

# The Garden Route National Park

## “Conservation without boundaries”

A new era is about to start, an era where residents of the Garden Route will make their mark by contributing to conservation, by doing their bit to conserve our natural heritage. Because of the unique composition of the new Garden Route National Park, it will be more important than ever to work with stakeholders beyond the Park's boundaries –

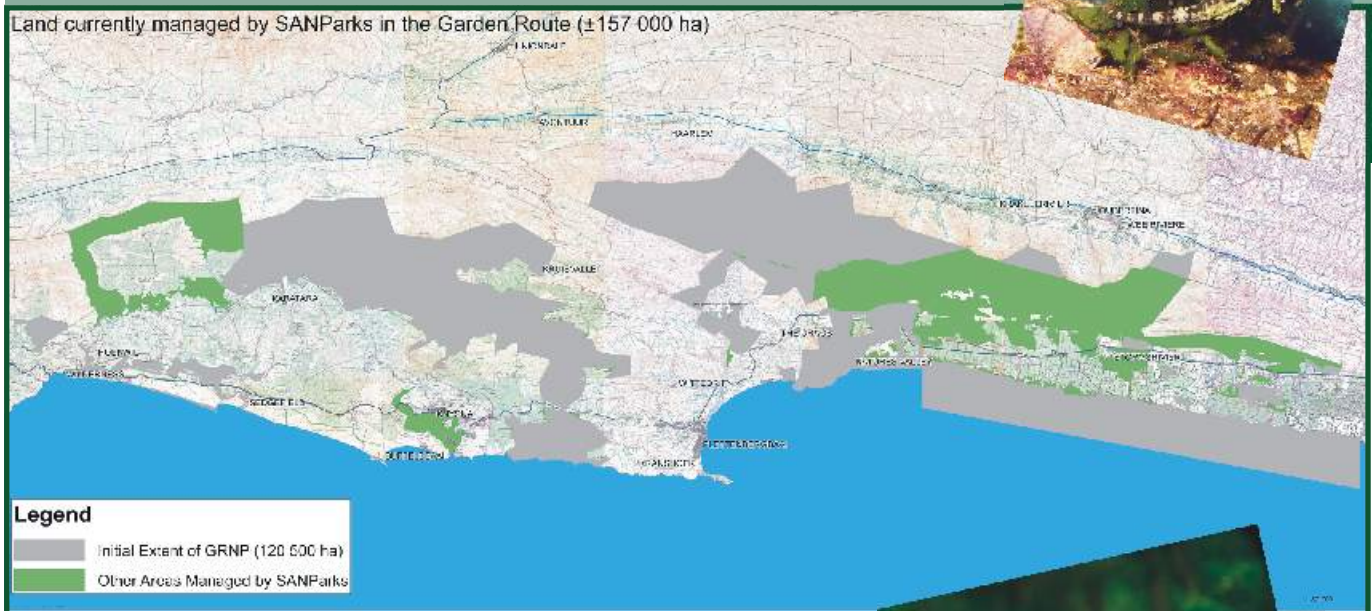
**conservation will be the responsibility of each and every individual in its vicinity.**



### Where will the Garden Route National Park be?

The GRNP will include the existing National Parks - Tsitsikamma and Wilderness, the Protected Knysna Lakes area and other land currently under SANParks management.

### How big is the area that SANParks will manage?



SANParks currently manage about 157 000 ha, made up as follows:

Indigenous forest	43 500
Fynbos (incl. Mountain Catchment Areas)	80 000
Lakes and estuaries	3 400
Marine	27 500
Infrastructure (roads; staff houses; etc.)	2 600



### What legislation will be used to manage it?

National Parks managed in terms of NEMPAA (Act 57 of 2003) (National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003, as amended))

- Additional to NEMPAA - The **National Forest Act** (Act 84 of 1998, as amended) and the **Marine Living Resources Act** (Act 18 of 1998, as amended) will also apply;
- NEMPAA makes provision for “**dual designation**” of protected areas, mainly for the purpose of management effectiveness;

**Remember, “Conservation without boundaries” is everyone's responsibility.**

## What makes the proposed Garden Route National Park so exceptional?

- 🦋 Diverse biomes ( from mountain to ocean)
  - The largest continuous complex of indigenous forest in the country;
  - Aquatic systems: The Knysna estuary and Wilderness Lakes (No 1 and No 6 in the country respectively);
  - Fynbos: The Garden Route falls within the Cape Floristic Region which is designated as a global biodiversity hotspot;
  - Marine: Oldest Marine Protected Area in Africa & one of the most important marine conservation areas.
- 🦋 The Garden Route is ranked as the 3rd most preferred **tourism destination** in SA.
- 🦋 The footprint overlaps two Provinces; two District Municipalities; and four Local Municipalities, requiring multi stakeholder involvement;
- 🦋 The Garden Route is regarded as one of the country's **biggest development nodes** and balancing development and conservation will require innovation that will promote responsible sustainable tourism.



## The benefits of the Garden Route National Park?

- 🦋 Improved ecological services
  - Management of Mountain Catchment Areas will improve water supply quality;
  - Improved Fire and Alien Clearing Management programmes
  - Natural open spaces will be maintained for recreation and tourism;
  - Carbon sequestration (storage) which is important for reducing the impacts of climate change;
- 🦋 Sustained Socio-economic benefits
  - The aesthetic value of the GRNP will contribute towards sustainable tourism and economic growth;
  - Job creation - SANParks is the second largest employer in region (372 permanent & 750 contract personnel);
  - Contribution to the local economy - the total economic contribution of SANParks towards the region is calculated at R 94 636 539 p. annum.



## Will the public have input in the Management plan? YES



- 🦋 First draft to be completed June 2009;
- 🦋 The compilation will include a comprehensive public participation process;
- 🦋 Some of the planning products that will have to be finalised early in 2009 to inform the management plan include:
  - Land consolidation/inclusion strategy
  - Fine scale biodiversity map to inform land use planning
  - Integrated fire management plan
  - Alien plant mapping and costing
  - Tourism development and implementation plan
  - Socio-economic study.



## What happens next?

- 🦋 Intention to proclaim GRNP was gazetted 21 November 2008.
- 🦋 GRNP to be proclaimed towards mid 2009.
- 🦋 Management plan for GRNP to be submitted within 12 months after proclamation.

## Did you know?

1912 : Stevenson-Hamilton first initiated the concept of National Parks.  
 1926 : Kruger National Park established.  
 1936 : Indigenous Forests proposed to be National Park  
 1964 : Tsitsikamma National Park proclaimed.

1985 : Wilderness National Park & Knysna National Lake Area proclaimed.  
 2005 : GR Protected Area planning processes commenced  
 2005 : Delegation of indigenous forests to SANParks.  
 2008 : Proposed GRNP gazetted.



Visit [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org) or contact the Regional Office on 044 302 5600