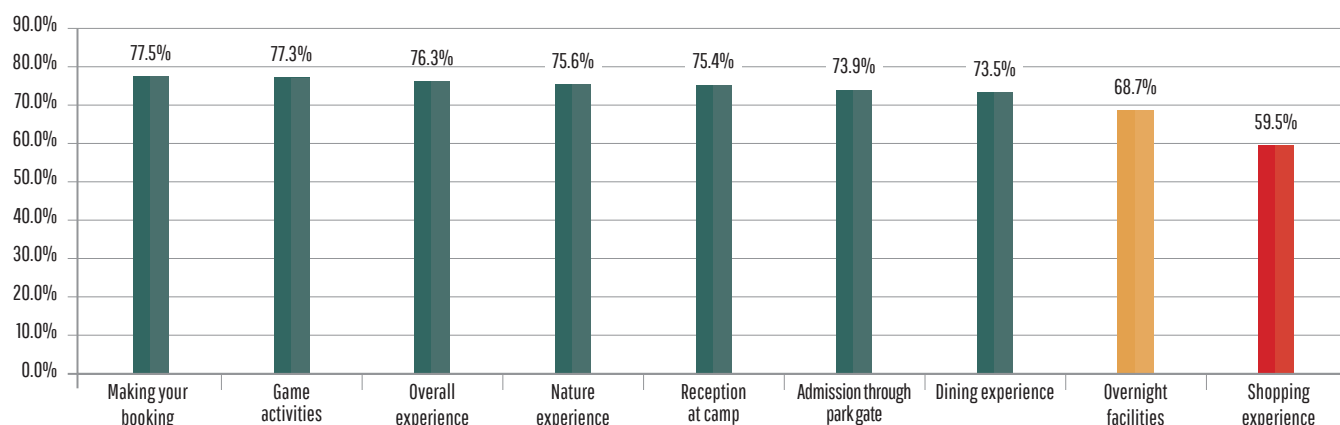
As Ezemvelo is a state-owned-entity that is not registered for Value Added-Tax (VAT), it has been a challenge for our trade partners to claim a tax rebate from South African Revenue Services (SARS). While the Policy emphasises Ezemvelo's Value Added-Tax (VAT) regulatory status, which many operators had previously raised as a concern, brackets of various commission structures are also provided, in order to moderate this effect, hence encouraging more operators to sell Ezemvelo ecotourism products and services.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SYSTEM

The organisation has successfully relaunched its online Customer Feedback System, with more simplified questions in order to enhance its customers' feedback, while giving more priority to critical areas of our ecotourism business such as our overnight facilities, nature experience, and game activities. This has enabled management to evaluate ecotourism performance on individual resorts for timeous corrective actions.

For the period under review, Ezemvelo average Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) was 73.0%. This was 3.0% better than the set annual target of 70.0%, and 2.1% compared to last year.

Customer Satisfaction Index - 2018



Areas which received the highest rating were making a booking (77.5%); game activities (77.3%); overall experience (76.3%); nature experience (75.6%) and reception at camp (75.4%); while areas with lowest rating were overnight facilities (68.7%); and shopping experience (59.4%). Performance in all areas who received lower rating can mainly be attributed to our ageing ecotourism infrastructure, due to recent budget cuts and inability to recruit critical skills to sell and deal with customer expectation, resulting from a recent moratorium by the Provincial Treasury not to fill vacancies.

EZEMVELO LOYALTY PROGRAMME

Ezemvelo has two (2) loyalty programme products, namely the Rhino-Card and WildCard. Although WildCard is owned by the South African National Parks (SANParks), Ezemvelo as one of the partners do receive some proceeds from the programme.

Negotiations with SANParks are at an advanced stage in order to remodel our entire loyalty programme. This undertaking is therefore expected to improve both the frequency of customers who are repeat visitors, as well as introduce more visitor numbers to our resorts.

GRADING OF TOURISM FACILITIES AND STANDARDS

GRADING OF TOURISM FACILITIES

Although no additional resorts were graded for the year under review, due to financial constraints. The focus therefore was to conduct repeat grading at resorts who are already graded, in order to retain their 3-star grading, whilst ensuring maintenance improvements on those who need urgent attention.

The resorts who were regraded for the year under review are: Giant's Castle, Mahai & Thendele (Royal Natal Park), Hilltop bush lodges (at Hluhluwe iMfolozi), and Mpila & Nselweni (at Hluhluwe iMfolozi).

While it is the organisation's long-term goal to have all of Ezemvelo tourism facilities, including camping, to be graded up to a 3-star level, the medium-term focus is to complete the grading process on those facilities, which are ready to be rated, considering our financial constraints.

TRADE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Responsible wildlife sales and controlled hunting have always been part of Ezemvelo's conservational methods of maintaining a controlled population within our game resorts. This therefore enables management to maintain a balanced ecosystem for a sustainable biodiversity conservation while raising the much-needed revenue to sustain both its mandatory and legislative conservation obligations.

WILDLIFE SALES

For the period under review, Ezemvelo has sold over 2 026 animals of various species to qualifying buyers through game auctions and publicised expression of interest. In order to avoid unnecessary wildlife mortalities as a result of a persistent drought and reduced market demands, about 41% of the sold stock was sold through the expression to the public.

CONTROLLED HUNTING

Although Ezemvelo has four (4) controlled hunting game reserves, hunting for the period under review was only conducted in three (2) areas, namely uMkhuze (part of iSimangaliso Wetland Park), Spioenkop and iThala. Hunting activities at Phongola were suspended due to lower number of animal takings.

OUTLOOK FOR 2018/19

ECOTOURISM PERFORMANCE

It is hoped that the recent announcement by both Ministers of Home Affairs and Tourism about plans to ease visa and entry requirements will enhance Ezemvelo ecotourism visitor numbers and revenue position in the near future.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURAL UPGRADE

Through the funding received from the National Department of Tourism, plans have been put in place to upgrade and renovate some of our tourism facilities. This will include modernisation of Midmar chalets, putting new and more durable roofing at Didima, Royal Natal, Hluhluwe iMfolozi (including bush lodges), and Mantuma.

SALES AND MARKETING STRATEGY

As part of rolling out our Sales and Marketing Strategy, Ezemvelo's website has been redesigned to be more customer focused, while efforts to intensify social media strategy are also underway.

PRICING STRATEGY

An internal ecotourism tariffs committee has revised the single-tier pricing model following the completion of more due diligence and sensitivity analyses to ensure fair pricing of our products. This will ensure increased revenue generation benefits going forward. While the main focus of the model will be based on the origin of visitors (i.e. RSA; SADC and international), seasonal pricing will also be considered based on the demand and supply of the product, as is currently the case. A two-tier pricing strategy will be rolled out, where both South African and SADC visitors will be given preferential pricing, as compared to other international visitors.

TRAVEL TRADE POLICY

After launching our new Travel Trade Policy, management has realised that some critical factors in the policy have been omitted after another extensive consultation with various tour operators, as such a decision has been taken to revise the document, and republish it in the next financial year.

FACILITIES STAR GRADING

While continuing with the process of grading some of the identified tourism facilities, next years' focus will be to put more emphasis on modernisation of our facilities and compliance to the universal access that will enhance our accommodation of people with disabilities.

INTEGRATION OF TOURISM BOOKING AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In an effort to optimise our ecotourism operations, a cloud-based integrated booking and inventory management system was piloted at selected resorts. Although this has proven to be impractical in some remote resorts, alternative solutions are being sought in order to widen our points of sales relating to unit and campsite bookings, instead of the current set-up, which is limited to central reservation at Ezemvelo head office only.

Furthermore, another solution to address the challenge of reducing drop-calls at our reservation is current being evaluated and should be fully operational in the course of the next financial year.

C. CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

Partnership Projects and Management Unit Projects						
Project Name	Project Type	Project Activities	No. of Job Opportunities	Total Cost of Investment	Expenditure to Date	Status
KZN Working for the Coast	Coastal clean-up & Infrastructure upgrade	Beach cleaning, dune rehabilitation, trails, road maintenance, building maintenance, construction of ablution block at Nhlabane and alien plant clearing.	245	R11 400 000	R10 200 593	The project is progressing well, the EPWP teams are carrying out their duties on different sites.
KZN Siyaya Coastal Park	Infrastructure	Construction of entrance gate, events facility, kiosk and conservancy tank.	70	R4 234 563	R4 172 567	The project has been successfully completed, the completion reports submitted to Department of Environmental Affairs for approval and acceptance.
Busingatha Lodge Project	Infrastructure	Construction of the gate house and vehicular entrance, construction of manager's house, construction of 6 sleeper x 2 units and a 4 sleeper, construction of dining hall, construction of a boma, provisional sums and erect perimeter fencing.	125	R15 500 000	R2 160 749	The contractor introductory meeting was held on the 24 th of January with the Tribal Authorities at Emazizini Tribal Courts to introduce the contractor then construction commenced in early February 2018 and the first Project Advisory Meeting took place on the 26 th of March 2018. Construction is continuing with the completion date being 31 March 2019.
Ingodini Border Caves Project	Infrastructure	Construction of vehicular entrance, information centre and rondavel: 2 x 4 sleeper chalet units.	18	R7 189 500	R1 742 618	The contractor is onsite with the expected completion date being 31 March 2019.
Ndumo Res Camp Project	Infrastructure	Construction and renovations of the Ndumo Camp within the Ndumo Nature Reserve.	20	R6 240 000	R540 834	The appointment letter was issued on the 1 st of November 2017. The site handover will be done within the first quarter of the new financial year. and construction will commence immediately with the expected end date 31 March 2019.
KZN Ongoye Forest Development Project	Infrastructure	Construction of entrance gate, construction of chalets, construction of interpretive facility, construction of a restaurant, erect entrance gate on the boundary, road maintenance and erect signage.	114	R15 000 000	R4 397 875	The construction phase is at the roof level for the chalet and other derivable has commence. The Project is estimated to be completed by 31 March 2019.
Midmar Revamp	Infrastructure	Involves revamping of 32 tourism chalets, with the capacity to accommodate more than 170 visitors in varying format of two, four and six beds per unit and gate security.	135	R36 000 000	R0	The tender briefing was held on the 24 th of November 2017 and the tender closed on the 18 th of December 2017. The planning phase of the project being Work in Progress.
Ezemvelo Ndumo Tembe Project	Infrastructure	The formation of the TFCA is critical for the socio-economic and biodiversity of this northern Maputaland area of KZN. It will further assist in EZEMVELO implementing its "GREENING POLICY" through tried and proven biodiversity management techniques, both within the reserve as well as within the neighbouring communities. Upgrade of infrastructure within Ndumo, including abattoir erect swing bridge over Usuthu River Staff accommodation at Ndumo and Tembe upgrade domestic water supply at Ndumo and Tembe re-establishment of the eastern boundary of Ndumo GR and alternative Agricultural activities.	102	R16 500 000	R544 143	Project awaiting drawdown payment for implementation to commence. Expected completion date of 31 March 2020.

Partnership Projects and Management Unit Projects ...continued						
Project Name	Project Type	Project Activities	No. of Job Opportunities	Total Cost of Investment	Expenditure to Date	Status
Roofing Project	Infrastructure	<p>Involves roofing of more than 52 500 m² with using Harvey-thatch tiles coated with element proof natural stone-chip at five (5) resorts, namely, Didima, Hluhluwe Imfolozi (Hilltop), iThala (Ntshondwe), Mantuma (Mkhuze) and Thendele.</p> <p>Midmar Resurfacing Project: Resurfacing of an area that is about 15 000 m² with tar or paving at Midmar Nature Resort.</p> <p>Didima Security Gate Project: Involves the construction of the Didima security gate facility, using the Green building methods of construction, plus all necessary cameras and IT equipment.</p> <p>Mike's Pass Gravel Road Project: Involves the renovation of a 3.5km road with width varying from 2 to 4 meters, which is in a steep terrain.</p>	300	R33 100 000	R0	<p>The tender briefing was held on the 24th of November 2017 and the tender closed on the 18th of December 2017.</p> <p>The implementation phase for the Midmar Revamp Project is expected to commence in the beginning of June 2018.</p>
Invasive Alien Species Programme	Environmental	Clearing of invasive alien plants.	2 340	R35 000 000	R34 998 428	The project was successfully completed and achieved job opportunities planned and person days planned.
Parthenium Project	Environmental	Parthenium clearing.	171	R5 000 000	R4 383 489	The project is progressing well, the EPWP teams carrying out their duties on different sites.
Sigcinamasiko Crèche	Infrastructure	Construction of a crèche, purchasing of furniture and furnishings and erection of the fence.	8	R779 469	R449 438	The work commences on 15 January 2018. The project is for the construction of a crèche, purchasing of furniture and furnishings and fencing of the site. Budget allocated is R779 469. The construction of the building is at the completion stage except for minor things that need to be fixed.
Siphumelele Sewing Project	Infrastructure	Construction of a warehouse, purchasing of machinery, furniture and furnishings and erection of the fence.	4	R491 307	R379 985	The project is for establishing a sewing enterprise. The approved budget to the value of R491 307 was for construction of a warehouse, purchasing of sewing machinery, furniture and furnishings. The construction of the building is at the completion stage except minor things that need to be fixed.
Masters Sewing Project	Infrastructure	Construction of a warehouse, purchasing of machinery, furniture and furnishings and erection of the fence.	0	R264 300	R0	The project was approved by the board committee on 12 January 2018. The technical Services division is finalizing the bill of quantity to be submitted to Supply Chain to invite prospective bidders.

Partnership Projects and Management Unit Projects ...continued

Project Name	Project Type	Project Activities	No. of Job Opportunities	Total Cost of Investment	Expenditure to Date	Status
Natural Resources Management	Environmental	Investment in Ecosystems Services (IES), also known as payments for environmental services (or benefits), are incentives offered to farmers or landowners in exchange for managing their land to provide some sort of ecological service. This project is initiated to reward the catchment residents of the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Mountains in managing and restoring degraded land to improve ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration linked to climate change considerations, ecological and sustainable harvesting benefits and watershed services by addressing erosion and the impact this has on water quantity and quality. Erosion control is done through piling of rocks collected from the nearby river in order to close gullies caused by soil erosion. Working for river project involves collection of litter from the river banks, opening of river channels, rehabilitation and alien clearing. This project operates under two districts namely; Umkhanyakude District Municipality within the Umhlaluyalinga Local Municipality and Harry Gwala District Municipality within the Umzimkhulu Local Municipality.	329	R11 161 348	R11 121 987	The project was successfully completed and achieved job opportunities planned and person days planned.
KZN-Youth Environmental Services	Environmental	Recruitment of 272 participants, aged 18 to 35 years (136 participants per year). They will participate in the Environmental Services KwaZulu-Natal and participate in the environmental community services' accredited training and personnel development as well as placement into employment including self-employment and further training opportunities.	136	R20 000 000	R656 757	The project is progressing well, the EPWP participants are carrying out their duties on different sites.
Environmental Monitors Programme	Environmental	Main objectives of the programme are patrols, monitoring and environmental education implemented in communities and private protected areas within the KwaZulu-Natal Region and divided into five hosts.	422			The project is progressing well, the EPWP participants are carrying out their duties on different sites.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The following objectives were achieved for the 2017/2018 financial year:

	Indicator	Target 2017/18	Actual	Divisional Plans Hi-Level Activities
To operate and maintain Ezemvelo's IT Network Infrastructure and Systems	% of systems availability (emails, SAP) available.	95% availability of critical services (SAP, email, Dynamic, ERES – has a financial implication or hampers operations).	99% achieved.	Implementation of IT maintenance schedules of all critical services.
	Resolution of all faults logged within SLA Specification.	99% resolution to all calls logged with IT service desk.	95% achieved. Target was not reached due to limited resources in terms of maintenance budgets and staff capacity.	Implementation of IT services desk management plan.
	% Network availability (LAN and WAN).	99.5% availability of network on our local and wide area network.	99% Achieved. We have a very strong SLA with our service provider, however copper theft is still an issue in some of the locations.	Implementation of network maintenance schedules of all critical sites and management of SLA with Network providers.
	Number of protected area and Districts with adequate IT requirements.	19 prioritised for the METT and the Districts (including disaster management).	Target achieved.	Implementation IT maintenance schedule 1. IT infrastructure asset list 2. IT requirements/connectivity prioritised.

LEGAL UNIT

OVERVIEW OF 2017/2018

During the year under review, the Legal Office assisted the organisation by drafting and/or reviewing 68 contracts of various sorts. Presently, there are 12 active litigation matters and two litigation matters were finalised.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- ♦ The Acting Legal Officer was appointed as Senior Legal Advisor on a two year contract. This expires in January 2020.
- ♦ The Legal Office is still struggling to deal with its historical backlog but most outstanding matters have been resolved.
- ♦ The Legal Office has been tasked with taking over all HR/ER legal matters, including CCMA matters.
- ♦ Of the current litigation matters, six have not proceeded since the last report, which indicates that the Plaintiffs/Applicants have abandoned their claims and this is taken as a positive.
- ♦ The persistent matter of the Cathedral Peak Road has not been resolved although litigation has quietened down. Efforts to reach a negotiated/political solution are continuing and this matter represents the most significant litigation matter. It appears that this matter has been largely resolved and work is commencing to rehabilitate the road. This should finalise the dispute.
- ♦ Budget constraints, coupled with increases in poaching and other pressures on protected areas, are having a knock-on impact in the Legal Office.

- ♦ The development of an IT-based contract management system appears to have stalled.
- ♦ A detailed 'pro forma' service level agreement has been drafted which should provide a backbone for future SLA's needed by supply chain and this should expedite and simplify contracting going forward.
- ♦ Progress in the promulgation of the new KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Bill has stalled but is not within the Legal Office's mandate to do anything other than provide assistance.
- ♦ The Legal Office is co-ordinating with field staff engaged in anti-poaching activities to increase the effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions.
- ♦ The Legal Office has been involved in criminal proceedings against poachers.
- ♦ The Legal Office continues to provide a wide range of advice and assistance to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and its staff.

OUTLOOK FOR 2018/2019

- ♦ To finalise the process of recruiting an official with a legal qualification.
- ♦ We will be advertising for a new panel of attorneys.
- ♦ Increased poaching and efforts to combat poaching means that an increase in criminal law defence and prosecution, as well as potential civil claims from poachers will increase.
- ♦ The resolution of long standing litigation matters has been prioritised and the avoidance of future litigation and litigation costs is also a priority where this can be achieved without compromising the organisation.
- ♦ The Legal Office will also concentrate on improved efficiencies and delivery times so as to enhance the service offered to the organisation.



D. HUMAN RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The Ezemvelo human resources division is made up of various divisions, which focus on specific aspects of human resource management. These include organisational development and performance management, HR administration, HR development, employee wellness, health and safety, recruitment management and employment relations, and have been reported on separately.

1. HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Human Resources Administration deals with payroll management, payroll creditors, leave management, medical aid, union membership, and the pension/provident funds.

REVIEW OF HR POLICIES

The Human Resources division has a total of 59 policies. A number of policies were reviewed during the 2016/2017 financial year. Human Resources had a target of ten (10) policies identified for review. However, the total of policies reviewed were twenty-four (24), with nine (9) policies approved by the board. During the review process, most of these policies were consolidated into one policy to ensure proper alignment.

EZEMVELO CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The current demographics of Ezemvelo's permanent staff for the financial year 2017/2018 are depicted as follows:

	[F] Female					[M] Male					Grand Total
Occupational Level	Asian	Black	Coloured	White	Total	Asian	Black	Coloured	White	Total	
Top Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3
Senior Management	0	5	0	0	5	2	8	0	2	12	17
Professionally Skilled	4	40	2	17	63	7	72	2	40	121	184
Skilled	9	51	1	17	78	4	74	2	17	97	175
Semi-Skilled	18	248	8	10	284	6	912	2	2	922	1 206
Unskilled	0	239	0	0	239	0	417	0	0	417	656
TOTAL	31	583	11	44	669	19	1 486	6	61	1 572	2 241

TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS AND EXITS

A total of 11 employees were engaged during this financial year. There was a loss of various skills to a total of 123 employees who exited between April 2017 and March 2018, of this, a total of 74 employees exited the organisation due to retirement, 20 Deceased, 16 Resigned and 13 Dismissed.

ANNUAL COST OF LIVING

The annual cost of living adjustments of 7.3% for the A to D band employees were implemented according to the Agreement signed at the Public Service Bargaining Service Chamber. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) determined the cost of living increase for Senior Management Services for the financial year 2017/2018 at 5.5%.

RETIREMENT FUNDS

Management Committee elections where employees have an opportunity to nominate new trustee members were held during 2017/2018. Educational campaigns, teaching members about their fund were also conducted. The pension-backed home loan was implemented with effect from 1 November 2018. Member education workshops to educate members about their fund benefits were conducted throughout the stations in 2017. There were successful traces with Siza Provident Fund and the Government Pension Fund outstanding cases. However, all new exit claims are now paid within twelve months.

MEDICAL AID

The employer appointed Medshield as the service provider for the free medical aid to the A & B band employee with Medivalue being the option plan at a contribution rate, according to member's salary level to a maximum of R1 680.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

During September and October 2017, about 850 employees were awarded for their long service in the organisation for the period 2014 to 2016. These employees served between 21 to 42 years and were given Green Bars, Watches and Certificates. The ceremonies were very well attended.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire management is a legal requirement. Ezemvelo has the obligation to burn fire breaks as a managing authority for a number of parks. Failure to manage these fires, could risk Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's properties and that of the surrounding neighbours, which could result in a huge liability for the organisation. On an annual basis, the organisation employs people from the surrounding communities as Seasonal Workers to assist with the fire breaks for this project. This project normally runs from February to October each year. To ensure all legal requirements are met, Ezemvelo conducts induction sessions for all workers and ensures correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided.

In the last financial year, 2017/2018, this project employed a total of 681 fire season contract staff for the period February – October 2017. These employees were sourced from the surrounding communities and employed at the various reserves, this is another opportunity for Ezemvelo to create work opportunities for neighbouring communities and to strengthen neighbour relations.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Lack of an Integrated Human Resources Payroll system remains a major challenge for the organisation.

OUTLOOK 2018/19

The division will continue investigating the possibilities of implementation of an integrated payroll system.

2. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Annual Training Report (ATR) for the Financial Year 2016/17 and Workplace Skills Plan (WSP) for the Financial Year 2017/18 was accepted and approved by the CATHSSETA which resulted in the organisation receiving the 20% Mandatory Grant of the 1% paid as a Skills Levy.

A total number of 1 475 employees were trained in the period under review in technical skills, staff development (soft skills) and legal compliance training. In this period, emphasis was placed in Legal Compliance Training due to the budget cuts implemented and an amount of R952 130.54 was spent on this training. Furthermore, no new bursaries were offered in this Financial Year and the amount of R44 047.73 was spent as tuition towards existing bursaries.

As part of our contribution to job creation, skills development and alleviation to unemployment within our neighbouring communities, Ezemvelo was involved in a number of Career Exhibitions hosted across the province. Furthermore, 32 young people were hosted under our Internship Programme and 77 under the Work Integrated Learning Programme. This assists young people to either gain the necessary work experience to make them more

employable and/or an opportunity to do the work required in order for them to meet the requirements to obtain their qualifications. Extra funding was sourced through partnerships with either the SETA's or other organisations such as the National Research Fund (NRF). From the figures above, 26 learners were hosted and paid stipends through these partnerships.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The aging facilities of the Training Centre are of great concern. Unfortunately, with the continued budget cuts, minimal can be done and in the period under review, the kitchen, dining room and store rooms were repainted. The Projects and Partnerships Unit has been engaged to look into a funding model to assist in renovating the centre and changing it into a Centre of Excellence and to see how else the facility can be utilised to generate income so it can be self-sustainable.

Delivery of training in the year was a major challenge. Management was unable to release employees, stating different reasons such as not having enough staff at the station in order to release those who must attend training or not having enough budget to travel to training venues and pay subsistence and travelling allowances.

The organisation was unfortunately unable to apply for any of the pivotal programmes advertised by the CATHSSETA during the 2nd window of the Discretionary Grant application process.

This was due to the following:

- None of the organisations needs were listed on the programmes that were advertised as per the sectors scarce and critical skills programmes that have been identified by the SETA.
- Ezemvelo had particularly earmarked the window for internships, learnerships and skills programmes in order to provide much needed financial relief and the window had none of these available to suit our needs.

OUTLOOK 2018/19

The Section will continue to deliver on much needed development especially for Legal Compliance requirements. Engagements with the Projects and Partnerships Unit will continue to ensure that the process of turning the Centre into a Centre of Excellence is expedited.

The Workplace Skills Plan will be implemented in order to meet the CATHSSETA Mandatory Grant Regulations.

3. TALENT MANAGEMENT

Talent Management is about the organisations efforts to recruit, hire, retain, and develop the most talented and best employees available in the job market and in line with Ezemvelo's Employment Equity and Operational Plans.

The Office of the Premier and the Department of Treasury issued a moratorium on the filling of vacant positions in 2015/2016 due to the shortfall in the provincial budget. The moratorium further continued into the 2017/18 financial year. The decision to introduce further cost cutting measures in the Province included freezing of all vacant positions with immediate effect. The organisations vacancy rate is currently at 35%.

CHALLENGES

The lengthy authorisation process and sustained moratorium in filling of critical positions presents numerous organisational challenges, namely Human Resources Management and Operational Plans.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

The major challenges are on the following areas:

- ♦ Low staff morale
- ♦ High rate of turnover
- ♦ High absenteeism
- ♦ Increase in substance abuse
- ♦ No personal development initiatives
- ♦ Increase in labour issues

OPERATIONAL PLANS

- ♦ Negative effect on short and long term operational plans
- ♦ Negative effect on implementation of organisation's strategic plans
- ♦ Low productivity levels

OUTLOOK 2018/19

The office of the Premier recently authorised Ezemvelo to fill some of the critical vacancies effective 3rd March 2018.

4. EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

The employment relations division is responsible for the management of grievances, discipline, collective bargaining and dispute resolution. In addition to the above functions, the division is responsible for ensuring that the labour relations environment is stable and that conflict between management and employees is minimised.

GRIEVANCES

In addition to long outstanding grievances reported in the previous financial year relating to migration, Operation Lungisa. The following grievances were received:

Grievances	
Nature of Grievance	Number of Grievances
Feeling unsafe at work	2
Unfair labour practice	2
Rotation as per the standard operating procedure	1
Placement of the wrong grade through Operation Lungisa	1

During the previous financial year, Grievances task team was formed to look at resolving the long outstanding matters that had escalated to the Chief Executive Officers level.

DISCIPLINARY CASES

The following disciplinary cases were handled in 2017/2018. There seems to be an increase in cases of absenteeism, alcohol abuse and negligence. There also seems to be an increase in the cases committed by employees absorbed through Operation Lungisa. An intervention to address the situation will be embarked on.

Disciplinary Hearings	
Nature of Misconduct	Number of Misconducts
Abscondment	11
Gross insolence	2
Refusal to carry out lawful instruction	9
Negligence	5
Leaving the place of work unauthorised	3
Alcoholism	12
False evidence	2
Neglect/improper performance of duties	5
Breach of employee good faith	8
Violation of safety requirements	4
Insubordination	10
Failing to report absence	3
False evidence	7
Bringing the organisation into disrepute	9
Dishonesty	1
Falsification of documents	1
Record keeping	3
Absenteeism	3
Driving EKZN motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol	2
Fighting	3
Corruption	2
Illegal hunting or gathering	1
Unauthorised/unlawful possession of Ezemvelo property	2
Physical assault or attempted assault	1
Gross wastage	1
Improper use of Ezemvelo property or money	3
Insolence	1

APPEALS

The following appeals were referred to the Appeals Committee during the last financial year

Appeal Hearing	
Nature of Appeal	Number of Appeals
Dismissals/harshness of sentence	5
Procedural defects	3
New evidence	1

CCMA CASES

The following cases were referred to the CCMA

CCMA Cases	
Nature of Dispute	Number of Disputes
Unfair discrimination	1
Promotion	1
Unfair labour practice	5
Non-implementation of grading	1
Unfair dismissals	3
Unfair conduct and promotion	4
Failure to pay acting allowance	1
Non-implementation of a collective agreement	1

LABOUR COURT CASES

Labour Court Cases	
Nature of Dispute	Number of Cases
Review of arbitration award	1

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Due to financial constraints, the financial year ended without negotiations being finalised.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In the previous financial year, Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) offered training to the managers and Employee relations staff on managing workplace discipline and incapacity procedures.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR

All disciplinary hearings were finalised within prescribed timelines in the Disciplinary Code and Procedures. The organisation recorded a one hundred per cent success rate in defending arbitration cases at the CCMA. Conflict situations at stations were resolved e.g. conflict at Ongoye Forest (Field Rangers refusing to perform standby duties); Ntshondwe (staff members complaining about transport); and Nseleni (staff member refusing to vacate accommodation).

5. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Occupational Health and Safety derives its mandate from the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993, the main objective of the Occupational Health and Safety Act is to provide for the health and safety of persons at work against hazards to health and safety arising out of or in connection with the activities of persons at work, to establish an advisory council for occupational health and safety, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Occupational Health and Safety Act envisages the identification, evaluation and management of risks in the workplace, the main aim is to conduct health and safety audits to determine the compliance level of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife with specific legal requirements, and to assess the implementation of the safety management programmes. This enables the organisation to be able to deal with hazards route causes thus minimising injuries.

SCHEDULED AUDITS

In 2017, there were 88 health and safety audits including monitoring and evaluation conducted and 9 external audits by Department of Labour Inspectors. The compliance rate is currently at 92% with all 110 protected areas in the province, which is 6% higher from the previous year 16/17.

INCIDENTS

The organisation recorded the 49 injuries on duty (IOD) during 2017, of which 28 injuries have since been finalised. Nine (9) Occupational Diseases (OD) and 0 fatalities recorded. All the IODs and ODs recorded were reported to the Department of Labour. It was a highlight that no fatalities sustained during working hours during this period.

There were two major structural damages as a result of the LP Gas appliance explosions, both these incidents were reported to Department of Labour for further investigations.

INSURANCE CLAIMS

There were 32 insurance claims recorded for both motor and non-motor reported.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The organisation has submitted its Disaster Management plans to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

There were 48 risk assessments conducted in 2017/18 including the special projects units and all the corrective measures were elevated to relevant Senior Management.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The main challenges were to achieve the compliance due to high rate of vacancies at the station level, especially vacant posts of Officers in Charge.

Occupational health and safety is monitored on a monthly basis, however, due to staff shortages, turn-around time for getting back to the stations is taking too long. The restriction of mileage and budget cuts is also contributing immensely to achieve the full 100% compliance within Ezemvelo facilities.

OUTLOOK 2018/2019

The health and safety unit is hoping to achieve 100% safety compliance and zero injuries at work in future.

6. EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

This component deals with both health and social aspects of employee lives which are sometimes extended to their families.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH

The organisation has a fully flashed unit with clinic facilities including an Occupational Medical Practitioner, which operates in line with Occupational Health & Safety Act, 85 of 1993. In order to ensure compliance, it was compulsory that placement medicals are conducted during the period. A total of 1 276 medicals for various levels and positions were conducted. This included pre-employment medicals of which the bulk of it was from the projects unit.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

Continuous awareness creation programme was conducted, focusing on the areas of social and health patterns, picked up at the clinic and reported by management. The 16 days of activism against Abuse of Women and Children was commemorated and a total of 106 members attended this event held on both regions in different days. Awareness on substance abuse and financial literacy has also been a serious drive. Counselling was provided and one hundred and thirty eight (138) sessions were done, including trauma debriefing. Some of these were referred to by Psychologists.

A total of 650 employees attended the Wellness Days. World Aids Day was commemorated on the 1st of December 2017, held at Midmar with an attendance of 234 employees. Omakhelwane project donated food to 5 families of our late members who passed away during 2017. Employees were encouraged to continue donating to this project.

INCAPACITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The programme was initiated a few years ago and a committee comprising of relevant stakeholders was formed. This committee has been very effective and has worked tirelessly to assist employees who experience work challenges and are unable to perform their duties due to being sick. It therefore has assisted in the redeployment of incapacitated employees to other functions, in line with the Disease and Incapacity Management policy. A total of three incapacity enquiry meetings took place during this period, whereby some employees were redeployed and some returned to work in line with the policy.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

High absenteeism rate is of great concern. The year 2017/18 was a challenging year for the team, due to budget cuts, restricting movements and somehow overstressing the workforce. However, all programmes went according to plan and targets were met.

OUTLOOK 2018/2019

Employee Health and Wellness section will continue, ensuring improved working relationships amongst divisions, in order to improve the situation.

E. INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

1. CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Audit Services Division within Ezemvelo comprise of two sub-units, namely the Audit Services and the Forensic Investigation Unit.

A) AUDIT SERVICES

The Audit Services sub-unit continues to provide independent and objective assurance and consulting services in the areas of internal control, risk management and governance processes. To protect its independence as an Assurance Provider, the unit reports functionally, to the Audit and Risk Committee and operationally, to the Chief Executive Officer, in line with the IIA Standards. On an annual basis, the unit develops a risk-based Annual Audit Plan, which goes through an extensive consultative process, with various stakeholders involved in the audit process for input, prior to its approval by the Audit and Risk Committee. As such, the sub-unit, through the approved 2017/18 annual audit plan, performed and reported on 17 internal audits, which covered various processes within the organisation.

On a continuous basis, the unit performed follow-up reviews to determine and report on the progress achieved, in addressing the audit issues raised in both Auditor Generals' Reports 2016/17 and various Internal Audit Reports. On a quarterly basis, the sub-unit also appraised the Audit and Risk Committee on outcomes of the audits performed during the year, status of the dashboard and implementation of management action plans to address both internal and external audit findings, and the status/progress on the implementation of the audit plan.

The sub-unit managed to revive the quality assurance improvement programme, wherein the Audit Methodology was reviewed, and the supporting automated solution was installed in the organisation's network. The implementation of the periodic internal assessment has been embarked on but is still at infancy stage.

B) FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS

During 2017/18, fifteen (15) matters were reported and received from various platforms. The Forensic Investigation unit provides services relating to the investigation of incidents of fraud and corruption, reported through the existing Fraud Hotline and other platforms within the organisation.

- ♦ The unit investigated eleven (11) cases. A total of seven (7) cases were completed and reported on as at end of 2017/18. Of the seven (7) completed cases, for three (3) cases, instances of fraud were proven by the investigations.
- ♦ Four (4) cases were referred to management for action, as forensic investigations were not the appropriate avenue to resolve the matters. Throughout the year, we also implemented a process wherein we followed up with management to ensure the aforementioned matters were resolved.
- ♦ We continued to implement the follow-up processes to determine and report on the progress management made in implementing the recommendations, emanating from the completed investigation reports

for 2017/18 and prior years. Three (3) matters were actively followed up on during 2017/18, and two (2) matters were successfully closed through disciplinary hearing processes and counselling of the affected employees. One (1) matter was processed through a judicial process and the case will be closed from Ezemvelo's side once the decision (i.e. paying back of the defrauded monies) of the court has been fully complied with by the convicted former employee.

- ♦ Two (2) separately reported suspected fraudulent matters were investigated by KZN Treasury on behalf of Ezemvelo. By the end of the financial year 2017/18, Treasury had not finalised the above matters. On a quarterly basis, the Board was appraised on the status of these investigations and will continue to be appraised.

2. CHALLENGES

Due to budget constraints, the Audit Services sub-unit was unable to implement specialised audits, such as the Information Technology (IT) and value-for-money audits. The use of consultants to implement Forensic Investigations was not required, as the nature and complexity of the cases did not require any additional expertise, as opposed to what the current capacity, within the unit, already possess.

3. OUTLOOK FOR 2018/19

The Internal Audit Unit will continue to build capacity around the specialised audits, through internal training and use of expertise from peers in the Province at no cost. It should be noted that the current budget-cuts will still play a huge role on whether or not specialised audits and forensic investigations, utilising the service providers, will be feasible, unless the matters to be reviewed are urgent and crucial for funding to be availed.

Due to the continued budget constraints, other cost-effective ways to provide the internal staff with necessary training and exposure, will still be explored. The unit will continue to provide assurance services, covering the areas relating to internal controls, risk management and governance processes in a form of full scope audits and thorough follow-ups, utilising the audit log.

The unit will continue to implement the quality assurance improvement programme, which will pave the way for a quality review by IIA to be performed in the future. It should be noted that the IIA QAR review also requires substantial findings to be carried out and the current budget constraints have become a challenge.

With regards to the Forensic Investigation sub-unit, we will continue to conduct investigations as and when the allegations are reported through the hotline and other mechanisms. Furthermore, we will continue to implement the process of following-up with management on the progress being made in the implementation of recommendations emanating from the Forensic Investigation reports. The Board and Legislature will be continually kept abreast on the above to allow these stakeholders to perform their oversight responsibilities over governance issues and to ensure consequence management is implemented.

PART 4:

Annual Financial Statements

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPINION

1. I have audited the financial statements of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board set out on pages 105 to 135, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2018, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the entity as at 31 March 2018, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act of South Africa, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999) (PFMA).

BASIS FOR OPINION

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAS). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this auditor's report.
4. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of ethics for professional accountants (IESBA code) and the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

EMPHASIS OF MATTER

6. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

SIGNIFICANT UNCERTAINTIES

7. With reference to note 22 to the financial statements, there is a lodgement against the state by land claimants in which the entity is the user of the land. There remains significant uncertainty as to the identity of the new owners as the title deeds have not been finalised. The ultimate outcome of the matter cannot presently be determined and no provision for any liability that may result has been made in the financial statements.

OTHER MATTER

8. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

UNAUDITED SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE

9. The supplementary information set out on pages 94 to 98 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited this schedule and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the PFMA, and for such internal control as the accounting authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
11. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting authority is responsible for assessing the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the accounting authority either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD ...continued

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
13. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

14. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected programme presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
15. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the entity. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.
16. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected programme presented in the annual performance report of the entity for the year ended 31 March 2018:

Programme	Pages in the annual performance report
Programme 6 - Biodiversity Conservation	101 - 103

17. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was properly presented and whether performance was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
18. I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected programme.

OTHER MATTER

19. I draw attention to the matter below.

ACHIEVEMENT OF PLANNED TARGETS

20. The annual performance report on pages 99 to 104 contains information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and explanations provided for the over and under achievement of a number of targets.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD *...continued*

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

21. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the entity with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
22. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislation are as follows:

EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT

23. Effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R7.4 million as disclosed in note 26 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 51(1)(b)(ii) of the PFMA. The majority of the irregular expenditure was caused by amounts that were paid in respect of contracts that were expired.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

24. Funds were invested with banking institutions that are not approved by the National Treasury, as required by Treasury Regulation 31.2.1.

OTHER INFORMATION

25. The accounting authority is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises of the message from the Member of Executive Council, the Board Chairman report, the report of the Board and Independent Audit, the Chief Executive Officer report and the Committee members report that is included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected programmes presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
26. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
27. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected programmes presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
28. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. After I receive and read this information, and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

OTHER REPORTS

29. I draw attention to the following engagements conducted by various parties that had, or could have, an impact on the matters reported in the department's financial statements, reported performance information, compliance with applicable legislation and other related matters. These reports did not form part of my opinion on the financial statements or my findings on the reported performance information or compliance with legislation.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD ...continued

INVESTIGATIONS

30. Provincial Treasury conducted three investigations relating to financial irregularities and allegations of corruption relating to the appointment of a service provider. These investigations covered the period April 2012 to March 2016 and were still in progress at year end.
31. Management of the board conducted investigations into fourteen cases relating to alleged irregularities, fraud and corruption. These investigations cover the period April 2014 to March 2017. Seven investigations were completed and the other seven were in progress at year end.

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES

32. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.
33. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.

LEADERSHIP

34. Management did not respond in a timely manner to address the risks of non-compliance with key legislation relating to expenditure and asset management.

Auditor General

Pietermaritzburg

31 August 2018



ANNEXURE -

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AUDIT

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected programmes and on the entity's compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor's report, I also:
 - ♦ identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
 - ♦ obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control
 - ♦ evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the accounting officer
 - ♦ conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease continuing as a going concern
 - ♦ evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION

South Africa

2. NATURE OF BUSINESS

Biodiversity Conservation, Ecotourism and Partnerships

3. ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Z Zulu - (Chairperson)

Ms SP Lebenya - (Deputy Chairperson - Term commenced 01 May 2017)

Adv NZ Khuzwayo

Mr MM Mackenzie

Ms IN Molefe

Ms NL Mthembu

Inkosi BS Mthembu (Term commenced 01 May 2017)

Mr S Mtolo

Mr V Mvelase

Mr T Ndlela

Dr FM Nzama

Adv S Sethene

Dr SD Singh (Term ended 31 January 2018)

Mr B Khoza

4. ACCOUNTING OFFICER

5. REGISTERED OFFICE

Queen Elizabeth Park
No. 1 Peter Brown Drive
Montrose
Pietermaritzburg
3201

6. POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 13053
Cascades
3202

7. CONTROLLING DEPARTMENT

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic
Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

8. SECRETARY

Ms H Sutter

ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROVAL

The Board, as the accounting authority of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board, is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and performance information in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and in the manner required by the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999) (PFMA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Act, 1997 (Act No. 9 of 1997).

Accordingly the Board:

- ♦ has reviewed the annual financial statements and performance information of the entity;
- ♦ has a reasonable basis to concur that the annual financial statements and performance information are free from material misstatement and thus fairly present the financial position, the performance and cash flows of entity;
- ♦ is not aware of any material breakdown in the internal controls of the entity or any changes to such controls that may affect the effectiveness of the internal controls;
- ♦ has ensured that internal controls are established and maintained during the current year, and there is a functioning system of risk management;
- ♦ has ensured, in conjunction with the Audit Committee, that any significant breakdown in controls are addressed and where relevant are reported to Treasury and the Auditors;

- ♦ has ensured that the financial statements are prepared by applying appropriate accounting policies in accordance with the South African Statements of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), and in a manner required by the PFMA,
- ♦ has ensured that accounting policies have been consistently applied per major class of transactions and balances and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- ♦ has ensured that any deviations from GRAP have been sufficiently disclosed in the notes to the financial statements; and
- ♦ has assessed the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and there is no reason to believe that the entity will not be a going concern in the year ahead.

The Auditor-General has audited the financial and non-financial performance and their report is presented as part of this report. The financial statements and performance information were approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Chairman of the Board

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ATTENDANCE

For the year under review the following people served on the Audit and Risk Committee, which is expected to meet at least four times per annum as per its approved charter. The Audit and Risk Committee met 6 times during the year.

Name of member	No. of meetings attended
Mr BW Ngubane (Chairperson)	6
Mr NF Mchunu (Re-appointed 1 Nov 2017)	6
Ms N Mthembu (Term ended 31 Oct 2017)	3
Adv S Sethene (Term ended 31 January 2018)	5
Mr T Ndlela	5
Adv NZ Khuzwayo (Term - 2 May 2017 to 30 May 2017)	1
Ms IN Molefe (Term - 2 May 2017 to 30 May 2017)	2
Mr SK Dlongolo (Appointed 1 Nov 2017)	2
Ms CN Mhlongo (Appointed 1 Nov 2017)	2

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY

The committee has complied with its responsibilities as set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. The entity has a fully functional Internal Audit Division. The Head of Internal Audit reports functionally to the Audit and Risk Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The entity monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of its internal control over financial and risk management through its Internal Audit unit. This Internal Audit unit reports to the entity's Audit and Risk Committee and the Board in compliance with the PFMA and the National Treasury Regulations. The entity also maintains a Risk Management Process which enables corrective action to be taken timeously.

EVALUATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Audit and Risk committee has:

- ♦ reviewed the annual financial statements to be included in the annual report;
- ♦ reviewed the Management Report prepared by the Auditor-General of South Africa and management's response thereto; and
- ♦ reviewed the entity's compliance with legal and regulatory provisions.

The Audit and Risk committee concurs with the audit opinion of the Auditor-General of South Africa.



Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee

ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY'S REPORT

1. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The entity recorded a deficit of R6.3 million (2017: restated deficit of R32.5 million).

2. GOING CONCERN

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

The ability of the entity to continue as a going concern is dependent on a number of factors. The most significant of these is that the entity continues to receive funding for on-going operations from the relevant government authority. To this end the amounts voted by legislature to conservation within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) are expected to be received over the next three financial years ending 31 March 2020. Strategies and plans to improve the financial position of the organisation are continually being developed, implemented and monitored.

3. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The members are not aware of any matter or circumstance that has arisen since the end of the financial year which could materially affect the annual financial statements.

4. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION

Rationalisation of KwaZulu-Natal Public Entities.

As part of the ongoing rationalisation process, the KZN Provincial Executive Council has taken a resolution endorsing a proposal that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZW) changes its operating model and outsource a significant portion of its ecotourist facilities and services to the private sector hospitality industry.

It was also resolved that the conservation activities of EKZNW and the KZN Sharks Board (KZNSB) be merged. In this regard there will be one Board overseeing the functions of the merged entities.

A joint committee led by EDTEA HOD, comprising of EDTEA representatives and the management team will drive the implementation of this resolution.

5. PRIOR PERIOD ERRORS

The impact of prior period errors on the results of the entity is reflected in note 2 to the annual financial statements.

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the prescribed Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP) issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

6. ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY

For the period under review the Board members and members of the Board committees were:

Name	No. of Meetings Attended	No. of Meetings Held
Board		
Mr Z Zulu (Chairperson)	8	9
Ms SP Lebenya (Deputy Chairperson) (Term commenced - 1 May 2017)	9	9
Adv NZ Khuzwayo	3	9
Mr MM Mackenzie	7	9
Ms IN Molefe	7	9
Ms NL Mthembu	6	9
Inkosi BS Mthembu (Term commenced - 1 June 2017)	5	9
Mr S Mtolo	6	9
Mr V Mvelase	6	9
Mr T Ndlela	7	9
Dr FM Nzama	7	9
Adv S Sethene (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	4	9
Dr SD Singh (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	2	9
Biodiversity Conservation and Community Affairs Committee		
Mr S Mtolo (Chairperson)	5	5
Mr MM Mackenzie	5	5
Dr FM Nzama	5	5
Dr SD Singh (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	4	5
Ms IN Molefe	5	5
Inkosi BS Mthembu (Term commenced - 1 May 2017)	3	5
Mr Z Zulu (ex-officio)	1	5
Finance and Governance Committee		
Mr T Ndlela (Chairperson)	5	5
Adv NZ Khuzwayo	3	5
Ms SP Lebenya (Term commenced - 1 May 2017)	3	5
Ms NL Mthembu	5	5
Mr V Mvelase	5	5
Adv S Sethene (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	4	5
Mr Z Zulu (Ex- Officio)	1	5
Human Resources and Remuneration Committee		
Ms IN Molefe (Chairperson)	5	5
Ms SP Lebenya (Term commenced - 1 May 2017)	3	5
Ms NL Mthembu	5	5
Mr V Mvelase	4	5
Dr FM Nzama	5	5
Adv S Sethene (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	5	5
Ecotourism and Business Development Committee		
Mr V Mvelase (Chairperson)	5	5
Mr MM Mackenzie	4	5
Mr S Mtolo	5	5
Mr T Ndlela	5	5
Dr FM Nzama	5	5
Dr SD Singh (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	2	5
Mr Z Zulu	2	5
Bid Adhoc Task Team		
Mr T Ndlela (Chairperson)	6	6
Mr V Mvelase	5	6
Mr S Mtolo	6	6

ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY'S REPORT ...continued

7. MEMBER EMOLUMENTS

Audit & Risk Committee

	Remuneration	Allowances	Total package 2018	Total package 2017
Mr BW Ngubane (Chairperson)	158 356	-	158 356	163 661
Mr NF Mchunu	98 207	-	98 207	86 180
Ms N Mthembu (Term ended 31 Oct 2017)	49 103	3 063	52 166	88 680
Mr SK Dlongolo	36 443	1 389	37 832	-
Ms CN Mhlongo	36 032	3 616	39 648	-
Mr BD Nkosi (Term ended - 30 November 2016)	-	-	-	81 839
Ms BD Ngidi (Term ended - 30 November 2016)	-	-	-	65 471
Adv S Sethene (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	81 839	-	81 839	16 368
Mr T Ndlela (Term commenced - 01 February 2017)	81 839	4 163	86 002	16 368
Adv NZ Khuzwayo (Term - 2 May 2017 to 30 May 2017)	16 368	1 138	17 506	-
Mr Z Zulu	16 368	-	16 368	-
Ms IN Molefe (Term - 2 May 2017 to 30 May 2017)	32 736	1 602	34 338	-
	607 291	14 971	622 262	518 567

Board Members (01 April 2016 - 30 November 2016)

Mr ZC Ngidi (Chairperson)	-	-	-	741 913
Prof AT Nzama (Deputy Chairperson)	-	-	-	324 163
Mr JP Rutsch	-	-	-	306 458
Ms SP Lebenya	-	-	-	278 795
Mr BD Nkosi	-	-	-	250 596
Inkosi MI Tembe	-	-	-	243 227
Mr SJ Mhlongo	-	-	-	235 705
Mr SA Ndlela	-	-	-	267 109
Ms NL Mthembu	-	-	-	266 744
Ms P Dabideen	-	-	-	293 182
Mr MM Mackenzie	-	-	-	352 698
Ms BD Ngidi	-	-	-	244 185

Board Members (01 February 2017)

Mr Z Zulu (Chairperson)	797 216	12 122	809 338	105 844
Ms SP Lebenya (Deputy Chairperson) (Term commenced - 01 May 2017)	467 274	11 550	478 824	-
Adv NZ Khuzwayo	210 592	6 694	217 286	25 850
Mr MM Mackenzie	307 343	55 551	362 894	41 973
Ms IN Molefe	376 132	11 402	387 534	25 111
Ms NL Mthembu	305 256	43 289	348 545	34 439
Inkosi BS Mthembu (Term commenced - 01 May 2017)	181 103	18 797	199 900	-
Mr S Mtolo	358 481	2 025	360 507	54 754
Mr V Mvelase	361 042	25 147	386 189	57 091
Mr T Ndlela	383 480	17 040	400 520	57 995
Dr FM Nzama	382 596	20 128	402 724	59 473
Adv S Sethene (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	263 957	-	263 957	56 095
Dr SD Singh (Term ended - 31 January 2018)	197 305	8 309	205 614	16 968
	4 591 777	232 054	4 823 832	4 340 368
	5 199 068	247 025	5 446 094	4 858 935

The annual financial statements set out on pages 105 to 135 were approved by the accounting authority and were signed on its behalf by:



Chairman of the Board

PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18

Strategic/ Measurable Objective	KPI	Prior Year Actual Output Validated	Current Year					
			Planned Output as per APP	Actual Output Validated	Deviation / % Deviation	Comments on Deviation	Planned Interventions	Challenges, Comments & Achievements Against Planned Outputs
Programme: Administration								
Promote good governance (AS)	Number of Audits performed	22	15	18	3	Target exceeded - An additional 3 audits were conducted based on risks identified during the year.	N/A	N/A
Improve service delivery of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	% of Legislative or oversight performance reports submitted	100%	100%	100%	0	Target achieved - All legislative reports were prepared and submitted on time.	N/A	N/A
Programme: Financial Services								
Promote good governance	% of creditors paid within agreed terms	96%	100%	97%	-3%	Target achieved - The suppliers who were not paid on time were due to queries which needed to be resolved.	A 97% achievement is deemed acceptable.	N/A
	% budget variance	-15%	< 10%	-14%	-14%	Target partially achieved - The late receipt of funds for infrastructure improvements and the sale of an asset towards the end of the financial year resulted in the deviation of more than 10%.	Management shall request Treasury to allow Ezemvelo to carry over the funds to alleviate the pressures caused by cost cutting.	N/A
	% of own generated revenue ear-marked for maintenance of immovable assets	6%	3%	7%	4%	Target exceeded - The overachievement was because of carryover funds which contributed 4.5%.	N/A	N/A
	% of budget allocated to capital infrastructure spent	6%	1%	1%	0%	Target achieved due to carry over funds.	N/A	N/A
	Percentage (%) procurement contribution towards B-BBEE (targeted businesses)	36%	60%	60%	0%	Target achieved.	N/A	
	% of procurement plan implemented according to schedule	New	>90%	89%	-1%	Target achieved - Of the 30 projects that were planned in 2017-2018 procurement plan, 2 were still at evaluation at year-end, 5 were cancelled due to various reasons and 7 had to be rolled into a new financial year beyond SCM control.	N/A	It needs to be noted that there are critical vacancies in the Supply Chain Management Unit.

PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18 ...continued

Strategic/ Measurable Objective	KPI	Prior Year Actual Output Validated	Current Year					
			Planned Output as per APP	Actual Output Validated	Deviation / % Deviation	Comments on Deviation	Planned Interventions	Challenges, Comments & Achievements Against Planned Outputs
Programme: Human Resources								
Promote a good corporate culture	% implementation of Human Resource Plan	29%	100%	84.06%	-15.9%	Target partially achieved - The underachievement was due to financial constraints which affected the annual negotiations, implementation of skills development initiatives and filling of vacancies.	The areas where achievement was hampered would be prioritised in the new financial year.	Lack of financial resources is a huge contributing factor.
Programme: Corporate Services								
Contribute towards government priorities in relation to rural development, creating job opportunities and a healthy environment	100% annual corporate support plan implemented	New	100%	86.67%	-13.3%	Target partially achieved - The archiving and business analysis initiatives were not completed due to the lack of resources.	Those initiatives will be reassessed and implemented once there are sufficient resources.	Lack of financial resources is a huge contributing factor.
	Number of rural development community-based projects initiated	8	4	6	2	Target exceeded - The opportunity arose to initiate 2 additional rural development community-based projects.	N/A	The 2 additional projects initiated.
	Percentage (%) of projects completed on time within budget	98%	100%	100%	0	Target achieved.	N/A	N/A
	Number of employment (work) opportunities created annually	7 660	1 500	11 890	10 390	Target exceeded.	Number of employment (work) opportunities created annually	7 660
	Rand value of external funding secured	R155.3 million	R160 million	R120.8 million	-R39.2 million	Target partially achieved - The current financial climate is not conducive for fundraising.	A dedicated fundraising office has been established.	Efforts for fundraising shall continue.
	Number of fixed term equivalents (FTEs) created	709	250	970	720	Target exceeded - Earlier than anticipated release of funding allowed for more employment opportunities to be created.	N/A	Labour intense projects aligned to the conservation estate were prioritised.

PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVE

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18 ...continued

Strategic/ Measurable Objective	KPI	Prior Year Actual Output Validated	Current Year					
			Planned Output as per APP	Actual Output Validated	Deviation / % Deviation	Comments on Deviation	Planned Interventions	Challenges, Comments & Achievements Against Planned Outputs
Programme: Business Development								
To develop and pilot new streams of revenue generation, through proper project management techniques, thereby adding to revenue generation	Rand value added to Mainstream revenue	New	Operational Model Confirmed	-	-100%	Target not achieved - There has been a lack of consensus with regards to the policy on commercialisation, hence non-achievement. No Operational Model could be confirmed as the commercialisation project has not as yet been approved.	Stakeholder consultation to reach consensus is planned for the new financial year. To secure meeting with the Board and the MEC's Office to resolve the authorisation process in the new financial year.	Authorisation of the commercialisation process has been a challenge, however, 85% of the planning process was achieved during the 2017/18 year.
To reduce the cost of doing business as well as improving efficiencies by identifying, analysing and improving business models, processes and procedures	Rand value of business cost reduced							
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation								
Manage protected areas effectively (IASP)	% of Invasive Alien Plant maintenance areas cleared and % decrease of uncleared areas (of mapped areas)	100% of maintenance	100% of maintenance	86.67%	-14%	Target partially achieved - The drought in the northern parts of the province impacted on the achievement of the target on maintenance however, the effort was directed towards initial clearing.	Attempts to complete the work will be undertaken in the new financial year.	N/A
		5% decrease of uncleared areas	5% decrease of uncleared areas	27%	22%			
Manage protected areas effectively (METT)	% of protected area network that meet the minimum management effectiveness standard (67%)	19%	50%	69.25%	19.25%	Target exceeded - A coordinated intervention plan was implemented which resulted in the over achievement.	N/A	The intervention plan will be championed annually to sustain and improve the scores.

PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18 ...continued

Strategic/ Measurable Objective	KPI	Prior Year Actual Output Validated	Current Year					
			Planned Output as per APP	Actual Output Validated	Deviation / % Deviation	Comments on Deviation	Planned Interventions	Challenges, Comments & Achievements Against Planned Outputs
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation ...continued								
Management of biodiversity conservation outside protected areas	Number of biodiversity awareness activities conducted	8	8	11	3	Target exceeded - Efficient coordination of activities allowed for additional achievement.	N/A	N/A
	Additional ha submitted for proclamation	18 872 ha	0	4 545	4 545	Target exceeded - Due to resource constraints, there were no planned targets, however, requests received and processed resulted in land being submitted for proclamation.	N/A	The following sites were submitted for proclamation: Umgano Nature Reserve, Ingula and Meycol Nature Reserve.
	Number of Biodiversity Stewardship sites submitted for proclamation	0	0	3	3	Target exceeded - Due to resource constraints, there were no planned targets, however, the 3 sites were submitted.	N/A	The following stewardship sites were submitted for proclamation: Umgano Nature Reserve, Ingula and Meycol Nature Reserve.
	Number of permits issued within timeframes	4 873	5 100	4 682	-418	Target partially achieved - Permits are a demand driven indicator hence targets are based on trends.	Demand driven targets are being reviewed going forward.	N/A
Mitigate threats to biodiversity	Number of enforcement actions undertaken for non- compliance with environmental legislation	33	5	32	27	Target exceeded - Demand driven indicator, based on compliance needs.	Demand driven targets are being reviewed going forward.	N/A
	Number of compliance inspections conducted	15 393	1 500	583	-917	Target partially achieved - Vacant District Conservation Officers posts and lack of resources has severely hampered the achievement of this objective.	A new business model is being considered to address the capacity issue.	N/A

PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVE

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18 ...continued

Strategic/ Measurable Objective	KPI	Prior Year Actual Output Validated	Current Year					
			Planned Output as per APP	Actual Output Validated	Deviation / % Deviation	Comments on Deviation	Planned Interventions	Challenges, Comments & Achievements Against Planned Outputs
Programme: Biodiversity Conservation ...continued								
Mitigate threats to biodiversity	Target threshold of mortality rate of endangered species (rhino poaching)	5.45% white rhino	2% white rhino	6.61% white rhino	-4.61% white rhino	Target partially achieved - Although the annual target has not been achieved there is an improvement in Quarter 4 of this financial year when compared to Quarter 4 of the last financial year.	Additional field rangers to be appointed to rhino reserves in the new financial year.	One of the major risks in rhino reserve security assessments was the field ranger vacancies. Helicopter surveillance operations are now undertaken at night.
		2.56% black rhino	1% black rhino	3.86% black rhino	-2.86% black rhino			
	Percentage (%) of all land use transformation applications received and commented on within timeframes	44%	40%	59%	19%	Target exceeded - The database coming online in the first quarter enabled more accurate tracking and reporting.	N/A	N/A
	Percentage (%) of environmental authorisations (EAs) that have the threats to biodiversity fully mitigated	53%	75%	69%	-6%	Target partially achieved – Authorisations are issue by the Executive Authority (EA) and hence the inclusion of biodiversity mitigation comments is their prerogative.	An analysis of the excluded comments has to be made and concerns raised with the EA.	The 2km zone around protected areas was prioritised.
	Number of municipalities with relevant staff capacitated on SPLUMA	8	11	11	0	Target achieved.	N/A	N/A
	Number of biodiversity management plans for threatened species developed	1	0	-	-	No target - None was planned for this financial year.	N/A	N/A
	State of Biodiversity Report produced	1	0	-	-	No target - Report was produced last financial year and is planned to be produced in 2020/21 aligned with the Provincial Environmental Outlook Report.	N/A	N/A

PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18 ...continued

Strategic/ Measurable Objective	KPI	Prior Year Actual Output Validated	Current Year					
			Planned Output as per APP	Actual Output Validated	Deviation / % Deviation	Comments on Deviation	Planned Interventions	Challenges, Comments & Achievements Against Planned Outputs
Programme: Ecotourism Services								
Position Ezemvelo as a destination of choice and optimise revenue generation	Total number of visitors to Ezemvelo Parks	647 992	591 800	656 796	64 996	Target exceeded - Effective implementation of various marketing initiatives enabled the target to be exceeded.	N/A	Compared to 2016/17, there were 10 655 more visitors to our Parks in 2017/18.
	% Accommodation Unit Occupancy Rate	44.4%	46.5%	44.63%	-1.9%	Target partially achieved - The closure of some of the tourism facilities due to poor infrastructure contributed to the under achievement of this target.	Maintenance of dilapidated facilities is being given priority, particularly roofing and other revamps at resorts.	The information indicates that the tourists although, visiting the parks are not overnighting. The current Infrastructure Development Programme will address the poor state of the tourism infrastructure.
	Customer satisfaction Index	N/A	70%	73%	3%	Target exceeded - A concerted effort to improve customer service has resulted in the target being exceeded.	N/A	The tourism satisfaction was tracked monthly.
	Number of additional resorts with desired Star Rating	N/A	2	0	-2	Target not achieved - Due to financial constraints, priority was given to addressing tourism standards areas that were identified by the grading audit.	Prioritise infrastructure upgrades and maintenance based on occupancy and revenue generation.	The organisation is operating with extremely limited resources, as such priority was given to regrading areas identified by grading audit.
	Total rand value revenue generated from ecotourism activities	R240.9 million	R214 million	R224 958 594	R10 958 594	Target exceeded - Targeted marketing initiatives allowed for the over-achievement of the target.	N/A	Marketing, maintenance, rates and diverse packages can be optimised with appropriate budget levels.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 March 2018

R'000	Note(s)	March 2018	Restated March 2017
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Inventories	8	16 908	17 332
Trade and other receivables	9	28 497	41 921
Cash and cash equivalents	10	278 374	173 446
		323 779	232 699
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	740 235	787 234
Intangible assets	5	5 858	7 998
		746 093	795 232
Total Assets		1 069 872	1 027 931
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	14	102 967	94 342
Deferred Income	11	93 319	64 743
Provisions	12	73 146	66 927
External projects	13	34 563	31 933
		303 995	257 945
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	12	65 107	62 933
Total Liabilities		369 102	320 878
Net Assets		700 770	707 053
Net Assets			
Accumulated surplus		700 770	707 053

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000	Note(s)	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Revenue	15	947 198	891 610
Other Income	16	158 504	193 056
Total Revenue		1 105 702	1 084 666
Employee costs	18	(718 300)	(658 631)
Operating expenses	17	(393 685)	(458 573)
Operating deficit		(6 283)	(32 538)
Finance costs		-	(10)
Deficit for the year		(6 283)	(32 548)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000	Revaluation Reserve	Accumulated Reserves	Total Net Assets
Opening balance as previously reported 31 March 2015	226 622	476 623	703 245
Surplus for the year	-	24 506	24 506
Prior year adjustments	-	11 852	11 852
Balance at 31 March 2016 restated	226 622	512 981	739 603
Deficit for the period	-	(34 283)	(34 283)
Opening balance as previously reported 31 March 2017	226 622	478 698	705 320
Prior year adjustments	(226 622)	228 355	1 733
Balance at 31 March 2017 restated	-	707 053	707 053
Deficit for the year	-	(6 283)	(6 283)
Balance at 31 March 2018	-	700 770	700 770

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000	Note(s)	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Sale of Goods and Services		301 288	275 643
Transfers		704 620	645 472
Interest income		6 816	12 663
Other receipts - Non-exchange revenue		106 824	131 973
		1 119 548	1 065 751
Payments			
Employee costs		(718 300)	(658 631)
Suppliers		(185 026)	(318 530)
Finance costs		-	(10)
Other cash item - Non-exchange transaction		(103 739)	(132 600)
		(1 007 065)	(1 109 771)
Net cash flows from operating activities	19	112 483	(44 020)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	4	(30 278)	(105 265)
Purchase of intangible assets	5	(482)	-
Disposal of property, plant and equipment		20 575	15 552
Net cash flows from investing activities		(10 185)	(89 713)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net change to trust funds and external projects	20	2 630	3 283
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		104 928	(130 450)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		173 446	303 896
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10	278 374	173 446

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2018

Budget on Cash Basis	Approved Budget	Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Amounts on Comparable Basis	Difference Between Final Budget and Actual	Reference
R'000						
Income						
Own Revenue	231 424	61 924	293 348	287 337	(6 011)	1
Provincial Subsidy	707 720	124 865	832 585	832 809	224	
Non-Exchange Revenue	-	92 228	92 228	63 378	(28 850)	2
	939 144	279 017	1 218 161	1 183 524	(34 637)	
Expenditure						
Compensation of Employees	773 201	(32 500)	740 701	729 339	(11 362)	3
Goods and Services	143 557	120 122	263 679	222 578	(41 101)	4
Interest and Rent on land	932	931	1 863	1 713	(150)	
Non-Exchange Expenditure	-	92 228	92 228	63 849	(28 379)	5
Assets	21 454	98 236	119 690	28 445	(91 245)	6
	939 144	279 017	1 218 161	1 045 924	(172 237)	
Net Surplus	-	-	-	137 600	137 600	
Reconciliation to net deficit per the Statement of Financial Performance						
Net Surplus				137 600		
Assets acquisitions				30 760		
Carry-overs				(86 672)		
Depreciation				(52 572)		
Leave pay provision increase				(6 329)		
Proceeds from disposal of assets				(21 791)		
Loss on disposal of assets				(6 754)		
Sundry Differences				(525)		
Deficit for the year				(6 283)		

1. Due to the drop in visitors staying overnight.
2. Two major projects under earned on the budgeted income. One was due to the delay in signing the new agreement and the other was due to challenges with the principal agent which has since been resolved.
3. Under spending due to vacant posts not being filled.
4. R20 million unspent relates to the proceeds from the sale of land for which the proceeds were only received in March. The balance is committed expenses with suppliers.
5. There was a delay with two major projects - One was due to the delay in signing the new agreement and the other was due to challenges with the principal agent which has since been resolved.
6. R12 million is committed expenses with suppliers and R42 million unspent relates to funding received late in the year from the Department for two major projects. Two projects with a budget of R18 million were also put on hold by the Department.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), issued by the Accounting Standards Board in accordance with Section 91(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999).

These annual financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention as the basis of measurement, unless specified otherwise. They are presented in South African Rand.

1.1 BIOLOGICAL ASSETS

The entity recognises biological assets or agricultural produce when, and only when:

- ♦ the entity controls the asset as a result of past events;
- ♦ it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the entity; and
- ♦ the fair value or cost of the asset can be measured reliably.

The biological assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position, as the fair value or cost of the assets cannot be measured reliably. The status and trend of Biodiversity assets in the province is monitored from a broad (ecosystem) to fine (species) levels, through a number of programmes which are both formal and informal.

1.2 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment are tangible non-current assets (including infrastructure assets) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used over more than one period.

The value of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when:

- ♦ it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity; and
- ♦ the cost or fair value of the item can be measured reliably.

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Property, plant and equipment is depreciated on the straight line basis over their expected useful lives.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Average useful life
Buildings	20 to 100 years
Plant and machinery	1 to 15 years
Furniture and fixtures	1 to 15 years
Aircraft, Vehicles and Boats	3 to 40 years
Computer equipment	1 to 15 years
Roads	5 to 50 years
Dams, Reservoirs and Boreholes	15 to 25 years
Fencing	5 to 20 years

The useful lives of assets are re-assessed on a yearly basis and adjusted where required, however the above estimated useful lives are the accepted norm and in certain instances the assets would be fully depreciated as they are at the end of their useful lives but still be in use.

These useful lives of assets are assessed yearly. Where the requirements of GRAP 17 were correctly applied in prior periods, but expectations changed during the year, then the adjustment will result in a change in accounting estimate (i.e. an adjustment to depreciation) and not an error. However, if the requirements of GRAP 17 were not correctly applied in prior periods, the adjustment results in an error in accordance with GRAP 3.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES *...continued*

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1.2 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT *...continued*

Adjustments are not made to assets that are not significant to the organisation’s operations and service delivery objectives. If the assets are significant to the organisation’s operations, service delivery objectives and are material, then appropriate adjustments will be made.

1.3 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

An intangible asset is identifiable if it either:

- ♦ is separable, i.e. is capable of being separated or divided from an entity and sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, identifiable assets or liability, regardless of whether the entity intends to do so; or
- ♦ arises from binding arrangements (including rights from contracts), regardless of whether those rights are transferable or separable from the entity or from other rights and obligations.

An intangible asset is recognised when:

- ♦ it is probable that the expected future economic benefits or service potential that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity; and
- ♦ the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization and any impairment losses.

The amortisation period and the amortisation method for intangible assets are reviewed at each reporting date.

Amortisation is provided to write down the intangible assets, on a straight line basis, to their residual values as follows:

Item	Useful life
Computer software, other	3 to 10 years

1.4 HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets are assets that have a cultural, environmental, historical, natural, scientific, technological or artistic significance and are held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations.

RECOGNITION

The entity recognises a heritage asset as an asset when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the entity, and the cost or fair value can be measured reliably.

Where the entity holds a heritage asset, but on initial recognition, it does not meet the recognition criteria because it cannot be reliably measured, information on such a heritage asset is disclosed in the note.

1.5 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

CLASSIFICATION

Classification depends on the purpose for which the financial instruments were obtained/incurred and takes place at initial recognition. Classification is re-assessed on an annual basis, except for derivatives and financial assets designated as at fair value through surplus or deficit, which shall not be classified out of the fair value through surplus or deficit category.

The entity classifies financial assets and financial liabilities into the following categories:

ACCOUNTING POLICIES ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1.5 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ...continued

TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables are measured at initial recognition, at fair value and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts are recognised in surplus or deficit when there is objective evidence that the asset is impaired. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation and default or delinquency in payments (more than 30 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired. The allowance recognised is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the amount at initial recognition.

TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade payables are initially measured at fair value, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. These are initially and subsequently recorded at fair value.

1.6 LEASES

Leases of assets under which all the risks and rewards of ownership are effectively retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments received and paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial performance over the period of the lease.

1.7 INVENTORIES

Inventories are initially measured at cost except where inventories are acquired through a non-exchange transaction, then their costs are their fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Subsequently inventories are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of operations less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale, exchange or distribution.

The cost of inventories comprises of all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition.

The cost of inventories is assigned using the weighted average cost.

1.8 COMMITMENTS

Items are classified as commitments where the entity commits itself to future transactions that will normally result in the outflow of resources.

Commitments are not recognised in the statement of financial position, but are included in the notes in the following cases:

- ♦ approved and contracted commitments;
- ♦ where the expenditure has been approved and the contract has been awarded at the reporting date; and
- ♦ where disclosure is required by a specific standard of GRAP.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES *...continued*

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1.9 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Events after the reporting date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- (a) those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- (b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date). The entity shall adjust the amounts recognised in its financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting date. The entity shall not adjust the amounts recognised in its financial statements to reflect non-adjusting events after the reporting date.

1.10 IMPAIRMENT OF CASH-GENERATING ASSETS

Cash-generating assets are those assets held by the entity with the primary objective of generating a commercial return. When an asset is deployed in a manner consistent with that adopted by a profit-orientated entity, it generates a commercial return.

Impairment is a loss in the future economic benefits or service potential of an asset, over and above the systematic recognition of the loss of the asset's future economic benefits or service potential through depreciation (amortisation).

Carrying amount is the amount at which an asset is recognised in the statement of financial position after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses thereon.

Depreciation (Amortisation) is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

Useful life is either:

- ♦ the period of time over which an asset is expected to be used by the entity; or
- ♦ the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by the entity.

1.11 IMPAIRMENT OF NON-CASH-GENERATING ASSETS

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable service amount of the asset. If there is any indication that an asset may be impaired, the recoverable service amount is estimated for the individual asset. If it is not possible to estimate the recoverable service amount of the asset, the recoverable service amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs is determined.

The recoverable service amount is the higher of a non-cash generating asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. The value in use for a non-cash generating asset is the present value of the asset's remaining service potential.

If the recoverable service amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable service amount. That reduction is an impairment loss.

An impairment loss of assets carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation or amortisation is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1.12 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

SHORT-TERM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The cost of short-term employee benefits is recognised in the period in which the service is rendered and is not discounted.

Post Employment Benefits

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION AND BENEFIT PLANS

Payments to defined contribution and benefit plans are charged as an expense as they fall due. Payments made to industry-managed (or state plans) retirement benefit schemes are dealt with as defined contribution plans where the entity's obligation under the schemes is equivalent to those arising in a defined contribution retirement benefit plan.

OTHER POST RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

The entity provides post-retirement health care benefits upon retirement to some retirees. The entitlement to postretirement health care benefits is based on the employee remaining in service up to retirement age and the completion of a minimum service period. The expected costs of these benefits are accrued over the period of employment. Independent qualified actuaries carry out valuations of these obligations. The entity also provides a gratuity and housing subsidy on retirement to certain employees. An annual charge to income is made to cover both these liabilities.

1.13 PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

Provisions are recognised when:

- ♦ the entity has a present obligation as a result of a past event;
- ♦ it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- ♦ a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount of a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. Provisions are reversed if it is no longer probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required, to settle the obligation.

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised. Contingencies are disclosed in note 22.

1.14 REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

Revenue is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period when those inflows result in an increase in net assets, other than increases relating to contributions from owners. An exchange transaction is one in which the entity receives assets or services, or has liabilities extinguished and directly gives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of goods, services or use of assets) to the other party in exchange.

SALE OF GOODS

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when all the following conditions have been satisfied:

- ♦ the entity has transferred to the purchaser the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods;
- ♦ the entity retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- ♦ the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- ♦ it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity; and
- ♦ the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES *...continued*

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1.14 REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS *...continued*

RENDERING OF SERVICES

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services can be estimated reliably, revenue associated with the transaction is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. The outcome of a transaction can be estimated reliably when all the following conditions are satisfied:

- ♦ the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- ♦ it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity;
- ♦ the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date can be measured reliably; and
- ♦ the costs incurred for the transaction and the costs to complete the transaction can be measured reliably.

When services are performed by an indeterminate number of acts over a specified time frame, revenue is recognised on a straight line basis over the specified time frame unless there is evidence that some other method better represents the stage of completion. When a specific act is much more significant than any other acts, the recognition of revenue is postponed until the significant act is executed. When the outcome of the transaction involving the rendering of services cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent of the expenses recognised that are recoverable.

INTEREST

Revenue arising from the use by others of entity assets yielding interest is recognised when:

- ♦ It is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity, and
- ♦ The amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.

1.15 REVENUE FROM NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

Non-exchange transactions are transactions that are not exchange transactions. In a non-exchange transaction, an entity either receives value from another entity without directly giving approximately equal value in exchange, or gives value to another entity without directly receiving approximately equal value in exchange.

TRANSFERS

The entity recognises an asset in respect of transfers when the transferred resources meet the definition of an asset and satisfy the criteria for recognition as an asset.

Transfers received in respect of projects to which conditions are attached, are treated as liabilities (external projects/deferred income) and subsequently recognized as revenue in the periods that expenditure has been incurred, in accordance with the project business plans.

Transferred assets are measured at their fair value as at the date of acquisition.

PERMITS AND FINES

Permits and fines are recognised as revenue when the receivable meets the definition of an asset and satisfies the criteria for recognition as an asset.

Where the entity collects fines in the capacity of an agent, the fine will not be revenue of the collecting entity.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS, INCLUDING GOODS IN-KIND

Gifts and donations, including goods in kind, are recognised as assets and revenue when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the entity and the fair value of the assets can be measured reliably.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

1.16 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to changes in presentation in the current year. Changes in accounting policies and fundamental errors are also restated in the prior year figures.

1.17 FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

Fruitless expenditure means expenditure which was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised.

All expenditure relating to fruitless and wasteful expenditure is recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance in the year that the expenditure was incurred. The expenditure is classified in accordance with the nature of the expense and, where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the statement of financial performance.

1.18 IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE

Irregular expenditure as defined in section 1 of the PFMA is expenditure other than unauthorised expenditure, incurred in contravention of or that is not in accordance with a requirement of any applicable legislation, including -

- ♦ this Act; or
- ♦ the State Tender Board Act, 1968 (Act No. 86 of 1968), or any regulations made in terms of the Act; or
- ♦ any provincial legislation providing for procurement procedures in that provincial government.

The Board also adheres to National Treasury practice note no. 4 of 2008/2009 which was issued in terms of sections 76(1) to 76(4) of the PFMA (effective from 1 April 2008):

1.19 BUDGET INFORMATION

The Budget is approved on a cash basis. The approved budget covers the period from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The budget and accounting bases differ. The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis whereas the budget is prepared on the cash basis.

1.20 RELATED PARTIES

The entity operates in an economic sector currently dominated by entities directly or indirectly owned by the South African Government. As a consequence of the constitutional independence of the three spheres of government in South Africa, only entities within the national sphere of government are considered to be related parties.

Only transactions with related parties not at arm's length or not in the ordinary course of business are disclosed.

1.21 VALUE ADDED TAXATION (VAT)

The Revenue Laws Amended Act, 2003 (Act No. 45 of 2003) commenced on 22 December 2003. In terms of this Act, with effect from 1 April 2005, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, which is listed in Schedule 3C of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 now falls within the definition of "public authority" as defined in section 1 of the VAT Act. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife was consequently deregistered for VAT purposes.

1.22 TAXATION

No provision has been made for taxation, as the entity is exempt from income tax in terms of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No. 58 of 1962).

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2018

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
R'000		
2. PRIOR PERIOD ERRORS		
The comparative figures have been amended to account for the prior period errors.		
Below is a description of each individual prior period error indicating the total effect of the prior period errors on the amounts previously disclosed.		
Statement of financial position		
Trade and other receivables		
Previously stated	-	40 880
Correction of Debtor previously not raised	-	1 506
Correction of Debtor not cleared	-	(465)
	-	41 921
Provisions		
Previously stated	-	130 552
Leave provision - Over provision of leave in the prior year	-	(692)
	-	129 860
The following is the correction to the revaluation reserve error dating back to 2011/12.		
Revaluation reserve		
Previously stated	-	226 622
Reversal of the revaluation reserve due to the fair value assessment performed in 2011/12	-	(445 798)
Fair value gains incorrectly processed to the revaluation reserve instead of to the statement of financial performance in 2011/12	-	(67 333)
Fair value losses incorrectly processed to the revaluation reserve instead of to the statement of financial performance in 2011/12	-	286 509
	-	-
Accumulated surplus		
Previously stated	-	478 698
Revaluation adjustment	-	226 622
Other Income - Correction of Debtor previously not raised	-	1 506
Employee costs - Over provision of leave in the prior year	-	692
Operating Expenditure - Correction of Debtor not cleared	-	(465)
	-	707 053
Statement of Financial Performance		
The following re-classification on income and expenditure accounts were done to align our chart of accounts with the standard chart of accounts of Treasury. Any incorrect classifications identified during this exercise were also corrected. The net effect of the reclassifications is nil.		
Revenue		
Previously stated	-	885 282
Reclassification	-	6 328
	-	891 610
Other Income		
Previously stated	-	202 575
Reclassification	-	(11 025)
Correction of Debtor previously not raised	-	1 506
	-	193 056

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
R'000		
2. PRIOR PERIOD ERRORS ...continued		
Operating Expenses		
Previously stated	-	458 074
Reclassification	-	33
Correction of Debtor not cleared	-	466
	-	458 573
Employee Related Costs		
Previously stated	-	664 056
Reclassification	-	(4 733)
Over provision of leave in the prior year	-	(692)
	-	658 631

	Restated 2017	2017	Difference
R'000			
Notes to Financial Statements			
Revenue			
Conservation Levy	29 449	-	29 449
Licences & Permits	1 160	3	1 157
Admissions	15 084	44 532	(29 448)
Rental Income	3 358	-	3 358
Game Sales	28 109	25 146	2 963
Fines	35	1 186	(1 151)
	77 195	70 867	6 328
Other Income			
Concession Revenue	3 377	5 229	(1 852)
Expense Recoveries	11 048	13 751	(2 703)
Other Revenue	12 949	17 910	(4 961)
Interest Income	12 663	12 481	182
Funder Revenue	131 973	132 158	(185)
	172 010	181 529	(9 519)

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

2. PRIOR PERIOD ERRORS ...continued

Operating Expenses

	Restated 2017	2017	Difference
Administration and Management fees	929	52 531	(51 602)
Bank Charges	3 646	2 857	789
Consulting and professional fees	15 854	15 782	72
Consumables	30 056	11 901	18 155
Contracted Services	38 424	27 635	10 789
Catering	1 546	-	1 546
Hire	19	-	19
Insurance	8 012	-	8 012
Marketing and Advertising	9 261	9 112	149
Subscriptions and membership fees	-	2 386	(2 386)
Communication	11 662	-	11 662
Community payments & other expenses	2 382	-	2 382
Transport Expenses	23 131	32 145	(9 014)
Training	3 199	-	3 199
Travel	4 305	-	4 305
Gas	-	3 941	(3 941)
Water	10 645	10 385	260
Gain/Loss on exchange rate differences	(4 633)	324	(4 957)
Loss on Disposal of assets	11 699	11 407	292
Transfer Payments	2 719	-	2 719
Loss on Asset write off	-	310	(310)
Municipal Rates	29	-	29
Software Licenses	6 495	-	6 495
Operating Leases	1 835	-	1 835
	181 215	180 716	499

Employee Costs

Basic Salary	386 583	416 581	(29 998)
Leave Pay Provision charge	7 969	8 661	(692)
Other personnel costs	2 727	13 396	(10 669)
Subsistence Allowance	12 053	3 777	8 276
Housing and other allowances	39 526	41 866	(2 340)
Contract workers	29 998	-	29 998
	478 856	484 281	(5 425)

The error on commitments was due to the lease calculations not including inflation in prior years on the indefinite contracts.

Commitments - Operating leases - as lessor (income) -

Minimum lease payments due

- within one year	401	373	28
- in second to fifth year inclusive	507	333	174
- later than five years	29 772	3 256	26 516
	30 680	3 962	26 718

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

2. PRIOR PERIOD ERRORS ...continued

Cash Flow - as a result of all errors corrected.

Receipts

Sale of Goods and Services

275 643

279 872

(4 229)

Interest Income

12 663

12 481

182

Other receipts - Non exchange revenue

131 973

132 158

(185)

420 279**424 511****(4 232)**

Payments

Employee Costs

(658 631)

(664 056)

(5 425)

Suppliers

(318 529)

(317 336)

1 193

(977 160)**(981 392)****(4 232)**

3. BIOLOGICAL ASSETS

FAUNA AND FLORA

The biological assets of the entity comprise of a wide range of species of fauna and flora. These species are managed for conservation purposes and their sale is for species control and meta population management rather than a profit motive. It is intrinsically challenging to determine the numbers of species of the various flora as well as separate them by their major classes. At the same time the species of fauna are freely roaming and are managed through various ecosystem and species level of monitoring programmes. Therefore for both fauna and flora the estimation of the species numbers as well as their values is not reliable, and consequently we have not disclosed this information in the statement of financial position.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2018			2017		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation & Accumulated Impairment	Carrying Value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation & Accumulated Impairment	Carrying Value
R'000						
Land	6 365	-	6 365	29 491	-	29 491
Buildings and Structures	1 160 334	(771 740)	388 594	1 154 757	(756 412)	398 345
Plant and machinery	17 055	(11 333)	5 722	16 309	(10 065)	6 244
Furniture, Tools and Equipment	118 993	(71 263)	47 730	111 251	(69 701)	41 550
Aircraft, Vehicles and boats	173 521	(100 418)	73 103	175 323	(86 957)	88 366
Computer Equipment	24 916	(16 626)	8 290	23 095	(14 515)	8 580
Roads	221 056	(97 571)	123 485	214 461	(89 726)	124 735
Dams, Reservoirs and Boreholes	8 078	(5 207)	2 871	8 045	(4 991)	3 054
Fencing	91 159	(22 224)	68 935	34 150	(19 541)	14 609
Work in progress	15 140	-	15 140	72 260	-	72 260
Total	1 836 617	(1 096 382)	740 235	1 839 142	(1 051 908)	787 234

	Opening Balance	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Depreciation	Accumulated Depreciation on Disposals	Write Up - Depreciation	Closing Balance
R'000								
Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2018								
Land	29 491	-	(23 126)	-	-	-	-	6 365
Buildings and Structures	398 345	1 415	(2 779)	6 940	(15 917)	590	-	388 594
Plant and Machinery	6 244	802	(57)	1	(2 464)	56	1 140	5 722
Furniture, Tools and Equipment	41 550	6 258	(718)	2 202	(15 217)	692	12 963	47 730
Aircraft, Motor Vehicles and Boats	88 366	4 061	(5 760)	(103)	(22 087)	3 912	4 714	73 103
Computer Equipment	8 580	2 068	(258)	12	(4 109)	225	1 772	8 290
Roads	124 735	5 148	-	1 447	(7 848)	-	3	123 485
Dams, Reservoirs and Boreholes	3 054	32	-	-	(536)	-	321	2 871
Fencing	14 609	4 714	-	52 295	(2 683)	-	-	68 935
Work in progress	72 260	5 780	(106)	(62 794)	-	-	-	15 140
Total	787 234	30 278	(32 804)	-	(70 861)	5 475	20 913	740 235

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT ...continued

	Opening Balance	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Depreciation	Accumulated Depreciation on Disposals	Write Up - Depreciation	Closing Balance
R'000								
Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2017								
Land	27 472	2 008	-	11	-	-	-	29 491
Buildings and Structures	407 915	5 370	(2 757)	1 535	(15 796)	1 998	80	398 345
Plant and Machinery	6 650	1 251	(163)	(3)	(2 383)	150	742	6 244
Furniture, Tools and Equipment	26 142	11 666	(687)	16	(8 796)	648	12 561	41 550
Aircraft, Motor Vehicles and Boats	89 531	20 189	(9 967)	431	(25 065)	8 277	4 970	88 366
Computer Equipment	8 605	3 585	(961)	(5)	(4 990)	837	1 509	8 580
Roads	93 895	7 250	(29 087)	42 851	(6 860)	16 641	45	124 735
Dams, Reservoirs and Boreholes	1 948	989	(32)	268	(457)	27	311	3 054
Fencing	14 527	148	-	1 530	(1 596)	-	-	14 609
Work in progress	66 561	52 809	(476)	(46 634)	-	-	-	72 260
Total	743 246	105 265	(44 130)	-	(65 943)	28 578	20 218	787 234

Fencing with a cost of R2.8 million (2017: R2.8 million) and a book value of R881 312 (2017 restated: R992 000) will be derecognised upon completion of the current construction.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
R'000			
WIP Breakdown			
Buildings and structures	7 904	12 761	14 506
Dams, Reservoirs and Boreholes	268	-	446
Fencing	57 185	52 505	188
Furniture, Tools and Equipment	-	2 346	-
Roads	1 204	4 648	-
	66 561	72 260	15 140

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

5. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2018			2017		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated Amortisation and Accumulated Impairment	Carrying Value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation & Accumulated Impairment	Carrying Value
R'000						
Computer software	22 701	(16 843)	5 858	22 219	(14 221)	7 998

	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Closing balance
Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2018				
Computer software	7 998	482	(2 622)	5 858

	Opening balance	Amortisation	Closing balance
Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2017			
Computer software	10 420	(2 422)	7 998

6. HERITAGE ASSETS

EKZNW is the management authority of the Ukhahlamba/Drakensberg Park World Heritage site (UDPWHS) in terms of section 8 of the World Heritage Convention Act 49 of 1999 on behalf of the National Department of Environmental Affairs for a period of 5 years ending in 2019.

The 242 814 hectares UDPWHS is considered a Heritage Site due to the areas unique richness of the biological diversity, its endemic and endangered species, its natural beauty and its masterpieces of Bushman rock paintings.

- ♦ The rock art of the Ukhahlamba/Drakensberg is the largest and most concentrated group of rock paintings in Africa, south of the Sahara and is outstanding both in quality and diversity of subject.
- ♦ The San people lived in the mountainous Ukhahlamba/Drakensberg area for more than four millennia, leaving behind them a corpus of outstanding rock art which throws much light on their way of life and their beliefs.
- ♦ The site has exceptional natural beauty with soaring basaltic buttresses, incisive dramatic cutbacks and golden sandstone ramparts. Rolling high altitude grasslands, the pristine steep-sided river valleys and rocky gorges also contribute to the beauty of the site. The site's diversity of habitats protects a high level of endemic and globally threatened species, especially of birds and plants.

Due to the nature of the above we could not establish a fair value/ deemed cost nor a replacement cost for these heritage assets acquired as the management authority.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

It is the policy of the entity to provide retirement benefits to all its employees. At 31 March 2018, there were 1989 (2017: 2058) employees on the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Provident Fund. Under this scheme, the entity is under no obligation to cover any unfunded benefits.

DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

In addition to the defined contribution plan, the entity has two defined benefit plans that are governed by the Pension Funds Act, 1956 (Act no. 24 of 1956). At 31 March 2018, there were 209 (2017: 225) employees on the Government Employee Pension Fund and 70 (2017: 76) employees on the Natal Parks Board Pension and Gratuity Pension Scheme.

NATAL PARKS BOARD PENSION AND GRATUITY PENSION SCHEME

The Natal Parks Board Pension and Gratuity Pension Scheme, which is administered by Old Mutual, is a fully funded defined benefit plan governed by the Pension Funds Act. Only employees of the former Natal Parks Board belong to this scheme.

Actuarial valuations are performed every three years. An actuarial valuation of this scheme was performed at 31 July 2016. In the opinion of the actuary, the fund is in a sound financial position. The actuary reassessed the valuation to take account of changes which were likely to occur subsequent to 31 July 2016. Any shortfalls in benefit plans are the responsibility of the entity. The next valuation is due on 31 July 2019. As at 31 March 2016 the fund was in a sound financial position.

As at 31 July 2016, the actuarial value of the assets is equal to the value of the liabilities after allowing for the solvency reserve.

The most significant actuarial assumptions (performed using the Attained Age method) of the most recent valuation were:

- (a) A long-term inflation rate of 5% per annum has been assumed.
- (b) Long term interest rate of 9% per annum and a 7.5% per annum for solvency.
- (c) Long term salary increase assumption of 6% per annum.
- (d) Promotional salary increases are assumed to take place in accordance with rates set out in Annexure IV of the valuation.
- (e) Interest rate used to value the pension payable at retirement was set at 5.5% per annum. The difference between this rate and the investment return actually earned (assumed to be 9% per annum), represents a provision for pension increases in terms of the pension increase policy.
- (f) Withdrawals are assumed to take place in accordance with rates set out in Annexure IV of the valuation.
- (g) Deaths before retirement are assumed to take place in accordance with rates set out in the Annexure IV of the valuation.
- (h) Deaths after retirement are assumed to take place in accordance with rates based on PA(90) males and females and adjusted based on actual experience of Old Mutual Annuity Portfolio.
- (i) All members will retire when attaining the normal retirement age and members over the retirement age are deemed to have retired on the valuation date.
- (j) All members will be married at retirement with husbands being 5 years older than wives.
- (k) A discount rate of 3% per annum has been used to quantify the value of deferred pension for the purposes of calculating the statutory minimum benefit.
- (l) All members will commute 1/3rd of their pensions.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS ...continued

R'000	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Assets		
Expected return on plan assets - Market value of assets	657 410	657 410
Assets distributed on settlements - reserve account	-	-
	657 410	657 410
Member Liabilities and contingencies reserves		
Current service cost - past service liabilities in respect of active members	133 039	133 039
Past service cost - Pensioner liabilities	513 197	513 197
Contingency reserves	11 174	11 174
	657 410	657 410

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE PENSION FUND

Former employees of the KwaZulu-Natal Directorate of Nature Conservation are members of the Government Employee Pension Fund governed by the Pension Funds Act 1956 (Act no.24 of 1956). This multi-employee state fund is a defined benefit plan. According to the actuarial valuation at 31 March 2016, the fund was 115.8% funded. The employer continues to allow employees on this fund to migrate to the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Provident Fund. This does not pose any financial risk to the organisation.

POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL AID PLAN

The Board commissioned an independent valuation, based on actuarial valuation principles, of the post retirement medical aid obligation. Actuarial valuations are conducted every 3 years. A valuation conducted by actuaries (Old Mutual Actuaries) in April 2017 reflected an estimated obligation of R 65.1 million as at 31 March 2018. This unfunded liability is being recognised as an expense over three years.

R'000	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Post Retirement Medical Liability		
Baseline opening balance	62 933	67 890
Interest Cost	5 412	5 686
Current Service Cost	747	964
Actuarial gain	-	(7 917)
Benefit Payment	(3 985)	(3 690)
	65 107	62 933

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS ...continued

R'000	March 2018	Restated March 2017
The most significant actuarial assumptions are detailed in the table below:		
Assumptions		
(a) Discount rate	8.9%	8.9%
(b) Medical inflation	7.8%	7.8%
(c) Retirement age	65	65
(d) Proportion continuing membership at retirement	100%	100%
(e) Proportion of retiring members who are married	90%	90%
(f) Age of spouse	3 years older than wives	3 years older than wives
(g) Mortality of in-service members	In accordance with SA 85-90 (Light) ultimate table	In accordance with SA 85-90 (Light) ultimate table
(h) Mortality of continuation members	In accordance with PA (90) ultimate male and female tables	In accordance with PA (90) ultimate male and female tables
(i) Annual rate of withdrawal owing to resignation before retirement	According to scales below	According to scales below
Annual rate of withdrawal - from Age	Male	Female
20	16%	24%
25	12%	18%
30	10%	15%
35	8%	10%
40	6%	6%
45	4%	4%
50	2%	2%
55+	0%	0%

A discount rate of 8.9% per year has been used to place a present value on future benefit payments. This is consistent with the GRAP 25 requirement that the discount rate used should be the long term government bond yield. The rate of 8.9% is the gross redemption yield on the R186 government bond as at 24 February 2017.

An expected long term rate of increase to the medical aid subsidy of 7.8% per year has been used to value the liabilities. The medical inflation assumption has been set as follows: The base inflation rate CPI has been set as the difference in the yields on the R186 and the inflation-linked R197 bond after deducting an inflation risk premium of 0.5%. In addition to this, a medical inflation premium of 1.5% has been added to obtain the medical inflation rate of 7.8%. This medical inflation premium makes allowance for affordability in the environment of lower real returns anticipated by the market.

It was assumed that employees will not have child dependants at retirement.

No mortality experience investigation for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has been conducted as the size of the membership is insufficient to justify such an investigation.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The results are dependent on the assumptions used. The table below shows how the past service cost as at 31 March 2018 would be impacted by changes to these assumptions.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS ...continued

R'000	March 2018	Restated March 2017
In-Service and Continuation Members	Accrued Service Liabilities as at 31.3.2018 (R Million)	% Increase
Assumptions as above	65,107	-
Discount rate - increases by 1% p.a.	58,391	(10)
Discount rate - reduces by 1% p.a.	64,816	-
Medical Inflation - increases by 1% p.a.	63,658	(2)
Medical Inflation - reduces by 1% p.a.	52,554	(19)
Retirement age - 60	66,103	2
The tables below show how the current service cost and interest cost for the year to 31 March 2018 would be impacted by changes to the assumptions:		
In-Service Members	Current Service Cost 1.4.2017 - 31.3.2018 (R Million)	% Increase
Assumptions as above	0,747	-
Discount rate - increases by 1% p.a.	0,630	(16)
Discount rate - reduces by 1% p.a.	0,792	6
Medical Inflation - increases by 1% p.a.	0,783	5
Medical Inflation - reduces by 1% p.a.	0,634	(15)
Retirement age - 60	0,650	(13)
In-Service and Continuation Members	Interest Cost 1.4.2017 - 31.3.2018 (R Million)	% Increase
Assumptions as above	5,412	-
Discount rate - increases by 1% p.a.	5,377	(1)
Discount rate - reduces by 1% p.a.	4,798	(11)
Medical Inflation - increases by 1% p.a.	5,306	(2)
Medical Inflation - reduces by 1% p.a.	4,351	(20)
Retirement age - 60	5,490	1
Consumable stores	6 680	6 689
Other goods held for resale	6 672	5 965
Fuel (Diesel, Petrol and gas)	3 556	4 678
	16 908	17 332
Stock Losses	863	888

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

9. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables from exchange transactions
 Less: Provision for impairment
 Deposits
 Prepayments
 Other receivables

Fair value of Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables have not been discounted in order to split the interest and capital portion as at the end of the current year. An adequate provision has been made for all the doubtful debts which reduced the relevant amount.

Aging of trade receivables from exchange transactions

Current
 30 days
 60 days
 90 days
 120 days
 + 120 days

Reconciliation of provision for impairment of trade and other receivables

Opening balance
 Recoveries
 Provision for impairment
 Amounts written off as uncollectible

The creation and release of provision for impaired receivables have been included in operating expenses in the statement of financial performance.

10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand
 Bank balances
 Short-term investments
 Other cash and cash equivalents

A guarantee for R185 154 in favour of Eskom is held by First National Bank Limited.

11. DEFERRED INCOME

Unspent conditional grants and receipts comprises of:

Balance at beginning of period
 Funds received
 Disbursements

Conditional grants represent assistance from external sources from which the entity has directly benefited.

March 2018	Restated March 2017
12 982	36 493
(3 111)	(2 400)
2 843	2 530
220	46
15 563	5 252
28 497	41 921
5 286	24 918
349	359
421	516
110	77
1 880	2 114
4 936	8 509
12 982	36 493
2 400	3 447
-	(932)
711	169
-	(284)
3 111	2 400
1 363	1 758
78 637	73 463
197 205	97 995
1 169	230
278 374	173 446
64 743	94 971
130 345	184 291
(101 769)	(214 519)
93 319	64 743

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

12. PROVISIONS

Reconciliation of provisions - 2018

	Opening Balance	Additions	Utilised During The Year	Closing Balance
Leave Pay Provision	63 769	16 042	(9 714)	70 097
Contributory Pension	1 148	4 944	(4 856)	1 236
Post Retirement Medical Aid	62 933	2 174	-	65 107
Emergency Rescue Provision	2 010	-	(197)	1 813
	129 860	23 160	(14 767)	138 253

Reconciliation of provisions - 2017

Leave Pay Provision	58 811	12 927	(7 969)	63 769
Contributory Pension	1 082	4 629	(4 563)	1 148
Post Retirement Medical Aid	67 890	-	(4 957)	62 933
Emergency Rescue Provision	2 028	-	(18)	2 010
	129 811	17 556	(17 507)	129 860

R'000

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Non-current liabilities	65 107	62 933
Current liabilities	73 146	66 927
	138 253	129 860

13. EXTERNAL PROJECTS

Special Projects	10 711	11 224
Community Levy	14 119	12 314
Community Facilities control account	9 731	8 393
Wildcard and commercial marine licenses	2	2
	34 563	31 933

14. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade payables	66 069	49 897
Deposits received	28 333	36 310
Other payables	8 565	8 135
	102 967	94 342

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

15. REVENUE

The amount included in revenue arising from exchanges of goods or services are as follows:

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Sale of goods	34 207	33 617
Accommodation	127 310	120 725
Natural Resource Trade	549	583
Conservation Levy	34 117	29 449
Hunting Revenue	541	567
Licences and Permits	1 262	1 160
Admission	17 561	15 084
Trails, Rides and Tours	14 252	13 451
Game Sales	9 247	28 109
Rental Income	3 506	3 358
	242 552	246 103

The amount included in revenue arising from non-exchange transactions is as follows:

Fines	26	35
Transfers	704 620	645 472
	704 646	645 507
	947 198	891 610

16. OTHER INCOME

The amount included in other revenue arising from exchange transactions are as follows:

Concession Revenue	3 566	3 377
Expense Recoveries	19 292	11 048
Donations	8 554	17 723
Agency Services - Marine Coastal Management	3 202	3 323
Other Revenue	10 250	12 949
Interest Income	6 816	12 663
	51 680	61 083

The amount included in other revenue arising from non-exchange transactions is as follows:

Funder Revenue	106 521	131 973
Sundry Income - Projects	303	-
	106 824	131 973
	158 504	193 056

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

17. OPERATING EXPENSES

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
Administration and Management fees	552	929
Auditors remuneration	3 667	3 347
Bank Charges	3 450	3 646
Bad Debts	711	170
Consulting and professional fees	9 416	15 854
Consumables	22 844	30 056
Contracted Services	36 663	38 424
Depreciation	52 572	48 143
Catering	2 606	1 546
Hire	1	19
Insurance	8 719	8 012
Marketing and Advertising	4 208	9 261
Communication	10 237	11 662
Community payments and other expenses	3 067	2 382
Board members remuneration	6 065	5 900
Transport Expenses	22 760	23 131
Training	1 539	3 199
Travel	2 668	4 305
Electricity	22 910	22 974
Sewerage and waste disposal	352	294
Water	2 204	10 645
Refuse	168	198
Utilities - generator diesel	2 342	2 156
Gain/Loss on exchange differences	(493)	(4 633)
Loss on Disposal of assets	6 754	11 699
Repairs and maintenance	28 384	31 254
Transfer Payments	1 759	2 719
Municipal Rates	41	29
Software Licences	4 754	6 495
Operating Leases	1 794	1 835
Non-exchange expenditure- projects	103 739	132 600
Sale of goods	26 760	29 761
Cost of services rendered	472	561
	393 685	458 573

18. EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS

Basic Salary	419 143	386 583
Medical aid - company contributions	49 577	46 511
Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)	3 981	4 003
Workmans Compensation (WCA)	5 931	5 673
Skills Development Levy (SDL)	5 577	5 305
Leave Pay Provision charge	9 714	7 969
Other personnel costs	2 392	2 727
Post-retirement contributions	64 388	60 181
Subsistence Allowance	11 033	12 053
Overtime payments	12 689	10 877
13 th Cheques	35 846	32 919
Car allowance	14 270	14 306
Housing and other allowances	40 738	39 526
Contract workers	43 021	29 998
	718 300	658 631

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

R'000

18. EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS ...continued

Remuneration:

Chief Executive Officer

Annual Remuneration including Allowances
Contributions to Medical and Pension Funds

Chief Financial Officer

Annual Remuneration including Allowances
Contributions to Medical and Pension Funds

19. CASH GENERATED FROM (USED IN) OPERATIONS

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

Adjustments for:

Depreciation and amortisation

Loss on sale of assets

Movements in provisions

Changes in working capital:

Inventories

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other payables

Deferred Income

20. NET MOVEMENT IN EXTERNAL PROJECTS

Balance at beginning of the year

Balance at end of the year

21. COMMITMENTS

Already contracted for but not provided for

♦ Capital expenditure

♦ Operating expenditure

Operating leases – as lessee (expense)

Minimum lease payments due

- within one year

- in second to fifth year inclusive

- later than five years

Operating leases – as lessor (income)

Minimum lease payments due

- within one year

- in second to fifth year inclusive

- later than five years

Operating leases comprise of rentals.

Indefinite contracts are regarded as 50 year leases and are calculated including inflation.

March 2018	Restated March 2017
1 951	2 202
126	-
2 077	2 202
1 355	1 332
176	166
1 531	1 498
(6 283)	(32 548)
52 572	48 143
6 754	-
8 393	49
424	(3 021)
13 424	(15 894)
8 623	(10 521)
28 576	(30 228)
112 483	(44 020)
(31 933)	(28 650)
34 563	31 933
2 630	3 283
34 308	45 229
83 588	100 368
117 896	145 597
588	847
387	572
26	27
1 001	1 446
361	401
798	507
30 445	29 772
31 604	30 680

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

22. CONTINGENCIES

CONSERVATION LAND

The Board has capitalised its buildings. However, the land relating to these buildings is state land. In terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act 9 of 1997, the Board has an implicit right of use of the land for an indefinite period. To date, land claims relating to Ithala Game Reserve, Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park Corridor, Ndumo Game Reserve, and Tembe Elephant Park totalling 93 698 hectares have been settled and co-management agreements entered into with the claimants. The immovable assets situated on this land could be transferred to the new owners. However, there remains significant uncertainty as to the identity of the new owners as the title deeds have not been finalised.

The total value of immovable assets situated in these areas is estimated at R110.4 million (2017: R91.9 million).

According to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), an additional 9 claims have been lodged of which 1 has been settled through financial compensation. The demarcations by DRDLR have not yet been finalised and thus it is difficult to ascertain the actual land under claim as well as the assets on that land.

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
R'000		
Legal claims		
The financial implications of the current cases are:		
Probable	R684 000	
Improbable	R14 286 912	
23. RELATED PARTIES		
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is one of the entities within the Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). As such, these entities and other entities within the sphere of Government are considered to be related parties.		
Relationships		
Ultimate entity	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	
1. Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Controlling Department	
2. KZN Sharks Board	Under same control of EDTEA	
3. KZN Tourism Board	Under same control of EDTEA	
4. Trade and Investment KZN	Under same control of EDTEA	
5. Moses Kotane Institute	Under same control of EDTEA	
6. Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone	Under same control of EDTEA	
7. Ithala Development Finance Corporation	Under same control of EDTEA	
8. KwaZulu-Natal Growth Fund	Under same control of EDTEA	
9. KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission	Under same control of EDTEA	
10. Dube Tradeport	Under same control of EDTEA	
11. KZN Rehabilitation Trust	Under same control of EDTEA	
12. KZN Liquor	Under same control of EDTEA	

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

	March 2018	Restated March 2017
R'000		
23. RELATED PARTIES ...continued		
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs - Shareholder		
The entity received grants of R704.6 million (2017 : R645.5 million) from the Department for operating purposes.		
Isivuno		
The members of Isivuno shall be such persons appointed by the KZN Nature Conservation Board. The members elect and appoint the directors who conduct all business of Isivuno. Currently all the directors of Isivuno are board members of KZN Nature Conservation Board.		
24. GOING CONCERN		
The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.		
25. FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE		
Opening balance	-	176
Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure Condoned	-	(176)
	-	-
26. IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE		
Opening balance	36 367	18 879
Irregular Expenditure	7 396	17 488
	43 763	36 367

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

OVERVIEW

The entity has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments.

- Credit risk
- Liquidity risk
- Market risk
- Interest rate risk

This note presents information about the entity's exposure to each of the above risks, the entity's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk, and the entity's management of capital. Further quantitative disclosures are included throughout these financial statements.

In terms of Treasury Regulations 27.2.1, issued in terms of the PFMA, the accounting authority must ensure that a risk assessment is conducted regularly to identify emerging risks in the entity. The Board has established the Audit and Risk committee which is responsible for developing and monitoring the entity's risk management policies.

The entity's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the entity, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the entity's activities. The entity, through its training and management standards and procedures, aims to develop a disciplined and constructive control environment in which all employees understand their roles and obligations.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ...continued

for the year ended 31 March 2018

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ...continued

The Audit and Risk committee oversees how management monitors compliance with the entity's risk management policies and procedures and reviews the adequacy of the risk management framework in relation to the risks faced by the entity. The Audit and Risk committee is assisted in its oversight role at operations level by Internal Audit. Internal Audit undertakes both regular and ad hoc reviews of risk management controls and procedures, the results of which are reported to the Audit and Risk committee.

CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the entity if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations and arises principally from the entity's receivables from customers and cash and cash equivalents. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure. The maximum exposure to credit risk at 31 March 2018 was R28.5 million (restated 2017: R41.9 million) relating to trade and other receivables (Note 9) and R278.3 million (2017: R173.4 million) relating to cash and cash equivalents (Note 10).

TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The entity's exposure to credit risk is influenced mainly by the individual characteristics of each customer. The composition of the entity's customer base, including the default risk of the industry and country in which the customers operate, has less of an influence on credit risk.

INVESTMENTS

The entity limits its exposure to credit risk by investing only in liquid securities and only with approved banks and financial institutions.

GUARANTEES

A guarantee for R 185 154 in favour of Eskom is held by First National Bank Limited as at 31 March 2018.

LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk is the risk that the entity will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The entity's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the entity's reputation.

Monies are transferred to the current account to meet the weekly obligations. Any surpluses are invested on a month to month basis at the most optimum rate.

It is the policy of the entity not to borrow monies. There are thus no credit facilities available.

MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk related to changes in market prices which could affect the entity's income. The policy of the entity is not to invest in any equity related instruments, as such there is no market risk exposure. All surplus cash is invested in financial institutions at optimal interest rates and periods approved by senior management. Interest rates have not been volatile in the year under review.

CURRENCY RISK

The entity has exposure to currency risk relating to the amount that has to be paid to Microsoft for software licences in United States dollars (US\$).

INTEREST RATE RISK

It is the policy of the entity not to borrow monies, resulting in no risk related to changes in the interest rate.

FAIR VALUES

The fair values of financial assets and liabilities are the same as the carrying values reflected in the statement of financial position.

LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO EZEMVELO

THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION IMPACTS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE ENTITY:

- ♦ Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act (Act No. 108 of 1996)

FOUNDING LEGISLATION

- ♦ KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act (Act No. 9 of 1997)

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

- ♦ National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)
- ♦ World Heritage Convention Act (Act No. 49 of 1999)
- ♦ National Forest Act (Act No. 84 of 1999)
- ♦ National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)
- ♦ Marine Living Resources Act (Act No. 18 of 1998)
- ♦ KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act (Act No. 10 of 1997)
- ♦ Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act No. 43 of 1983)
- ♦ NEMA: Protected Areas Management Act (Act No. 57 of 2003)
- ♦ NEMA: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)
- ♦ Natural Scientific Professions Act (Act No. 27 of 2003)
- ♦ Natal Nature Conservation Ordinance (Act No. 15 of 1974)
- ♦ Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act No. 101 of 1998)
- ♦ National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)
- ♦ Environment Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989)
- ♦ KwaZulu Nature Conservation Act (Act No. 29 of 1992)

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- ♦ The Labour Relations Act (Act No. 66 of 1995)
- ♦ Employment Equity Act (Act No. 55 of 1998)
- ♦ Skills Development Act (Act No. 97 of 1998)
- ♦ Skills Development Levies Act (Act No. 9 of 1999)
- ♦ Unemployment Insurance Act (Act No. 63 of 2001)

- ♦ Basic Conditions of Employment Act (Act No. 75 of 1997)
- ♦ Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (Act No. 4 of 2000)
- ♦ COIDA (Act No. 130 of 1993)
- ♦ Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No. 85 of 1993)
- ♦ Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Act (Act No. 53 of 2003) Finance and Information
- ♦ Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) (Act No. 1 of 1999)
- ♦ Promotion of Access to Information Act (Act No. 2 of 2000)
- ♦ Electronic Communications and Transactions Act (Act No. 25 of 2002)
- ♦ Income Tax Act (Act No. 61 of 1957)
- ♦ Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (Act No. 5 of 2000)
- ♦ Protected Disclosures Act (Act No. 26 of 2000)
- ♦ Vat Act No. 89 of 1991
- ♦ Treasury Regulations

LAND AND ROADS

- ♦ Development Facilitation Act (Act No. 67 of 1995)
- ♦ Restitution of Land Rights Act (Act No. 22 of 1994)
- ♦ Municipal Demarcation Act (Act No. 27 of 1998)
- ♦ Expropriation Act (Act No. 63 of 1957)
- ♦ National Road Safety Act (Act No. 9 of 1972)
- ♦ National Road Traffic Act (Act No. 93 of 1996)
- ♦ National Roads Act (Act No. 54 of 1971)
- ♦ Land Affairs Act (Act No. 101 of 1987)

SUNDRY

- ♦ Criminal Procedure Act (Act No. 51 of 1977)
- ♦ Firearms Control Act (Act No. 60 of 2000)
- ♦ Liquor Act (Act No. 49 of 2003)
- ♦ Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act No. 3 of 2000)





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