South African
NATIONAL PARKS

West Coast National Park

Park Management Plan

For the period
2013 -2023

Section 1: Authorisation

This management plan is hereby internally accepted and authorised as required for managing the West Coast National Park in terms of Sections 39 and 41 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003).

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Park Manager: West Coast National Park

Date: 01 November 2012

Mr Gary de Kock
Regional General Manager: Cape Cluster

Date: 01 November 2012

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Date: 01 November 2012

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Date: 05 June 2013

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Date: 10 June 2013

Approved by the Minister of Water and Environment Affairs

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Minister of Water and Environment Affairs

Date: 05 September 2013

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Glossary

Aquifer	An underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, or silt) from which groundwater can be extracted.
Balanced Scorecard	The performance management tool used by SANParks to ensure feedback and effective implementation of various management objectives
Bioregion	A region defined through physical and environmental features, including watershed boundaries and soil and terrain characteristics. Bioregionalism stresses that the determination of a bioregion is also a cultural phenomenon, and emphasizes local populations, knowledge, and solutions
Desired state	The overall conditions of the park (across the full V-STEEP range) that stakeholders desire
Endemism	Unique or confined to a specific place or area
Invasive alien species	Invasive alien species (IAS) are species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threaten biological diversity.
Mission	An articulation of the vision that describes why the park exists and its overall philosophy on how to achieve its desired state
Objectives hierarchy	The objectives for a park, with the most important, high level objectives at the top, cascading down to objectives at finer levels of detail, and eventually to operational actions at the lowest level
Palaeontology	The study of the forms of life existing in prehistoric or geologic times, as represented by the fossils of plants, animals, and other organisms.
Stakeholder	A person, an organ of state or a community contemplated in section 82(1)(a) or an indigenous community contemplated in section 82(1)(b) of NEM:BA
Vision	A word “picture” of the future, or what the stakeholders see as the future for the park
Vital attributes	Unique or special characteristics of the park, the determinants of which management should strive to protect, and the threats towards which management should strive to minimise
V-STEEP	The values (social, technological, economic, ecological and political), used to understand, with stakeholders, the social, economic and ecological context of the system to be managed, and the principles/values that guide management. These are used to develop a broadly acceptable vision of the future
the Act	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003)
the guidelines	DEAs Guidelines for the Development of a Management Plan for a protected area in terms of NEM:PAA (Cowan & Mpongoma 2010)

Acronyms and abbreviations

1	BA	Basic assessment
2	BMP	Biodiversity monitoring programme
3	BMS	Biodiversity monitoring system
4	BSC	Balanced scorecard
5	CARA	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act 43 0f 1983)
6	CDF	Conservation development framework
7	CPF	Coordinated policy framework
8	CSD	Conservation services division
9	CWCBR	Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve
10	DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
11	DEA	Department of Environment Affairs
12	EE	Environmental education
13	EIA	Environmental impact assessment
14	EMP	Environmental management plan
15	EMS	Environmental management system
16	EPWP	Expanded public works programme
17	GG	Republic of South Africa Government Gazette
18	GN	Government Notice
19	HIA	Heritage impact assessment
20	HO	Head office
21	HR	Human resources
22	IDP	Integrated development plan
23	ISCU	Invasive species control unit
24	MLRA	Marine Living Resources Act (Act 18 of 1998)
25	MPA	Marine protected area
26	NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)
27	NEM:BA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)
28	NEM:ICMA	National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act 24 of 2008)
29	NEM:PAA	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003)
30	NPT	National Parks Trust
31	P&C	People and conservation
32	PM	Park manager
33	RM	Regional manager
34	RMM	Regional marketing manager
35	SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
36	SANParks	South African National Parks
37	SAPS	South African Police Service
38	SDF	Spatial development framework
39	SMME	Small, medium and micro enterprises
40	SKEP	Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme
41	SR	Section ranger
42	SSC	Species of special concern
43	SSR	Senior section ranger
44	TO	Tourism officer
45	TPC	Threshold of potential concern
46	WCNP	West Coast National Park
47	WftC	Working for the coast
48	WfW	Working for water
49	WWF-SA	Worldwide Fund for Nature South Africa

Lists of figures, tables and appendices

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Executive summary

The first management plan for the West Coast National Park (WCNP) required in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003 as amended) (NEM:PAA) was submitted to, and approved in part, by the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) in 2008 (SANParks 2008).

This first review of the management plan builds on the foundation of the first plan and addresses its inadequacies. The layout of the plan follows the format provided in the guidelines drawn up by the DEA (Cowan & Mpongoma 2010) (the guidelines) while also incorporating the adaptive planning process adopted by South African National Parks (SANParks). Local municipalities, the district municipality and other organs of state as well as other stakeholders were consulted as required (appendix 2). Relevant aspects of local authority plans were considered in the compilation of the plan.

The plan serves as a reference to the management and development of the park in its current and envisaged future form with information on the background, biophysical context, desired state, management and programmes at strategic and operational levels.

This management plan will come into effect following the approval by the Minister in terms of section 39 of NEM:PAA on a date specified by the Minister and is intended for a timeframe of ten years after commencement unless it is replaced earlier by a newly approved plan. SANParks will review this plan no later than eleven years after the commencement date.

The plan follows the DEA guidelines and contains the following sections for this plan**:**

- **Section 1** provides for the required authorisation
- **Section 2** provides a record of the legal status of the park, descriptions of its context as well as relevant local, regional, national and international agreements
- **Section 3** sets out the framework of legislation, national policies, SANParks structures, policies, guidelines, practices regarding management
- **Section 4** describes the consultation process followed in the preparation of this plan
- **Section 5** presents the vision, purpose, values, principles and attributes considered in developing a desired state for the park and provides the high level objectives as basis for the management programmes contained in the rest of the plan
- **Section 6** outlines the zoning plan
- **Section 7** describes access to and facilities
- **Section 8** summarises the expansion and consolidation strategy
- **Section 9** sets out the concept development plan
- **Section 10** provides a strategic plan with objectives, programmes and activities with cost estimates. Monitoring and evaluation are integrated into the actions
- **Section 11** contains detailed costing of the programmes

Appendices to this plan contain further details such as proclamations, co-management areas, legislation and policies.

Section 2: Legal status

2 Introduction

The key conservation areas of West Coast National Park are the Langebaan Lagoon and the offshore islands in Saldanha Bay, which together form the Langebaan Ramsar site, a wetland of international importance. The lagoon has a rich diversity of marine invertebrates and seaweeds and supports approximately 10% of the coastal wader population in South Africa. The offshore islands provide important nesting areas for several red-listed seabird species. The substantial terrestrial section of the park protects habitat types which are threatened by agricultural activities and housing developments.

2.1 Name of the area

The ***West Coast National Park*** was initially proclaimed in 1985 as the ***Langebaan National Park*** (Proclamation 138 in GG 9904 of 30 August 1985), with the name later being changed to the ***West Coast National Park*** (GN 1135 in GG 10789 of 26 June 1987).

2.2 Location

The West Coast National Park is situated approximately 100km northwest of Cape Town on the Atlantic seaboard in the Western Cape Province. The park stretches from Yzerfontein in the south (33°20' S; 18°09' E) to Langebaan (33°05' S; 18°01' E) in the north and from the Atlantic Ocean in the west (with approximately 30 km of coastline) across the West Coast road (R27) towards Hopefield in the east (33°04' S; 18°17' E) (appendix 4 map 1).

2.3 History of establishment

The first conservation measures for the Langebaan Lagoon were implemented in 1973 when the lagoon was proclaimed as a marine reserve in terms of the Sea Fisheries Act. Concern about the state of the Langebaan Lagoon and Saldanha Bay led the then Department of Planning and Environment in 1974 to appoint a committee to, among other tasks, evaluate and advise on proposals for management in the area, and in the holding of an international symposium in 1976 recommending that the Langebaan Lagoon, the peninsula, adjacent islands and surrounding land be proclaimed a nature reserve as a matter of urgency.

Years of reports and planning culminated in the lagoon, some adjoining state land, the marshes near Geelbek, part of Sixteen Mile Beach and the islands Marcus, Malgas, Schaapen and Jutten being proclaimed as the Langebaan National Park in 1985. The first expansion of the park occurred in 1987 when state land previously managed by the Department of Forestry as De Hoek Forestry station, a dune reclamation scheme, as well as Geelbek, portions of the farms Bottelary, Schrywershoek and Abrahamskraal were added to the park. In the same year, some 1,800 ha of land around Postberg was included as contractual national park. A hotel site in Langebaan was added in 1987, accompanied by the previously mentioned name change, and further expansion and an exclusion followed, including a contractual agreement for a part of Stofbergsfontein. A number of properties in town were acquired for park use, and some properties acquired for the park have not yet been proclaimed. The current status is outlined in appendix 1.

2.4 Co-management agreements

Properties included in the park through contractual agreements are likewise listed in appendix 1 and summarised as follows:

- **Postberg**: The first contractual area to be included in a national park, the area referred to as Postberg include several portions of privately owned land. The area is managed by SANParks in terms of a 99 year agreement with a five year notice period. Notice for cancellation of this agreement has since been given (in 2007) by SANParks in order to renegotiate the agreement.
- **Stofbergsfontein**: This agreement between SANParks and homeowners resulted in some land being purchased for the park while the remainder of the land is managed in terms of an agreement with the homeowners.
- **National Parks Trust and Worldwide Fund for Nature**: Some properties were purchased by the National Park Trust and the Worldwide Fund for Nature for inclusion in the park through agreement for as long as the properties were used for national park purposes.
- **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**: The MPAs of Langebaan Lagoon, Sixteen Mile Beach, Malgas Island, Jutten Island and Marcus Island MPAs (declared by Notice No. R. 1429 in GG No. 219487 dated 29 December 2000) are managed in terms of NEM:PAA and an agreement between SANParks and the Marine and Coastal Management Chief Directorate of DEA (now Oceans and Coasts).

2.5 Total area

The current park totals 47,457.85 ha, this include 31,809.28 ha of terrestrial land, lagoon, islands and 15,648.57 ha MPA. 29,748.32 ha has been declared which include 4,167.17 ha of the MPA. A further 6.255.88 ha in the process of being declared.

2.6 Highest point

The highest point in the park is Vlaeberg at 193m or 637 feet. The latter is of note as this determines the park's airspace (2,500 feet higher than the highest point, thus 3,137 feet) above the park (Appendix 4 Map 2).

2.7 Municipal areas

The park falls within the West Coast District Municipality and in the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, while it adjoins the Swartland Local Municipality in the south. The park forms the northern core of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, (CWCBR) and is fully integrated in the various integrated development plans (IDPs) and spatial development frameworks (SDFs)of the municipalities. The towns of Langebaan and Yzerfontein adjoin the park to the north and south respectively, while the towns of Saldanha, Vredenburg and Hopefield are within 20 km of the park boundaries.

2.8 International, national and provincial listings

The Lagoon is registered an important non-breeding site for hundreds of thousands of Palaearctic migrant waders during the austral summer (Bonn Convention, Summers *et al*. 1977). It is also registered as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar 1990) with about 32% of South Africa's saltmarshes. In terms of the Ramsar Convention on management planning for a Ramsar site, the need to strictly follow convention guidelines is superseded where a comprehensive procedure leading to a management plan for the area exists. A draft plan is included as appendix 5. The park also manages the MPAs listed in section 2.4 and Appendix 1.

The park forms the core conservation area of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve (CWCBR). The CWCBR is registered as a company with its articles of association and other details available on the internet.

2.9 Biophysical and socio-economic description

A summary of biophysical aspects of importance to this plan is given here, with more detail given in a state of knowledge report (SoKR) for the WCNP drawn up by SANParks scientists and park staff (Hanekom *et al.* 2009).

2.9.1 Climate

The climate is semi-arid Mediterranean, mild and without extremes, but with strong seasonal winds, mostly southerlies in summer and northerlies in winter. The monthly maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded for Langebaanweg (15 km northeast of Langebaan) range from 18.4^{o}C – 27.5^{o}C and 7.1^{o}C – 14.9^{o}C respectively. The average annual rainfall is 265 mm, falling mainly in winter (Weather Bureau 1988 in Heydenrych 1995).

2.9.2 Topography

The Langebaan peninsula, which abuts the Atlantic Ocean on the west and Langebaan Lagoon on the east, is about two km wide and around 15 km long and consists of elevated granite outcrops in the north and low ridges of limestone and calcrete to the south. Unconsolidated and vegetated dunes occur to the south, and near Yzerfontein a large previously mobile dune field extends inland northwards. The low-lying areas inland of the lagoon consist mainly of calcrete sheets and unconsolidated sands and the occasional granite outcrop such as Seeberg (Fleming 1977).

Geology and Soils

The landscapes of the park are products of a long and complex geological history. The basement rocks of the Malmesbury formation, laid down as marine sediments during the Pre-Cambrian (700 million years before present) were uplifted, folded and intruded by successive phases of igneous activity, which now form some exposed granite outcrops. The land surface so formed was altered by drastic changes in sea level over millions of years, leading to successive phases of denudation and submergence, during which sediments were again deposited, redistributed or eroded by water, wind or wave action. Near the coast most of the ancient bedrock is now locally between 20-60m below sea level and mostly buried in dune sands more than 90m deep. The loose sandy surface was moulded into flats, dunes and hollows by strong southerly winds, and while most of these areas were stabilised, some mobile dunes remained until stabilisation in the 1960s by alien vegetation (Geological Survey, 1972; Visser & Schoch, 1973; Tinley, 1985).

The sands, being derived from marine deposits, contain a large proportion of calcareous material, and older dunes have become calcified to sandy limestone. A thickness of 88m of this material has been recorded in boreholes at Geelbek. The marine origin of the sand is also reflected in the generally brackish groundwater, and where badly drained pans flood in the winter, salt deposits can be found in the summer. Such salt pans near Geelbek have been worked intermittently since the 17th century (Visser & Schoch, 1973).

The soils at the coast are highly calcareous and susceptible to wind erosion (Liengme 1987), while earth mounds or 'heuweltjies' are found at Postberg (Heydenrych 1995). At places such as Massenberg and Vlaeberg the hard granite bedrock reveals wave-worn former island shores, while in other areas such as Meeuwklip wave-bevelled former shoals and reefs are evident. Indications, borne out by phosphate deposits from guano on Postberg, are that the 150m contour formed the highest sea level. The successive advances and retreats of the sea were also responsible for the formation of Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon. At times when the sea retreated, barrier dunes were built up along the coast. During the most recent advance of the sea about 9 000 years ago, the dune barriers between the granite headlands to the north and south of the modern Saldanha Bay were breached and the low-lying land behind the barriers were flooded, thus forming the modern bay and lagoon. The remaining dune barrier runs south from Postberg to form the Langebaan peninsula (Fleming 1977, 1980).

The main geological formations are:
- Witzand formation – unconsolidated white sand with comminuted shells,
- Langebaan formation – limestone calcrete and calcified parabolic dune sand,
- Springfontyn formation – light grey to pale red sandy soils,
- Langebaan-Saldanha pluton formation – stony granite; quartz monzonite and quartz porphyry.

2.9.4 Marine & coastal area

Langebaan Lagoon is the only non-estuarine tidal lagoon in South Africa uniquely sheltered with a strong and distinct tidal flow, and the subtidal region is generally less than 4 m deep (Fleming 1977). It is characterised by high levels of productivity, with uniquely diverse biotic communities (Day 1959). It has a small freshwater input from the aquifer on the southern most part of the lagoon as salinities remain equivalent to those inside and outside of the bay, with Whitfield (2005) suggesting that it could be considered a new type of estuary. Current velocities during spring tides can reach speeds up of to 100 cm/sec in the main entrance channels to the lagoon, before decreasing to approximately 20 – 25 cm/sec in the wider lower reaches. Approximately 12 % of the volume of the Saldanha Bay – Langebaan Lagoon system is exchanged during a spring tide (Shannon & Stander 1977). The upwelled water is advected into Saldanha Bay, affecting the temperature and nutrient levels of the bay (Pitcher & Calder 1998) and to lesser extent the lagoon (Monteiro & Largier 1999).

2.9.5 Flora

Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton concentration in the lagoon is influenced by the highly nutrient rich water of the Benguela upwelling system, and is characterized by inputs of surface nitrate and high chlorophyll levels most of the year (Grant *et al*. 1998), and an average water column chlorophyll a concentration of 8.6 µg/l, and an average daily production rate of 3.40 g of C/m²/day have been recorded (Pitcher & Calder 1998).

Algae (seaweeds)

A total of 200 seaweed species consisting of 33 green seaweeds, 26 brown seaweeds and 141 red seaweeds have been recorded for the Saldanha Bay / Langebaan Lagoon system (Schils 1998). Seven seaweed species found in the lagoon have a warm south coast distribution (Bolton & Stegenga 2002).

A decline in seagrass coverage in the lagoon from 1960-3007 has been noted (Pillay *et al.* 2010), mirrored by a loss in invertebrate diversity and a decline in numbers of waders. The causes of these changes are unclear, but are consistent with global trends (Waycott *et al.* 2009).

Aquatic and semi aquatic plants

The saltmarsh plants *Spartina maritima* and *Sarcocornia perennis* reach maximum abundance in the southern half of the lagoon where nutrients in the marsh water are highest and current speeds reduced (Christie 1981). Other common saltmarsh species found are *Arthrocnemum pillanssi* var. *pillanssi, Salicornia capensis* and *Disphyma crassifolium, Juncus kraussii, Scirpus nodosus, Nidorella foetida, Senecio haliminfolius, Typha capensis* and *Phragmites australis* (Boucher & Jarman 1977). In the South African context the saltmarshes of Langebaan are unique in that no river feeds into the lagoon, and at some 5,700 ha, they constitute approximately 32% of saltmarsh habitat in the country, the largest in South Africa (O'Callaghan 1990).

Terrestrial vegetation

WCNP mostly contains strandveld vegetation (24,025 ha), which was previously classified as West Coast Strandveld (Acocks 1988) and Langebaan Fynbos / Thicket Mosaic (Cowling & Heijnis 2001), and hereafter referred to as 'strandveld'. In recent years the park has expanded incorporating substantial areas (6,382 ha) of an additional vegetation type / broad habitat unit i.e. Hopefield Sand Plain Fynbos, previously called Coastal Fynbos, and hereafter referred to as 'sand plain fynbos'. Both these habitat units were given a 50 % irreplaceable rating (Cowling *et al.* 1999), However, sand plain fynbos is regarded to be of higher conservation value than strandveld, due to very little being formally conserved and it being more threatened by alien plant invasion (Appendix 4 Map 6).

The strandveld vegetation of WCNP occurs on the Langebaan peninsula and east of the Langebaan lagoon on deep calcareous sands of the Langebaan formation. Sand plain fynbos occurs inland of the strandveld on deep acidic light-grey to pale-red sands of the Springfontyn formation. Extensive marshes, dominated by *Sarcocornia*, *Salicornia*, *Spartina*, *Limonium*, *Phragmites*, *Typha*, *Juncus*, and *Scirpus* species, occur on the fringes of the Langebaan lagoon (Boucher & Jarman 1977).

The vegetation of the park, excluding the newly acquired properties such as Van Niekerks Hoop, Kalkklipfontein, Langefontein and Elandsfontein, may be divided into 36 associations (or communities), having some 482 plant species (including salt marsh species), of which 21 are Red Data Book species (Heydenrych 1995). A further 14 Red Data species have been recorded, or are likely to occur on the newly acquired sections of land.

2.9.6 Fauna

Marine invertebrates

Langebaan Lagoon has a rich marine invertebrate fauna of more than 400 species (Day 1959). In general the density and diversity of macro-invertebrates in the soft substrata of the lagoon is higher than in that of Saldanha Bay (Simons 2000). In the early 1990s approximately 800,000 sand prawns *Callianassa kraussi* were removed per annum from the central bank in the lagoon by bait diggers, who disturbed a further 1,300 kg of associated macrofauna, much of which (*c.* 80%) was preyed upon by scavenging gulls (Wynberg & Branch 1997). Such bait digging activities have a marked impact on the composition of the macro-fauna in the mudflats of the lagoon, with some polychaete species being attracted to disturbed sites, while others avoid these sites (Simons 2000). The lagoon is one of two habitats for South Africa's most endangered marine mollusc, *Siphonaria compressa* (Herbert 1999). Another small mollusc *Assiminea globulus* constitutes about 63 % of the invertebrate biomass in the surface layers of the intertidal mudflats of the lagoon, and it is the major prey item of the curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, which is the most abundant migrant wader (Puttick 1978). The alien Mediterranean mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* has a widespread distribution in the Saldanha Bay – Langebaan Lagoon system where suitable habitat occurs, while both the European periwinkle *Littorina saxatilis* and the alien anemone *Sagartia ornata* had limited distributions, but sizeable populations (>2 million individuals) within the lagoon (Robinson *et al.* 2004).

Fishes

The overall abundance of teleosts (bony fish such as bream and mullets) across the Saldanha Bay-Langebaan Lagoon system increases as wave exposure decreases, while the highest species richness and diversity occur at intermediate levels of wave exposure. A total of 29 bony fish species and 12 elasmobranch (sharks) species have been recorded in the lagoon (Clark 1997) with the sandshark *Rhinobatos annulatus* being an important predator due to its numbers and biomass (Harris *et al.* 1988).

The fish include important recreational and commercial linefish species such as geelbek *Atractoscion aequidens,* blacktail *Diplodus capensis*, elf *Pomatomus saltatrix*, baardman *Umbrina canariensis,* fransmadam *Boopsoidea inornata*, steentjie *Spondyliosoma emarginatum*, white stumpnose *Rhabdosargus globiceps,* Cape gurnard *Chelidonichthys capensis*, carpenter *Argyrozona argyrozona,* hottentot *Pachymetopon blochii*, snoek *Thyrsites atun* and yellowtail *Seriola lalandi*. An additional two species have since been recorded for the first time in the lagoon, namely pinkie or olive grunter *Pomadasys olivaceum* and jutjaw *Parascorpis typus* (Dopolo, unpublished data). The fish species composition of the Langebaan Lagoon is under review (Dopolo *pers. comm*.) to provide an updated list of the ichthyofaunal assemblages.

Recorded species of the shark, skates and rays in the lagoon include soupfin shark *Callorhynchus capensis*, blue stingray *Dasyatis pastinaca*, smoothhound shark *Mustelus mustelus*, white-spotted smoothhound shark *Mustelus palumbes*, eagle ray *Myliobatis avour*, striped catshark *Poroderma Africana*, lesser guitarfish *Rhinobatos annulants*, piked dogfish *Squalus acanthias*, blue-spotted electric ray *Torpedo fuscomaculata*, spotted gullyshark *Triakis megalopterus*, St. Joseph shark *Callorhinchus capensis* and sandshark *Rhinobatos annulatus*. Sandsharks are considered important predatory species due to their large numbers (Harris *et al*. 1988).

Amphibians

Very little is known about the amphibians of the park. The results of an amphibian atlas project currently underway will provide data relevant to the park.

Reptiles

Thirty-three reptile species have been recorded in the park (Cordes & Mouton 1996). Detailed studies have been done on the girdled lizards *Cordylus niger* and *C*. *polyzonus* and angulate tortoise *Chersina angulata*. The angulate tortoise population of the park was found to be genetically different from that at Kleinzee (Lesia *et al.* 2003).

Birds

Langebaan Lagoon: A total of some 255 species have been recorded in the park. Langebaan Lagoon provides an important feeding area for migrant waders. The lagoon supports approximately 26 % of all waders noted in the wetlands of the south-western Cape Province (Ryan *et al.* 1988), and between 1975 and 1995 an average of 34 700 birds were recorded during annual summer counts.

Of these approximately 90 % were Palaearctic migrant waders, with the most abundant species Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (*c.* 56 %), Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (11 %), Sanderling *Calidris alba* (8%) and Knot *Calidris canutus* (8 %). In winter the numbers of water birds decline to approximately 10,300, which include about 4,500 flamingos (*Phoenicipterus favour* and *P. minor*) (Navarro *et al.* 1995). The terrestrial area adjacent to the lagoon supports the highest density of the Vulnerable black harrier *Circus maurus* in South Africa *Nearshore islands:* The nearshore islands are designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) (Underhill 2009) for Red Data listed seabirds. Based on a survey done in 2000 (Du Toit *et al.* 2003), these include the vulnerable Cape gannet *Morus capensis* with 70,000 nest sites/breeding pairs, the vulnerable African penguin *Spheniscus demersus* with 1,507 nest sites and vulnerable bank cormorant *Phalocrocorax neglectus* with 65 nest sites, as well as the near threatened species Cape cormorant *Phalocrocorax capensis* with 33,000 nest sites in 1978, the near threatened crowned cormorant *Phalocrocorax coronatus* with 224 nest sites and African black oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* with 180 breeding pairs (IUCN status from SoKR 2009).

Substantial numbers of non-threatened species also breed on these islands (e.g. Kelp gull *Larus dominicanus* – 8,351 breeding pairs; Hartlaub's Gull *Larus hartlaubii* – 1,669 breeding pairs). The overall breeding success of the Cape gannet and African penguin is adversely affected by decreases in stocks of anchovy and sardine (Crawford 1998); oil pollution (Crawford *et al.* 2000a), and predation by seals (Mecenero *et al.* 2005).

Mammals

Terrestrial: Compared with the more tropical regions of southern Africa, the South West Cape has few species. Nevertheless, 19 rodents, 11 insectivores, 13 carnivores and 10 ungulates have been recorded in the park (Avery *et al.* 1990). Of these animals five ungulates, one rodent and one lagomorph (European rabbit) are extralimital (*i.e.* they were introduced into the park, which lies outside their normal distribution range). One such species is the Bontebok *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*, which together with Grant's golden mole *Eremitalpa granti* and honey badger *Mellivora capensis*, comprise the three Red Data mammals found in the park (Friedmann & Daly 2004). The larger carnivores in the park (yellow mongoose *Cynictis penicillata*, small grey mongoose *Galerella pulverulenta*, water mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* and caracal *Felis caracal*) show opportunistic feeding behaviour and an absence of dietary specialisation. Rodents (*Rhabdomys pumilio* and *Otomys unisulcatus*) are the main prey item of the last three mentioned carnivore species (Avenant

Marine: Cape fur seal colonies historically occurred on the nearshore islands in Saldanha Bay, but no longer occupy this habitat. However, seals still forage in the area, often preying on the seabirds of the islands (Yssel 2000). Recent observations (Dopolo, unpublished data) show that a group of seals have learned to scavenge on the gillnet fishery. The seals would follow the gillnet fishermen or swim in a nearby area until the fishermen launch their nets and remove fish from the nets, in the process ripping the nets. Seals were not frequent in the lagoon previously, and it is probably aided by the recent addition of the breeding colony on Vondeling Island.

A variety of whale and dolphin species are found off the South African coast, and the impacts of whaling operations from Donkergat in Saldanha Bay on several of these cetaceans are discussed in Best & Ross (1989 (SoKR 2009)).

2.9.7 Palaeontology

Extremely rich Pliocene and Pleistocene fossil beds have been found at Langebaanweg some 15km north of the park, while important fossil remains from the middle to late Pleistocene occur at Elandsfontein (Hendey 1970, 1981, 1985). The area, especially around Elandsfontein, is extremely rich in fossils, and abundant Late Cenozoic deposits of up to five million years in age in the Varswater formation have been found (Hendey 1985). Fossils can also be found elsewhere in the park, and several fossils in the calcrete areas in and near the dunes at Geelbek are accessible to visitors. Preliminary fossil recoveries by Braun *et al.* (unpublished) reveal different paleoecological signatures of multiple grazing bovids, and this suggests the presence of a historical ecosystem with a grassland component.

The fossilised imprints of human footprints dating some 117,000 years ago were found at Kraalbaai in 1997. The original footprints were removed and are now kept in the South African Museum.

2.9.8 Archaeology and cultural heritage

Evidence of human occupation of the park dates back to the middle Pleistocene, but most of the records date from the later Holocene, some 12,000 years ago. The open archaeological sites in the Geelbek Dunes (ca. 4 km² in extent) have been mapped and studied (Kandel *et al*. 2003; Prindiville & Conrad 2006). This suggested that these people adopted a hunter-gathering lifestyle. In a study of Acheulean hominid behavioural ecology Braun *et al*. (unpublished) discovered extinct specimens and stone artefacts, which highlight the history of human activities in this area. Several sites were identified for possible fossil recovery.

The Langebaan area is also an important site in early history of European settlers in South Africa (Axelson 1977). Oudepost was one of the first outposts erected by the Dutch in 1669. It was built to ward off the French, but later functioned more as a trading outpost with the Khoikhoi people (Krumm 1990). There are numerous historical monuments such as the homesteads at Geelbek and Bottelary, the Church at Churchhaven, the old “Postbox” at Postberg and the VOC beacon at Geelbek.

A set of human footprints ca. 120 000 years old were recently found at Kraalbaai, and while the original footprints were removed and are being kept in the South African Museum, replica footprints are housed in the Geelbek Information Centre.

2.9.9 Socio-economic context

Seven areas of urban and semi-urban development, Langebaan, Saldanha Bay, Vredenburg, Langebaanweg, Hopefield, Darling and Yzerfontein, are situated around the park as well as several smaller farming communities and informal settlements. Of the regions estimated 287,000 inhabitants some 28% (79,000) live within the Saldanha Bay Municipality and 27% (78,000) in the Swartland Municipality. A steady rate of urbanisation to the larger towns in the Saldanha and Swartland municipalities from the more rural surrounding areas has occurred since 1996. Unemployment rate in the region is relatively high at an estimated 15.7%. In 2007, it was found that the greatest population without income resided in the Saldanha Bay and Swartland municipal areas. Over the period 1996-2004, the employment performance of the regional economy has been generally poor with net losses of employment being experienced in all sectors except manufacturing, transport, social services and government. Coupled with this is a relatively high percentage (29%) of illiterate persons older than 14 years (West Coast District Municipality IDP and SDF).

The park makes a significant contribution to the region’s economy as shown by the expenditure budgets for the 2011/12 financial year, which indicates an expenditure of R9,432,122.80 for the park and a combined R7,773,723.00 for the expanded public parks programmes managed by the park. By far the largest portion of this money is spent on salaries and purchases from local businesses.

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Section 3: Policy framework

SANParks, like all protected area management authorities, are subject to the constitution, legislation, international agreements, national policies and government priorities. Section 41 of the NEM:PAA requires that management plans be located within the context of a coordinated policy framework (CPF), with SANParks complying with a first CPF having been developed in 2006. This CPF is currently being revised and will be updated in 2013 (SANParks in preparation). Until updated, the current CPF will remain in force.

The revised CPF will provide the information required by the DEA guidelines for management plans (Cowan & Mpongoma 2010). This document will summarise the institutional, ecological, economic and social environment for park management and includes:

(1) An introduction to the management plan requirements of the NEM: PAA, what it means for stakeholders, and the corporate provisions SANParks has made to comply with NEM: PAA.
(2) SANParks as an organisation: including its organisational structure, vision, mission, biodiversity values and performance management system (by means of the Balanced Scorecard), and its approach to strategic adaptive management.
(3) Policies and guiding principles
    a) Finances and commercialisation
    b) Tourism
    c) Zoning system in parks
    d) Stakeholder relationships
    e) Management to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem processes.
    f) Risk management
    g) Safety and security
    h) Cultural heritage resources
    i) Resource use
    j) Research

The planning cycle for management plans in SANParks is ten years, although programmes and costing will be revised at a more regular basis, normally every five years but more often if needed.

Park-specific framework

All park managers (except for Kruger) report to the Managing Executive: Parks. In the case of the WCNP this is via the Regional Senior Manager for the Cape Region. The park's organogram (next page) sets out the reporting structure in the park

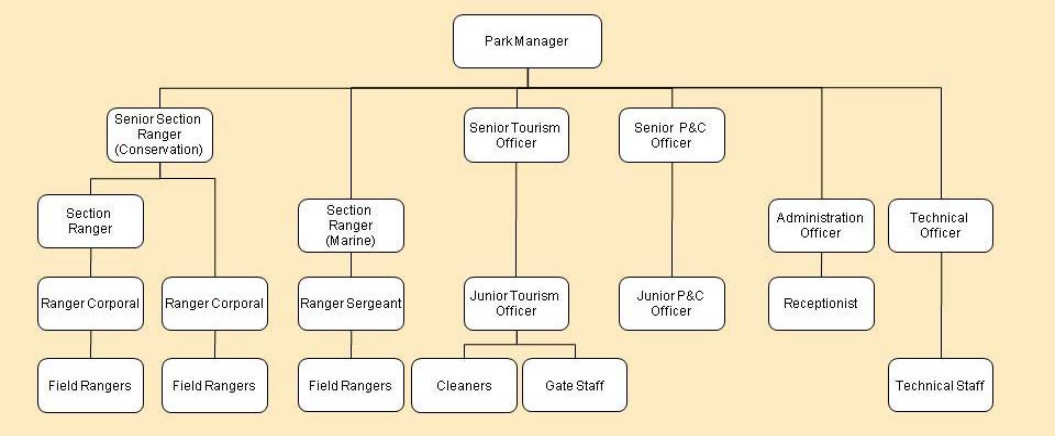

Figure 1: Park Organogram

Section 4: Consultation

The intent of setting a 'desired state' is to guide park management towards achieving the well-being of the ecological, economic and social environments of the park. The process to determine the desired state for the park included the following steps:

- **Informing registered stakeholders.** All the stakeholders registered during the 2006 management plan revision process were informed (via e-mail and telephonic) of the intention to review the management plan during the 2009/2010 financial year.
- **Stakeholder consultation.** Government (national, provincial and local) and non-government organisations that were approached for the revision process included SANDF, Department of Water Affairs, SANBI, MCM, CapeNature, Saldanha Local Municipality, West Coast District Municipality, CWCBR, all members of the Park Forum, landowners, contractual partners, tourism associations, community organisations, ratepayers, concessionaires, media representatives, research partners and education partners. Thirty-nine participants attended a workshop to set the desired state on 12-13 August 2009. In addition as well as an open day on 25 March 2010 to comment on the draft management plan were held.
- **Hierarchy of objectives workshop.** A hierarchy of objectives workshop took place on the 12 and 13 August 2009 with park management and SANParks specialists were participating.
- **Focus group meetings.** Two focus group meetings were held, the first being a stakeholder group meeting discussing issues around the lagoon and the second a meeting with the Park Forum discussing the draft zoning scheme.

Of particular note is the park forum, a formal partnership between the community in and around the Langebaan Lagoon and the park with SANParks in support of their natural and cultural conservation goals. The park forum has its own charter, and represents district and local government, development and industry, tourism, recreation and cultural history representatives, safety and security partners, landowners, education and community partners as well as those involved with terrestrial, marine and coastal conservation.

The consulting process is detailed in a stakeholder report (SANParks 2011, included as appendix 2):

- Reviewing the mission of the park
- Understanding the operating values and principles
- Evaluating the park's key attributes and determining high level management objectives
- Considering the planning framework of the CWCBR, planning of MPAs, and listing as a Ramsar site

The high level objectives for the park were developed by alignment with SANParks corporate strategic objectives, but defining them in a local context in conjunction with the Park Forum and key stakeholders. These objectives were clustered or grouped into an objectives hierarchy that provides the framework for the management plan. The high level objectives were developed into more detailed objectives by park management staff, regional and head office staff as well as specialist researchers down to the level of operational actions.

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Section 5: Purpose and mission

5 Introduction

As noted in previous sections, the development of a desired state is the first step in developing a park management plan. This section of the plan details the setting of the park's desired state, as well as a vision statement which reflects the high level essence of the park. As part of this process the determinants of the park's vital attributes were identified as well as the threats to these attributes. Objectives were chosen with a view to maintaining the determinants and overcoming the threats. Management programmes were then designed to attain the objectives. The development of the desired state, vision and mission for the park was guided by a stakeholder workshop (appendix 3).

5.1 Purpose of the park

The initial purpose of the park area was to protect the key conservation areas of the Langebaan Lagoon and associated wetlands as well as the offshore islands in Saldanha Bay. The management focus has broadened to include the terrestrial surroundings as representative sites of the ecosystems of the West Coast Region.

In alignment with the Act the purpose of the park is to:

- Protect nationally and internationally important biodiversity areas, scenic areas and cultural heritage sites.
- Prevent exploitation or occupation inconsistent with the protection of the ecological integrity of the area.
- Allow spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and tourism opportunities which are environmentally compatible.
- Contribute to economic development.

This management plan for the park serves as:

- An outline of the context / background and desired state of the park and how this was determined.
- A summary of the management strategies programmes and projects that are required to move towards achieving the desired state (although these strategies, programmes and projects can extend over many years, the management focus until 2017 is presented). It focuses on critical strategic park management issues, operational issues, integration and assessment on achievements to ensure that the longer-term desired state is reached.
- A summary of the Strategic Adaptive Management process that the park plans to implement to ensure that the park achieves its management objectives.

5.2 The park's mission

West Coast National Park will conserve and enhance the unique terrestrial and marine, ecological and cultural, historical and scenic resources of the Langebaan Lagoon and Saldanha bay, proximate islands and surrounding terrestrial environments of the West Coast for the appreciation, and use of, for present and future generations.

5.3 Operating principles

Principles are the ways of thinking that guide the management of the park. These principles include:

- **Custodianship of a common heritage**: The park and its environmental resources are held in public trust by SANParks with a duty to conserve, respect, protect and promote the park as a national asset in the interest of the South African public and the international community.

- **Authentic relationships**: The park strives to develop relationships with stakeholders in planning and managing the park, based on mutual respect, empowerment, equity, co-operation, collaborative problem solving, accountability and transparency.
- **Sustainability**: The park requires a balance between ecological sustainability, social equity, and economic efficiency to ensure that the needs of the present generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Environmental management**: Sound environmental management principles should underpin any and all park management decisions. The park strives to set an example when it comes to responsible environmental management practices such as reducing the carbon footprint of the park, introduction of 'green technologies', sourcing of local resources and suppliers, etc.

5.4 Key attributes

The key park attributes are the important characterises and / or properties of the park that concisely describe the key features of the park. The park identified 12 attributes that are vital to the approach by which it is managed. The issues facing management for each attribute are presented in Table 1 and form the platform from which the park's management objectives, strategies and programmes are developed. The key attributes are:

- A large ***unique marine lagoon system*** with tidal salt marshes and mud flats with associated rich bird diversity: sea birds, migratory birds; and terrestrial birds depend on the lagoon.
- The park is a ***globally important*** centre of ***biodiversity*** due its variety of diverse habitats comprising the saline lagoon, off-shore islands, salt marshes, and several nationally important vegetation types.
- As an ***open ecological system***, the park is dependent on successful conservation measures outside of the park at local, regional, national and international levels.
- The park hosts a number of ***altered landscapes*** (e.g. old fields, homesteads and islands) which enhances the attractiveness of the park.
- A rich ***cultural and natural heritage*** merges within the park where internationally important geological, archaeological and paleontological sites can be found within a landscape of shipwrecks, old farmsteads and very old family lineages.
- The park has a ***high*** level of protected ***conservation status:*** the national park includes marine protected areas, parts of it have Ramsar site status and it is the core area of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve.
- The park is experiencing a ***growth in tourism demand*** due to its proximity to the country's major tourist hub of Cape Town as well as the economic growth hub of the Cape west coast, allowing the development of unique and complementary visitor experiences and facilities.
- ***Distinctive sense of place*** with variety of landscape features, a range of day sites and historic homesteads in a setting of quiet solitude, scenic vistas and clear night skies.
- ***Park support*** from a diverse local community with a range of skills, knowledge and culture that can participate in a partnership of custodianship of the park. This includes an active Park Forum, concessionaires, contractual partners as well as dedicated and motivated corps of honorary rangers.
- The park has access to a ***sound base of research and state of knowledge*** although there is variable depth of research in certain areas and research findings are not always fed back to the park.
- ***Multi-use residential areas*** (Postberg, Stofbergsfontein, Churchhaven and Schrywershoek) are included within the park
- The park is centrally situated and has facilities for the implementation of vibrant **eco-education programmes** in the Cape west coast region.

5.5 Formulation of high level management objectives

The high level management objectives (figures 1 a-f) of the park are set with the intention of overcoming the perceived management challenges (table 1) facing the park and moving towards achieving the park's mission. The management requirements were determined by looking at the determinants of, constraints and threats to, and the vital attributes of the park. These high level objectives were further detailed and elaborated on in section 10 to form a hierarchy of objectives.

Table 1: Key management challenges.

Park Attribute	Factors to be considered pertaining to the Park Attribute
Unique marine lagoon system	• Expanding harbour and increasing shipping traffic • Oil pipeline Saldanha – Milnerton • Inappropriate developments in and around the Lagoon • Water quality entering the lagoon from bay, urban surrounds as well as potential large scale pollution events • Non-sustainable extractive resource use • Invasive alien species • Alteration of flows by flow barriers
Globally important biodiversity	• Alien species invasion • Fire management • Seabird / waders management • Fisheries management • Use of the park as a 'short-cut' between R27 and Langebaan • Large herbivore management • Ecosystem connective and functionality
Open natural system	• Expanding harbour and increasing shipping traffic • International treaties and agreements • Joint and co-operative management
Altered landscapes	• Natural ecosystem processes • Tourism and recreational potential • Heritage landscapes
High conservation protection	• Ramsar site • Contractual properties
Cultural and natural heritage	• Local knowledge is dying out and being diluted before it is formally captured: o Perceived lack of coordination in the collation, archiving and dissemination of the cultural heritage of the park o Different perceptions exist of entitlement and mandate to "control" heritage resources amongst the community and authorities • A limited budget for maintenance in the face of theft, removal and general deterioration of the physical heritage resources • Development that conflicts with heritage architecture • Potential conflict between biodiversity and cultural heritage management objectives with respect to shaded / cultural landscapes vs pristine fynbos • SANParks' capacity, competency and expertise to implement heritage plans
Growth in tourism demand	• Lack of overnight facilities within the park • Limited access to important recreational areas Need to ensure continued safety and security of visitors to the park • Need to build strong relations with local tourism industry • Park products and pricing
Distinct sense of place	• The preservation of the unique 'sense of place' by managing noise and visual intrusions from roads and urban development • Potential for uncoordinated and inappropriate development and access within and surrounding the park as well as conflicting user activities within the park
Park Support	• Vibrant and good support

Park attribute	Factors to be considered pertaining to the park attribute
State of knowledge and research	• Current research is focused on biodiversity and needs to be broadened into heritage and tourism areas; • The park has no formal integrated monitoring programme and these need to be designed, funded and implemented; • The concept of thresholds of potential concern (TPC's) needs to be understood by both management and stakeholders and suitable TPC's determined and measured; • Findings of research and monitoring need to be formally fed back into management strategies and actions; • Shortage of funding for specific priority research projects
Multi-use residential areas	• Access to and privacy of private properties • Multi-ownership and tenant systems • Inappropriate uses and activities
Eco-education programmes	• Potential for expansion of the programme

5.6 High level objectives

The park's high level objectives (Figures 2 a-f) were developed with input from stakeholders during the public participation process.

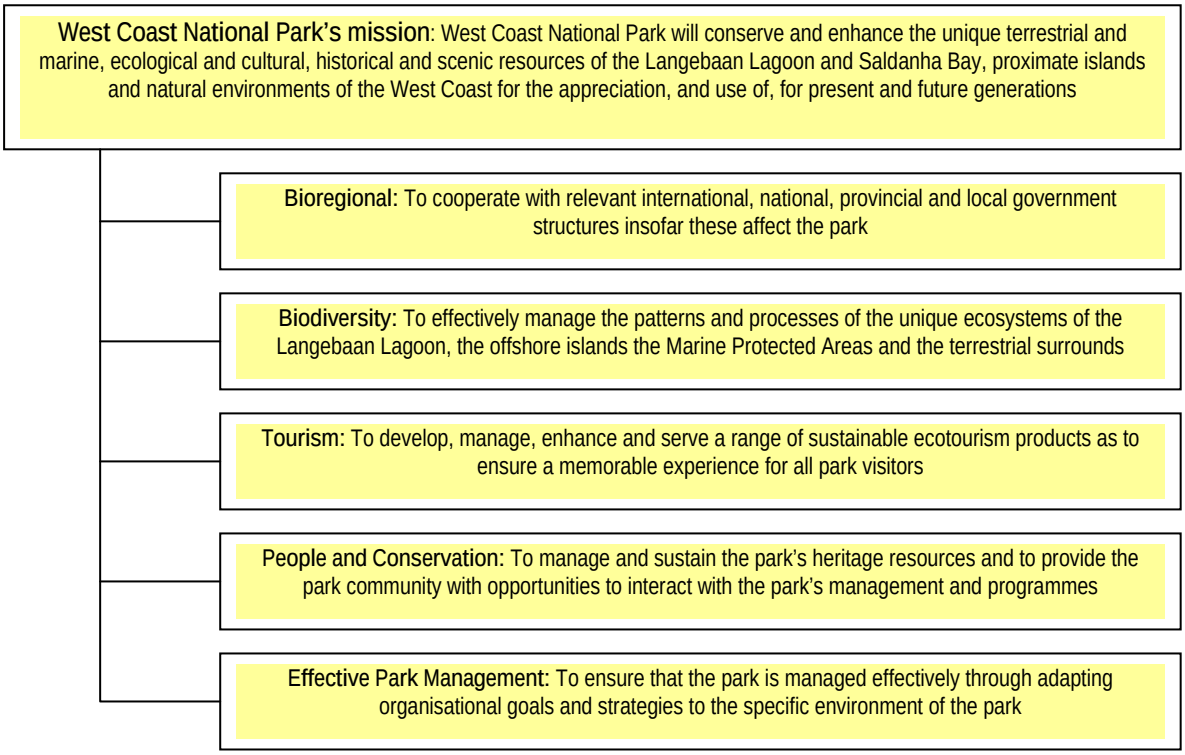

Figure 2a: High level objectives

Bioregional: To cooperate with relevant international, national, provincial and local government structures insofar these affect the park

- **Mainstreaming biodiversity:** To mainstream biodiversity issues in local and other planning frameworks
- **Land consolidation / expansion:** To acquire conservation worthy and strategically important land for the consolidation and expansion of the park

Figure 2b: Bioregional high level objectives

Biodiversity: To effectively manage the patterns and processes of the unique ecosystems of the Langebaan Lagoon, the offshore islands the Marine Protected Areas and the terrestrial surrounds

- **Functional ecosystems:** To maintain and manage the long term persistence of biodiversity patterns and processes with a focus on Water in the Landscape
- **Rehabilitation:** To rehabilitate degrade areas including the re-establishment of natural biodiversity patterns and key processes that support the long term persistence of biodiversity
- **Species of special concern:** To ensure that Species of Special Concern in terrestrial, aquatic, island and marine ecosystems are afforded protection through management actions
- **Fire management:** To ensure that fire is managed so as to enhance ecosystems in the park while safeguarding staff, visitors and infrastructure
- **Terrestrial biota:** To manage terrestrial biota in accordance with organisational goals and in a manner that would not negatively impact on the landscape
- **Resource use:** To allow the sustainable use of resources in a way that would not adversely affect biodiversity while sharing socio-economic benefits

Figure 2c: Biodiversity high level objectives

Tourism
To develop, manage, enhance and serve a range of sustainable ecotourism products as to ensure a memorable experience for all park visitors

- **Responsible tourism:** To ensure that visitors have access to a range of unique and top quality products and services that are competitively priced and in line with diverse and dynamic visitor needs and to market these products

Figure 1d: Tourism high level objective

Figure 2e: People and conservation high level objective

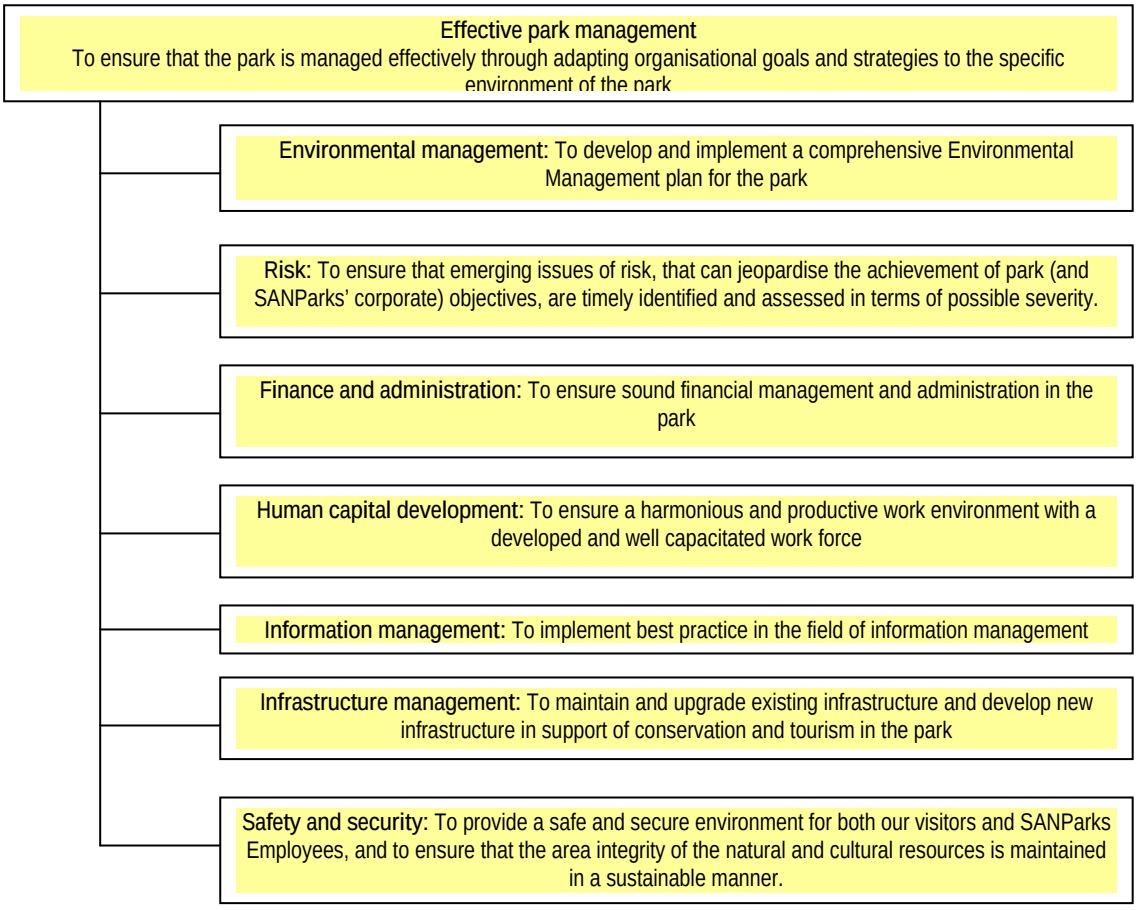

Figure 2f: Effective park management high level management objectives

Section 6: Zoning

The primary objective of a park zoning plan is to establish a coherent spatial framework in and around a park to guide and co-ordinate conservation, tourism and visitor experience initiatives. A zoning plan plays an important role in minimizing conflicts between different users of a park by separating potentially conflicting activities such as game viewing and day-visitor picnic areas whilst ensuring that activities which do not conflict with the park's values and objectives (especially the conservation of the protected area's natural systems, its biodiversity and heritage resources) can continue in appropriate areas.

The zoning of West Coast National Park was undertaken in conjunction with the Peace Parks Foundation, and went through a public participation process. The zoning was based on an assessment of the park's biophysical resources, and an assessment of the park's current and planned infrastructure. The zones used in this initial process have been converted into the standard SANParks use zones (with some minor modifications to ensure compatibility) in order to ensure compatible outputs (appendix 3, appendix 4 map 4).

In addition to internal use zoning, the zoning plan also describes how the park interacts with the processes which control land use and activities in the buffer zones around national parks (e.g. Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF) and municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs)). The Buffer Zones identify the area within which activities such as landuse change may have an influence on the park (current and future extent), describe responses at a strategic level, and serve to define the buffer zone in terms of the DEA Policy on buffer zones for national parks and the SANParks buffer zone policy.

Overview of the use zones of West Coast National Park:
The summary of the use zoning plan for West Coast National Park is shown in Map 4. Full details of the use zones (including high resolution maps), the activities and facilities allowed in each zone, the conservation objectives of each zone, the zoning process, the Park Buffer Zones (detailing park interaction with adjacent areas) and the underlying landscape analyses are included in Appendix 3: West Coast National Park Zoning Plan.

Remote zone: This is an area retaining an intrinsically wild appearance and character, or capable of being restored to such and which is undeveloped and roadless (although limited improved management tracks are allowed). There are no permanent improvements or any form of human habitation. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, with awe inspiring natural characteristics with sight and sound of human habitation and activities barely discernible and at far distance. The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in a natural state with no impact on biodiversity pattern or processes. Existing impacts on biodiversity either from historical usage or originating from outside the zone should be minimized. The aesthetic/recreational objectives for the zone specify that activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area, or which impact on the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness, serenity, peace etc) will not be tolerated. Remote areas were designated in coastal, wetland and dune areas of the park. These areas include the Marine C portion of the lagoon, as well as the inshore areas of the 16 Mile Beach MPA section where vessels are excluded. In the terrestrial areas of the park, the remote areas include the coastal dune cordon (linking with the adjacent marine remote zone), east of the R27, as well as the major dune belt in the south of the park.

Primitive zone: The prime characteristic of the zone is the experience of wilderness qualities with access controlled in terms of numbers, frequency and size of groups. The zone has wilderness qualities, but with limited access roads (mostly 4x4) and the potential for basic small-scale self-catering accommodation facilities or small concession lodges (which would generally have more sophisticated facilities).

Views of human activities and development outside of the park may be visible from this zone. The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in an almost completely natural state with little or no impact on biodiversity processes, and very limited and site specific impacts on biodiversity pattern. Existing impacts on biodiversity either from historical usage or originating from outside the zone should be minimized. The aesthetic/recreational objectives for the zone specify that activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area, or which impact on the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness, serenity, peace etc) should be restricted and impacts limited to the site of the facility. Ideally visitors should only be aware of the facility or infrastructure that they are using, and this infrastructure/facility should be designed to fit in with the environment within which it is located in order to avoid aesthetic impacts. Large portions of the park are designated as primitive areas to protect most of the remaining sensitive areas from high levels of tourist activity. This includes much of Postberg and the other controlled access contractual areas of the park, the islands, and lowland areas adjacent to the Langebaan Lagoon, as well as most of the southern sections of the park away from current infrastructure.

Quiet zone: This zone is characterized by unaccompanied (or accompanied under some circumstances) non-motorized access, where visitors can walk or cycle and experience nature without the intrusion of any form of motorized transport. Visitor numbers and density are higher than in the primitive zone and contact between visitors is frequent. The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in a generally natural state, with the proviso that limited impacts on biodiversity patterns and processes are allowed in order to accommodate park recreational and tourism objectives. Infrastructure should only be allowed within a restricted development footprint, and infrastructure, especially paths and viewpoints should be designed to limit the impacts of large numbers of visitors on the biophysical environment. The aesthetic/recreational objectives for the zone specify that the zone should retain a relatively natural appearance and character and activities which impact on this should be restricted. In particular visitors are not allowed motorized access to this zone. It is however recognized that the presence of larger numbers of visitors and the facilities they require, may impact on the feeling of wildness found in this zone. Quiet areas include the bird hides and trails around Geelbek. The Marine B area of the lagoon, as well as similar control areas around the other islands are all designated quiet.

Low intensity leisure zone: The underlying characteristic of this zone is motorized self-drive access with the possibility of small basic camps. Facilities along roads are limited to basic picnic sites with toilet facilities. The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in a largely natural state that is in keeping with the character of a protected area, mitigate the biodiversity impacts of the relatively high levels of tourism activity and infrastructure that are accommodated within this zone through careful planning and active management, and to ensure that both the negative effects of the activities and infrastructure are restricted to the zone. The aesthetic/recreational objectives for the zone specify that although activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduction of the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness etc) is inevitable, these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience. In the park, low intensity leisure areas were designated in the current game, flower, and landscape viewing areas, and along current access routes from the south. The offshore areas accessible to motorized vessels of the 16 Mile Beach MPA section of the park are include in the low intensity leisure zone, as are the Marine A areas of the lagoon (opposite Langebaan town). The northern shores of Langebaan Lagoon were designated low intensity leisure to accommodate the proposed Klein Mooimaak Rest Camp and associated infrastructure and activities.

High intensity leisure zone: The main characteristic is that of a high density tourist development node with amenities such as shops, restaurants and interpretive centres. This is the zone where more concentrated human activities are allowed, and is accessible by motorized transport on high volume transport routes. The main focus is to ensure a high quality visitor experience, however the conservation objectives still require that the high levels of tourism activity and infrastructure that are accommodated within this zone are planned and managed to minimize the effect on the surrounding natural environment, and that the zone must still retain a level of ecological integrity consistent with a protected area. The aesthetic/recreational objectives for the zone specify although the high visitor numbers, activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduction of the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness etc) is inevitable, these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area generally still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience. In the park, high intensity leisure areas were designated in existing high usage areas such as Geelbek, and the proposed hotel precinct at the existing administrative complex in Langebaan. The Kraalbaai and Preekstoel areas that are intensively used for limited portions of the year are included in this zone.

Overview of the special management overlays of West Coast National Park:
Special management overlays which designate specific areas of the park that require special management interventions were identified. Two areas were designated:

Special conservation areas - dune protection: The sensitive mobile dune field system requires special protection, and will be managed to minimize impacts on sediment transport processes.

Special conservation areas - saltmarsh: This sensitive habitat types was identified for special protection in order to reduce any potential loss and minimize any ongoing impacts in these areas.

In addition to the above special management overlays, three marine overlays are designated:

Marine A: This area is managed as a marine controlled Zone with enforcement of the Marine Living Resources Act. Fishing and motorized vessels are allowed.

Marine B: Access to this zone is controlled, and fishing and the use of any motorized vessel can only take place on the authority of and in accordance with a permit obtained from the management authority.

Marine C: This is an exclusion zone, with entry, the use of vessels and the catching or disturbance of fish being strictly prohibited.

Summary of the buffer zones around of West Coast National Park:
This section describes how the park interacts with the processes which control land use and activities in the buffer zones around national parks (e.g. spatial development frameworks (SDFs) and municipal integrated development plans (IDPs)). The Buffer Zone section identifies the area within which activities such as landuse change may have an influence on the park (current and future extent), describes responses at a strategic level, and serves to define the buffer zone in terms of the DEA Policy on buffer zones for National Parks and the SANParks buffer zone policy. The spatial extent of the buffer zone is informed by linkages to the remainder of the West Coast Biosphere Reserve, by the Critical Biodiversity Areas identified in the Biodiversity Sector Plan for the Saldanha Bay, Bergrivier, Cederberg and Matzikama Municipalities, and by adjacent marine priorities.

The current extent of the West Coast National Park is included in a conservation focused category in the land use maps included in the SDFs of the local and district municipalities in which the park is located. These SDFs are the spatial components of municipal IDPs. The park interacts with the appropriate local government processes such as SDF and IDP development on an ongoing basis as part of the bioregional programme, in order to ensure that issues such as appropriate development of buffer zones around parks are also incorporated into proactive land use planning instruments such as SDFs and IDPs.

The park buffer zone shows the areas within which land use changes could affect a national park. The buffer zone, in combination with guidelines, will serve as a basis for a.) identifying the focus areas in which park management and scientists should respond to EIA's, b.) helping to identify the sort of impacts that would be important at a particular site, and most importantly c.) serving as the basis for integrating long term protection of a national park into the spatial development plans of municipalities (SDF/IDP) and other local authorities. In terms of EIA response, the zones serve largely to raise red-flags and do not remove the need for carefully considering the exact impact of a proposed development. In particular, they do not address activities with broad regional aesthetic or biodiversity impacts.

West Coast National Park has three buffer zone categories (Appendix 4 Map 5). The first two are mutually exclusive, but the final visual/aesthetic category can overlay the others.

Priority natural areas: These are key areas for both pattern and process that are required for the long term persistence of biodiversity in and around the park. The zone also includes areas identified for future park expansion. Inappropriate development and negative land-use changes should be opposed in this area. Developments and activities should be restricted to sites that are already transformed. Only developments that contribute to ensuring conservation friendly land-use should be viewed favourably.

Catchment protection areas: These are areas important for maintaining key hydrological processes within the park. Inappropriate development (dam construction, loss of riparian vegetation etc.) should be opposed. Control of alien vegetation and soil erosion as well as appropriate land care should be promoted.

Viewshed protection areas: These are areas where development is likely to impact on the aesthetic quality of the visitor's experience in a park. Within these areas any development proposals should be carefully screened to ensure that they do not impact excessively on the aesthetics of the park. The areas identified are only broadly indicative of sensitive areas, as at a fine scale many areas within this zone would be perfectly suited for development. In addition, major projects with large scale regional impacts may have to be considered even if they are outside the viewshed protection zone.

Current status and future improvements:
The current park use zoning is based on an underlying biophysical analysis combined with an assessment of the park's current and planned infrastructure. However, the zoning plan is not a full conservation development framework (CDF) as certain elements underlying the CDF such as an environmental sensitivity-value analysis, a tourism market analysis, and the identification of development nodes have not yet taken place. A full CDF will be developed once outstanding issues around the consolidation of the eastern section of the park, and clarity on the continued contractual inclusion of Postberg are settled. Additional special management overlays which designate specific areas of a park that require special management interventions (e.g. areas requiring rehabilitation) will also be identified.

Section 7: Access and facilities

7.1 Public access and control

Public access points and control measures as required in the guidelines are briefly discussed as follows:

- **Access points to the park.** Vehicular access points to visitors are:
  - **Langebaan gate,** which is situated just south of the town of Langebaan, is a 24 hour a day manned gate open to the public during 07h00-18h00 from April to August and during 07h00-19h00 from September to March. Private landowners and concessionaires can gain access 24 hours a day via a permit and electronic chip system.
  - **West coast road gate,** which is situated just off the R27 on the southeast side of the park, likewise is a 24 hour a day manned gate open as described for the Langebaan gate
  - **Ten gates** - Eight on the R27 and two to the south near Yzerfontein are used for official purposes only.
  - **Langefontein gate,** which is situated in the southeast of the park provides access to the Langefontein area east of the R27 and is used for official purposes and by a group wishing to establish a wind farm on the eastern side of Langefontein.
  - **Massenberg gate,** which is situated in the northeast of the park east of the R27 and is used for official purposes and landowners of properties east of the park. The gate is kept locked and access is gained by key.
- Internal access control. Vehicular access control points in the park:
  - **Mooimaak.** Access is for official use only with the road closed off by a gate and padlock.
  - **Bottelary.** Access for official use only with the road closed off by a boom and padlock.
  - **Abrahamskraal.** Public access up to the waterhole and bird hide, with further access to accommodation controlled by signage.
  - **Schrywershoek.** Access for official use and private landowners. Public access controlled by signage.
  - **Stofbergsfontein.** Access for official use and private landowners. Public access prohibited by signage.
  - **Postberg.** Access for official use and private landowners except for a two month period (August and September) when public access is allowed to view the spring flowers and use the picnic sites at Plankiesbaai and Uitkyk. Public access outside this two month period controlled by a locked gate. The gate is also used by the SANDF for access to the Donkergat military base.

7.2 Areas with restricted access

Contractual areas where public access is restricted are listed in the preceding section. The intention is to open much of the park for public access by vehicle, cycling and hiking trails, but most of these still have to be developed. The current situation is summarised in Table 2. Areas where public access is not allowed at present are the southern part of the park, and the whole portion of the park east of the R27 and the Mooimaak/Soutpan areas.

7.3 Landing fields and flight Corridors

The park has no designated landing fields or flight corridors. A municipal landing strip is situated some 15 km north of the park between Saldanha and Vredenburg, and a military field is situated at Langebaanweg, some 15 km northeast of the park, A number of private landing strips can also be found within a 20 km radius of the park as indicated in map 2. All these landing fields are suitable for light aircraft and daytime operations with the exception of Langebaanweg which can be used by large aircraft and night flying for military purposes.

7.4 Facilities for vessels

All vessels entering park waters are required to have a SANParks boat permit (annual or short term – 1 month). Small vessels can be launched at the western end of Alabama street, while yachts and larger vessels can be launched at the Langebaan Yacht Club. The Defence Force has a launching facility and concrete jetty in Langebaan, and the park has a floating jetty just to the south of in front of the office building. A wooden jetty at Kraalbaai is used by park vessels and the houseboat concessionaire only.

Boats can be moored in season in designated areas in the northern part of Langebaan Lagoon, while the Langebaan Yacht Club has permanent mooring facilities in the southern part of Langebaan. SANParks allows mooring of vessels at Kraalbaai and overnight anchoring for yachts at Kraalbaai and Perlemoen Point for a fee.

There are also two slipways situated in Postberg on the western shore of the lagoon. These are used by private landowners and occasionally by park staff for official use. Two areas in Stofbergsfontein and Churchhaven are used by private landowners for the launching of yachts, sailboats and fishing permit holders only.

Jutten and Malgas Islands have old jetties and ladders where boats can load and unload passengers and cargo.

7.5 Visitor facilities

Visitor facilities are summarised in Table 2.

The park currently offers the following tourism features:

- Open access, limited income generation (via boat permits) water based recreational activity on the lagoon
- Self-drive sightseeing tourism (views and bird hides)
- Recreation at the day visitor sites in the controlled access portion of the park and limited over-night accommodation facilities. These facilities are:
  - Abrahamskraal – a six-bed (two star grading) self-catering unit at the Abrahamskraal waterhole which has recently been upgraded
  - Joanne's Beach Cottage – an eight-bed self-catering unit (three star grading)
  - The concessionaire managed 44 bed Duinepos rest camp
  - Two houseboats based at Kraalbaai managed by a concessionaire
- The historical Geelbek homestead is managed by a concessionaire as a restaurant and curio shop
- Park information centre at Geelbek.
- A limited hiking and mountain biking network in the park
- The Postberg contractual area which is currently open for wild flower viewing during August and September only
- Kraalbaai and the adjoining Preekstoel are popular day visitor sites during summer and public holidays drawing crowds from the communities surrounding the park

7.6 Administrative and other facilities

The park has facilities for staff housing, workshops, stores, offices etc.:

- Park housing – three houses in Peterson close, six in Suikerkant Street (northern Langebaan) and the park manager house (southern Langebaan)
- Park head office in Langebaan
- Geelbek tourism office at Geelbek
- Geelbek Environmental Education centre
- Langebaan and West Coast Road gates
- Kraalbaai rangers office
- Tsaarsbank office (for control of entrance to Postberg)
- Technical store\workshop situated at Mooimaak
- Postberg rangers' store situated at Mooimaak
- Langebaan rangers and marine store situated at the Langebaan office

7.7 Mining

No mining, legal or otherwise, is currently known to occur in the park. Mining applications in the buffer zone are treated in terms of the buffer zone policy by both SANParks and the CWCBR.

7.8 Commercial activities

The Geelbek restaurant and curio shop, Duinepos and two houseboats are managed by commercial concessionaires. The park has no concession areas.

7.9 Community use

The only biological resources currently legally used in the park are marine resources (fish and bait organisms) and the use of wood removed by the by the alien clearing programme.

Use of marine resources is legally controlled through the MLRA. Resource use, monitoring and research were co-managed prior to 2010 by SANParks and the now defunct Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) branch of the then DEAT in terms of a Service Level Agreement. Since the split of MCM into the current Oceans and Coast with DEA and Fisheries with DAFF, problems have been experienced with Fisheries in honouring the agreement. SANParks is currently trying to negotiate new agreements with the two entities.

Wood from trees cut during alien clearing operations is removed in terms of an agreement between SANParks and a local community contractor.

7.10 Servitudes

The only servitudes registered on title deeds are on eight properties included in the park for a buried crude oil pipeline running from Saldanha Bay to the refinery in Cape Town.

Table 2: Summary of infrastructure in the park

Visitor sites and infrastructure	Current status	Proposed role	Use zone	Proposed main activity (by 2020)	Recommended management action	*Process required
Park High Volume Sites						
Park head office	Park head office	Mixed use	HIL	Park head office, commercial centre, park entry point, visitor information	Release PPP and undertake precinct and site planning	EIA
Geelbek	Mixed Use	Mixed use	HIL	Sightseeing, information, restaurant, curio sales, conferences, EE	Undertake precinct planning to determine use	EIA, HIA
Gate langebaan	Park entry	Park entry	LIL	Transit		
Gate R27	Park entry	Park entry	LIL	Transit		
Kraalbaai	Picnic site	Mixed use	LIL	Day visitor site, park accommodation	Complete EIA. Resolve illegal houseboats	EIA
Preekstoel	Picnic site	Picnic	LIL	Day Visitor Site		
Park medium volume sSites						
Langebaan Yacht Club	Park entry	Park entry	LIL	Transit, slipway management		
Alabama street slipway	Park entry	Park entry	LIL	Transit, slipway management		
Duinepos	Park accom.	Park accom.	LIL	Park accommodation		
Mooimaak homestead	Unused	Mixed use	LIL	Environmental interpretation, visitor information, park accommodation,	Undertake precinct and site planning	EIA, HIA
Plankiesbaai	Picnic site	Picnic site	LIL	Day visitor site	Undertake precinct and site planning	
Seeberg (lagoon side)	Unused	Mixed use	LIL	Sightseeing, parking, park accommodation	Undertake precinct and site Planning	EIA, HIA
Kleinmooimaak	Unused	Mixed use	LIL	Day visitor site, park accommodation	Undertake precinct & site planning	EIA, HIA
Soutpan homestead	Unused	Mixed use	Primitive	Park accommodation, conference fFacility	Undertake precinct & site planning	EIA, HIA
Tsaarsbank	Picnic site	Picnic site	Primitive	Day visitor Site		

Visitor sites & infrastructure	Current status	Proposed role	Use zone	Proposed main activity (by 2020)	Recommended management action	*Process required
Park Low Volume Sites						
Abrahamskraal (all buildings)	Mixed use	Mixed use	LIL	Park accommodation, sight seeing		
Seeberg lookout	Destination	Destination	LIL	Sight seeing		
Atlantic view	Destination	Destination	LIL	Sight seeing		
Posberg uitkyk	Destination	Destination	LIL	Sight seeing		
Salpetersvlei.	Unused	Park utility	Primitive	Park utility, ranger post		
Bottelary	Unused	Undetermined	Primitive	Unknown		HIA
Bossieskraal	Park accom.	Park accom.	Primitive	Park accommodation		
Joanne's Cottage	Park accom.	Park accom.	Primitive	Park accommodation		
Schrywershoek	Unused	Undetermined	Primitive	Unknown		
Jutten Island	Park utility	Special interest	Primitive	Ranger post, research		EIA, HIA
Malgas Island	Park utility	Special interest	Primitive	Ranger post, research		EIA, HIA
Marcus Island	Park utility	Special interest	Primitive	Ranger post, research		EIA, HIA
Langerfontein gate	Park entry	Park entry	Primitive	transit		
Mooimeisiefontein	Park utility	Park utility	Primitive	Ranger post		
Langefontein homesteads	Park utility	Park utility	Primitive	Ranger post		
Elandsfontein omesteads	Park utility	Park utility	Primitive	Ranger post		
Kalklipfontein homesteads	Park utility	Park utility	Primitive	Ranger post		
Van Niekerkshoop homesteads	Park utility	Park utility	Primitive	Ranger post		
Groottefontein west homesteads	Park utility	Park utility	Primitive	Ranger post		
* Required process: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA); Basic Assessment (BA)						

Section 8: Consolidation and expansion

The expansion and consolidation of the park is in line with the national strategic objective (DEA 2005) of expanding South Africa's protected area system. The expansion and consolidation programme are also informed by SANParks policy regarding land inclusion (SANParks 2006; Knight *et al.* 2009), and the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (DEA 2008) and the three year rolling land acquisition plan. It is important to note that this three year plan can change due to the availability of funds, willing buyer willing seller concept and the negotiation process.

It has been identified (and specifically referred to as the West Coast Leipoldville peninsula area) as one of 42 national protected areas focus areas within by the national protected areas expansion strategy (DEAT 2008) and deserving attention. As such, the consolidation and expansion of the park remains important for to further the protection of the marine environment and the botanically diverse remaining fragments of lowland vegetation types in an otherwise highly fragmented and transformed landscape. The objective for the park is to create a park that conserves the land-seascape characteristic of the southern Western Cape coastal region. The consolidation and expansion programme is in congruence with SANParks biodiversity values and follows the SANParks land acquisition framework.

The envisaged expansion options to consolidate this important biodiversity across the marine, terrestrial and wetland environments are expected to be affected by the environmental legislation governing these areas. The desired state of the park, in the context of park expansion, includes:

- The unification of the marine protected seascape incorporating its diverse marine-island-lagoon-mainland linkages
- The consolidation of untransformed lowland fynbos including poorly represented sandveld fynbos and renosterveld vegetation types into a contiguous marine-terrestrial park unit
- The minimisation of visual and hard boundary impact of inappropriate surrounding developments on the parks aesthetic qualities
- Develop an ecotourism product in synergy with the parks conservation goals and regional development plans

A bioregional approach to conservation has been adopted in order to adequately consolidate untransformed lowland fynbos, including poorly represented sandveld fynbos and renosterveld vegetation types into a contiguous marine-terrestrial park unit. This approach involves multiple conservation entities within a context of varying land-uses. The current park totals 47,457.85 ha, this include 31,809.28 ha of terrestrial land, lagoon, islands and 15,648.57 ha MPA. 29,748.32 ha has been declared which include 4,167.17 ha of the MPA.
The key focus for SANParks in consolidating the long-term park expansion footprint is to bring an additional 38,000 ha under SANParks management through a combination of land acquisitions, contractual inclusions and co-management arrangements with both private and state bodies (appendix 4, map 3), taking the park to its long-term desired size of about 70,000 ha. Acquisition of private land would largely focus on consolidating the eastern and southern portions (collectively totalling 10,150 ha) of the park, while the possibilities for state land inclusions involve the military area on the Langebaan Peninsula and Meeuw (SANDF managed) and Vondeling Islands (managed by CapeNature). There is also an option to unify the five marine protected areas into a single ecologically viable protected area. With a reduction in the state land acquisition funds, no acquisitions are planned in the next three year funding cycle, in line with approved land acquisition plans. However, as opportunities periodically arise, one need remain flexible in re-allocating the limited resources to possible acquisitions in this footprint.

The renegotiation of the agreement under which the Postberg Contractual Area is managed is an important priority.

An important new mechanism to reduce or mitigate the negative influences of activities taking place outside the parks on the parks and, to better integrate parks into their surrounding landscapes is buffer zone policies being developed by DEA and SANParks. The DEA draft policy on buffer zones for national parks was gazetted for comment in March 2010 (20100305 - National Gazette No 32981 of 05-Mar-2010, Volume 537). The SANParks draft buffer zone policy is compliant with this DEA Policy and was approved by EXCO (March 2009), but must still be submitted to the Board. These policies guide the planning and actions required to integrate parks into a matrix of compatible land use in order to provide for long term persistence of biodiversity within and around parks, buffer parks against climate change and to deliver socio-economic benefits to communities around parks.

The DEA Policy on buffer zones for national parks specifies the following steps in the establishment of buffer zones around each national park:

a) Identify buffer zones for all national parks in park management plans;
b) Establish these buffer zones by publication in the Government Gazette;
c) Integrate the buffer zones into municipal spatial development frameworks as special control / natural area where appropriate; and
d) Where relevant and appropriate, declare the buffer zones or parts thereof as protected environments in terms of the Protected Areas Act.

A buffer zone may be established around a national park when considered necessary for the proper conservation and effective protection of the national park in achieving its objectives. Further, the buffer zone is an area surrounding a national park which has complementary legal and management restrictions placed on its use and development, aimed at providing an extra layer of protection to the integrity of the national park. This should include the immediate setting of the national park, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the national park and its protection. The primary areas to be considered when identifying a national parks buffer zone are priority natural areas, catchment protection and viewshed protection.

In the case of the WCNP, the park also forms the core area of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, which likewise identifies buffer areas around the core and incorporates this into municipal and provincial planning frameworks.

Section 9: Concept development plan

9.1 Long term development plan

Two key tourism features of the park are the unique Langebaan lagoon, with its surrounding landscapes, and the seasonal spring wild flowers. The key tourism infrastructure focus of park management over the next planning cycle is firstly to unlock the tourism potential of the Langebaan hotel site through a Public Private Partnership (PPP), and while detailed precinct planning is required, current options are for a nature-based commercial centre, park head office and park gateway; and secondly the establishment of a rest camp within the park, where EIA processes were initiated to assess the feasibility of a rest camp at either Kraalbaai or Kleinmooimaak. The Kraalbaai EIA produced a no-go result, while the Kleinmooimaak EIA is still ongoing.

The long term strategic plan calls for a move away from the seasonal spikes in tourism numbers (spring for flowers, summer for the lagoon) to offer year round attractions.

Within the park there are existing sites that currently are, or in the future will be, fulfilling a specific tourism and visitor role. These sites are all at locations with existing facilities and infrastructure that have traditionally provided a tourism or visitor service and / or access to the park. The type and nature of facilities provided for at these sites need not only meet visitor expectations, but also be compatible with the ethos of the area. There is a clear relationship between the role that a site fulfils and the underlying visitor use zone in which that site is situated in. Table 3 summarises the role of the site, what facilities are suitable, which park zones are applicable and the management guidelines for the sites. In order to enhance the visitor experience of these tourism features, appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and facilities need to be provided.

A number of unused historical homesteads and farm buildings in the park are currently falling into disrepair. In order to preserve them an appropriate use must be found for them. Several of the buildings lend themselves to a mixed use of tourism accommodation and auxiliary functions, while Mooimaak farm has the potential to support environmental education programmes.

Infrastructure use and upgrading on the offshore islands poses several tourism challenges. The islands are extremely ecologically sensitive, particularly when birds are roosting and moulting, logistically difficult and unpleasant to access the island in rough weather, the climatic conditions on the islands are harsh for infrastructure and there is limited capacity on the islands to deal with waste (liquid and solid). However total exclusion of the public from these areas is undesirable due to the special interest that they hold to the birding community. As such, visits to the islands by the public should be strictly controlled via special permits and related to park management activities such as research and monitoring. The larger bulk of the infrastructure footprints should be reduced.

It is important to note that the execution of the programmes is dependent on the availability of funds.

9.2 Development nodes

No new development nodes for the park are currently envisaged.

9.3 Communication routes

The roads leading to the areas that are planned to be developed as listed in Table 4 will have to be upgraded when the development takes place. Access to all the islands (except Marcus) is by boat only.

9.4 Service supply routes

Where possible existing supply routes will be used, but some new routes will be developed when the developments referred to in table 3 takes place.

9.5 Infrastructure development proposals

The only infrastructure development proposals currently planned are those listed in table 3 and mapped in appendix 4 map 7.

Table 3: Priorities for Development for this Planning Cycle

Visitor sites & infrastructure	Current status	Proposed role	Use zone	Proposed main activity (by 2020)	Recommended management action	Process Required
Park head office	Park head office	Mixed use	HIL	Park head office, commercial centre, park entry point, visitor information	Release PPP and undertake precinct and site lanning	EIA
Kleinmooimaak	Unused	Mixed use	L/L	Day visitor Site, Park Accommodation	Undertake Precinct & Site Planning	EIA
Mooimaak area	Unused	Tourist route	Primitive	Develop tourism route through this section	Undertake Planning	EIA

Section 10: Strategic plan

10 Introduction

Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this plan outlined the policy framework, the consultation process and development of a mission and high level objectives for the park. In this section the goals and higher level objectives of the park are developed into lower level objectives and sub-objectives and finally into operational actions. In this way decision-making, even at the operational level, can be traced all the way back to the core values and inputs from stakeholders on which they have been based. This approach conforms to the requirements of the NEM:PAA, the NEM:BA, SANParks policy, and ratified international conventions.

Programmes of implementation, developed as outlined above, form the strategic plan for this planning cycle, are arranged under the following headings:

- Bioregional
- Biodiversity
- Tourism
- People and conservation
- Effective park management

Each programme is presented as follows:

- **Programme name:** A name describing the programme
- **High level objective:** Stating the overall goal of the programme
- **Background:** Overview of intent**,** guiding principles, description, outcome, research and monitoring and risk (all where applicable)
- **Tables:** Outline of objectives, initiatives and management actions within the scope of the objective with an indication if the programme is once odd, continuing or conditional on the availability of resources. These tables have the following headings:
  - **Initiatives or objectives** The various initiatives or objectives, derived from the hierarchy of higher level objectives, which make up each programme.
  - **Actions**: The actions necessary to achieve the objective.
  - **Responsibility**: The SANParks person, section, department, division or unit responsible for implementing the action.
  - **Indicator**: A measure whereby the achievement of the objective can be evaluated.
  - **Timeframe**: An indication of when the action is likely to be completed (indicated by year over the planning cycle).
  - **References**: References to relevant programmes, Lower Level Plans (LLPs) or other documents

10.1 Bioregional

Objective

Bioregional: To cooperate with relevant international, national, provincial and local government structures insofar these affect the park

The purpose of the bioregional goal is to conserve systems and processes within and around the park by establishing corridors and buffer zones and consolidating the park by acquiring appropriate land for the conservation of threatened biodiversity within the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve. It aims to collaborate with relevant international, national, provincial and local government structures, NGO's and land owner groups. Currently there are plans for

developments around the park from urban and industrial sectors. Partnerships with local government require more interaction and working closer on joint issues.

10.1.1 Mainstreaming Biodiversity

High level objective

Mainstreaming Biodiversity: To mainstream biodiversity issues in local and other planning frameworks

The achievement of the park's aspirations depends on understanding the relationships and inter-dependencies between various strategic planning processes in the region. These range from the bioregional planning, through to the district and local IDPs and SDFs, into the park's consolidation and conservation development frameworks.

Portions of the park have also been declared as a Ramsar site. Although no separate plans for Ramsar sites are currently required, a draft plan was developed and is summarised in appendix 5.

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To mainstream biodiversity issues in local and other planning frameworks					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To conserve systems and processes within the park and buffer zone.	Collaborate with relevant structures by communicating, participating with and contributing to actions and activities.	PM, Regional planning	Minutes	Ongoing	CWCBR constitution
	Identify and map ecological corridors and buffer zones for the conservation according to national criteria	PM, Regional planning	Map of areas	Year 1	DEA buffer zone policy
	Implement actions that promote conservation outcomes in buffer zone and corridors	PM, Regional planning	Outcomes achieved	Year 1, ongoing	
To integrate the contractual Postberg section as part of the park	Finalise negotiations for contract renewal	RM, PM	Contractual agreement	Year 1	
	Removal of extralimital species in accordance with the 'new contract'	CSD, SSR	Proposal	Ongoing	
	Rehabilitate degraded lands and systems	CSD, SSR	Report & plan	Year 2, ongoing	
	Upgrade and improve infrastructure to meet best management principles (fence, water points)	CSD, SSR	Site assessment report	Year 2 and 3	
	Explore possible tourism opportunities	PM, SSR	Projects	Year 2, 3	
To mitigate external threats and pressures to and on the park	Identify possible external threats from development	CSD, PM	List of threats	Ongoing	
	Participate in IDP and SDF processes to influence decisions	PM,	Minutes of meetings	Ongoing	
	Engage with relevant forums ad participate in EIAs, scoping etc.	PM	Scoping, EIA reports	Ongoing	
	Plan and implement appropriate interventions in response to pressures with relevant parties	CSD, PM	Minutes of meetings, plans	Ongoing	

Budget allocation	Development	R 23,500,000
	Operational (year 1)	R 468,226

10.1.2 Land consolidation / expansion

High level objective

Land consolidation / expansion: To acquire conservation worthy and strategically important land for the consolidation and expansion of the park

The purpose of this programme is to achieve the SANParks goal of conserving ecological systems and patterns typical of the West Coast by acquiring conservation worthy land through purchase or other means.

LAND CONSOLIDATION / EXPANSION PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To acquire conservation worthy and strategically important land for the consolidation and expansion of the park					
Objectives	**Actions**	**Responsibility**	**Indicators**	**Timeframe**	**References**
To consolidate private land parcels of conservation or strategic importance to the park	Prioritise list of identified land parcels of immediate importance to the park for this planning cycle	CSD, PM, Region	List available	Year 1, ongoing	
	Evaluate and assess properties for acquisition	CSD, PM, Regional planning	Evaluation, reports	Year 1, ongoing	
	Obtain approvals for acquiring identified properties	CSD, PM, RM	Approval document	Year 1, ongoing	
	Engage with private land owner/s to initiate negotiations	CSD, PM, RM	Minutes and reports	Ongoing	
	Acquire land according to Expansion Policy	CSD	Deed or Contract	Year 2, ongoing	
	Facilitate the declaration of acquired land as national park	CSD, RM	Declaration	Year 5	

10.2 Biodiversity

Objective

Biodiversity: To effectively manage the patterns and processes of the unique ecosystems of the Langebaan Lagoon, the offshore islands the Marine Protected Areas and the terrestrial surrounds

Biodiversity management is the core mandate of the park. The park's approach to biodiversity, in summary, is in line with SANParks policies and the principles of adaptive management. A number of biodiversity management programmes were developed with the aim to effectively manage the diversity, patterns and processes of the unique Langebaan Lagoon, the offshore islands, the MPAs and the terrestrial surrounds.

10.2.1 Functional Ecosystems - Water in the Landscape

High level objective

Functional Ecosystems: To maintain and manage the long term persistence of biodiversity patterns and processes with a focus on Water in the Landscape

The purpose of the programme is to maintain the physical and ecological integrity of the aquatic systems. The current challenges include:

- Water pollution as a result of storm water and effluent drainage into the lagoon.
- Conflict between user groups (fishermen, kite surfing, sailing , boating etc)
- Possible overuse of marine resources because of current practices.
- Effective management in marine B related to limiting fishing that allows specific users and species to be harvested.
- Overuse of the aquifer as a result of extraction due to industrial / residential and other development pressures.

The park seeks to maintain and manage the long term persistence of biodiversity patterns and processes. While other ecosystems and ecosystem processes in the park are also under threat, the continued healthy functioning of the interlinked aquatic systems is seen as a priority and a programme dealing with this aspect was developed.

WATER IN THE LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To maintain and manage the long term persistence of biodiversity patterns and processes					
Purpose: (1) Maintain the physical and ecological integrity of ecosystems (2) Manage the patterns and processes of the unique ecosystems of the Langebaan Lagoon, offshore islands and MPAs (3) Minimize or reduce extraction and contamination of the aquifer					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To maintain physical and ecological integrity of the marine environment	Continue to participate in water quality monitoring of the entire bay and lagoon	SSR	State of the Bay report	Ongoing	
	Engage proactively with local municipality to ensure legal compliance	PM, CSD	Minutes of meetings	Ongoing	
	Monitor water quality and species assemblages for trends and identify potential threats	CSD, SSR	State of the Bay report	Ongoing	
	Review and report on findings of monitoring and flag potential areas of concern	CSD	Scientific Report	Ongoing	
To manage marine zones A and B of the Lagoon effectively with regards to ecological integrity and use	Research the composition of species in the lagoon.	CSD	Research reports	Ongoing	
	Review the effectiveness of the current zoning in protecting specific species.	CSD, PM	Scientific report	Year 2	
	Develop recommendations from research for effective management	CSD, PM	Scientific report	Year 3	
	Implement recommendations of scientific report.	PM	APO	Year 3, ongoing	
	Monitor the implementation of recommendations.	CSD, PM	Annual report	Year 4, ongoing	
To manage use of the lagoon effectively so that the experiences of different visitor user groups are enhanced	Gather information on activity types and locality of all user groups in the lagoon.	PM, CSD	Maps, inventory of activities and density	Year 1 and 2	
	Identify areas for ideal usage and needs of users and explore possible alternative solutions/areas for usage.	PM, CSD	Scientific report	Year 2	
	Develop management regulation, guidelines or conditions.	PM	Management guidelines	Year 3	
	Implement and enforce regulations, guidelines or conditions.	PM	APO	Year 3, ongoing	
	Monitor the implementation of recommendations.	PM, CSD	Report	Year 4, ongoing	

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To ensure the persistence of the Elandsfontein aquifer and the ecological services it provides	Research use of aquifer and identify possible effects	CSD	Research report	Year 1	
	Communicate findings to relevant authorities	PM, CSD	Minutes	Year 2	
	Collaborate with authorities to develop mitigation measures.	PM	Minutes	Year 2, ongoing	
	Implement measures where possible and appropriate within the park.	PM	APO	Year 3, ongoing	
	Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of measures.	PM	Annual report	Year 3, ongoing	

10.2.2 Rehabilitation

High level objective

Rehabilitation: To rehabilitate degrade areas including the re-establishment of natural biodiversity patterns and key processes that support the long term persistence of biodiversity

The purpose of this programme is to prevent entry and control invasive alien species in order to reduce their distribution, abundance and impacts, thereby maintaining the integrity of the indigenous biodiversity of the park. The natural condition of the land which was incorporated into the park was altered to varying degrees before incorporation by a variety of factors such as ploughing, overgrazing, introduction of alien and extralimital biota, erosion, roads, unnatural fire regimes etc. While much of the rehabilitation has been done, it remains an important focus of the park. The major aspects to receive attention in the next planning cycle are invasive plants and extralimital animal species.

Alien plants

Invasive alien plants are a key threat to the long term conservation of biodiversity within the park. Several alien species (e.g. Port Jackson, bluegums) within the park have been categorised as ecosystem transformers. In addition to being a biodiversity threat, they are a major unnatural fire hazard to the area and park infrastructure. To date, eight plant species (table 4) were identified as needing management control.

Currently, areas infested within the park boundaries as well as on some adjacent private land have been mapped and recorded on 1:50,000 topographical maps. Mapping details relating to the park areas, size of infestation and quantitative data in terms of densities, etc have been collected and are available at the regional Invasive Species Clearing Unit (ISCU). Planning for long term alien clearing takes into account that the park is planning to acquire key properties and that park consolidation is an ongoing process with expanding budget implications.

Table 4: Known invasive alien plant species within the park

No.	Botanical name	Common name
1	*Acacia cyclops*	Rooikrans
2	*Acacia longifolia*	Long-leaf wattle
3	*Acacia saligna*	Port Jackson
4	*Eucalyptus lehmanii*	Spider gum
5	*Eucalyptus grandis*	Saligna gum
6	*Myoporum tenuifolium*	Manatoka
7	*Populus canescens*	Grey poplar
8	*Opuntia monacantha*	Prickly pear

Broadly, the park can be divided into two alien clearing management sections. The follow-up management section (some 18,700 ha) comprised the central areas of the park. Alien densities within this area range from 0.01% to 5%. Around 12,300 ha still need to be brought on line, i.e. no clearing has taken place to date. These include newly acquired properties on the eastern side of the R27, the sensitive salt marshes and low infested area on the western side the lagoon. Alien densities within this zone range from 0.01% to 80%.

Alien plant clearing includes three major components, namely: eradication, control and monitoring of targeted species. In order to effectively eradicate and control alien species, combination of mechanical (e.g. chainsaw, slashing), chemical (e.g. herbicides, fire) and biological (e.g. seed weevil, *Melanterius servulus*) are used depending upon the species and scale of infestation. Monitoring the effectiveness of control and eradication efforts is done via an information management system (WIMS – Working for Water Information Management System) that captures information on species, infestation type, density, rotational period, person day allocation per hectare and number of treatments, etc. for areas within the park. Indicators of success are drawn from WIMS. Due to the persistent seed banks, long inter-fire periods, park consolidation and re-infestation from neighbouring lands, alien vegetation clearing within the park is expected to continue well into the future. Invasive alien plant control is being implemented by the Invasive Species Control Unit (ISCU) in accordance with CARA, which includes monitoring the area of infestation as well as the past and current efficacy of the various control measures.

Alien plant clearing in the park commenced in 1988, and was done by park staff and private contractors until 2003 when the SANParks ISCU, funded by Working for Water (WfW), continued with alien plant management.

Various SANParks policies and corporate strategies have been developed to provide a framework for invasive species management across the SANParks estate. These include:

- SANParks policy framework on management of invasive alien species
- Restoration framework: The alien clearing plan will be carried out in conjunction with the rehabilitation programme of the park (to be developed) which should provide details
- SANParks' approach to plants in gardens and camps. Although no park specific policy for ornamental plants exists, other guiding legislation and corporate policy provide the directive. Eradication of alien species occurring in the staff housing and other buildings in the park will be undertaken according to the threats posed to biodiversity or infrastructure. Decisions on historical importance of trees need to be developed within the cultural resource policy plan.
- All herbicides will be strictly managed according to the SANParks / ISCU herbicide management policy (titled "Working for Water. Policy on the use of herbicides for the control of alien vegetation").
- The alien management programme will need to consider the importance of fire in the park
- Park-specific measures should be developed to address issues around non-invasive alien species that may be permitted (including animals)
- Guiding principles for alien clearing:
  - The status of the aliens and invasive species must be considered before an eradication programme begins
  - The park should be divided into management units
  - The general approach should give priority to the areas with a high risk or threat to biodiversity

SANParks has a legal obligation to control and eradicate weeds and invader plants in terms of CARA. The control and eradication strategy is therefore based in the list published in terms of the CARA and the associated regulations as well as the invasive species identified in the park. DEA is currently in the process of finalising an alien invasive species list to be published in terms of the NEM:BA. SANParks acknowledge that as soon as this list has been gazetted the park will have to comply with section 70 to 77 of the NEM:BA. SANParks will align the alien species control and eradication programme accordingly.

Alien and extralimital animals

Currently the extent and effects of invasive alien marine animals within the park is less well known. During the 1990s it was observed that the Mediterranean mussels *Mytilus galloprovincialis* were establishing populations on soft substrates in the lagoon, the mussels were removed by a commercial operation on large scale until it became uneconomical to continue.

The European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* was introduced in the 17th century in South Africa and across the worlds' islands (Flux & Fullagar 2008). In the park rabbits have been recorded on Malgas, Jutten, Marcus and Schaapen Islands.

The rabbits on Malgas Island died out shortly after the island's proclamation as national park because, contrary to previous Sea Fisheries practice, park staff stopped feeding them. The population of rabbits on Schaapen Island consist almost solely of albino animals.

The alien invasive land snail *Theba pisana* has been found in WCNP.

Large mammals and a large bird – the ostrich *Struthio camelus* – that were historically resident in the area were mostly absent from the individual farms and properties that were acquired for incorporation into the park with the notable exception of the fenced in contractual Postberg area. The area further referred to as Postberg consist of several separate farms or portions of farms as listed in Appendix 1. Postberg was acquired in the early 1800s by a group of farmers from the upper Berg River region and historically used for winter grazing, while ploughed lands were also established where possible. With changing conditions and ownership the owners mostly used Postberg to build homes for holiday use, and in the 1960s they ceased ploughing the lands, had the properties proclaimed a private nature reserve and established strict rules for their own use of Postberg. The owners then started to introduce and remove a number of large mammal species, some which occurred in the area historically, but many were extralimital to the area. The extralimital species included gemsbok *Oryx gazella*, kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*, plains zebra *Equus buchelli*, springbok, and mostly at different times, black wildebeest *Chonochaetes gnou* and blue wildebeest *C. taurinus* as well as blesbok *Damaliscus dorcas* and bontebok *D. pygarus*. The blue wildebeest and bontebok currently occurring on Postberg could have been genetically compromised by crossbreeding as they co-existed in Postberg for a short period. Of particular concern was that the bontebok population may have been contaminated by interbreeding with blesbok, and also that the blue wildebeest population might have crossbred with black wildebeest, but this has been partially resolved. When Postberg was contractually included in the park in 1987, the number of animals and the species occurring on Postberg were the subject of extensive investigations by SANParks scientists and other scientist as to origin, history of introduction and possible crossbreeding, and recommendations as to removal and replacement with species indigenous to the area were made.

In the early 1990s the removal of extralimital species and their replacement with species that did occur in the area was discussed with the Postberg owners as per the contractual agreement, and with Postberg being heavily overgrazed at the time, it was agreed that a drastic reduction in the numbers of all species and the replacement of some extralimital species with historically occurring species could take place. Many animals were subsequently removed and some species were reintroduced, but this was never completed because of mixed success with some reintroductions and strong resistance from the owners.

The first management plan for the park of 2006 included proposals to remove extralimital species, but this, for a variety of reasons, was never implemented.

In the stakeholder participation process for this revision of the management plan, the Postberg owners, who still felt that some of the extralimital species should be kept, communicated this to SANParks.

In the meantime the number of animals on Postberg increased to such an extent that the habitat became severely degraded through overgrazing, so much so that during the late summer of 2011 animals had to be fed and were in such a weakened state that they could not be captured and translocated.

It is SANParks policy and an important value identified for the park that, where possible, the diversity of species that were present in historical times be restored, provided that habitat conditions have remained adequate or can be rehabilitated.

In terms of both SANParks policy and the high level objectives developed for this plan, the removal of a large number of animals has become a matter of urgency, and, if a return to some natural state of flux for the Postberg area is to be achieved and the area properly integrated into the rest of the park, the removal of all extralimital species is unavoidable. Reintroduction of appropriate species could be considered in future should the habitat have recovered sufficiently for reintroductions.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To rehabilitate degraded areas including the re-establishment of natural biodiversity patterns and key processes that support the long term persistence of biodiversity.					
Purpose: To restore natural patterns and processes within the park.					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To anticipate and prevent entry of alien and invasive species into the park.	Compile a list of possible emergent alien plants that have invading potential.	CSD	Species list	Year 1	ISCU reports
	Develop a detection protocol to identify the occurrence of emergent alien plants.	SSR, ISCU unit	ISCU report	Year 1	
	Identify possible vectors that may introduce alien plants and develop mitigating measures (within operational constraints).	CSD	Scientific report	Year 1	
	Compile a list of appropriate indigenous species that can be incorporated into concession agreements/contracts.	SSR, CSD,	Contracts	Ongoing	
To anticipate and prevent entry of alien and invasive species into the park.	Compile a list of possible emergent alien plants that have invading potential.	CSD	Species list	Year 1	ISCU reports
	Develop a detection protocol to identify the occurrence of emergent alien plants.	SSR, ISCU unit	ISCU report	Year 1	
	Identify possible vectors that may introduce alien plants and develop mitigating measures (within operational constraints).	CSD	Scientific report	Year 1	
	Compile a list of appropriate indigenous species that can be incorporated into concession agreements/contracts.	SSR, CSD,	Contracts	Ongoing	
To remove extralimital animal species (see also 1.1)	Develop a lower level plan for the management of specifically determined extralimital species	CSD, SSR	Integrated biodiversity plan for Postberg	Year 1	
	Implement the lower level plan in accordance to corporate guidelines	SSR	Census reports	Year 1 , ongoing	
	Monitor and review the lower level plan.	CSD, SSR	Annual report	Ongoing	

10.2.3 Species of special concern

High level objective

Species of special concern: To ensure that species of special concern in terrestrial, aquatic, island and marine ecosystems are afforded protection through management actions

The purpose of this programme is as stated above. Although the focus of biodiversity management is primarily at the landscape scale, there is the need to implement specific management strategies aimed at conserving threatened or unique habitats or threatened, rare or endemic species termed species of special concern (SSC). The aim is to fill knowledge gaps of red data listed species through identification, inventory and prioritisation of candidate species (plants and animals) within the park. Once the species lists have been reviewed and species prioritised, threats to populations will be identified through infield surveys and feasible management actions to lessen or reverse the threats will be identified. In some cases management actions may require direct intervention such as predator control measures and population relocation or indirect methods such as alien plant clearing and correct fire management. The results of the field surveys and management actions will be fed back into national programmes such as SANBI's red data listing programme.

The primary aim is to prevent extinction of any species on the IUCN's (the World Conservation Union) global critically endangered or endangered species list and to put appropriate monitoring and conservation efforts of other species of special concern in place. It is important to understand the species and habitats that contribute to the ecological integrity of the specific ecosystem in order to conserve them. Many species with life history requirements extending beyond park boundaries are found in the park. In addition a long history of human induced disturbances (e.g. guano collecting, penguin egg harvesting, commercial and recreational fishing and poaching) posed and still poses significant threats to the persistence of many species of special concern. The SSC programme needs to be aligned with the parks other biodiversity programmes as well as with regional, national and international planning. This programme must include co-management and contractual agreements and actions which have to be re-established and updated by revisiting existing agreements and replaced if necessary.

Species of potential and particular concern to the park include migrating waders, red data listed seabirds and marine biota.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To ensure that SSC in terrestrial, aquatic, island and marine ecosystems are afforded protection through management actions					
Objectives / Initiatives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To define species of special concern within the WCNP context.	Research the status of all species occurring in the park.	CSD	Biodiversity data base	Ongoing	
	Prioritise species of special concern within the park.	CSD	Priority list.	Ongoing	
	Monitor populations of species of special concern.	SSR, CSD	Scientific reports	Ongoing	
To conserve species of special concern within the WCNP	Identify threats to priority species and populations.	CSD	List of threats	Ongoing	
	Formulate and implement interventions to mitigate threats where possible.	CSD, SSR	APO, guidelines	Ongoing	
	Monitor and evaluate intervention actions.	CSD, SSR	Monitoring report	Ongoing	

10.2.4 Fire management

High level objective

Fire Management: To ensure that fire is managed so as to enhance ecosystems in the park while safeguarding staff, visitors and infrastructure

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that fire is managed so as to enhance ecosystem functioning while safeguarding property, staff and visitors.

The park contains both fire dependent (e.g. fynbos) and fire sensitive vegetation types (e.g. Strandveld and wetlands associated with fresh water). Given the profound effect that fire has on the ecosystems within the park, special attention must be given to the implementation of a suitable fire regimes and programme that maintains biodiversity without negatively affecting life and property as well as complying with national legislation.

In order to determine and implement a 'natural' fire system in the park, a collation and analysis of historic fire data in the area is needed to determine amongst other aspects, vegetation age, fire size, fire frequency, fire season, etc. This will then guide the formulation of fire management guidelines for vegetation types within the park. From this a detailed fire management programme can be developed in conjunction with the fire protection agency that considers amongst others, a legislative framework, fire prevention, fire protection, fire suppression, prescribed burning, post-fire recovery and appropriate fire indicators within in context of a regional fire management regime. Implementation of the fire management programme will depend upon expanding inter-agency (local and district municipalities, povincial conservation agencies, working on fire and the CWCBR) agreements, the securing of the necessary infrastructure and equipment for fire management and developing staff capacity for wildfire management.

Fire is one of the major ecosystem drivers and is a vital ecological process influence the landscape. It is considered one of the management tools available to managers to actively influence the dynamics of many systems including fynbos. The role of fire as an ecosystem process in the strandveld and freshwater wetlands bordering Langebaan Lagoon, however, is less clear.

Fire is a natural phenomenon in the region, and the flora and fauna of the region are adapted to a natural fire regime. What constitutes a natural fire regime, however, is debatable. Historically the fire regime of the area shifted from a natural regime to fire regimes that suited humans, with the result that fires were often started too frequently and at inappropriate times. An increase in unplanned fires may have resulted in local extinction of species whose life-cycles were out of synchrony with the unnatural fire regime. Ecosystem functioning, including hydrology, soil nutrient dynamics, and soil erosion are also sensitive to fire regime. Fires in the WCNP were historically caused primarily by humans in both planned and unplanned manner. Fires from lightning strikes do occur, but these are generally localised and infrequent. The management of fire, both planned and unplanned, requires significant financial and human resource investment.

No current fire management programme exists for the park. A programme should be developed as a matter of priority and should consider SANParks' current understanding and park objectives. The fire management programme should be based on historical fire records and guided by park specific management objectives and should include a monitoring component. The main objective of the fire management programme will be to maintain the natural, cultural and biodiversity components of the systems within the park while protecting life and property within the park.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To ensure that fire is managed so as to enhance ecosystems in the park while safeguarding staff, visitors and infrastructure					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Time-frame	References
To ensure that fires do not negatively impact on biodiversity while protecting life and property in the park	Research the appropriate fire regime/s for the park.	CSD	Scientific report	Year 1	
	Formulate fire management guidelines per habitat type and develop prescribed burning schedules.	CSD	Fire management plan	Year 2	
	Continue to actively participate in the Cape West Coast Fire Protection Association.	SSR	Minutes of AGM and unit meetings	Ongoing	
	Update the management unit fire management plan, as prescribed through the FPA.	SSR	Audit reports	Ongoing	
	Implement deliverables described in the fire management plan.	SSR	Annual reports	Ongoing	
	Monitor and evaluate post fire regeneration.	CSD	Scientific report	Ongoing	

10.2.5 Terrestrial biota

High level objective

Terrestrial Biota: To manage terrestrial biota in accordance with organisational goals and in a manner that would not negatively impact on the landscape

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that wildlife species assemblages typical of the West Coast can be restored and maintained by mimicking the ecological processes that most likely occurred in an unconstrained landscape.

SANParks follows the conservation paradigm that acknowledges the flux of nature and the importance of patchiness and habitat heterogeneity in maintaining biodiversity. Consequently the concept of 'carrying capacity' has given way to one that considers the dynamic equilibrium and change inherent within complex systems. This is particularly relevant to the park given that the maintenance of constant high levels of herbivore numbers on the landscape is likely to lead to degradation of some vegetation areas, and mimicking natural density fluctuations through management intervention. SANParks prepared and accepted a wildlife management policy which guided this programme.

TERRESTRIAL BIOTA PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To manage terrestrial biota in accordance with organisational goals and in a manner that would not negatively impact on the landscape					
Purpose: To maintain and restore terrestrial biota assemblage and integrity in the park					
Objectives / Initiatives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To consolidate and manage a range of viable terrestrial biota characteristics of the West Coast area	Collate research on historical terrestrial wildlife assemblages in WCNP	CSD, SSR	Scientific report	Year 1	
	Analyse historical records in conjunction with current vegetation survey reports and make recommendations.	CSD	Scientific report	Year 1	
	Assess recommendations and prioritise possible interventions/actions.	CSD, SSR, WMC	WMC proposals	Year 1, ongoing	
	Develop LLP for wildlife management including applicable actions.	CSD, SSR	Wildlife LLP	Year 1	
	Implement and monitor wildlife LLP	CSD, SSR	Annual report	Year 2, ongoing	

10.2.6 Resource Use

High level objective

Resource Use: To allow the sustainable use of resources in a way that would not adversely affect biodiversity while sharing socio-economic benefits

The purpose of this programme is to allow resource use that would not negatively impact biodiversity while providing socio-economic benefits. One of the purposes of protected areas is to provide for sustainable use of natural and biological resources (NEM:PAA Clauses 17(h) and 41(f)). SANParks continuously evaluate opportunities for resource use in national parks in consultation with stakeholders. Where resource use takes place it is subject to the NEM:PAA and, in the marine environment, the MLRA.

Section 7 of the NEM:PAA Regulations for the Proper Administration of Special Nature Reserves, National Parks and World Heritage Sites: "A management authority must before the end of June of each year submit a return to the Minister in respect of the use of biological resources for the preceding financial year detailing-

(a) the number of licenses, permits and agreements granted to entered into in respect of the use of biological resources;
(b) a description of the biological resources used;
(c) the quantities of the biological resource harvested;
(d) the income generated by the harvesting of biological resources;
(e) the conservation status of the biological resources exploited."

At present no ongoing programme of consumptive resource use in the park in terms of the NEM:PAA exists except for the use of wood from alien species removed as part of the alien plant management programme. Consideration is being given to developing programs for the use of thatching reeds (Restionaceae family) and harvesting of sour figs. Any programmes will be conducted in accordance with legislation and will follow agreements with relevant stakeholders.

Fishing and collection of marine species, however, is regulated by the MLRA with both commercial and recreational fishing permitted in parts of the park and the adjoining MPAs managed by the park subject to specified permit conditions (such as minimum sizes, bag limits and fishing methods) set by Fisheries.

Since the 2009 split of MLRA responsibilities from the previous MCM into Oceans and Coasts, which remained with the DEA, and fisheries management which moved with forestry to the previous Department of Agriculture, now the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (DAFF), new commercial fishing permits were issued both in the park and adjoining MPAs, causing considerable concern to SANParks as the SANParks. The SANParks viewpoint was clearly communicated to Fisheries, but not considered in issuing permits. SANParks is also in no position to submit any returns to the minister as stipulated by the NEM:PAA as DAFF, despite requests, does not report any details to SANParks.

RESOURCE USE PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To allow the sustainable use of resources in a way that would not adversely affect biodiversity while sharing socio-economic benefits					
Purpose: To develop a sustainable resource use plan while continuing with present management of marine resource use					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Time-frame	References
To address new resource use applications / issues in the park	Develop or negotiate procedures for the assessment of resource use applications	PM, CSD	Procedure document	Year 1	
	Identify through research possible sustainable terrestrial resources that can be used	CSD	Resource list, Science report	Ongoing	
	Ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of all existing resource use in the park	PM, CSD	Reports	Year 1, ongoing	
To develop and maintain sound relations with DEA O&C and DAFF Fisheries in order to properly manage marine resources	Determine the status of exploited marine resources in the park	CSD	Status report	Ongoing	
	Promote and participate in long term monitoring and research in order to assess the long term trends of marine species (including seabirds)	CSD	CSD reports	Ongoing	
	Negotiate an agreement with DEAs O&C and DAFF Fisheries regarding park specific marine resources	PM, CSD	MOU	To be negotiated	
	Implement MLRA regulations through patrols and operations	PM, SSR	Incident reports	Ongoing	

10.3 Tourism

Objective

Tourism: To develop, manage, enhance and serve a range of sustainable ecotourism products as to ensure a memorable experience for all park visitors

The purpose of these programmes is to find a balance between providing products and activities for the appropriate use, appreciation and enjoyment of the park by visitors while having minimal impacts on conservation and biodiversity assets. Tourism programmes are aimed at the development, management, enhancement and provision of a range of sustainable tourism products to ensure a memorable experience for all park visitors.

Tourism opportunities were developed in the park in order to generate income for the organisation so as to support the conservation of biodiversity and cultural assets while affording tourists the opportunity to enjoy a diverse range of nature based tourism products and activities.

The park contains irreplaceable resources, unique in the South African context, but these resources are also fragile, hosting a number of endemic species, important aquatic and wetland systems and sites of paleontological, archaeological, historical and cultural significance which could all be an attraction to tourists At the same time, these have to be protected. Use zones are developed to ensure responsible tourism activities balancing conservation values with the need to generate increased revenue. It follows that the effects of tourism activities must be monitored so that potential threats are identified, addressed and mitigated in management plans.

10.3.1 Tourism Products and Marketing

High level objective

Responsible Tourism: To ensure that visitors have access to a range of unique and top quality products and services that are competitively priced and in line with diverse and dynamic visitor needs and to market these products

TOURISM PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To ensure that visitors have access to a range of unique and top quality products and services that are competitively priced and in line with diverse and dynamic visitor needs					
Objectives	**Actions**	**Responsibility**	**Indicators**	**Timeframe**	**References**
To ensure that visitors have access to a range of unique, top quality and competitively priced products and services in line with diverse and dynamic visitor needs	Improve tourism experience at terrestrial access gates and through the park (e.g. signage, clean roads)	PM, STO	Stakeholder / customer feedback	Ongoing	
	Development of local Green Card	PM, STO, RMM	Card in place	Year 1	
	Undertake tourism co-ordination and liaison with local tourism bodies and concessionaires with reference to park products	PM, STO	Meeting minutes / outcomes	Ongoing	
	Undertake concessionaire meetings	PM, STO	Meeting minutes	Ongoing	
	Review pricing for park products annually	PM, RM	Tariff document	Ongoing	
	Evaluate feedback from tourists	PM, TM	CSI index	Ongoing	
To achieve sustainable revenue growth within the limits set by biodiversity conservation	Develop of a proposed rest camp at Kleinmooimaak	BDU, RM	Proposals / studies/ EIA's	Year 3	Business plan
	Solicit proposals for the redevelopment of the old hotel site through a PPP	BDU, RM	Studies/ EIA's	Year 4	Business plan
To grow at visitor numbers and promote access to and use of the park	Undertake events to local communities that promote accessibility to the park (e.g. open days, exhibitions, SANParks week)	PM, STO, P&C	Visitor statistics	Ongoing	
	Arrange special events such as the West Coast marathon, cycle events	PM, STO, P&C	Visitor statistics	Ongoing	
	Investigate activities and events that would broaden the tourism base with special reference to black visitors	PM, STO, P&C	Visitor statistics	Ongoing	

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To deliver value for money service to clients (capacity, infrastructure etc.)	Enhance and improve existing tourism infrastructure and services	PM, STO, Tech Ser	Infrastructure Schedules	Ongoing	
	Monitor and assess and tourism impacts in order to mitigate impacts	SSR	Site Form	Year 1	
	Implement mitigation measures	PM	Measures implemented	Year 1	
	Facilitate grading of tourism products	PM, TM	Gradings	Annual	
To market the tourism products in the park in order to increase tourism numbers and revenue	Participate in local and regional tourism structures and events	PM, STO, P&C	Report	Ongoing	
	Review and assess effectiveness of current marketing material	PM, STO, P&C	Assessment report	Ongoing	
	Develop and produce marketing material to local and regional institutions	PM, STO, P&C	Marketing material available	Ongoing	
	Identify strategic distribution of marketing material in order to ensure that essential information reaches target groups	PM, STO	Increases in numbers, activities and revenue	Ongoing	

10.4 People and conservation

Objective

People and conservation: To manage and sustain the park's heritage resources and to provide the park community with opportunities to interact with the park's management and programmes

Given the inclusive approach to conservation management by SANParks, the People and Conservation (P&C) department was established to build constituencies among people in support of the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage assets within national parks. Through strengthening relationships with neighbouring park communities, management of cultural resource and indigenous knowledge management, environmental education, awareness and interpretation, social science research, and youth outreach, the park is contributing towards developing a people centred approach conservation management.

The key management activities for the next planning cycle include:

- Proactively engage a wide range of park stakeholders on relevant issues.
- Maintain an active park forum to guide the strategic direction of the park.
- Undertake targeted local economic development projects which encompass support for local small, micro and medium enterprises, the outsourcing of commercial facilities through public private partnerships and the development of sustainable natural resource products.
- Continually improve the environmental education and awareness programmes.
- Develop and support the park volunteers such as the SANParks Honorary Rangers and volunteer associations (e.g. Global Vision International).

10.4.1 Heritage

High level objective

Heritage: To research, protect and encourage awareness of the diverse heritage associated with the park in conjunction with surrounding communities

The purpose of this programme is to research, protect and encourage awareness of the diverse heritage associated with the park in conjunction with surrounding communities. Heritage actions are aimed at the establishing and sustaining the significance, authenticity and integrity of heritage resources for which SANParks is responsible for the enjoyment and benefit of visitors to the park.

HERITAGE PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To research, protect and encourage awareness of the diverse heritage associated with the park in conjunction with surrounding communities					
Purpose: To research, protect and rehabilitate cultural heritage resources especially where these have been neglected					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To research cultural heritage resources within the park	Compile a register of tangible and intangible heritage within the park	P&C	Register	Year 1	Heritage Act
	Facilitate the establishment of a cultural heritage action group to include external stakeholders	P&C	Minutes of meetings	Year 1, ongoing	
	Identify and prioritise research needs for cultural heritage	Action Group	Minutes of meetings	Year 1, ongoing	
	Identify possible research institutions/individuals to conduct prioritised research.	CRC	Report	Year 1, ongoing	
	Monitor and evaluate research recommendations for management implementation.	PM, P&C Officer	Reports	Year 2, ongoing	

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To protect cultural heritage resources within the park	Update inventory of tangible and intangible cultural heritage resources within the WCNP	P&C	Reports	Year 2, ongoing	
	Draw up an inventory	P&C	Reports	Year 2, ongoing	
	Develop site specific management guidelines for cultural heritage resources	P&C	Reports	Year 2, ongoing	
	Explore possible collaboration with other institutions and funding opportunities	P&C	Reports	Year 2, ongoing	
	Implement management actions	PM, P&C	Report	Year 3	
To rehabilitate Schrywershoek house	Assess status of structure	P&C, PM	Report	Year 1	
	Determine rehabilitation action	P&C, PM	Report	Year 2	
Ongoing Heritage actions	In collaboration with stakeholders undertake and maintain an inventory of heritage resources associated with the park with a significance rating	P&C, others	Lists, records	Ongoing	
	Develop and then maintain a database of the cultural mapping of the tangible and intangible heritage resources associated with the park	P&C	Lists	Ongoing	
	Formally capture the internal history of the park such as park establishment, anecdotal stories, park highlights, etc	P&C	Lists	Year 1, ongoing	
	Formalise the evaluation of heritage management through a State of Cultural Heritage Report	P&C	Lists	Year 3	

10.4.2 Stakeholder Engagement

High level objective

Stakeholder engagement: To maintain and support mechanisms for representative cooperation and interaction including a Park Forum

The purpose of this programme is to maintain and support stakeholder cooperation.

Co-operative, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships are essential for the park to reach its stated objectives. To this end, both formal and informal partnerships are initiated, maintained and nurtured with all levels of government, business partners, community organisations, non-governmental organisations, customers and employees. The park has an established park forum comprising a wide range of representative local stakeholders with the primary mandate of guiding the strategic direction of the park. The programme aims to enhance park management through adopting a sound management ethic and actively promoting healthy community custodianship of the park.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME					
Stakeholder engagement: To maintain and support mechanisms for representative cooperation and interaction including a Park Forum					
Objective: To enable the park community to interact with the park thereby promoting a vibrant conservation ethic					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To build sound cooperation and stakeholder relationships including a park forum	Develop a LLP for stakeholder engagement	P&C	LLP available	Year 1	
	Building relationship with stakeholder through engagement in terms of LLP	P&C	Reports	Ongoing	
	Evaluate the effectiveness and value of the LLP	P&C	Reports	Ongoing	
To provide a platform for mutually beneficial relationships between the park and its stakeholders	Arrange Quarterly Park Forum Meetings	PM, SSR, P&C	Minutes /	Ongoing	
	Develop a Park Forum Charter	P&C	Charter available	Ongoing	
	Review forum charter and representativity	PM	Review	Ongoing	
	Involve Park Forum in management plan reviews	PM	Report	Ongoing	
To interact with wider stakeholders	Attend Saldanha Bay Tourism Organisation meetings	STO	Meeting Minutes	Ongoing	
	Meet with Wider Stakeholders: (Tri-Alliance SANParks, MCM, Yacht Club), Justice Court, SASAR, SPES-Parks, Community Fishermen	SSR	Meeting Minutes	Ongoing	
To meet with Private / Contractual Landowners Association	Meetings as per agreements	SSR	Minutes	Ongoing	
	Attend Contractual Home Owner Association AGM's	SSR	Minutes	Ongoing	
To co-ordinate and support the HR's in fund raising efforts	Identify park requirements and needs and ensure that these are communicated to the HR group	PM, P&C	Funds Raised	Ongoing	
	Facilitate appropriate allocation of SANParks HRs in park's activities	P&C	Programmes	Ongoing	
	Monitor and guide SANParks HR fundraising activities	SRR	Reports	Ongoing	

10.4.3 Environmental education (EE)

High level objective

Environmental education: To work together with governmental and other stakeholders in shaping environmentally conscious citizens in order to promote the needs of the environment

The purpose of this programme is to build constituencies by knowledge transfer and awareness creation amongst people in support of SANParks' conservation endeavours by playing a significant, targeted and effective role in promoting a variety of educational opportunities and initiatives. The park will continue to focus attention on youth development and environmental education and interpretation for various user groups and the communities around the park.

As a national park that should be preserved for future generations, all issues pertaining to the core business of the park in relation to environmental education should be researched on a continuous basis. This will include the capacitating and training of staff within the specialist areas of the variety of the programmes. External evaluation of the EE programmes that are presented in the park will be done by means of an evaluation feedback form that will be supplied to all groups.

The park has an active volunteer base co-ordinated through SANParks Honorary Rangers working in the park. These volunteers are seen as a key part of the effective delivery of the park's functions and are involved in park development, public events (e.g. West Coast half marathon), as well as external fund raising to support park management with donations of equipment and infrastructure.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To work together with government and other stakeholders in shaping environmentally conscious citizens in order to promote the needs of the environment					
Purpose: To promote the needs of the environment					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To provide youth development programmes in order to build a conservation constituency	Identify types of youth development programmes related to the park	P&C, RM, HO	List of programmes	Ongoing	
	Plan and develop youth development programmes	P&C, PM	Resources available	Ongoing	
	Implement programmes	P&C	Programmes	Ongoing	
	Evaluate and update programmes	P&C, PM	Resources	Ongoing	
To implement environmental education programmes	Review and update existing environmental education programmes	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Year 1	
	Adapt or develop new programmes as indicated	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Year 1, ongoing	
	Promote programmes through school visits	P&C	Schedule	Ongoing	
	Develop resources and interpretive materials for effective environmental education	P&C, PM, Hon Ranger	Resources available	Ongoing	
To develop awareness programmes in order to promote the park and conservation	Develop awareness programmes based on calendar days	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Year 1, ongoing	
	Prioritise days to celebrate and select appropriate days according to resources	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Year 1, ongoing	
	Identify and liaise with target groups	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Ongoing	
	Coordinate specific activities related to events	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Year 1, ongoing	
	Organise activities	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Ongoing	
	Evaluate and review programmes	P&C, PM,	Programmes	Ongoing	
SANParks Honorary Rangers and volunteers	Co-ordinate and support existing SANParks Honorary Ranger and other volunteer initiatives	P&C	Programmes	Ongoing	

10.5 Effective park management

Objective

Effective park management: To ensure that the park is managed effectively through adapting organisational goals and strategies to the specific environment of the park

Effective park management programmes (including daily, weekly, monthly quarterly and annual actions, reports and reviews) are geared to ensuring that the values and objectives of the park are maintained. These programmes put in place the systems and processes that enable proactive management of the park's objectives. This section outlines the management programmes, objective and actions that assist in effective park management such as environmental management, financial management (e.g. procurement, reporting), budgeting, maintenance planning, and monitoring compliance.

10.5.1 Environmental management

High level objective

Environmental management: To develop and implement a comprehensive environmental management plan for the park

The purpose of this programme is to minimise operational impacts on the park.

The park will develop a system to manage their operational impacts. Such a system will provide the framework for the formulation and implementation of proper impact management that are required for all activities within the park. The purpose is to set clear guidelines for the management of environmental impacts and resource use. Proper management of development and operational activities can be achieved through appropriate planning tools and effective controls. A number of management tools are used to develop and manage the park in a manner consistent with relevant legislation and the SANParks policy framework.

Guiding principles:

- Minimise or eliminate negative environmental impacts and use of natural resources.
- Incorporate best practice environmental management into management practices.
- Comply with all relevant legislation

Regarding new developments or upgrades the NEMA and NEM:PAA and regulations provide guidance regarding a number of activities that are either prohibited or require permits. Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are viewed as an important management tool in identifying and managing impacts associated with a particular activity.

For certain activities, the NEMA requires that environmental authorisation be obtained from the competent authority, with the process and activities contained in the EIA Regulations. Where authorisation is not legally required, the minimum requirement will be the preparation of an environmental management plan (EMP).

The primary spatial planning tool is the zoning plan. Zoning provides for a full spectrum for usage of the park, ranging from high-density recreation to a wilderness experience, while ensuring that the ecological integrity, cultural resources and 'sense of place' of the park are maintained and/or enhanced. Zoning is seen important strategic intervention to ensure the protection of the park's biodiversity, heritage and aesthetic values while allowing its optimal development as a tourism destination. On a broad scale the zoning plan acts as the first "filter" in determining whether a proposed development is compatible and/or complementary in a specific use zone.

Special emphasis must be placed on water use, energy efficiency and waste management focusing on the following:

- Identification of environmental aspects and significant environmental impacts,
- Identification of relevant legislative and regulatory requirements;
- Identification of priorities, appropriate environmental objectives and targets.
- Establish a structured process to implement policy, achieve objectives and meet targets.
- Plan, control, monitor and review implementation for continuous improvement.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME					
Environmental management: To develop and implement a comprehensive Environmental Management plan for the park					
Purpose: To minimise operational impacts					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To ensure compliance with environmental legislation and best practice principles for all management activities in the park	Make new legislation and regulations available to park staff and stakeholders	PM	Information available	Year 1, ongoing	
	Review and develop best practice principles for environmental management	PM	Document available	Year 1, ongoing	Zoning plan
	Conduct internal scoping of environmental impacts	PM	Document available	Year 1, ongoing	Zoning plan
	Develop a comprehensive environmental management plan for the park	PM	Plan available	Year 2,	
To implement an environmental management plan for the park	Implement the EMP	PM	Report	Year 2, ongoing	
	Ensure EMP is kept up to date	PM	Report	Year 2, ongoing	
To implement best practice in terms of park activities	Ensure that EIAs, HIAs and BAs are conducted where required	PM, SSR	Document available	Ongoing	
	Ensure that SOPs or EMPs are developed to guide activities	PM	Documents	Ongoing	

10.5.2 Risk

High level objective

Risk: To ensure that emerging issues of risk, that can jeopardise the achievement of park (and SANParks' corporate) objectives, are timely identified and assessed in terms of possible severity.

The purpose of the programme is to maintain and update the park's risk profile

The management of business risk is regarded by SANParks as an integral part of management across all business operations. In line with corporate governance best practices and as per Public Finance Management Act requirements, the Board of SANParks has formalised the risk management processes by adopting a corporate risk management framework. As its foundation, the risk management framework has an enterprise-wide risk identification and assessment process, based on thorough understanding of the environment in which the organisation operates and the strategic corporate objectives it intends to deliver on.

The main aim of the corporate risk management framework is to instil a culture of corporate risk management and risk ownership being practised as the responsibility of all. This will provide SANParks with a comprehensive understanding of all identified risks and their potential impact on the achievement of objectives - thereby creating a good basis for the effective management of those risks that are assessed as exceeding the risk appetite of the organisation.

Acknowledging that all activities occurring at different levels within the organisation are exposed to various types of risks, the focus of SANParks' risk management framework is to shift the attention of the organisation towards a philosophy of optimising the balance between potential risks and the potential rewards that may emanate from both pro-active and conscious risk oriented actions. As such SANParks maintains a corporate risk profile of the identified key strategic risks the organisation faces. This profile is communicated to the Board and is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The risk profile reflects among others the risks identified, how each is addressed and or monitored,

At individual park level the park manager is responsible for risk management. Being the link between the operational activities and its environment on the one hand, and the corporate support and management structure on the other, the park manager is many instances responsible for implementation of corporate initiatives, programmes, management plans and others that form part of the SANParks strategy to address or mitigate issues of risk. Examples are the implementation and roll-out of a safety and security plan, implementing and maintaining ecological monitoring systems to identify and assess the impact of environmental change, and complying with financial and cash-flow directives especially in economically depressed times.

Similarly, the park manager needs to ensure that emerging issues of risk, that can jeopardise the achievement of park (and SANParks' corporate) objectives, are timely identified and assessed in terms of possible severity. In consultation with the corporate support structure such issues are either assessed to be within the management capacity of the park and its existing resources, or the matter is elevated to a corporate level, where a specific risk management strategy is agreed upon, resources allocated where applicable, and a risk management or monitoring plan is implemented

RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME					
Risk: To ensure that emerging issues of risk, that can jeopardise the achievement of park (and SANParks' corporate) objectives, are timely identified and assessed in terms of possible severity.					
Purpose: To maintain and update the park's risk profile					
Objectives	**Actions**	**Responsibility**	**Indicators**	**Timeframe**	**References**
To establish and maintain effective, efficient and transparent systems of risk management	Identify and assess risks for all business operations in the park	Park Management	Risk register	Year 1	Legislation
	Develop responses to address and prevent or mitigate issues of risk.	Park Management	Risk response plan	Year 1	Legislation
	Motivate for funding related to risk management where possible	Park Management	Budget provision	Annual	
	Monitor effectiveness in terms of the risk response actions and improve as needed.	Park Management	BSC	Ongoing	

10.5.3 Finance and administration

High level objective

Finance and administration: To ensure sound financial management and administration in the park

The purpose of the programme is to ensure sound financial management and administration. SANParks budget policy follows the zero-based approach, which implies that every category must be critically assessed, evaluated and supported by an approved business plan. Once budget amounts have been determined for a category, it needs to be compared to previous years and any variance in excess in excess of budget guidelines must be motivated and explained. Annual budgets should be compiled in accordance to budget guidelines and instructions issued annually by the SANParks corporate finance division.

Without incisive financial management of the park, there can be no realistic conservation effort. For the next planning cycle the park will ensure that all park operations and park projects are cost effective and financially sound. In addition particular attention will be given to developing a diverse income base and proactive financial networking to enable to the park to move towards being financially sustainable.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To ensure sound financial management and administration in the park					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To attain effective financial management of the park	Ensure less than 1% variance on cost of operations	PM	Monthly financial statements	Ongoing	Financial management systems
	Ensure sound financial management of special projects; i.e. Working for Water; Working for the Coast; others	PM, ISCU	Budget targets achieved	Ongoing	Project business plans
To grow revenue (Including alternative sources of revenue)	Identify new and align existing business opportunities within the WCNP with the commercialisation programme of SANParks	PM, RM	Opportunities identified. New income streams generated	Ongoing	Commercialisation strategy
To ensure financial accountability and align financial management systems	Implement recommendations from annual audit report	PM, Admin Officer	Audit report	Ongoing	
	Prepare accurate and realistic annual budgets in consultation with management team	GM, PM, Admin Officer	Annual budgets prepared	Ongoing	Annual budgets
	Provide monthly financial reports by cost centre	Admin	Reports prepared	Ongoing	
	Ensure proper recordkeeping of assets (procurement, register, disposal)	Admin	Registers and records	Ongoing	

10.5.4 Human capital development

High level objective

Human capital development: To ensure a harmonious and productive work environment with a developed and well capacitated work force

The purpose of the human capital development programme is to ensure that the park is supported by an adequate human resources function in order to provide effective conservation, visitor and supporting services. SANParks has developed corporate human resources policies, guidelines and procedures to guide the park and its workforce in an effectively organised structure focusing its operations.

By adhering to these policies, guidelines and procedures the park will ensure that competent staff are appointed, and that current staff will be managed in an effective manner to keep them positive, proactive and committed to their tasks and responsibilities. This will also ensure that human resource management will comply with the relevant national legislation.

Park human resource capacity is not only defined by development of current staff, but requires the holistic management of the appropriate human capital. This includes the creation of a learning environment, developing leadership skills, sharing of knowledge and experiences as well as developing socially important lifestyle management programmes to help employees and their families deal with the negative effects of lifestyle diseases including HIV / AIDS.

Park administration must in a prescribed way report on deaths, new appointments, attendance registers, overtime claims, leave etc. A salary instruction is prepared from this and then sent to head office for processing and preparation of monthly salaries.

The park reviews training needs on an annual basis and submits this to SANParks Head Office for authorisation. Compilation of training needs starts off with the individual development plans for each staff member and then finalised with performance appraisals. Management also encourages and analyses all staff to improve their levels of skills and qualifications in their relevant field of expertise on an ongoing basis.

The park currently has 40 staff on its permanent establishment. Additional management functions especially in tourism management as outlined in this plan will make it necessary to grow the staff establishment

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To ensure a harmonious and productive work environment with a developed and capacitated workforce in the park					
Purpose: To manage the process of staff capacity building in a manner that will ensure the essential complimentary function of park effectiveness is maintained while adequate human resources are developed to achieve this goal					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To ensure the park attracts and retains the most suitable human capital	Recruit staff according to corporate selection and recruitment policy	PM, Admin	Procedures followed for appointments, EE plan	Ongoing	SANParks recruitment policy
To implement performance management system	Ensure that band C and higher have signed KPA's	PM, Section managers	Key performance areas available	Ongoing	
To implement plans and skills development strategies to meet the strategic goals of the organisation	Conduct skills audit	Regional HR	Plan available	Ongoing	
	Develop Skills Plan	Regional HR	Skills plan available	Ongoing	WCNP training plan
	Arrange training interventions	PM, Admin	% of budget for training		
	Develop human capital in the fields of conservation, P&C and ecotourism through the internship programme	Regional HR	Implementation of internship programme	Annual	
	Develop human capital in the field of ecotourism by introducing tourism experiences to learners	Regional HR	Learner groups addressed	Ongoing	
	Enable staff to keep abreast of trends to positively influence the practises within the park.	PM		Ongoing	

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To implement the Employment Equity Act	Establish EE forum, design EE Plan, fill vacancies as per EE targets	HR, PM	Vacancies filled	Ongoing	EE report submitted
Implement workplace health care programmes which focus on preventative physical and mental health care	Conduct Aids awareness workshops	PM	Workshops, attendance	Ongoing	Corporate HIV policy
	Ensure staff have access to health care	PM	Facilities, reports	Ongoing	
	Invite professionals to the park to promote awareness on occupational health and safety and mental health issues	PM	Attendance registers	ongoing	
	Commemorate all events related to Wellness (e.g. Aids day, world blood donor day, days of activism on non violence against women)	PM	Attendance registers, invitations	Calendar days	
To implement and ensure compliance with all HR policies	Ensure that staff are up to date with HR policies	PM	Training records	Ongoing	

10.5.5 Information management

High level objective

Information management: To implement best practice in the field of information management

The purpose of the programme is to establish and then maintain a database of park information.

Management of the park requires that the appropriate data and information are collected, maintained and made readily accessible to staff responsible for all aspects of management. Such data are not only essential for formulating effective long-term management objectives, plans, programs and systems, but also for educating and informing residents associations, user groups, local authorities, provincial and national decision and policy makers, international organisations and aid/donor agencies.

Although good biophysical (Hanekom *et al.* 2009), socio-economic and heritage data exists for the area, specific information is needed at a higher resolution for the park to use as a baseline against which to monitor the management actions of the park. The priorities for research will be developed through a priority needs analysis which will be articulated through the development of an overarching science plan. This plan will determine the suitable park indicators (including thresholds of potential concern) to monitor, as well the varying mechanisms to collect the data (e.g. internal research, universities, commissioned studies, etc.).

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME					
High level objective: To implement best practices in the field of records and information management					
Purpose: To establish and then maintain a database of park information					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To develop and implement a records management and file plan for the park in accordance with SANParks policies and procedures	Review the existing records management and file plans within the various areas of the WCNP, and implement a single file plan	PM	Draft records management and file plan for park	Year 1	(Act no. 43 of 1996 as amended)
	Implement the WCNP records management and file plan	PM, Admin	Records and documents filed ito plan	Ongoing	Corporate file plan and policy
	Ensure appropriate access to park files and records in accordance to corporate records management policy and guidelines.	PM, Admin	Access procedures recorded and implemented	Ongoing	Corporate file plan and records management policy

10.5.6 Infrastructure

High level objective

Infrastructure: To maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure and develop new infrastructure in support of conservation and tourism in the park

The purpose of the programme is to provide for upgrading and maintenance (day to day and scheduled) of existing infrastructure. Infrastructure in the park consists of facilities in support of conservation (such as management roads and tracks, office facilities, staff housing, fences, bulk services, workshops and stores) and tourism (such as tourist roads and tracks, walking trails, office facilities, staff housing, bulk services, lookout points, hides, picnic sites and tourist accommodation). These facilities enable staff to execute the respective duties towards achieving the Parks objectives and providing a tourism product at the best possible standard.

The product development strategy, applicable legislation and limitations of the zoning shall guide new infrastructure development such that:

- Infrastructure must be developed and maintained in accordance with all applicable legislation, policies, standards and codes
- Maintenance must be undertaken in a cost effective manner
- New developments and infrastructure maintenance must:
  - As far as practicable incorporate good, cost effective environmental design;
  - As far as practicable use low maintenance designs and material;
  - As far as possible utilise existing roads and tracks and disturbed sites and to limit green field developments.

Park infrastructure is listed in table 3, and shown in appendix 4 map 7.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME					
High Level Objective: To maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure and develop new infrastructure in support of conservation and tourism in the park					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To ensure that infrastructure in the park is maintained to a desired state	Compile an inventory of all infrastructure in the park, assess construction types and determine extent of maintenance needed.	PM, section managers	Inventory	Year 1	
	Document the scope of maintenance needs in accordance with relevant specifications.	PM, section managers	Reports	Year 1	Building and Electrical regulations
	Prioritise maintenance needs and develop a 5-year maintenance plan for the park.	PM, Technical	Maintenance plan, schedules	Year 1, ongoing	
	Implement the 5-year maintenance plan according to the annual maintenance schedules	PM, Technical	Monthly and annual reports	Ongoing	
	Assess progress, revise annual maintenance schedules and evaluate standard of work.	PM, Technical	Annual report	Ongoing	

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To ensure that all mechanical and electrical equipment is maintained to a desirable state	Compile an inventory of all mechanical and electrical equipment in the park, determine maintenance schedules of each and list service providers.	PM	Inventory	Year 1	
	Develop an annual maintenance schedule for all equipment.	PM	Schedule	Year 1, ongoing	OHS Act, Electrical regulations
	Implement the annual maintenance schedule.	PM	Schedule	Ongoing	
To develop and implement a product development strategy to guide the development and maintenance of infrastructure in the park	Develop a product development strategy for the park	PM	Strategy in place	Year 1	Zoning plan
	Prioritise implementation	PM	Priority List	Year 1	
	Identify possible mechanisms and partnerships to realise identified product development.	PM, RM	Agreements	Year 1	
	Implement the product development strategy	PM,, RM	New products	Year 3	
To regulate all currently illegal and unwanted structures and facilities	Identify and list all such structures etc.	SSR	List	Year 1	
	To regulate or remove relevant structures	SSR	Reports	Year 2	

10.5.7 Security and safety

High level objective

Safety and security: To provide a safe and secure environment for both our visitors and SANParks employees, and to ensure that the area integrity of the natural and cultural resources is maintained in a sustainable manner.

The purpose is to provide a safe and secure environment for both visitors and staff and to ensure that the area integrity of the natural and cultural resources of the park is maintained in a sustainable manner.

At a broader level, the plan must ensure that tourist perceptions are maintained in order to protect the brand and reputation of SANParks and the SA Tourism industry at large. A designated safety and security person is responsible to facilitate the implementation of the safety and security plan. This person will act as the link between the park and relevant security institutions. All conservation staff are appointed as environmental management inspectors in terms of section 31D (1) of NEMA to exercise the powers and functions in respect to the enforcement of the provisions of the suite of NEM As.

Area integrity planning includes a regular threat analysis of the park to ensure that the security measures implemented are current and in step with ever changing criminal threats. Information gathered through various sources will be verified and used to plan patrols and other safety measures. Documentation such as Immediate action drills, standard operating procedures and emergency plans will be made available to staff to ensure they are fully informed, thereby ensuring decisive actions in times of emergencies. Vital safety information/instructions and contact details will also be made available to guests. All of the above documents will be updated on a regular basis.

Training is seen as an important tool to empower staff in the execution of their respective safety and security duties. Tailor-made training courses will focus on the following areas:

- Training and retraining of all staff with regards to tourist safety
- Constant training of relevant staff in dealing with conflict situations
- Proper and sufficient on-going training of tourism staff in terms of visitor gateway management, general awareness of criminal activity trends and the correct action in case of criminal activity taking place
- Ensure that staff working in the marine environment are appropriately trained and qualified
- Specialised training for relevant staff to ensure all actions taken are in line with the Criminal Procedure Act, e.g. executing an arrest, controlling crime scenes and handling evidence.
- Environmental management inspector training for relevant staff
- Ongoing training of security personnel and updating of site instructions at key points to address threats from the criminal environment

Safety and security must be seen within the broader context of the region. The success of the safety and security programme lays in co-operation and stakeholder participation from various departments and parties both within SANParks and external entities.

Through combined operations with the various law enforcement bodies a cross pollination of ideas, techniques and information is achieved enabling a continually adaptive safety and security planning and implementation. The park will focus on:

- Raising awareness of tourism within local law enforcement structures to ensure support and quick reaction times when necessary
- Raising awareness of environmental crime with relevant judiciaries and law enforcement departments
- Raising awareness of safety and security at park management meetings

In order to ensure that the park stays focused on implementing this programme the following monitoring interventions will be implemented: participate in the state of area integrity management assessment (a tool in measuring the effectiveness of current safety situation), while heads of departments will undertake regular checks to manage all irregularities

SAFEETY AND SECURITY PROGRAMME					
High Level Objective: To provide a safe and secure environment for both our visitors and SANParks employees, and to ensure that the area integrity of the natural and cultural resources is maintained in a sustainable manner.					
Purpose: To ensure that safety and security measures are in place and monitored					
Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Indicators	Timeframe	References
To provide a high level of safety and security in the park to staff, visitors and landowners.	Review relevant safety and security plans.	Park management	Reviewed plans	Year 1	
	Develop and implement a radio communication system (hardware and procedure) for proper communication.	SSR, Park Manager	Communication system in place	Year 2	ICASA regulations
	Train staff in area integrity management and readiness to react to emergency situations.	Park management	Training Records	Year 1 and ongoing	Strategic safety and security plan
	Assess readiness of staff.	Management	Audits, Drills	Ongoing	IDP's
	Report incidents as required	Management			
	Review current access control measures and improve as indicated	Park management	Plans available	Year 1	
To Improve overall park safety through interactions with external role players	Align the safety and security activities to accommodate collaborative operations with external partners, e.g. ports authority, SAPS, SANDF, fisheries	SSR, SR	Safety and security plan	Year 2 and ongoing	
	Participate in various external safety and security related forums	SSR	Minutes	Ongoing	Inter agency agreements.

Section 11: Costing

In line with the legal requirements, the programmes of implementation to achieve the desired state have been costed.

Guiding principles

- Responsibly manage the allocation of budget, revenue raising activities and expenditure;
- Ensure solid financial management support the achievement of the objectives of this plan;
- Compliance to the Public Finance Management Act as well as SANParks financial policy and procedures.

Using the zero based budgeting approach a funding estimate was derived based upon the activities in this Management Plan. When estimating the costing the following items were considered:

- Those costs and associated resources which could be allocated to specific activities and which were of a recurring nature;
- Those costs and associated resources which could be allocated to specific activities but which were of a once-off nature;
- Unallocated fixed costs (water, electricity, phones, bank fees etc);
- Maintenance of infrastructure;
- Provision for replacement of minor assets, (furniture, electronic equipment, vehicles, etc.).

Recurring costs

The annual operating cost (includes man days, travel, non-park funding and shortfall, where applicable) is estimated at R20,452,535 for 2013/2014. These ongoing costs are split according to the programmes listed in table 5.

Table 5: Estimated annual operational costs for 2013/2014.

Programmes	Estimated budget	Percentage of total
Infrastructure	R 6,434,768	31.5%
Water in the landscape	R 6,235,625	30.5%
Rehabilitation	R 2,322,695	11.4%
Tourism operation	R 1,494,968	7.3%
Safety and security	R 638,635	3.1%
Bioregional	R 496,319	2.4%
Terrestrial biota	R 415,188	2.0%
Species of special concern	R 408,235	2.0%
Fire management	R 362,782	1.8%
Environmental education	R 253,198	1.2%
Research, monitoring and evaluation	R 240,831	1.2%
Resource use	R 228,363	1.1%
Human capital development	R 208,087	1.0%

Programmes	Estimated budget	Percentage of total
Environmental management	R 136,008	0.7%
Stakeholder engagement	R 129,353	0.6%
Finance and administration	R 127,387	0.6%
Heritage	R 115,661	0.4%
Socio economic development	R 82,811	0.4%
Information management	R 46,874	0.2%
Risk management	R 42,032	0.2%
Adaptive management and evaluation interventions	R 32,717	0.2%
Total Operations	**R 20,104,729**	**100%**

Once off costs
In addition to the above there is a further once-off cost estimated at R46,957,500 (see table 6).

Table 6: Estimated once off cost of the various programmes.

Activity	Estimated budget
New infrastructure	R 23,107,500
Bioregional programme	R 23,500,000
Tourism operations	R 350,000
Total	**R 46,957,500**

Unallocated fixed costs
The unallocated fixed costs for 2013/2014 are R1,831,318.

Maintenance
A breakdown of the infrastructure, both existing and new with their replacement value and an estimate of the ongoing annual maintenance for 2013/2014 is provided in table 7. The projected maintenance for existing infrastructure is estimated at R4.426.035 in 2013/2014. This amount has been included under the infrastructure programme. If the new planned infrastructure is developed it will add a further R525,552 (at 2013/2014 rates) onto this annual maintenance budget, increasing it to R4,951,557. The maintenance requirement was calculated as a percentage of the replacement value

Table 7: Estimated replacement value of the existing infrastructure and any new infrastructure required with the estimated annual maintenance budget for the existing and new infrastructure.

	Estimated replacement value			Estimated maintenance		
	Existing (R)	New (R)	Total (R)	Existing (R)	New (R)	Total (R)
Buildings	119,169,175	13,833,000	133,002,175	2,384,179	276,660	2,660,839
Roads & tracks	91,064,600	4,240,000	95,304,600	1,714,232	63,600	1,777,832
Trails	1,071,660	39,750	1,111,410	53,583	1,988	55,571
Fencing	6,529,600	5,936,000	12,465,600	130,592	174,370	304,962
Water system	4,221,450	0	4,221,450	84,429	0	84,429
Electricity	7,564,160	0	7,564,160	5,173	0	5,173
Communication	498,200	445,200	943,400	9,964	8,904	18,868
Sewerage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marine infrastructure	2,194,200	0	2,194,200	43,884	0	43,884
Total	232,313,045	24,493,950	256,806,995	4,426,035	525,522	4,951,557

Replacement of minor assets

With many of the vehicles being leased along with the computers, this will significantly reduce this requirement as these items are expensive and require frequent replacement. To calculate the replacement provision, the cost price of the assets was divided by the estimated useful life. SANParks applies certain standards in this regard. The estimated asset value for various categories based on their original purchase price and the estimated budget required annually to make provision for their replacement. Management should make provision for about R 294,485 in 2013/2014 as presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Total value based on the original purchase price of various categories of minor assets.

Asset type	Asset value	Provision for replacement
Computer equipment	R 214,557	R 71,519
Firearms	R 3,910	R 391
Furniture	R 11,881	R 1, 697
Machinery and equipment	R 615,859	R 87,980
Office equipment	R 25,997	R 3,714
Vehicles and watercraft	R 888,690	R 126,956
White goods	R 15,594	R 2,228
Total	**R 1,776,489**	**R 294,485**

Summary

It is estimated that the park will require an annual operating budget of R22,560,338 for 2013/2014, increasing to R28,481,907 in 2017/2018. In addition to this amount the park will also require R46,957,500 over the next five years. A summary is presented in table 9

Table 9: Summary of the annual and once off costs (based on actual expenditure) required to fully implement the activities in the Management plan over the next 5 years.

	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/017	2017/2018
Recurring operational costs	R22,560,338	R23,913,959	R25,348,796	R26,869,724	R28,481,907
Once off costs over 5 years	R46,957,500				
SANParks budget	R16,884,696	R17,897,778	R18,971,645	R20,109,943	R21,316,540
Deficit	R5,675 642	R6,016,180	R6,377,151	R6,759,780	R7,165 367

The deficit can be broken down as follows:

- An amount of R 3,555,642 to cover the current maintenance shortfall;
  - An additional R 1,967,455 is required for buildings;
  - An additional R 1,398,552 is required for roads;
  - An additional R 189,635 is required for fences.
- An amount of R 1,590,000 for marine protected area management;
- An amount of R 530,000 for capital expenditure;

Implications:
Should the Park be unsuccessful in securing the deficit amount of R5,675,642 the following programmes will be affected;

- Infrastructure: The park will not be able to maintain the current infrastructure to a high standard.
- Water in the landscape: The park will not be able to manage the marine protected area effectively.
- Water works: The park will not be able to replace pumps *etc.* that are of critical importance**.**

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Appendix 1: Declarations

Proclamation 138 (GG 9904 / 19850830) proclaimed the Langebaan National Park and included the following description

[Name of "West Coast National Park", formerly "Langebaan National Park", substituted by GN 1490/88]

Definition of area

A. Beginning at the north-western beacon of the farm Stofbergsfontein 365; thence south-eastwards and south-westwards along the boundaries of the farm Stofbergsfontein 365 and Portion 6 of the farm Schrywershoek 362, so as to exclude them from this area, to the point where the south-westward prolongation of the northwestern boundary of last-mentioned Portion 6 of the farm Schrywershoek 362 intersects the high-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean; thence generally south-eastwards along the said high-water mark to the southernmost point of the farm Schrywershoek 362; thence south-westward along the prolongation of the south-eastern boundary of the said farm Schrywershoek 362 to the point where it intersects the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean; thence generally north-westwards along the said low-water mark to the point where the south-westward prolongation of the northern boundary of the farm Stofbergsfontein 365 intersects the said low-water mark; thence north-eastwards in a straight line to the beginning.

B. Beginning at the point where the northern boundary of Breë Street, Langebaan, 37,78 metres wide, intersects the high-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean; thence generally south-eastwards along the said high-water mark to the north-western point of State Land 853; thence north-eastwards and generally south-eastwards along the boundary of the said State Land 853 so as to include it in this area, to the southernmost point thereof; thence generally south-eastwards along the low-water mark of the Langebaan Lagoon to the north-western beacon of the farm Geelbek Annex 361; thence south-eastwards along the north-eastern boundary of lastmentioned farm Geelbek Annex 361 so as to include it in this area, to the point where the south-eastern prolongation of the said north-eastern boundary of the said farm Geelbek Annex 361 intersects the said high-water mark; thence clockwise along the said high-water mark to the northernmost point of Portion 6 of the farm Schrywershoek 362; thence south-westwards to the easternmost beacon of the farm Stofbergsfontein 365; thence generally north-westwards along the boundaries of the following properties so as to exclude them from this area, viz the said farm Stofbergsfontein 365, Farm 363, Farm 364, Portion 1 of the said farm Stofbergsfontein 365, the said farm Stofbergsfontein 365, thence from the northern beacon of the said farm Stofbergsfontein direct to the high water-mark of the Langebaan Lagoon thence generally north-westwards along the said high-water mark to the point where it intersects the eastward prolongation of the northern boundary of the farm Oude Post 367 and thence westwards along the said line to the north-eastern beacon of the said farm Oude Post 367 to exclude the portion known as Oude Post Strand 373 as well as Farm 374 and Portion 2 (Leasehold Landing Jetty B) of Oude Post Strand; thence generally north-westwards along the boundary of the farm Nieuwland 289 to the northernmost point of the said farm Nieuwland so as to exclude it from this area; thence north-eastwards in a straight line through the point of intersection of latitude 33 05'10" and longitude 18 00'45"; thence north-westwards in a straight line to the point of intersection of latitude 33 '55" and longitude 18 00'42"; thence south-eastwards in a straight line to the first-mentioned point.

C. The farms Jutten Island 312 and Malagas Island 310, Administrative District of Malmesbury, in their entirety up to and including the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean.

D. The farm Marcus Island 311, Administrative District Malmesbury, in its entirety up to and including the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean and the retaining wall indicated on Topographical Sheet 3317 BB and 3318 AA Saldanha.

GN 1385/87 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:

The undermentioned land, being part of the Sandveld State Forest, namely -

(i) Portion 2 of the farm Geelbek 360, in extent 842,0952 hectares;
(ii) Portion 1 of the farm Papenkuilsfontein 448, in extent 330,6305 hectares;
(iii) Portion 3 (a portion of Portion 2) of the farm Wilde Varkens Valley 452, in extent 538,9246 hectares;
(iv) Portion 4 of the farm Wilde Varkens Valley 452, in extent 86,4669 hectares;
(v) Portion 1 of the farm De Hoek 450, in extent 1 209,0863 hectares; and
(vi) Portion 20 (a portion of Portion 19) of the farm Yzerfontein 560, in extent 2,3513 hectares; and
(vii) The coastal strip adjacent to Portion 1 of the farm De Hoek 450, in extent 23,8459 hectares;

all situate in the Administrative District of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope.

GN 1753/87 declared the following land to be part of the park:

(i) Remainder of the farm Nieuwland 289, in extent 358,3159 ha;
(ii) Remainder of the farm Oude Post 367, in extent 1 238,1435 ha;
(iii) Remainder of the farm Kreefte Baay 368, in extent 219,3003 ha; and
(iv) Portion 2 of the farm Kreefte Baay 368, in extent 36,1352 ha;

all situate in the Administrative District of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope.

GN 1490/88 declared the following property to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:

The Remainder of erf 304 Langebaan, in extent 1,6294 ha, Administrative District of Malmesbury.

GN 1374/89 declared the following properties to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:

(i) Portion 1 of the farm Geelbek 360, in extent 179,1405 ha;
(ii) Remainder of the farm Geelbek 360, in extent 2751,0677 ha;
(iii) Portion 1 of the farm Abrahams Kraal 449, in extent 923,3415 ha;
(iv) Remainder of the farm Abrahams Kraal 449, in extent 1093,9798 ha;
(v) Remainder of the farm Bottellary 353, in extent 1108,4407 ha;
(vi) Portion 1 of the farm Schrywershoek 362, in extent 1,6964 ha;
(vii) Portion 6 of the farm Schrywershoek 362, in extent 25,0023 ha;
(viii) Portion 7 of the farm Schrywershoek 362, in extent 24,8539 ha;
(ix) Portion 10 of the farm Schrywershoek 362, in extent 115,5849 ha;
(x) Remainder of the farm Schrywershoek 362, in extent 626,2984 ha; and
(xi) the Sea-shore as defined in the Sea-shore Act, 1935 (Act 21 of 1935), situate opposite the farm Abrahams Kraal 449, the coastal strip adjacent to Portion 1 of the farm De Hoek 450, and Portion 20 (a portion of Portion 19) of the farm Yzerfontein 560,

all situate in the Administrative District of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope.

GN 2159/92 excluded the following property from the park and amended the definition accordingly:

Portion 20 (a portion of Portion 19) of the farm Yzerfontein 560, in extent 42,3513 hectares, situate in the Administrative District of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope.

GN 183/94 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:

Portion 1 of the farm Wilde Varkens Valley 452, situate in the Division of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope, in extent 695,5766 hectares, as represented on and described in Diagram 1298/55.

GN 183/94 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:
Portion 1 of the farm Wilde Varkens Valley 452, situate in the Division of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope, in extent 695,5766 hectares, as represented on and described in Diagram 1298/55.

GN 1705/94 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:
The undermentioned land situate in the Division of Malmesbury, Western Cape Province:

1. The farm Oude Post Strand 373 in extent 21,3276 hectares, as represented on and described in Diagram SG No. 1789/1940;
2. The farm Lot O.P.G.R. 366 in extent 14,2258 hectares, as represented on and described in Diagram SG No. 6095/49 including that portion of the sea-shore between the high- and low-water mark situate opposite the said property, and;
3. The sea-shore and the adjoining coast reserve situate opposite the Remaining Extent and Portion 2 of the farm Kreefte Baay 368 with the following definition of the area: Beginning at the point where the southwestward prolongation of the south-eastern boundary of Portion 2 of the farm Kreefte Baay 368 intersects the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean; thence generally north-westwards along the said low-water mark to the point where it intersects the south-westward prolongation of the south-eastern boundary of the farm Lyfsershoek 288; thence north-eastwards along the said prolongation to the southern-most point of the farm Lyfsershoek 288; thence generally south-eastwards along the boundaries of the Remaining Extent and Portion 2 of the farm Kreefte Baay 368, so as to exclude it from the area described herein, to the southern-most point of Portion 2 of the farm Kreefte Baay 368; thence south-westwards with the south-eastern boundary of the lastmentioned Portion and along the prolongation of the said boundary of the lastmentioned Portion and along the prolongation of the said boundary to the point where the said prolongation intersects the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean, the point of beginning.

GN 1947/94 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:
Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the farm Bottellary 353, situate in the Division of Malmesbury, Province of the Cape of Good Hope, in extent 394,2295 hectares, as represented on and described in S.G. Diagram No. 6646/54.

GN 537/96 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:
The undermentioned land situated in the Division of Malmesbury, Western Cape Province:

1. Extent of the farm Massenberg 298, in extent 1902,6817 ha, as represented on and described in Diagram SG 742/1837;
2. Extent of Farm 297, in extent 42,2528 ha, as represented on and described in Diagram SG 20/1750;
3. Extent of Farm 299, in extent 462,9827 ha, as represented on and described in Diagram SG 247/1872; and
4. Portion 3 of the farm Oostewal 292, in extent 100,2141 ha, as represented on and described in Diagram SG 783/1881.

GN 34 / GG 18600 / 19971230 declared the following land to be part of the park:
Portion 2 of the farm Stofbergfontein 365, in the District of Malmesbury, in extent 172,9127 hectares, as indicated on Diagram No. T7976/1997.

GN 42/2004 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:

(GN 42/2004 withdrawn by GN 962/2005)

GN 904/2004 declared the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:

1. The Remainder of Portion 1 (Mooimaak) of the Farm Bottelary No.353, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 1510,3637 hectare, held under Title Deed T34805/1992
2. Portion 8 (a portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Schrywershoek No.362, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 24,7097 hectare, held under Title Deed T 54664/1998
3. Portion 4 (a portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Buffelsfontein No.453, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 158,2924 hectare, held under Title Deed T13616/1994
4. Portion 5 (a portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Buffelsfontein No.453, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 199,0509 hectare, held under Title Deed T101028/1997
   [Corrected by GN 28/2005]
5. Portion 1 of the Farm Zwartbergs Valley No.447, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 102,3727 hectare, held under Title Deed T13641/1995
6. The Remainder of Portion 2 of the Farm Wilde Varkens Valley No.452, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 68,7756 hectare, held under Title Deed T51350/2000
7. The Remainder of the Farm Wilde Varkens Valley No.452, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 609,0951 hectare, held under Title Deed T51350/2000
8. The Farm Van Niekerk's Hoop No.300, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 689,7310 hectare, held under Title Deed T30543/2000
9. The Remainder of the Farm Papenkuilsfontein No. 448, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 1532,3267 hectare, held under Title Deed T67804/1998
10. The Farm Kalkklipfontein No. 995, Malmesbury Registration Division, Province of the Western Cape, in extent 1878,0869 hectare, held under Title Deed T79051/2002

GN 1069 / GG 28185 / 20051028 declare the following land to be part of the park and amended the definition accordingly:
Portion 4 of the farm Langefontein No. 377, according to Title Deed: Surveyed, unregistered State Land in extent 1 839,87 hectares.

[Definition of "West Coast National Park" added by Proc. 138/85 and amended by GN 1385/87, GN 1490/88, GN 1374/89, GN 2159/92, GN 183/94, GN 1705/94, GN 1947/94, GN 537/96, GN 42/2004, GN 904/2004, GN 28/2005 and GN 1069/2005]

Table 1: Summary of declaration dates properties proclaimed as park

No	Description	Reference
1	Langebaan Lagoon, Jutten, Schaapen, Malgas and Marcus islands and the Atlantic shore	Proclamation 138, GG 9904, 30 August 1985
2	Portions of Geelbek, Papenkuilsfontein, Wilde Varkens Valley and coastal strip to Yzerfontein	GN 1753, GG 10789. 26 June 1987
3	Erf 304 Langebaan	GG No. 11345. G.R. 1490, 29 July 1987
4	Geelbek, Abrahamskraal, portions of Schrywershoek and the seashore	GG No. 11978. G.R. 1347, 30 June 1989
5	42 ha near Yzerfontein were excluded	GG No. 15470. G.R. 183, 4 February 1994
6	A further portion of Wilde Varkens Valley	GG No. 15470. G.R. 183, 4 February 1994
7	Previously disputed land at Oude Post and coastal reserve	GG No. 16005. G.R. 1705, 7 October 1994
8	Part of Bottelary (Seeberg)	GG No. 16075. G.R. 1947, 18 November 1994
9	Massenberg properties	GG No. 17073. G.R. 537, 4 April 1996
10	Portion 1 of Stofbergsfontein	GG No. 18600. G.R. 34, 30 December 1997

A number of other properties have been acquired for use by the park, but have, for a variety of reasons, not been proclaimed as national park. These properties are listed in Table 2 (status on 10 August 201).

Table 2: Properties not proclaimed as part of the park.

No.	Description	Details
1	Erf 158	Acquired by the National Parks Trust for tourism purposes, ownership transferred to state. Request to transfer land to SANParks submitted by CEO
2	Portion 5	Not declared – acquired in early 1990s
	Portion 2 of the farm Langefontein 377	Ownership unknown, not declaired
3	Remainder of Stofbergsfontein 365	Not declared – acquired formally in 1997
4	4 portions on Atlantic coast of Postberg – farm 362/3, 362/4, 364/11, 364/13	Not declared no known reference
5	Portion 2 of farm Kreefte Bay 368	Not declared
6	Portions 1 and 3 of farm Kreeftebaai 368	Not declared
7	Oude Post 367/1	Not declared
8	Bottelary 353/4	Not declared
9	Schryvershoek 362/5	Not declared – acquired in 1994
10	Elandsfontein 349/1	No declared – no reason known
	Newly acquired parts land purchased for inclusion in park – farm 305 and 305/2	Not declared
+	PMs house	Residence for park use
	Six erven – six staff houses built by SANParks	Owned by state, DPW transferred use to SANParks for residential use
	Three erven and houses Langebaan North	Purchased by SANParks for staff housing

Table 3: Summary Details of Contractual Agreements

TITLE DEED	NAME	EXTENT (HA)	OWNER	PROCLAMATION	PERIOD AND COMMENTS
T262/ 1949	Remainder of Nieuwland 289	358.3159	Oude Post Sindikaat	In terms of Section 2B(1)(b) of National Parks Act in GG 10860 of 9/14/1987	99 years. Notice has since been given by SANParks for termination of contract so that conditions could be renegotiated.
T262/ 1949	Remainder of Oude Post 367	1238.1435 G/237.6141 T			
T262/ 1949	Remainder of Kreefte Baai 368	219.3003/134 8.1814 T			
T77068 /1994	Portion 2 of Kreefte Baai 368	36.1352/9,60. 69HA T			
T14319 /1998	Portion 2 of Stofbergs-fontein 365	172.9127	National Parks Trust of SA	In terms of Section 2B(1)(b) of National Parks Act in GG 18600 of 12/30/1997	100 years, may be cancelled by either party on 2 years written notice after initial period of 28 years.
T13616 /1994	Portion 4 of Buffelsfontein No.453	158.2924	National Parks Trust of SA	In terms of Section 2B(1)(b) of National Parks Act in GG 26615 of 7/30/2004	99 years from February 2004 and option to renew for further 25 years
T34805 /1992	Remainder of Portion 1 of Bottelary 353	1510.3637			
T54664 /1998	Portion 8 (portion of portion 2) of Schrywershoek No.362	24.7097			
T13641 /1995	Portion 1 of Zwartbergs Valley No.447	102.3727			
T67804 /1998	Remainder of Papenkuilsfontein No.448	1532.3267			
T51350 /2000	Remainder of Wilde Varkens Valley No.452	609.0951			
T51350 /2000	Portion 2 of Wilde Varkens Valley No.452	68.7756			
T101028 /1997	Portion 5 of Buffelsfontein No.453	199.0509			
T79051 /2002	Kalkklipfontein 995	1878.0869			
T30543 /2000	Van Niekerks Hoop No.300	689.7310	WWF of SA	In terms of Section 2C(2) of National Parks Act in GG 26615 of 7/30/2004	

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): The MPAs of Langebaan Lagoon, Sixteen Mile Beach, Malgas Island, Jutten Island and Marcus Island MPAs (declared by Notice No. R. 1429 in GG No. 219487 dated 29 December 2000) are managed in terms of NEM:PAA and an agreement between SANParks and the Marine and Coastal Management Chief Directorate of DEA (now Oceans and Coasts).

Appendix 2: Stakeholder Participation

INTRODUCTION
The West Coast National Park (WCNP) was proclaimed on the 30 August 1985 and in terms of the National Parks Act. SANParks has submitted a management plan to DEA in November 2006 as required by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No.31 of 2004. An update was submitted in March 2008 as required by the Minister. SANParks has decided to review the management plan for WCNP to fit in with the revision cycle.

THE STAKEHOLDER Participation PROCESS

Objectives
The objectives of the stakeholder participation process are to:

- Create a channel for the accurate and timely dissemination of information to interested and affected stakeholders;
- Create the opportunity for communication between SANParks and the public;
- Promote opportunities for the building of understanding between different parties;
- Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to give meaningful input into the decision-making processes that drive the development of the Park Management Plan.

Approach
The approach to the Stakeholder Participation Process is based on the principles embodied in the following legal framework:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act No. 108 of 1996;
- National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA); and
- The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No.57 of 2003 as amended by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No.31 of 2004.

In addition to the above legal framework, the stakeholder process was developed with the Guiding Principles for SANParks Stakeholder Participation in mind. SANParks thus undertakes to:

- Seek to notify stakeholders of participation processes through appropriate mechanisms.
- Ensure that the process provides the opportunity for input from all stakeholders within reasonable timeframes, emphasising the sharing of information, joint- learning and capacity building.
- Promote participation by stakeholders through timeous and full disclosure of all relevant and appropriate information.
- Provide feedback on the outcome of the process to stakeholders and demonstrate how their inputs have been considered in the decision making process.
- Ensure that methodologies accommodate the context of the issue at hand and the availability of resources (people, time, money) and do not conflict with these guiding principles.
- Give particular attention to ensuring participation by marginalised communities, communities with specific concerns, or communities that have contractual rights in the National Park.

The Stakeholder Participation Strategy for West Coast National Park
The various stakeholder events and activities carried out during the process are summarised in the tables below.

All the stakeholders that was registered during the 2006 management plan revision process was informed (via e-mail and telephonic) of our intention to review the WCNP management plan during the 2009/2010 financial year.

Stakeholder consultation: Government and Non-government

Table 4.1: This table reflects the various organisations that were identified to participate in the Park Management Plan Process. The government departments are at national, provincial and local level. The intention is to show that, in terms of the spirit of co-operative governance SANParks has approached these parties.

Local Government	Saldanha Local Municipality, West Coast District Municipality
Provincial Government	DWAF, CapeNature.
Park Forum	All members of the Park Forum
Land Owners	Kassie Wiehahn, John McNab - Church Haven, Koos Loubser – Postberg, Charl Pauw – Stofbergsfontein, Peter Smallers, Charles Myers, SA National Defence Force.
Contractual Partners	Stofbergfontein, Postberg.
Tourist Associations	Jaco Kotze, Saldanha Tourism Board
Community Organisations	Duinepos, Do it Project.
Local Business	Langebaan Business chamber , Rate payers association
Media	Weslander, Burger, Cape Times, Cape Argus, Radio West Coast
Research	University of Cape Town, University of Stellenbosch, University of Western Cape, Marine and Coastal Management, CapeNature Scientific Services, SANBI (KRC)
Education	Eco – ed, Department of Education, Cape West Coast Biosphere, Goldfields Education Centre (SANBI).
Conservation Organisations	CapeNature, G Schwarz (Yzerfontein Conservancies), CWCB, West Coast Fossil Park.

Registration as an Interested and Affected Party

Table 4.2: *Stakeholders had the following opportunities to register as interested and affected parties.*

Mechanism to Register	Description	Date
1. Media Advertisements	Registration in response to advertisements in 3 National Newspapers & 1 Local newspaper - Sunday Times (English) - Rapport (Afrikaans) - City press	 14/02/2010 14/02/2010 14/02/2010
2. National Registration	At SANParks Head Office via e-mail, fax, telephone, post or via the internet	From the 01/04/2009
3. Local Registration	At West Coast National Park. Registration Forms were available at reception and were distributed by staff	From the 01/04/2009
4. Registration at meetings	Stakeholders were able to register at the Desired State Workshop and the PMP Open Day	18-19/06/2009 25/03/2010

Desired State Workshop

Table 4.3: *The Desired State Workshop took place on 18 and 19 June 2009 and involves a range of stakeholders and SANParks specialists in the development of the Desired State which entails drawing up a vision and high level objectives.*

Activities	Description	Outcomes
Invitations Park management, certain SANParks specialists, the Park Forum and affected parties were invited.		
Desired State Workshop	The workshop took place on 18 and 19 June 2009 at the Geelbek restaurant in West Coast National Park.	
Attendance:	39 participants (26 Stakeholders and 13 SANParks Staff) Representing the following constituencies: • Honorary Rangers; • West Coast Fossil Park; • Geelbek Restaurant (concessionaire); • Duinepos Chalets (concessionaire); • Park forum; • Stofbergsfontein home owners association; • Langebaan Yacht Club; • Saldannabay Municipality; • South African Defence Force; • Friends of BCA; • Windstone backpackers and riding centre; • South African National Biodiversity Institute; • Land owners; • Langebaan Rate Payers & Resident Association; • Stockholm University; • Habitat council; • West Coast Field Studies Centre;	

Hierarchy of objectives workshop

Table 4.3 *The hierarchy of objectives workshop took place on the 12 and 13 August 2009.*

Activities	Description	Outcomes
Invitations Park management and certain SANParks specialists were invited.		
Desired State Workshop	The workshop took place on 12 and 13 August 2009 at the Geelbek restaurant in West Coast National Park.	
Attendance:	7 SANParks staff members participated representing the following departments: • Parks, West Coast and Table Mountain National Parks;	

Focus Group Meetings

Table 4.4*: These are meetings called with constituencies that are essential in the Park Management Plan process.*

Group	Purpose	Attendants	Date
Marine protected area	To discuss the desired state of the Langebaan Lagoon MPA	29 individuals (8 SANParks staff)	04/08/2009
Park forum	To discuss the draft hierarchy of objectives	19 individuals (3 SANParks staff)	04/09/2009

Table 4.5. Open day to allow comment on the Draft Management Plan

Venue	Date	Number of Stakeholders that attended
Langebaan – Multi purpose centre	25 March 2010	26 Stakeholders attended and 9 comments were recorded.

Table 4.6: Dissemination of Documentation and Feedback to Stakeholders

Item	Action	Date
Dissemination of Comment and Response Document	Emailed, mailed, faxed and delivered by hand where no contact details were supplied.	
Dissemination of finalised Park Management Plan	- The Plans will be available on the SANParks Website once approved by the Minister. - They will be made available to registered stakeholders by email and post. - Copies will be available from the Park on request.	

Appendix 3: Zoning

West Coast National Park Zoning Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of a park zoning plan is to establish a coherent spatial framework in and around a park to guide and co-ordinate conservation, tourism and visitor experience initiatives. A zoning plan plays an important role in minimizing conflicts between different users of a park by separating potentially conflicting activities such as game viewing and day-visitor picnic areas whilst ensuring that activities which do not conflict with the park's values and objectives (especially the conservation of the protected area's natural systems and its biodiversity) can continue in appropriate areas. A zoning plan is also a legislated requirement of the Protected Areas Act, which stipulates that the management plan, which is to be approved by the Minister, must contain "a zoning of the area indicating what activities may take place in different sections of the area and the conservation objectives of those sections".

The zoning of West Coast National Park was initially undertaken in conjunction with the Peace Parks Foundation, and went through a public participation process. The zoning was based on an assessment of the park's biophysical resources, and an assessment of the park's current and planned infrastructure. The zones used in this initial process have been converted into the standard SANParks use zones (with some minor modifications) in order to ensure compatible outputs. The zoning was refined as part of the management plan update cycle. This document sets out the rationale for use zones, describes the zones, and provides management guidelines for each of the zones.

In addition to internal use zoning, the zoning plan also describes how the park interacts with the processes which control land use and activities in the Buffer Zones around national parks (e.g. Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs)). The Buffer Zones identify the area within which activities such as landuse change may have an influence on the park (current and future extent), describe responses at a strategic level, and serve to define the Buffer Zone in terms of the DEA Policy on Buffer Zones for National Parks and the SANParks Buffer Zone Policy.

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1. RATIONALE FOR USE ZONES

The prime function of a protected area is to conserve biodiversity. Other functions such as the need to ensure that visitors have access to the park, and that adjoining communities and local economies derive benefits from the area, potentially conflict with and compromise this primary function. Use zoning is the primary tool to ensure that visitors can have a wide range of quality experiences without comprising the integrity of the environment.

Further, people visit a park with differing expectations and recreational objectives. Some people are visiting a park purely to see wildlife as well as natural landscapes. Others wish to experience intangible attributes such as solitude, remoteness, wildness, and serenity (which can be grouped as wilderness qualities), while some visit to engage in a range of nature-based recreational activities, or to socialize in the rest camps. Different people have different accommodation requirements ranging from extreme roughing it, up to luxury catered accommodation. There is often conflict between the requirements different users and different activities. Appropriate use zoning serves to minimizing conflicts between different users of a park by separating potentially conflicting activities such as game viewing and day-visitor picnic areas whilst ensuring that activities which do not conflict with the park's values and objectives (especially the conservation of the protected area's natural systems and its biodiversity) can continue in appropriate areas. Use zones serve to ensure that high intensity facilities and activities are placed in areas that are robust enough to tolerate intensive use, as well as to protect more sensitive areas of the park from over-utilization.

2. PARK USE ZONATION SYSTEM:

The process followed to compile the zoning system

The zoning of West Coast National Park was undertaken in conjunction with the Peace Parks Foundation, and went through a public participation process. The zoning was based on an assessment of the park's biophysical resources, and an assessment of the park's current and planned infrastructure. The zones used in this initial process have been converted into the standard SANParks use zones (with some minor modifications) in order to ensure compatible outputs. This was undertaken in an iterative and consultative process. The current park use zonation is based on an underlying biophysical analysis combined with an assessment of the park's current and planned infrastructure. However, the zoning plan is not a full Conservation Development Framework (CDF) as certain elements underlying the CDF such as an environmental sensitivity-value analysis and a tourism market analysis have not been incorporated into the park use zonation.

The zoning system

SANParks has adopted a dual zoning system for its parks. The system comprises:
a) Visitor use zones covering the entire park, and
b) Special management overlays which designate specific areas of a park that require special management interventions.

Details of the zonation for West Coast National Park are summarized in Table One. The zoning of West Coast National Park is shown in Map 4.

Remote Zone:

Characteristics:
This is an area retaining an intrinsically wild appearance and character, or capable of being restored to such, and which is undeveloped. There are no permanent improvements or any form of human habitation. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude with awe inspiring natural characteristics. If present at all, sight and sound of human habitation and activities are barely discernable and at a far distance. The zone also serves to protect sensitive environments from development impacts and tourism pressure.

Visitor activities and experience:

Activities: Access for visitors is strictly controlled and on foot. Groups must be small, and can either be accompanied by a guide or unaccompanied. Several groups may be in area at the same time, but if necessary densities and routes should be defined so that no signs can be seen or heard between the groups. The principles of "Pack it in Pack it out" must be applied.

Interaction with other users: There is no interaction between groups. The numbers of groups within the area will be determined by the ability to ensure that there is no interaction between groups.

Conservation objectives of the zone
The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in as near to a natural state as possible with no impact on biodiversity pattern or processes. Existing impacts on biodiversity either from historical usage or originating from outside the zone should be minimized. The zone should be managed within the following specific objectives:

Biophysical environment: The zone should be kept in as near to a natural state as possible with no impact on biodiversity pattern or processes. Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized, and existing impacts should be reduced.

Aesthetics and recreational environment: The area should be kept in a natural state, and activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area, or which impact on the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness, serenity, peace etc) should not be allowed.

Facilities:

Type and size: No facilities are provided. Should overnight facilities be required to serve this zone, these should be placed in the adjoining zones.

Sophistication of facilities: No facilities except self carried portable tents. Guidelines for washing, ablution and cooking must be defined according to the "Pack it in Pack it out" principles. Camping only at designated sites.

Audible equipment and communication structures: None.

Zone	General Characteristics	Experential Qualities	Interaction between users	Type of Access	Type of activities	Type of Facilities	Conservation Objectives	Biophysical Conservation Objective	Aesthetics and Recreational Conservation Objective
REMOTE*	Retains an intrinsically wild appearance and character, or capable of being restored to such.	Solitude and awe inspiring natural characteristics	None to very low	Controlled access, only on foot for visitors	Hiking in small groups	Established footpaths where erosion may be a problem. Essentially undeveloped and roadless	Maintain the zone in as near to a natural state as possible with no impact on biodiversity pattern or processes. Existing impacts on biodiversity either from historical usage or originating from outside the zone should be minimized.	The zone should be kept in as near to a natural state as possible with no impact on biodiversity pattern or processes. Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized, and existing impacts should be reduced.	The area should be kept in a natural state, and activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area, or which impact on the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness, serenity, peace etc) should not be allowed.
PRIMITIVE	Generally retains wilderness qualities, but with basic self-catering facilities (concession facilities may be more sophisticated). Access is controlled. Provides access to the Remote Zone, and can serve as a buffer.	Experience wilderness qualities	Low	Controlled access. Accompanied or unaccompanied. Foot; 4x4 vehicles	Hiking; 4x4 drives; game viewing; horse riding	Small, basic, self-catering; or limited concessions with limited numbers (concession facilities may be more sophisticated); 4x4 trails; hiking trails	Maintain the zone in an almost completely natural state with little or no impact on biodiversity processes, and very limited and site specific impacts on biodiversity pattern. Existing impacts on biodiversity either from historical usage or originating from outside the zone should be minimized.	The zone should be kept in an almost completely natural state, and deviation from a natural/pristine state should be small and limited to restricted impact footprints. Any facilities constructed in these areas, and activities undertaken here should be done in a way that limits environmental impacts. Road and infrastructure specifications should be designed to limit impacts.	The area should be kept in a natural state, and activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area, or which impact on the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness, serenity, peace etc) should be restricted and impacts limited to the site of the facility.
QUIET	This zone allows non-motorised access to areas which generally retain a natural appearance and character. Access is not specifically controlled.	Wide range of activities; relaxation in a natural environment	Moderate to high	Unaccompanied non-motorised access. Mainly on foot, non-motorised access to specific facilities.	Hiking; walking; rock climbing; where relevant non-motorised aquatic activities; bird watching; possibly mountain biking and horse riding.	Hiking trails; footpaths; management tracks; bird hides. Ablution facilities may be provided in high use areas. No accommodation; and no tourist access by vehicle.	The zone should be maintained in a generally natural state, with the proviso that limited impacts on biodiversity patterns and processes are allowed in order to accommodate park recreational and tourism objectives.	The zone should be maintained in a generally natural state, but some deviation from a natural/pristine state is allowed. Infrastructure should only be allowed within a restricted development footprint, and infrastructure, especially paths and viewpoints should be designed to limit the impacts of large numbers of visitors on the biophysical environment.	The zone should retain a a generally natural appearance and character, and activities which impact on this should be restricted. In particular visitors are not allowed motorised access to this zone. It is however recognized that the presence of larger numbers of visitors and the facilities they require, may impact on the feeling of wildness found in this zone.
LOW INTENSITY LEISURE	The underlying characteristic of this zone is motorised self-drive access with basic facilities. The numbers of visitors are higher than in the Remote and Primitive Zones.	Comfortable facilities in a relatively natural environment.	Moderate to high	Motorised self-drive access.	Motorised self-drive game viewing, picnicking, walking, cycling; rock climbing; hiking; adventure activities.	Facilities limited to basic picnic sites; ablution facilities; information/education centres; parking areas. Small to medium (incl. camping) rest camps with basic facilities. Low spec access roads to provide a more wild experience.	Maintain the zone in a largely natural state that is in keeping with the character of a Protected Area, mitigate the biodiversity impacts of the relatively high levels of tourism activity and infrastructure that are accommodated within this zone through careful planning and active management, and ensure that the negative impacts of the activities and infrastructure are restricted to the zone.	The zone should be kept in a largely natural state. Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized and limited to restricted impact footprints as far as possible. However, it is accepted that some damage to the biophysical environment associated with tourist activities and facilities will be inevitable.	The zone should be maintained in a largely natural state from an aesthetics point of view. Although it is inevitable that activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduce the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness etc), these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience.
HIGH INTENSITY LEISURE	The main characteristic is that of a high density tourist development node, with modern amenities, where more concentrated human activities are allowed.	Comfortable and sophisticated facilities while retaining a natural ambiance	High	Accessible by motorised transport (car/bus) on high volume transport routes, including delivery vehicles.	As above. Additional sophisticated infrastructure. Larger, organised adventure activities (orienteering, fun runs). Dining at restaurants.	High density tourist camps with modern amenities. Footpaths, transport systems, accommodation, restaurants, curio and refreshment stalls; education centres. High volume roads.	The zone needs to be managed to ensure that the overall objectives and purpose for proclamation of the park are not compromised by the very high levels of tourism activity and infrastructure that are accommodated within this zone. Activities and infrastructure in this zone should be managed to ensure there is a minimal effect on the surrounding natural environment.	The zone must retain a level of ecological integrity consistent with a protected area. The greatest level of deviation from a natural/pristine state is allowed in this zone, and it is accepted that damage to the biophysical environment associated with tourist activities and facilities will be inevitable, however no activities or infrastructure should be allowed which compromise the overall objectives and purpose for proclamation of the park.	The area should be managed to provide a relatively natural outdoor experience. Although, it is inevitable that the high visitor numbers, activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduce the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness etc), the aesthetics of the zone still need to be maintained in a sufficiently natural state to ensure that the overall objectives and purpose for proclamation of the park are not compromised.

Appendix 4, Table 1: Details of Zoning

Access and roads: Public access is non-motorized. Vehicular access and parking is provided in the adjoining zones. Established footpaths may be provided where erosion risks occur. Limited low specification management tracks (i.e. not built up roads) are acceptable within this zone, though these should be rationalized, and eventually removed.

Location in Park:

Remote areas were designated in coastal, wetland and dune areas of the park. These areas include the Marine C exclusion zone of the lagoon where entry, the use of vessels and the catching or disturbance of fish being strictly prohibited; as well as the inshore areas of the 16 Mile Beach MPA section where vessels are excluded. In the terrestrial areas of the park, the Remote areas include the coastal dune cordon (linking with the adjacent marine Remote zone), the area east of the R27, as well as the major dune belt in the south of the park.

Primitive Zone:

Characteristics:

The prime characteristic of the zone is the experience of wilderness qualities with the accent on controlled access. Access is controlled in terms of numbers, frequency and size of groups. The zone shares the wilderness qualities of Wilderness Areas and Remote zones, but with the provision of basic self-catering facilities and access. It also provides access to the Remote zone and Wilderness Area. Human activities and development outside of the park may be visible from this zone.

This zone has the following functions:

- It provides the basic facilities and access to serve Wilderness Areas and Remote zones.
- It contains concession sites and other facilities where impacts are managed through strict control of the movement and numbers of tourists, for example if all tourists are in concession safari vehicles.
- It serves as a buffer to the fringe of the park and other zones, in particular Wilderness and Remote.
- It serves to protect sensitive environments from high levels of development.

Visitor activities and experience:

Activities: Access is controlled in terms of numbers, frequency and size of groups. Activities include hiking, 4x4 drives and game viewing. Access is controlled either through only allowing access to those with bookings for specific facilities, or alternatively through a specific booking or permit for a particular hiking trail or 4x4 route. Several groups may be in area at the same time, but access should be managed to minimize interaction between groups if necessary.

Interaction with other users: Interaction between groups of users is low, and care must be taken in determining the number and nature of facilities located in the area in order to minimize these interactions.

Conservation objectives of the zone:

The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in an almost completely natural state with little or no impact on biodiversity processes, and very limited and site specific impacts on biodiversity pattern. Existing impacts on biodiversity either from historical usage or originating from outside the zone should be minimized. The zone should be managed within the following specific objectives:

Biophysical environment: The zone should be kept in an almost completely natural state from a biodiversity perspective, and deviation from a natural/pristine state should be small and limited to restricted impact footprints. Existing impacts should be reduced. Any facilities constructed in these areas, and activities undertaken here should be done in a way that limits environmental impacts. Road and infrastructure specifications should be designed to limit impacts.

Aesthetics and recreational environment: The area should be kept in a natural state, and activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area, or which impact on the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness, serenity, peace etc) should be restricted and impacts limited to the site of the facility. Ideally visitors should only be aware of the facility or infrastructure that they are using, and this infrastructure/facility should be designed to fit in with the environment within which it is located in order to avoid aesthetic impacts.

Facilities:
Type and size: Facilities are small, often very basic, and are distributed to avoid contact between users. Alternatively facilities designed for high levels of luxury, but limited visitor numbers can be accommodated here (e.g. controlled access private camps or concession sites).

Sophistication of facilities: Generally facilities are small, basic and self-catering, though concession facilities may be significantly more sophisticated.

Audible equipment and communication structures: None.

Access and roads: Vehicular access to facilities is limited to low-spec roads, often 4x4 only. Tourist and game viewing roads are 4x4 only. Established footpaths are provided to avoid erosion and braiding.

Location in Park:
In WCNP large portions of the park are designated as Primitive areas to protect most of the remaining sensitive areas from high levels of tourist activity. The areas designated Primitive include much of Postberg and the other controlled access contractual areas of the park, the islands, and lowland areas adjacent to the Langebaan Lagoon, and most of the southern sections of the park away from current infrastructure

Quiet Zone:

Characteristics:
This zone is characterized by unaccompanied non-motorized access without specific access control and permits. Visitors are allowed unaccompanied (or accompanied) access, mainly on foot or non-motorized water vessels, for a wide range of experiences. Larger numbers of visitors are allowed here than in the Primitive zone, and contact between visitors is frequent. It is important to note that this zone may have different interpretations in different parks, and the CDF documentation for each park should specify the objectives for that park. Thus, in some instances horses and mountain bikes could be accommodated. This zone can also provide non motorized access within Low and High Intensity Leisure zones, away from vehicular access roads.

Visitor activities and experience:

Activities: Hiking, sailing, canoeing, mountain biking, bird watching, self guided constructed trails and walks.

Interaction with other users: Interaction between groups of users is frequent.

Conservation objectives of the zone:
The zone should be maintained in a generally natural state, with the proviso that limited impacts on biodiversity patterns and processes are allowed in order to accommodate park recreational and tourism objectives. The zone should be managed within the following specific objectives:

Biophysical environment: The zone should be maintained in a generally natural state, but some deviation from a natural/pristine state is allowed. Infrastructure should only be allowed within a restricted development footprint, and infrastructure, especially paths and viewpoints should be designed to limit the impacts of large numbers of visitors on the biophysical environment.

Aesthetics and recreational environment: The zone should retain a generally natural appearance and character, and activities which impact on this should be restricted. In particular visitors are not allowed motorized access to this zone. It is however recognized that the presence of larger numbers of visitors and the facilities they require, may impact on the feeling of wildness found in this zone.

Facilities:

Type and size: Hiking trails, footpaths, bird hides. No accommodation. Ablution facilities may be provided in high use areas. Heritage structures may be used for recreation purposes.

Sophistication of facilities: Where provided these should be basic.

Audible equipment and communication structures: Allowed, but should be managed to retain a relative level of solitude.

Access and roads: Essentially pedestrian access, but in certain parks, horse and mountain bikes can be accommodated. No access for tourists by vehicle. The only roads are two wheeled management tracks.

Location in Park:
The major change zoning has been the inclusion of Quiet areas to facilitate non-motorized access to the park. Quiet areas include the bird hides and trails around Geelbek. The Marine B area of the lagoon (where access is controlled, and fishing and the use of any motorized vessel can only take place on the authority of and in accordance with a permit obtained from the management authority), as well as similar control areas around the other islands are all designated Quiet.

Low Intensity Leisure Zone:

Characteristics:

The underlying characteristic of this zone is motorized self-drive access with basic facilities. The numbers of visitors are higher than in the Remote and Primitive zones. Relatively comfortable facilities are positioned in the landscape retaining the inherent natural and visual quality which enhances the visitor experience of a more natural experience. Facilities along roads are limited to basic picnic sites with toilet facilities. In WCNP, large busses and open safari vehicles are permitted.

Visitor activities and experience:

Activities: Self drive motorized game viewing, picnicking, walking, birding, cycling, hiking, adventure activities.

Interaction with other users: Moderate to high

Conservation objectives of the zone:

The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in a largely natural state that is in keeping with the character of a Protected Area, mitigate the biodiversity impacts of the relatively high levels of tourism activity and infrastructure that are accommodated within this zone through careful planning and active management, and to ensure that both the negative effects of the activities and infrastructure are restricted to the zone. The zone should be managed within the following specific objectives:

Biophysical environment objectives: The zone should be kept in a largely natural state. Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized and limited to restricted impact footprints as far as possible. However, it is accepted that some damage to the biophysical environment associated with tourist activities and facilities will be inevitable.

Aesthetics and recreational environment objectives: The zone should be maintained in a largely natural state from an aesthetics point of view. Although it is inevitable that activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduce the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness etc), these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience.

Facilities:

Type and size: Picnic sites, view sites, information centres, ablution facilities, parking areas, education centres, bird hides etc. Small (including camping) camps of low to medium density. Additional facilities can include swimming pools. Trails for 4x4 trails can also be provided. Day visitor site are not placed within the camps.

Sophistication of facilities: Self contained units with bathroom facilities. Camp sites will include ablution facilities.

Audible equipment and communication structures: Cell phone coverage in vicinity of camps. Code of use for cell phones and radios required to retain relative level of solitude.

Access and roads: Motorized self drive sedan car access (traditional game viewing) on designated routes. In West Coast NP, large busses and open safari vehicles are permitted. Roads are either tarred, secondary gravel tourist roads or minor game viewing roads.

Location in Park:

In West Coast NP, Low Intensity Leisure areas were designated in the current game, flower, and landscape viewing areas, and along current access routes from the south. The offshore areas accessible to motorized vessels of the 16 Mile Beach MPA section of the park are include in the Low Intensity Leisure zone, as are the Marine A areas of the lagoon (opposite Langebaan town) where fishing and motorized vessels are allowed. The northern shores of Langebaan Lagoon were designated Low Intensity Leisure to accommodate the proposed Klein Mooimaak Rest Camp and associated infrastructure and activities.

High Intensity Leisure Zone:

Characteristics:

The main characteristic is that of a high density tourist development node with modern amenities such as restaurants and shops. This is the zone where more concentrated human activities are allowed. As impacts and particularly cumulative impacts are higher, such facilities should be placed on the periphery of the park. Staff not directly associated with tourism facilities should be accommodated outside of the park if possible. All industrial type facilities such as laundries, abattoirs, maintenance depots and workshops should ideally be located outside of the park within suitably zoned adjoining urban or rural areas. It is accessible by motorized transport (Car/bus) on high volume transport routes. More concentrated activities occur here than in Low Intensity leisure.

Visitor activities and experience:

Activities: Traditional game viewing routes associated with more sophisticated infrastructure, sight seeing at tourist destinations, picnicking, walking, cycling, hiking, adventure activities, activities associated with amenities such as dining in restaurants.

Interaction with other users: High

Conservation objectives of the zone:

The zone needs to be managed to ensure that the overall objectives and purpose for proclamation of the park are not compromised by the very high levels of tourism activity and infrastructure that are accommodated within this zone. Activities and infrastructure in this zone should be managed to ensure there is a minimal effect on the surrounding natural environment. The zone should be managed within the following specific objectives:

Biophysical environment objective: The zone must retain a level of ecological integrity consistent with a protected area. The greatest level of deviation from a natural/pristine state is allowed in this zone, and it is accepted that damage to the biophysical environment associated with tourist activities and facilities will be inevitable, however no activities or infrastructure should be allowed which compromise the overall objectives and purpose for proclamation of the park.

Aesthetics and recreational environment objective: The area should be managed to provide a relatively natural outdoor experience. Although, it is inevitable that the high visitor numbers, activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduce the wilderness characteristics of the area (solitude, remoteness, wildness etc), the aesthetics of the zone still need to be maintained in a sufficiently natural state to ensure that the overall objectives and purpose for proclamation of the park are not compromised.

Facilities:
Type and size: High density camps providing tourist accommodation with modern amenities. Restaurants, shops, education centres, botanical gardens. Day visitor sites are provide outside of main camps. Day visitor sites or picnic sites may provide catered facilities and kiosks. In some parks it may be necessary to provide high density recreational sites with a wide range of intensive activities close to the periphery of the park. Picnic sites, view sites, information centres, ablution facilities, parking areas, education centres etc. Staff villages and administrative centres restricted to core staff. Non essential staff housing, administration and industrial activities positioned outside of or peripheral to the park.

Sophistication of facilities: Moderate to high density facilities. Self catering and catered. These camps have modern commercial facilities such as shops and restaurants.

Audible equipment and communication structures: Cell phone coverage in vicinity of camps. Code of use for cell phones and radios required to retain relative level of solitude.

Access and roads: The zone is highly motorized including busses and delivery vehicles on designated routes, which are often tarred.

Location in Park:
In West Coast NP, High intensity leisure areas were designated in existing high usage areas such as Geelbek, and the proposed hotel precinct at the existing administrative complex in Langebaan. The Kraalbaai and Preekstoel areas that are intensively used for limited portions of the year are included in this zone.

Overview of the Special Management Overlays of West Coast National Park:
Two special management overlays, which designate specific areas of the park that require special management interventions, were identified (Map 4):

Special Conservation Areas - Dune Protection: The sensitive mobile dunefield system requires special protection, and will be managed to minimize impacts on sediment transport processes.

Special Conservation Areas - Salt Marsh: This sensitive habitat types was identified for special protection in order to reduce any potential loss and minimize any ongoing impacts in these areas.

In addition to the above Special Management Overlays, three marine zones were designated:

Marine A: This area is managed as a Marine Controlled Zone with enforcement of the Marine Living Resources Act. Fishing and motorized vessels are allowed.

Marine B: Access to this zone is controlled, and fishing and the use of any motorized vessel can only take place on the authority of and in accordance with a permit obtained from the management authority.

Marine C: This is an exclusion zone, with entry, the use of vessels and the catching or disturbance of fish being strictly prohibited.

4. THE PARK BUFFER ZONE

This section describes how the park interacts with the processes which control land use and activities in the Buffer Zones around national parks (e.g. Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs)). The Buffer Zone section identifies the area within which activities such as landuse change may have an influence on the park (current and future extent), describes responses at a strategic level, and serves to define the Buffer Zone in terms of the DEA Policy on Buffer Zones for National Parks and the SANParks Buffer Zone Policy.

The current extent of the West Coast National Park is included in a conservation focused category in the land use maps included in the Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) of the local and district municipalities in which the park is located. These SDFs are the spatial components of municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). The park interacts with the appropriate local government processes such as SDF and IDP development on an ongoing basis as part of the Bioregional Programme, in order to ensure that issues such as appropriate development of Buffer Zones around parks are also incorporated into proactive land use planning instruments such as SDFs and IDPs.

The Park Buffer Zones shows the areas within which landuse changes could affect a national Park. The zones, in combination with guidelines, will serve as a basis for a.) identifying the focus areas in which park management and scientists should respond to EIA's, b.) helping to identify the sort of impacts that would be important at a particular site, and most importantly c.) serving as the basis for integrating long term protection of a national park into the spatial development plans of municipalities (SDF/IDP) and other local authorities. In terms of EIA response, the zones serve largely to raise red-flags and do not remove the need for carefully considering the exact impact of a proposed development. In particular, they do not address activities with broad regional aesthetic or biodiversity impacts.

The delineation of the buffer zone around West Coast National park is informed by the Critical Biodiversity Area map for the Saldanha Bay Municipality[1]. Critical Biodiversity Areas in the surrounding landscape were evaluated in terms of their importance to West Coast National Park. Criteria included proximity, adjacency and connectivity to the park focusing on the need to link West Coast National Park to inland protected areas, and to other portions of the West Coast Biosphere Reserve. The northern and eastern edges of the buffer zone were broadly defined by the edge of the remaining intact high priority areas, with further delineation along major logistical boundaries such as the Hopefield Road. In addition, critical lagoon areas adjacent to the park were included. It is important to note that the identified linkages to the remainder of the West Coast Biosphere and to the inland areas may be best addressed within broader programs and it may be appropriate to undertake activities in wider areas.

In WCNP there are three categories within the Park Buffer Zone. The first two are mutually exclusive, but the final visual/aesthetic category can overlay the others (Map 6).

Priority Natural Areas:

This zone aims to ensure the long term persistence of biodiversity, within and around the park, by identifying the key areas on which the long term survival of the park depends. This includes areas important to both biodiversity pattern (especially reasonably intact high priority natural habitats) and processes (ecological linkages, catchments, intact hydrological systems, etc.). This does not imply any loss of existing rights (e.g. current agricultural activities or legal extractive biodiversity use such as fishing), but rather aims to ensure the pars survival in a living landscape.

Priority natural areas include areas identified for future park expansion as well as reasonably natural areas of high biodiversity value which are critical for the long-term persistence of biodiversity within the park. These include adjacent natural areas (especially high priority habitats) which function as an ecologically integrated unit with the park, as well as areas critical for maintaining ecological links and connectivity with the broader landscape.

Development guidelines:

Inappropriate developments and negative land use changes (such as additional ploughing permits for natural veld, development beyond existing transformation footprints, urban expansion, intensification of landuse through golf estates etc) should be opposed within this area. Developments with site specific impacts (e.g. a lodge on a game farm) should be favourably viewed if they contribute to ensuring conservation friendly land use within a broader area. Guidelines applicable for the Catchment Protection Section would also apply to these areas.

Catchment Protection:

These are areas important for maintaining key hydrological processes (surface and groundwater) within the park.

Development guidelines:
Within these areas inappropriate development such as dam construction, loss of riparian vegetation and excessive aquifer exploitation should be opposed. In addition, the control of alien vegetation, the control of soil erosion, and appropriate land care (e.g. appropriate stocking rates) should be promoted.

Viewshed protection:
These are areas where developments could impact on the aesthetic quality of a visitors experience in a park. This zone is particularly concerned with visual impacts (both day and night), but could also include sound pollution.

Development guidelines:
Within these areas any development proposals should be carefully screened to ensure that they do not impact excessively on the aesthetics of the park. The areas identified are only broadly indicative of sensitive areas, as at a fine scale many areas within this zone would be perfectly suited for development. Further, very invasive developments outside this zone would also have to be considered.

5. CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS:

The current park use zonation is based on an underlying biophysical analysis combined with an assessment of the park's current and planned infrastructure. However, the zoning plan is not a full Conservation Development Framework (CDF) as certain elements underlying the CDF such as an environmental sensitivity-value analysis and a tourism market analysis have not been incorporated into the park use zonation. Detailed determination of the nature of development suitable for each node needs to take place (followed by precinct level planning where required). A full CDF will be developed for West Coast National Park once key outstanding issues are settled, such as the consolidation of the eastern section of the park, and clarity on the continued contractual inclusion of Postberg. Additional special management overlays which designate specific areas of a park that require special management interventions (e.g. areas requiring rehabilitation) will also be identified.

6. REFERENCES:

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Appendix 4: Maps

Map 1: Regional Context

Map 2: Physical Features

Map 3: Land Tenure and Expansion

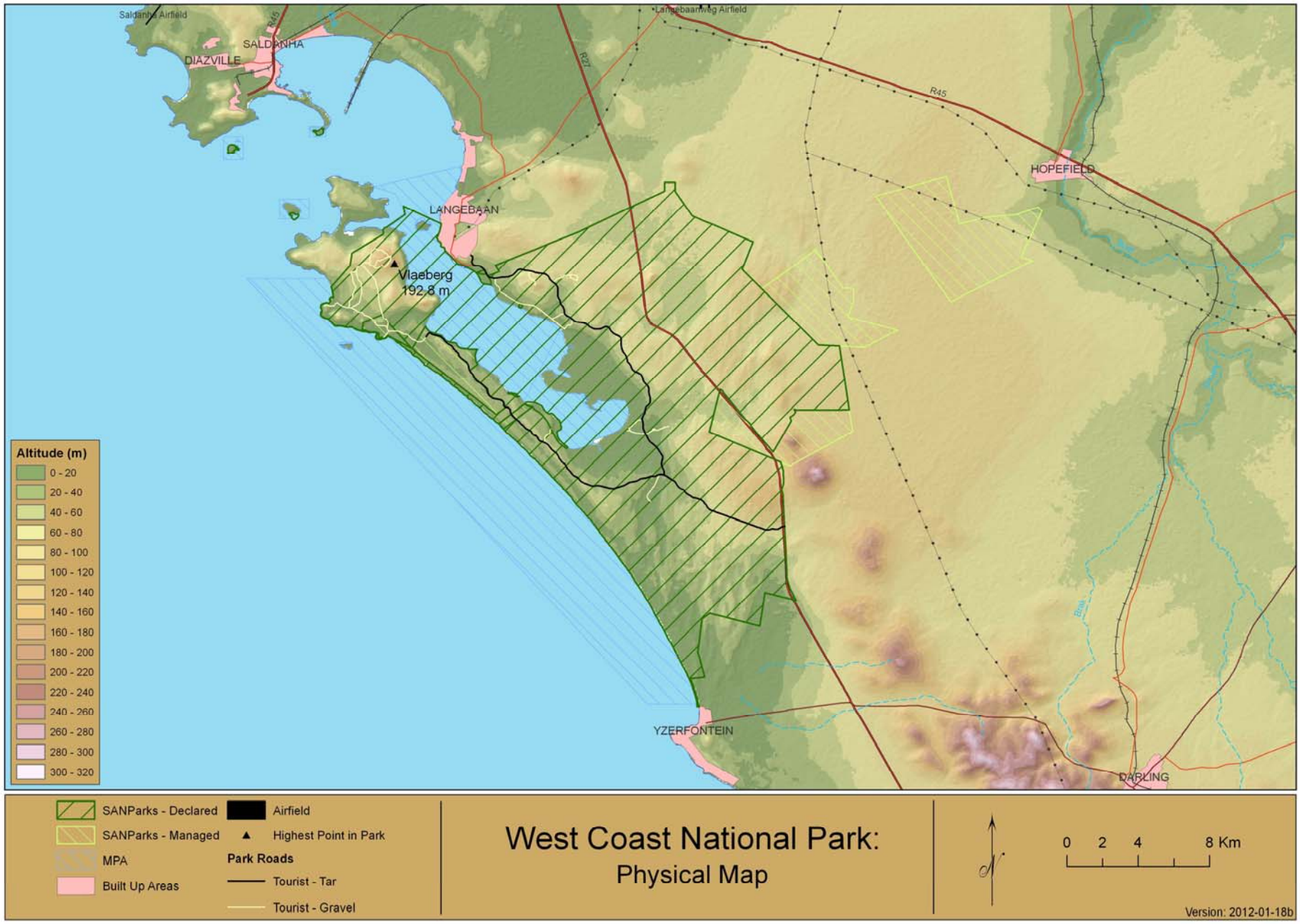
Map 4: Zoning

Map 5: Buffer Zones

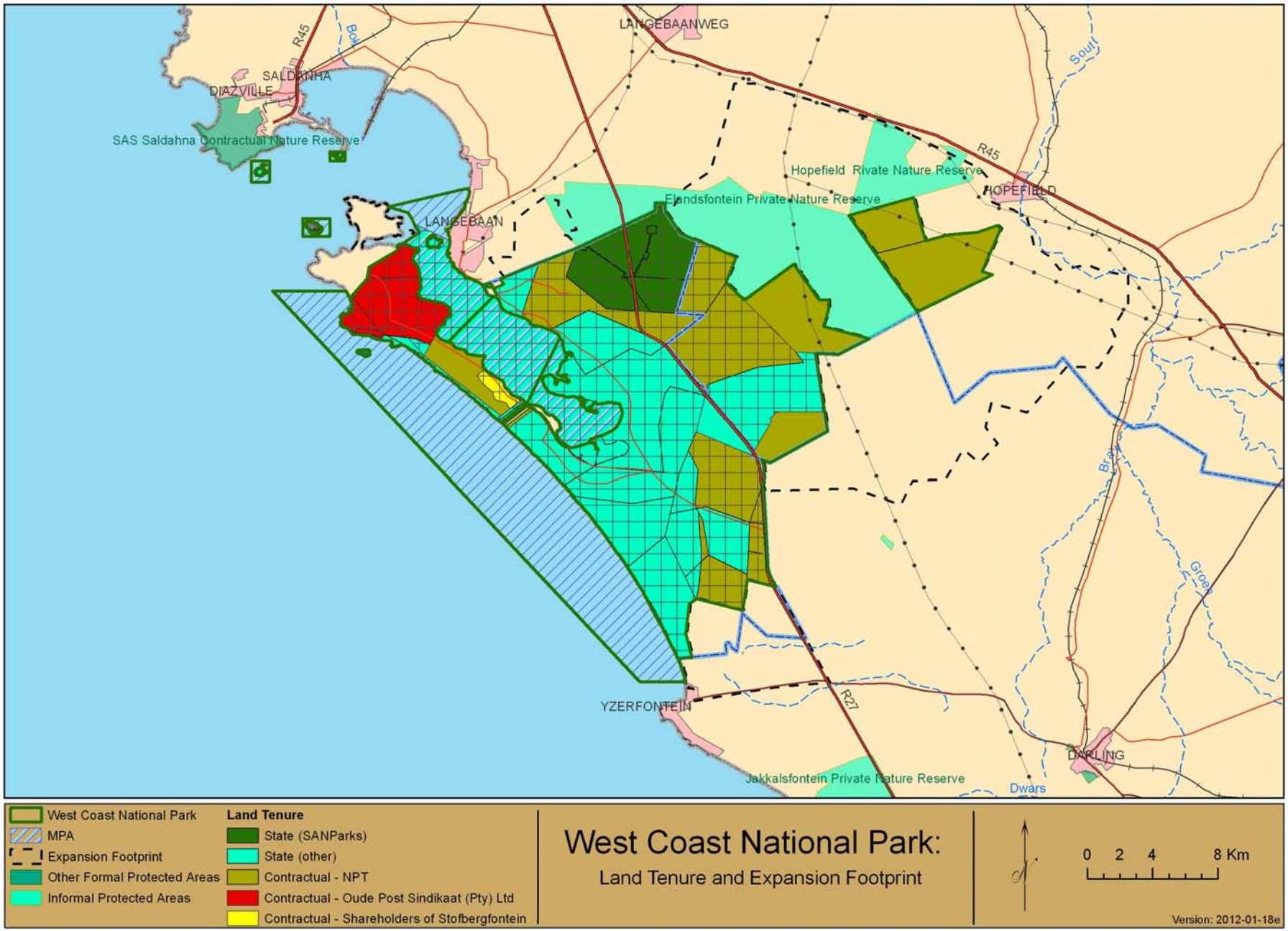
Map 6: Vegetation

Map 7: Infrastructure

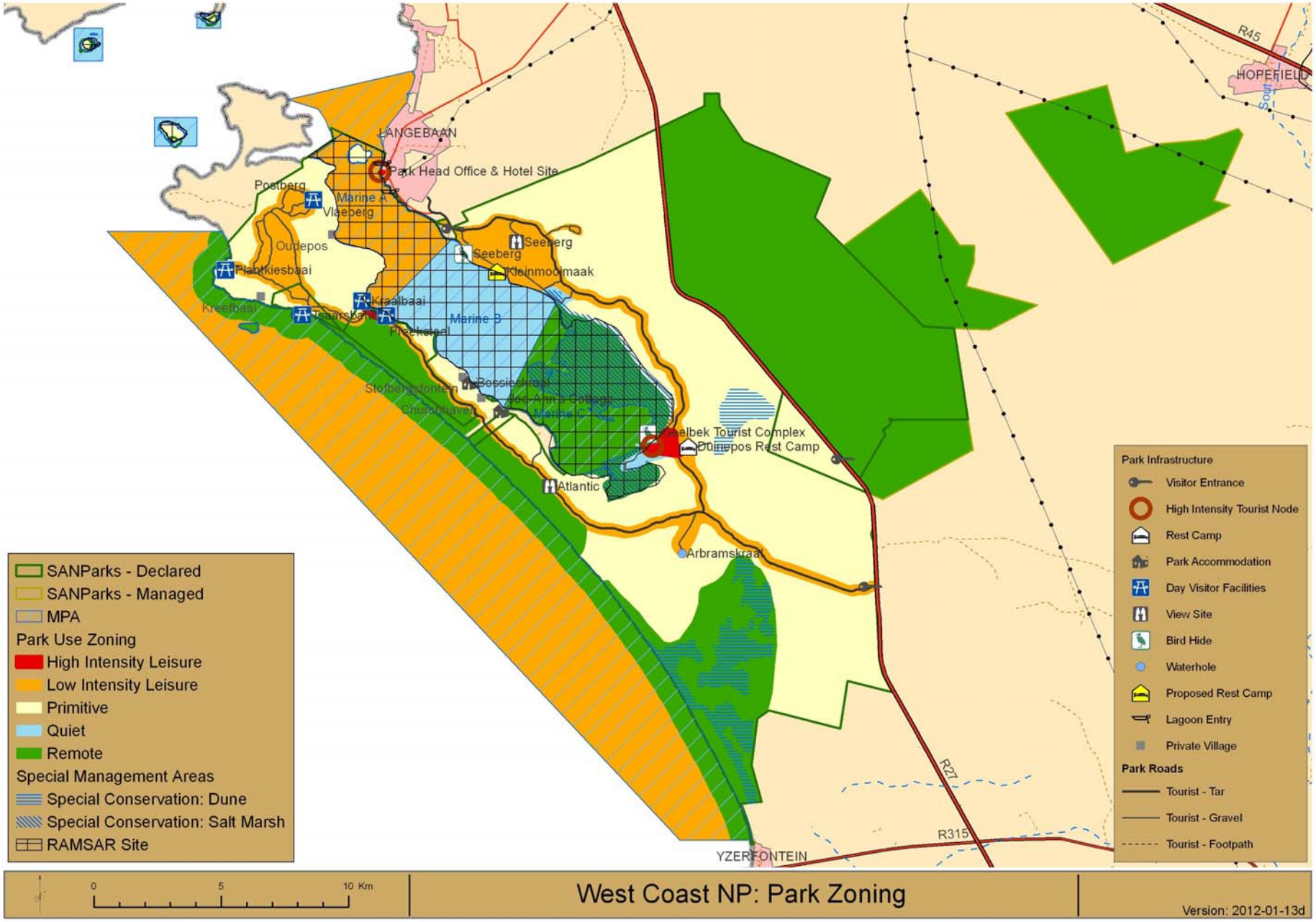
Map 1: Regional context



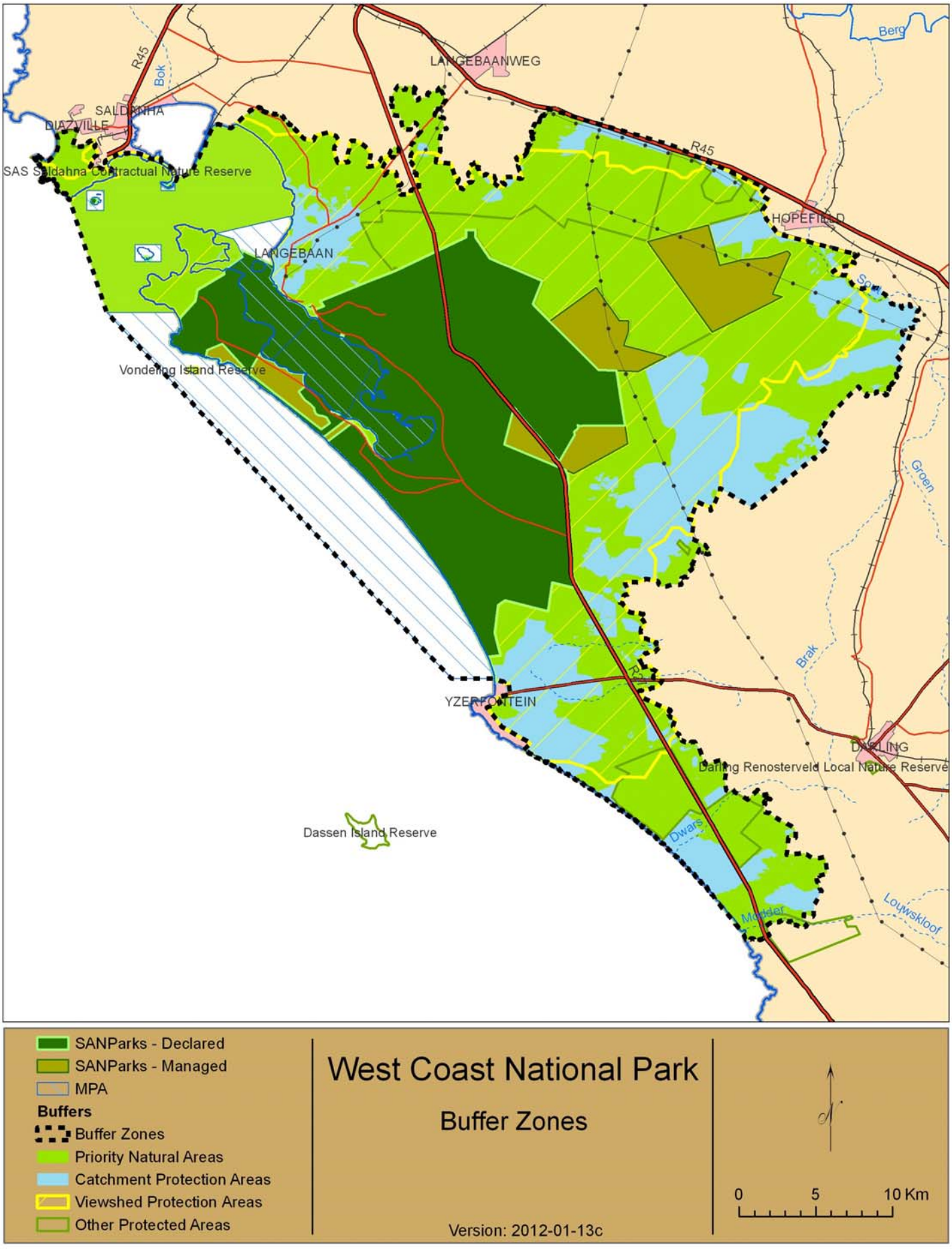
Map 2: Physical features



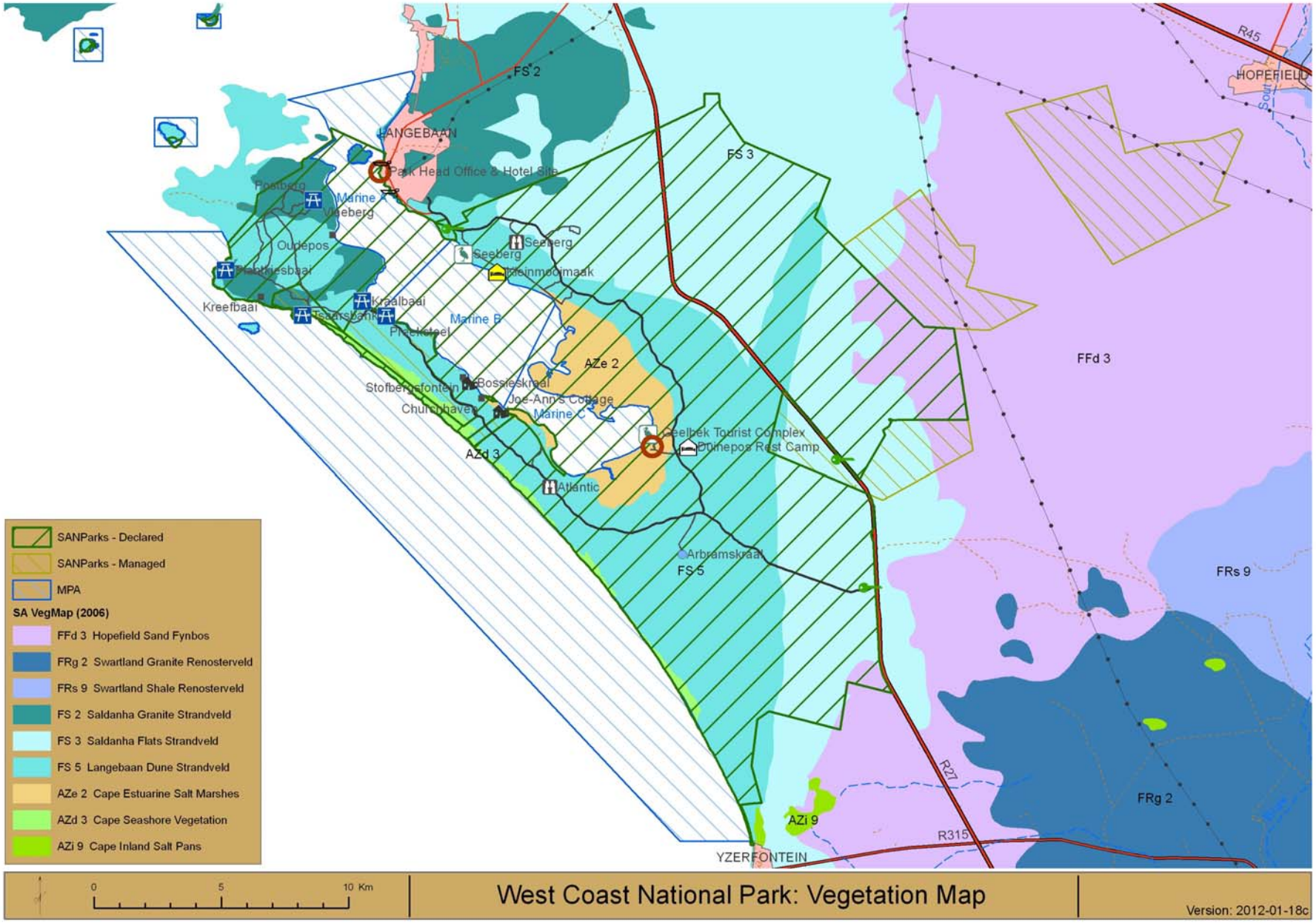
Map 3: Land tenure and park expansion


LANGEBAAN
Park Head Office & Hotel Site
Postberg
Marine A
Vlaeberg
Oudepos
Seeberg
Seeberg
Kleinmoormaak
Platkiesbaai
Kraalbaai
Kreefbaai
Tsaarsbaai
Marine B
Preekstoel
Bossiekraal
Marine C
Geelbek Tourist Complex
Duinepos Rest Camp
Atlantic
Arbramskraal
HOPEFIELD
R45
R27
R315
YZERFONTEIN
SANParks - Declared
SANParks - Managed
MPA
Park Use Zoning
High Intensity Leisure
Low Intensity Leisure
Primitive
Quiet
Remote
Special Management Areas
Special Conservation: Dune
Special Conservation: Salt Marsh
RAMSAR Site
Park Infrastructure
Visitor Entrance
High Intensity Tourist Node
Rest Camp
Park Accommodation
Day Visitor Facilities
View Site
Bird Hide
Waterhole
Proposed Rest Camp
Lagoon Entry
Private Village
Park Roads
Tourist - Tar
Tourist - Gravel
Tourist - Footpath
0
5
10 Km
West Coast NP: Park Zoning
Version: 2012-01-13d

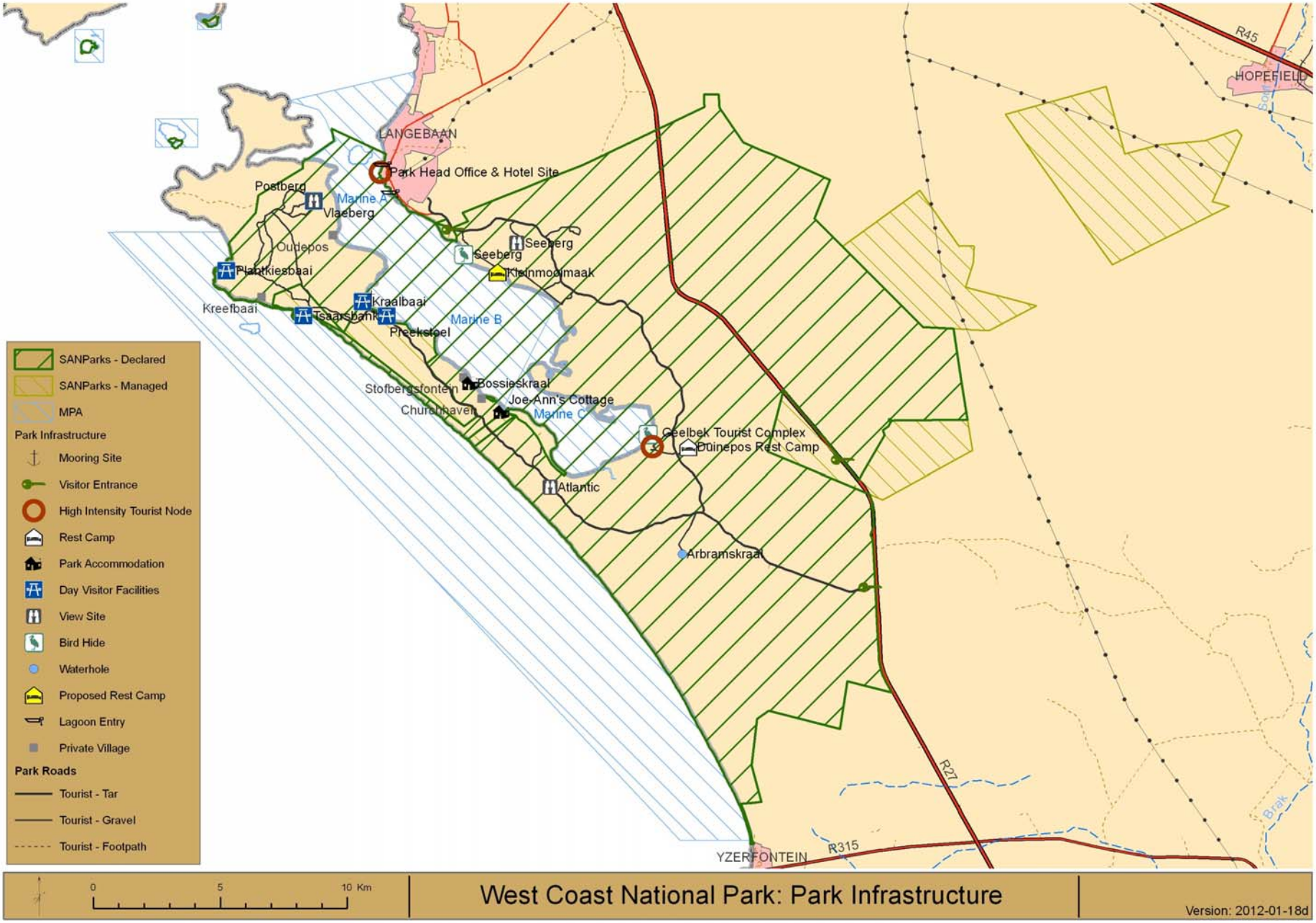
Map 4: Zoning



Map 5: Buffer zones



Map 6: Vegetation



Map 7: Infrastructure

Appendix 5: Draft Ramsar Site Management Plan

Langebaan Ramsar Site:

Summary of Draft Management Plan 2012-01-15

1. Part One: Background Information on the Langebaan Ramsar Site
1.1. Introduction
This management planning process and support for its implementation is part of a park management plan review process. This Management Plan is a tool, to guide the management of the Langebaan Ramsar Site within West Coast National Park. The plan identifies values of the Ramsar Site and management issues that need to be addressed. Management goals, objectives and prioritised activities to address these issues are outlined. The plan will thus act as a primary resource to be used in the subsequent preparation of annual operational plans (AOPs) for the Lagoon. Finally, the management plan provides the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the operational performance in the achievement of management objectives. The purposes of the MP are to establish efficient and effective management to uplift the conservation integrity of Langebaan Ramsar site and the biodiversity it supports and to strengthen capacity and establish management systems and operating procedures that will enable it to function in an efficient and effective manner. The MP will be a living that would evolve over time, to reflect the changes in perceptions, needs, and priorities with respect to the tasks for which it is proposed.

The South African Constitution (No. 108 of 1996), Chapter 2 (Bill of rights), and Article 24: Environment states: "*Everyone has a right - to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that-*
(i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
(ii) promote conservation; and
(iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

This implies that the state has the authority to regulate natural resource use within the Protected Areas through the Marine Living Resource Act (Act No. 18 of 1998). Currently, the MLRA on the Creation and Designation of Marine Protected Areas, provides the statutory framework to guide their management. However, the Langebaan Lagoon Ramsar site is not just a MPA, but also a promulgated National Park. A number of critical issues have been identified from the various stakeholder engagements through the Park Forum. These include the pollution, zoning and possible changes in the ecological character of the Ramsar Site.

1.2 Purpose of the management plan

- A framework primarily aimed to provide guidance to the WCNP management.
- To identify the objectives of site management.
- To identify the issues that affects the integrity of Langebaan Ramsar Site and its ecological character.
- To resolve identified and potential conflicts
- To define monitoring requirements
- To identify and describe the management required to achieve the objectives
- To maintain continuity of effective management
- To obtain resources
- To enable communication within or between conservation agencies, non-governmental environmental organizations and stakeholders (including adjoining municipalities)
- To demonstrate that management is effective and efficient
- To ensure compliance with local, national and international policies

1.3. Summary key issues

1.3.1. Pollution

A topical issue raised in all our Park Forum meetings is the concern about the water quality within the Saldanha Bay and Lagoon. The municipal sewage outlet and storm water drainage systems into the Bay are considered to be the source for pollution. In addition, some fish processing factory also release their effluent into the Bay and this may cause eutrophication and subsequently anoxic conditions, and these may have impacts on the biodiversity (e.g. waders and seabirds feeding on the lagoon) and functioning (e.g. productivity, suitability for life, etc.) of the system.

1.3.2. Zoning

One of the questions raised is how appropriate the current Langebaan Lagoon MPA Ramsar Site zoning in terms of the management of gillnet fisheries? The zoning was drawn up with minimal stakeholder (affected parties) effective participation and with limited ecological justification. Underway study is looking to provide guidance on this issue in the next two years. The contested zoning on the ground would stand the risk of the Ramsar Site being a paper conservation area.

1.3.3. Ecological character

A recent study by Pillay *et al*. (2010) showed a substantial loss in seagrass (salt marshes) in the Lagoon over the period 1960 and 2007 that has resulted in major shift in invertebrate communities. Concurrently, the waders appeared to have been affected by the loss of seagrass, e.g. terek sandpiper that depends on *Zostera capensis* for feeding showed three local population crashes corresponding to periods of seagrass collapse. However, there are no clear links to the cause for the loss; the loss is also mirrored in other parts of the world (Wycott *et al*. 2009).

2. Description of Langebaan Ramsar Site

History of the area and designation (including current staffing legal status)

2.1. Biophysical Description

2.1.1. General description, geographic setting and physical features:

Langebaan Ramsar site is situated approximately 100 km northwest of Cape Town and includes the islands Schaapen (19 ha), Marcus (17 ha), Malgas (18 ha) and Jutten (43 ha), the Langebaan Lagoon (15-16 km long and 2-3 km wide), and a section of Atlantic coastline. The lagoon is entirely marine with a relatively stable salinity and supports dense populations of molluscs and crustaceans as well as 71 species of different marine algae. The Langebaan Ramsar site was designated on 25 April 1988. It is zoned into three sections (Map 4), namely: Zone A (controlled area), Zone B (Restricted Area B2) and Zone C (Sanctuary).

The first formal conservation measures taken to conserve the Langebaan Lagoon biodiversity were implemented in 1973, when the lagoon was proclaimed as a marine reserve in terms of the then Sea Fisheries Act (1940). Concerns about the state of the Langebaan Lagoon and Saldanha Bay led by the then Department of Planning and Environment in 1974 resulted in the appointment of a committee to, among other tasks, evaluate and advise on proposals for management in the 1976 recommending that the Langebaan Lagoon, the peninsula, adjacent islands and surrounding land be proclaimed a Nature Reserve as a matter of urgency.

2.1.2. Ecological Characterisation of the Langebaan Ramsar site and surrounding islands features:

The lagoon also serves as a nursery for the development of juvenile fish, and gobies (Gobiidae), klipfish (Clinidae), pipefish (Syngnathidae), skates, rays and small sharks are common. The extensive intertidal area of the lagoon supports up to 55 000 waterbirds in summer, most of which are waders (23 species), including 15 regular Palaearctic migrants. The most abundant Palaearctic waders are the curlew sandpiper Calidris ferruginea, grey plover Pluvialis squatarola, turnstone Arenaria interpres, knot C. canatus and sanderling C. alba. The most important resident waders are the whitefronted plover Charadrius marginatus, Kittlitz's plover C. pecuarius and chestnutbanded plover C. pallidus. About 400 black oystercatchers Haematopus moguini, which comprises 12% of the global population, are found in the Langebaan area. The five islands of Saldanha Bay to the north of the lagoon provide a home for nearly a quarter of a million sea birds, many of which are endemic to the nearshore regions of South Africa and Namibia. Cape gannets Monis capensis and Cape cormorants Phalocrocorax capensis are abundant and the largest known colony of kelp gulls Larus dominicanus in southern Africa is found on Schaapen Island.

2.1.3. Faunal biodiversity

The Langebaan Ramsar site harbours a rich marine faunal biodiversity of more than 400 species (Day 1959). A total of some 255 species have been recorded in the park. Langebaan Lagoon provides an important feeding area for migrant waders. The lagoon supports approximately 26 % of all waders noted in the wetlands of the south-western Cape Province (Ryan et al. 1988), and between 1975 and 1995 an average of 34 700 birds were recorded during annual summer counts. Of these approximately 90% were Palaearctic migrant waders, with the most abundant species Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (c. 56%), Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (11%), Sanderling *Calidris alba* (8%) and Knot *Calidris canutus* (8 %). The nearshore islands are designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) (Underhill 2009) for Red Data listed seabirds. Based on a survey done in 2000 (Du Toit et al. 2003), these include the vulnerable Cape gannet *Morus capensis* with 70,000 nest sites/breeding pairs, the vulnerable African penguin Spheniscus demersus with 1,507 nest sites and vulnerable bank cormorant *Phalocrocorax neglectus* with 65 nest sites, as well as the near threatened species Cape cormorant *Phalocrocorax capensis* with 33,000 nest sites in 1978, the near threatened crowned cormorant *Phalocrocorax coronatus* with 224 nest sites and African black oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* with 180 breeding pairs (IUCN status in WCNP SoK Report 2009).

Table 1. *Prominent* species recorded in the Langebaan Ramsar Site

BIRDS			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Reference
Cape gannets	*Morus capensis*	Vulnerable	Barnes (2000)
African penguin	*Spheniscus demersus*	Endangered	Bird Life International (2011)
Bank cormorant	*Phalocrocorax neglectus*	Vulnerable	Barnes (2000)
Cape cormorant	*Phalocrocorax capensis*	Near Threatened	Barnes (2000)
Crowned cormorant	*Phalocrocorax coronatus*	Near Threatened	Barnes (2000)
White Pelican	*Pelicanus onocrotalus*	Near Threatened	Barnes (2000)
African black oystercatcher	*Haematopus moquini*	Near Threatened	Barnes (2000)
FISHES			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Reference
Pulmonate limpet	*Siphonaria compressa*	Endangered	IUCN Red List 2006
Piked dogfish	*Squalus acanthias*	Vulnerable	IUCN Red List 2006
SHARKS			
Pyjama shark	*Poroderma africanum*	Near Threatened	IUCN Red List 2006
Spotted gullyshark	*Triakis megalopterus*	Near Threatened	IUCN Red List 2006
Smoothound shark	*Mustelus mustelus*	Vulnerable	Da Silva 2007
MAMMALS			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Reference

2.1.4. Current administration, staff and budgets for Ramsar site management

The Department of Environmental Affairs within the Ministry of Environment in South Africa is the official Ramsar focal administrative authority. They are directly responsible for the overall administration and management of the Ramsar Sites, but the Department has delegated this responsibility to South African National Parks for the Langebaan Ramsar Site. At the site level, the WCNP assume the day-to-day management responsibility.

Other relevant agencies with a direct relevance over resources within the Langebaan Ramsar Site include:

- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- Department of Water Affairs
- Local government

Legal instruments relevant to the conservation and management of the Ramsar Site:

- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act No. 57 of 2003) under Ministry of Environment
- The legal status of the Ramsar site remains unclear
- Marine Living Resources Act (Act No. 18 of 1998)
- National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998

2.1.5. People and livelihoods (i.e. Social-Economic Situation)

The human population in the immediate vicinity (Langebaan) of the Ramsar site is in the order of less than 5000 individuals, based on Census 2001 data by Statistics SA. Residential development is largely on the eastern section of the Lagoon, but not on islands. The adjacent human population in Vredenburg and Saldanha is in the order of 28 000 and 22 000 individuals, respectively. The unemployment rate was reportedly relatively low, ~4% (Langebaan), ~9% Vredenburg and ~10% Saldanha. In Langebaan, the employment sector is broad including construction, retail stores and community work. Whereas, Vredenburg and Saldanha employment is largely manufacturing industry and community work.

The level of education is limited, e.g. only ~ 10% population have Matric, and less than 5% have post Matric qualification (Saldanha Bay Spatial Development Framework, February 2011). Only a small proportion of the population earns below (i.e. < R800 per month) the poverty line (DBSA 1998). Most local people subsist on fishing in the Lagoon through net fishing or angling, and occasionally on snoek fishing or rock lobster fishing. During summer school holiday season the Ramsar site experiences an influx of non-residents, who come predominantly to fish. At such times angling effort rockets and tons of white stumpnose, white steenbras and elf are caught by these recreational fishermen.

3. Conservation Values and Significance of the Ramsar Site

3.1. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Values

i. Biodiversity taxa of conservation significance
• The Langebaan Ramsar Site hosts numerous species of conservation significance at critical stages of their life cycle. These include the endangered Cape gannets, Bank cormorants and critically endangered pulmonate limpet *Siphoneria compressa*. Other threatened species are illustrated above in Table 1.
ii. Rarity (representative of the only type ecosystems in South Africa and species)
• Unique and Globally important Features – listed as the important bird area (or non-breeding site) for thousands of palaeartic migrant waders during austrtal summer (Summers et al. 1977), registered under the Bonn Convention.
• Critically endangered species present: As mentioned above in "Conservation Significance of the Ramsar Site".
iii. Fragility – the saltmarshes represents about 30% of the habitat in South Africa, and is important for some waders as a foraging grounds is impacted upon by poor water quality in the system
iv. Size (Is the size large enough to maintain important habitats, ecological processes, ecosystem services and viable populations of important species?)
• The entire Lagoon is a Ramsar site thus provides sufficient protection for ecological processes and ecosystems services.
v. Intrinsic appeal (Is the site attractive or holding features/species that are attractive to human?).
• The site is the only sheltered sea extension shorewards, thus provides safe recreational opportunities, and hosts the largest colony of the endangered Cape gannets.
vii. Position in ecological unit (what role does the site play in the wider ecological structure of the system?)
• White stumpnose spawns and recruits in the Lagoon.
• Sanctuary for some threatened line fish species.
• Hosts a variety of fish species, including the abundant southern mullet *Liza richardsonii* important for local net fishermen and white stumpnose important for recreational linefishing.
viii. Socio-economic and livelihoods value – importance of site from the socio-economic perspective (subsistence and trade) and rural livelihoods.
• The Langebaan Ramsar Site provides subsistence to gillnet and line fishermen.
• In addition, the Langebaan Ramsar site is an eco-tourism destination of choice, thus provides economic opportunities to a variety of businesses in the area that in turn provide employment opportunities.

3.2.. Aesthetic and tourism value

The Langebaan Ramsar site contains irreplaceable resources, unique in the South African context, but also fragile, hosting a number of endemic species, important aquatic and wetland systems and sites of paleontological, archaeological, historical and cultural significance which could all be an attraction to tourists. At the same time, these have to be protected. Use zones are developed to ensure responsible tourism activities balancing conservation values with the need to generate increased revenue. It follows that the effects of tourism activities must be monitored so that potential threats are identified, addressed and mitigated in management plans.

3.3. Cultural resource value

Evidence of human occupation of the park dates back to the middle Pleistocene, but most of the records date from the later Holocene, some 12,000 years ago. The open archaeological sites in the Geelbek Dunes (ca. 4km² in extent) have been mapped and studied (Kandel et al. 2003; Prindiville & Conrad 2006). Middle and Late Stone Age artifacts found at the sites were found along with faunal remains (Conrad et al. 1999). This suggested that these people adopted a hunter-gathering lifestyle. In a study of Acheulean hominid behavioural ecology Braun et al. (unpublished) discovered extinct specimens and stone artefacts, which highlight the history of human activities in this area.

3.4. Regional settings

i. Biodiversity taxa of conservation significance
• The Langebaan Ramsar Site hosts numerous species of conservation significance at critical stages of their life cycle.

4. Part Two: The Plan

4.1. Vision and Mission Statement

4.1.1. Vision
A haven for threatened wildlife, and a joy connecting to all South Africans

4.1.2. Mission

To maintain and enhance the ecological character of the Langebaan Ramsar Site so as to enable continued provision of the range of ecosystem services for wildlife and human well-being (including livelihood and recreation opportunities)

5. Management Issues

5.1. Analysis of Issues and Problems (Capture both direct and indirect threats)

Adapting the approach adopted by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), the following section will attempt to categorize management issues affecting the Ramsar site as both direct and indirect drivers of change.

As the Langebaan Ramsar Site is located adjacent to a harbour and increasing human population and settlement, it would be inevitable that the discussion of threats or issues will have to take into consideration the issue of scale. Table 2 also illustrate the threat to the Ramsar site originates from. By understanding this, appropriate management actions can be directed at the relevant scales.

5.2. Direct Drivers of Change (Direct Threats)

5.2.1. Pollution

The Saldanha Bay which feeds water into the Lagoon is subject to a number of pollutant inputs, namely:

- storm water runoffs – brings along heavy metals,
- fish factory affluent – brings organic matter, and
- excess or poorly treated sewage – brings organic matter.

5.2.1. Overfishing

The Langebaan Ramsar site is host to few resident linefish species such as white stumpnose, steentjie, elf and blacktail; but a popular recreational angling spot, especially during the school holidays. It is not yet clear whether such amount fishing effort can be sustained by the populations. In addition, some concerns about the amount of bycatch have been made. Research is underway to elucidate these challenges.

5.2.2. Illegal, unreported and unrecorded fishing:

The Langebaan Ramsar site is host to one of the most valuable marine resource, abalone or perlemoen. This resource can not be legally harvested in most parts of the Lagoon, but increasing numbers of poachers have been intercepted from the area with loads of abalone.

5.2.3. Invasive alien species

The alien Mediterranean mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* has a widespread distribution in the Saldanha Bay – Langebaan Lagoon system where suitable habitat occurs, while both the European periwinkle *Littorina saxatilis* and the alien anemone *Sagartia ornata* had limited distributions, but sizeable populations (>2 million individuals) within the lagoon (Robinson *et al*. 2004).

5.3. Indirect Drivers of Change (Direct Threats)

5.3.1. Population increase:

The density of the population in the adjacent areas has increased by more than two folds in the past 5 years, since the last Census in 2001. The unemployment rate has consequently surged, forcing people to explore all available livelihood options; e.g. illegal fishing. The increased population also increased the demand for water abstraction from the two aquifers providing freshwater into the salt marshes.

5.3.2. Weak policy

The international Ramsar Convention is not prescriptive and the national policy is not direct as to how management agencies should go about managing wetlands, except for the recent Working for the Wetlands Programme that also has limited specialist involvement.

6. Zoning

The primary objective for zoning plan is to establish a coherent spatial framework to guide and co-ordinate conservation, tourism and visitor experience initiatives. It is a legislated requirement of the Protected Areas Act, which stipulates that the management plan for a protected area is to be approved by the Minister, and must contain “a zoning of the area indicating what activities may take place in different sections of the area and the conservation objectives of those sections”.

The zoning of West Coast National Park (including that of the Langebaan Ramsar site) was undertaken in conjunction with the Peace Parks Foundation, and went through a public participation process. The zoning is based on an assessment of the biophysical resources.

The zones presented in this document have been converted into the standard SANParks use zones (with some minor modifications) in order to ensure compatible outputs. This was undertaken in an iterative and consultative process. This document sets out the rationale for use zones, describes the zones, and provides management guidelines for each of the zones.

6.1. Special conservation zones

Two special management overlays, namely: the Dunes and Salt marshes were designated a special conservation management areas within the Langebaan Ramsar site.

Dune Protection: The sensitive mobile dune field system requires special protection, and will be managed to minimize impacts on sediment transport processes.

Salt Marsh: This sensitive habitat types was identified for special protection in order to reduce any potential loss and minimize any ongoing impacts in these areas.

6.2. Marine protected area

The marine protected area is has three management units designated as:

- Controlled Area (Marine A),
- Restricted Area B2 (Marine B), and
- Sanctuary or Restricted Area B1 (Marine C).

The marine protected area environment is managed through the Marine Living Resources Act to regulate fishing and motorized vessels. In Zone A, access is controlled and all activities (recreational angling and commercial gillnetting, ski boats, kite surfing, etc.) are allowed, but there is no formal designation of preferential areas so as to minimise conflict among resource users. Access to Zone B is restricted; fishing and the use of any motorized vessel can only take place on the authority of and in accordance with a permit obtained from the management authority (Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries). Zone C is an exclusion zone, with entry, the use of vessels and the catching or disturbance of fish being strictly prohibited.

7. Management Programmes & Actions

7.1. Resource conservation & management

Two special management areas, namely: dune system and salt marsh habitat were designated a special conservation management areas within the Langebaan Ramsar site.

Dune System: The sensitive mobile dune field system requires special protection, and will be managed to minimize impacts on sediment transport processes.

Salt Marsh Habitat: This sensitive habitat types was identified for special protection in order to reduce any potential loss and minimize any ongoing impacts in these areas.

7.2. PA Operations and maintenance

7.2.1. Increase the scientific understanding of wetland ecosystems and their management requirements

- Investigate the influence of groundwater and surface water interactions on the salt marshes (Lead Agency: SANParks, Priority: High),

7.2.2. Maintain or seek to restore appropriate water regimes

- Ensure that the allocation and management of ground water does not affect the salt marshes (Lead Agency: DWA, Priority: High), and
- Ensure that no new drainage schemes are constructed in the two aquifers (Lead Agency: DWA, Priority: High).

7.2.3. Manage and/or mitigate detrimental activities

- Ensure all waste and sewage discharges within the Lagoon and catchment of the aquifers are appropriately licensed (Lead Agency: Saldanha Bay Municipality, Priority: High),
- Collect and analyse water samples from the Bay, Lagoon and aquifers to detect levels of pollutants (Lead Agency: SBWQM, Priority: High),
- Participate in appropriate consents for use and development on adjacent areas; including aquaculture, mineral extraction and fishing, and
- Ensure all development proposals that may impact on Ramsar character are referred to the National department of Environmental Affairs.

7.2.4. Manage resource utilisation on a sustainable basis

- Monitor resource utilisation by anglers and gillnet fishermen (Lead Agency: CRC, Priority: High), and
- Enforce fishing regulations (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High).

7.2.5. Protect, and where possible enhance ecosystem processes, habitats and species

- Protect the habitat of threatened flora (salt marshes) and fauna species (including elasmobranchs, blacktail, pulmonate limpet, African penguin, Cape gannets and Bank cormorants) (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High), and
- Protect and enhance roosting, nesting, breeding sites of threatened, migratory and resident coastal bird species (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High).

7.2.6. Encourage strong partnerships among management agencies

- Establish and maintain regular communications and links among all relevant management agencies (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High).

7.2.7. Ensure recreational use is consistent with the conservation and cultural values

- Maintain visible enforcement and monitoring, especially during school holidays (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High),
- Protect and interpret where appropriate, sites of cultural importance with consultation with locals to visitors (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High),
- Encourage visitors to practice eco-friendly methods of recreation (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High), and
- Develop and maintain appropriate visitor facilities, including interpretation signs, consistent with the conservation and cultural values (Lead Agency: WCNP, Priority: High).

Lead agency key:

- DEA: Department of Environmental Affairs
- DAFF: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- DWA: Department of Water Affairs
- SANParks: South African National Parks
- WCNP: West Coast National Parks
- CRC: Cape Research Centre
- SBWQM: Saldanha Bay Water Quality Monitoring

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