West Coast National Park

Park Management Plan

2010 – 2015

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Version 2.0

For: External Review
Glossary
[Reader: Add words that you think need to go here…]

Acronyms
BA: Basic Assessment (in terms of listed activities identified in terms of sections 24 and 24d of the National Environmental management Act, 1998)
BBBEE: Board Based Black Economic Empowerment
DEA: Department of Environmental Affairs
DoE: Department of Education
CDF: Conservation Development Framework
FPA: Fire Protection Association (In terms of the Veld on Forest Act, )
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment (in terms of listed activities identified in terms of sections 24 and 24d of the National Environmental management Act, 1998)
EMS: Environmental Management System
IDP: Integrated Development Plan (refers to the Municipalities)
MCM: Marine and Coastal Management
MPA: Marine Protected Area (in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act, Act 18 of 1998)
NEM: PAA: National Environmental Management : Protected Areas Act (As Amended) Act 57 of 2003
SANParks: South African National Parks
SDF: Spatial Development Framework (refers to the Municipalities)
SMME: Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise
SAM: Strategic Adaptive Management
TPC: Threshold of Potential Concern

List of Figures
Figure 1: Protected Areas planning framework
Figure 2a : West Coast National Park High Level Management Objectives
Figure 2b : West Coast National Park High Level Management Objectives – Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage Management
Figure 2c : West Coast National Park High Level Management Objectives – Tourism and Conservation Constituency Building
Figure 3: Current and future staffing and reporting structure for the Park
Figure 4: Framework for reviewing park management effectiveness

List of Tables
Table 1: West Coast National Park Key Management Challenges.
Table 2: West Coast National Park alignment with the District Municipality’s IDP
Table 3: Summary of Use Zones of West Coast National Park
Table 4: Summary of Visitor Sites of West Coast National Park
Table 5: Known invasive alien plant species within the Park (As per Section 76 4a NEM: BA)
Table 6: Summary of Infrastructure Development for the Park
Table 7: Strategic Measures for West Coast National Park

Appendix 1
Conservation Development framework – Detailed Report

Appendix 2: Maps
Map 1: Regional Context
Map 2: Park Physical Features
Map 3: Park Vegetation Map
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SANParks has developed a Biodiversity Custodianship Framework to plan, integrate, implement and review the biodiversity conservation, tourism and constituency building components that make up its core business, whilst ensuring continual learning and compliance with the Department of Environmental Affairs norms and standards. The West Coast National Park was first proclaimed in 1985. The rationale for establishing the Park was to protect the key conservation areas of the Langebaan Lagoon, the offshore islands in Saldanha Bay and associated wetlands of international importance. The focus has changed over time to include the terrestrial surrounds as representative sites of the ecosystems of the West Coast Region.

The climate is semi-arid Mediterranean, mild and without extremes, but with strong seasonal winds, predominantly southerly in summer and northerly in winter.

The three key biodiversity components of the Park are the unique lagoon system, the off-shore islands and terrestrial ecosystems. The Langebaan Lagoon is a large marine embayment with a small freshwater catchment in the south. The lagoon is characterised by strongly tidal flows. These tidal areas are important feeding areas for wading birds. The near shore islands are designated as important breeding and roosting for Red Data listed seabirds. The Park comprises 8 National Vegetation Types of which 4 are listed endangered and 2 vulnerable i.e. Saldanha Granite Strandveld (Endangered), Saldanha Flats Strandveld (Endangered), Saldanha Limestone Strandveld (Endangered), Langebaan Dune Strandveld (Vulnerable), Hopefield Sand Fynbos (Endangered), Cape Estuarine Salt Marshes (Least Threatened), Cape Inland Salt Pans (Vulnerable) and Cape Seashore Vegetation (Least Threatened).

Complementing the regions’ biodiversity, the West Coast Region has an exceptionally rich archaeological 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. Early European settlers established Oudepost which was one of the first outposts established in South Africa.

In conjunction with the West Coast National Park’s Park Forum and key stakeholders, a Desired State of the Park, comprising a Park Vision and goal-orientated Management Objectives, was developed. The management programs to achieve the Desired State of the Park fall into 5 broad categories, i.e. Biodiversity Management, Heritage Management, Tourism Management, Conservation Constituency Building and Effective Park Management.

i) Biodiversity Management
The Park consolidation strategy seeks to establish (i) a Core Conservation Area (73,700 ha) under SANParks management through a combination of land acquisitions, contractual inclusions and co-management arrangements with both private and state bodies. Additional management activities include the management of alien plants and animals, undertaking appropriate fire management, rehabilitation of transformed areas, management of rare and endangered species, cooperative management of the marine systems and appropriate translocation and re-introduction of species.
ii) Heritage Management
The management of heritage resources continues with the research and mapping of these resources into an integrated park management database. This will form the basis of a Heritage Conservation Management Plan for the Park. Flowing from this plan, key sites will be rehabilitated for interpretation and tourism activities.

iii) Tourism Management
The Park Use Zoning has been updated to reflect the new land portions that have been included into the Park. The Park plans to concentrate on unlocking the tourism potential of the Park. The new rest camp at Kraalbaai and the re-development of the Langebaan Hotel site are planned. There are a number of unused historical homesteads and farm out buildings that a future appropriate use needs to be found.

iv) Conservation Constituency Building
The Park’s stakeholder relationship management program aims to contribute meaningfully to the quality of life of local communities by linking the management of the Park with the social and economic activities of the neighbouring communities in ways that both develop and maintain healthy mutual trust and interdependence. The aim of the Park's environmental education program is to stimulate appreciation of the natural environment. A local economic development program aims to contribute to the economic, social and physical well-being of the community living around the Park through entrepreneurial opportunities, poverty alleviation programs and skills development.

v) Effective Park Management
The effective management of the West Coast National Park includes (i) proactive Risk Management, through an Integrated Environmental Management system, (ii) research, monitoring and evaluation of a range of management threats both internal to and external to the Park, (iii) proactive budgeting and obtaining additional funding, and (iv) developing the Parks staffing capacity to undertake new functions (e.g. marine management) that are required by the park to achieve its desired state.

The essential feature of the adaptive management system employed by SANParks to monitor the success of its biodiversity custodianship, is the iterative way in which it enables continual improvement in the management of each park through annual and five-year review cycles. The SANParks review process also employs the Balanced Scorecard system to measure the achievement of Management Objectives.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OVERVIEW OF THE SANPARKS MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS
1. PARK CONTEXT AND DESIRED STATE
   1.1. Park Background
   1.2. Desired State of West Coast National Park
2. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED STATE
   2.1. Park Planning and Bioregional Programs
       2.1.1. Bioregional Programs
       2.1.2. Municipal Spatial Development Frameworks and Infrastructure Development Plans
       2.1.3 Park Consolidation
       2.1.4. Park Conservation Development Framework and Park Zoning
   2.2 Biodiversity Related Programs
       2.2.1. Alien Plant and Animal Control and Eradication Program
       2.2.2. Species of Special Concern Program
       2.2.3 Marine Environment and Marine Protected Area Management
       2.2.4. Fire Management Program
       2.2.5. Species Re-introduction and Translocation Program
   2.3 Cultural Heritage Related Programs
       2.3.1. Heritage Mapping, Research and Planning
       2.3.2. Heritage Integration Program
   2.4 Tourism Management Related Programs
       2.4.1 Infrastructure Development Program
       2.4.2 Current Nature-based Tourism Products
       2.4.3 Marketing Program
   2.5 Conservation Constituency Building Related Programs
       2.5.1. Stakeholder Relationship Management
       2.5.2. Local Economic Development
       2.5.3. Environmental Education and Park Awareness
       2.5.4. Volunteer Program
   2.6 Programs enabling Effective Park Management
       2.6.1. Corporative Governance
       2.6.2. Park Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
       2.6.3. Park Information Management
       2.6.4. Institutional Capacity & Development Program
3. STRATEGIC ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DESIRED STATE
   3.1 Monitoring of Strategic Delivery
   3.2 Adaptive Management Reviews
OVERVIEW OF THE SANPARKS MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

South African National Parks (SANParks) has adopted an overarching park management strategy that focuses on developing and then managing towards a ‘desired state’ for a national park. The setting of a park’s desired state is done through an adaptive planning process (Rogers 2003) and in conjunction with stakeholders. The term ‘desired state’ is now entrenched in the literature, although it is important to note that it refers to a ‘desired set of varying conditions’ rather than to a static state. This point is reinforced in the SANParks values (SANParks 2006) that accept that change in a system is ongoing and desirable. Importantly, a desired state for a park is also not based on a static vision, but rather seeks refinement through ongoing learning and continuous reflection and appropriate adaptation through explicit adoption of the Strategic Adaptive Management approach.

The desired state of a park is the park’s longer-term vision (30-50 years) translated into sensible and appropriate objectives through broad statements of desired outcomes. These objectives are derived from a park’s key attributes, opportunities and threats and are informed by the context (international, national and local) that jointly determines and informs management strategies, programmes and projects. Objectives for West Coast National Park were further 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 are clustered or grouped into an objectives hierarchy that provides the framework for the Park Management Plan. Within the Park Management Plan only the higher level objectives are presented. However, more detailed objectives, down to the level of operational goals, have been (or where necessary are currently being) further developed in conjunction with key stakeholders and specialists.

This approach to the management of a national park complies with the requirements of the National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003 (NEM: PAA). Overall, the Park Management Plan forms part of a National Planning Framework for protected areas as outlined in figure 1. A park’s Management Plan is thus not formulated in isolation of National legislation and policies. The Management Plan complies with related national legislation such as the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, national SANParks policy and international conventions that have been signed and ratified by the South African Government.

Overall, the SANParks Coordinated Policy Framework provides the overarching framework for all Park Management Plans (available on the SANParks website). This policy sets out the ecological, cultural, economic, technological, social and political environments of national parks at the highest level. In accordance with the NEM: PAA, the Coordinated Policy Framework is open to regular review by the public to ensure that it continues to reflect the organisation’s mandate, current societal values and new scientific knowledge with respect to protected area management.

The key functions of the Park Management Plan is to:

- ensure the Park is managed according to the reason it was declared;
- be a tool to guide management of a protected area at all levels, from the basic operational level to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;
- be a tool that enables the evaluation of progress against set objectives;
- be a document that can be used to set up key performance indicators for Park staff; and
• specify the intent of the Park, and provide explicit evidence for the financial support required to operate the Park.

This Management Plan for West Coast National Park comprises three broad sections:
• 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 2015 is presented). This section focuses on critical strategic park management issues, operationalisation and integration, and reflection on achievements to ensure that the longer-term desired state is reached; and
• A summary of the Strategic Adaptive Management process that the Park plans to implement to ensure that the Park achieves its management objectives.

Figure 1: Protected Areas planning framework
1.1. Park Background

Purpose of the Park

The initial National Park in the area was intended to protect the key conservation areas of the Langebaan Lagoon, the offshore islands in Saldanha Bay and associated wetlands of international importance. The focus has changed over time to include the terrestrial surrounds as representative sites of the ecosystems of the West Coast Region.

In alignment with the NEM: PAA the current purpose of the West Coast National 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; and
- contribute to economic development.

Declarations and Name

The initial name for the Park was Langebaan National Park which was changed in 1987 to the West Coast National Park.

Important proclamations are as follows:

(i) Langebaan Lagoon, Jutten, Schaapen, Malgas and Marcus islands and the Atlantic shore were proclaimed as a national park in terms of section 2(2) of the National Parks Act, 1976 1985 (RSA Government Gazette No. 9904. G.R. 138, 30 August 1985).

(ii) Portions of Geelbek, Papenkuilsfontein, Wilde Varkens Valley and coastal strip to Yzerfontein were included in the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 10860. G.R. 1753, 26 June 1987).

(iii) Postberg properties were proclaimed a contractual part of the park in terms of section 2B(1)(b) of the National Parks Act, 1976 (RSA Government Gazette No. 10789. G.R. 1753, 14 August 1987).

(iv) Erf 304 Langebaan was included in the park, and name changed to West Coast National Park (RSA Government Gazette No. 11345. G.R. 1490, 29 July 1987).

(v) Geelbek, Abrahamskraal, portions of Schrywershoek and the seashore were included in the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 11978. G.R. 1347, 30 June 1989).

(vi) 42 ha near Yzerfontein were excluded from the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 14176. G.R. 2159, 31 July 1992).

(vii) A further portion of Wilde Varkens Valley was added to the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 15470. G.R. 183, 4 February 1994).

(viii) Previously disputed land at Oude Post and coastal reserve were added to the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 16005. G.R. 1705, 7 October 1994).

(ix) Part of Bottelary (Seeberg) was added to the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 16075. G.R. 1947, 18 November 1994).

(x) Massenberg properties were included in the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 17073. G.R. 537, 4 April 1996).

(xi) Portion 2 of Stofbergsfontein was included in the park (RSA Government Gazette No. 18600. G.R. 34, 30 December 1997).

Location, extent and airspace

The West Coast National Park is situated approximately 100 km northwest of Cape Town on the Atlantic seaboard in the Western Cape Province. The Park
covers some 35,700 ha’s 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 (approximately 30 km of coastline) across the West Coast road (R27) towards Hopefield in the east (33° 04’ S; 18° 17’ E). The Park includes the Langebaan lagoon and the offshore islands of Marcus, Malgas, Schaapen and Jutten (Map 1 in Appendix 2). The Langebaan Lagoon is also designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA), while the Park adjoins the Sixteen Mile Beach MPA on the Atlantic coast, the Saldanha Bay MPA north of the lagoon, and three MPAs surrounding Jutten, Malgas and Marcus islands. The highest point in the park is Vlaeberg at 193m (Map 2 Appendix 2). The airspace above the park (to an altitude of 955 meters above sea level) is also regulated by the NEM : PAA.

Park 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 development 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 and Schrywershoek as well as Abrahamskraal were added to the Park, while some 1,800 ha of land around Postberg was included in the National Park as the first contractual National Park in South Africa. The farm Stofbergsfontein, which included a contractual component with residential rights, was added in 1997.

Topography, Geology and Soils
The landscapes of the Park are products of a long and complex geological history of geological folding, intrusions and sea level changes. The Langebaan peninsula abuts the Atlantic Ocean on the west and Langebaan Lagoon on the east, the lagoon is about 2km wide and 15km long. There are three main substrata, namely limestone, granite and sand (Compton 2001), and the main formations are:

- Langebaan (limestone calcrete, partially cross-beded and calcified parabolic dune sand) and Springfontyn (light grey to pale red sandy soils) of the Quaternary,
- Witzand (unconsolidated white sand with comminuted shells, or pebbles and shell along the beaches),
- Langebaan-Saldanha Pluton of the Malmesbury group. (Granite: mainly coarse grained with porphyritic biotic and fine- to medium-grained leucratic variants; quartz monzonite, adamelite; quartz porphyry) (Chief Director of Geological Surveys 1990).
The northern portion of the peninsula comprises elevated granite outcrops, the highest being Vlaeberg, 193m above mean sea level (amsl) and Konstabelkop (189m amsl), and low ridges of limestone calcrete. In the south there are unconsolidated and vegetated dunes, and near Yzerfontein a large mobile dune field extends inland towards Van Niekerspos. The low-lying areas inland of the lagoon consist mainly of calcified and unconsolidated sands and the occasional granite outcrop such as Seeberg (Flemming 1977).

The basement rocks of the Malmesbury formation, which were laid down as marine sediments during the Pre-Cambrian (700 million years Before Present) were uplifted, folded and intruded by successive phases of volcanic activity and changes in sea-levels. The remnants of the volcanic activity can be seen as exposed granite outcrops in and around the Park. In terms of changing sea-levels, 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 (Flemming 1977, 1980).

The sands in the area are largely derived from marine deposits and as such contain a large proportion of calcareous material. Older dunes have become calcified to layers of sandy limestone as much as 90 meters thick. The marine origin of the sand is also reflected in the generally brack groundwater. Several salt pans can be found in the area of which some have been worked intermittently since the 17th century (Visser & Schoch, 1973).

**Climate**

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

**Marine & coastal processes**

Langebaan Lagoon is a large marine embayment with a small freshwater catchment in the south. The lagoon is characterised by strong tidal currents with the subtidal region being generally less than 4m deep (Flemming 1977). Current velocities during spring tides can reach speeds up to 100 cm/sec in the main entrance channels to the lagoon, before decreasing to around 20 – 25 cm/sec in the wider lower reaches. Approximately 12 percent of the volume of the Saldanha Bay - Langebaan Lagoon system is exchanged during a spring tide (Shannon & Stander 1977). Upwelling of cold, nutrient rich waters occurs seasonally (spring and summer) along the west coast. 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).
Flora and fauna
The Park boasts a wide diversity of marine and terrestrial fauna and flora. Although the majority of this is representative of the West Coast Region, the park does host a number of red data listed species.

Marine environment
A total of 200 seaweed species have been recorded in the Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon system (Schils 1998). Seven of the species found in the lagoon are commonly found in warm waters on the south coast of South Africa (Bolton & Stegenga 2002). The Langebaan Lagoon has a rich marine fauna of more than 400 species. Of these species, 6 have been classified as vulnerable and 7 as rare (Victor 2002). The soft substrata (sand and mud) of the lagoon is an important habitat for macro invertebrates. The lagoon is one of the only two known habitats for South Africa’s most endangered marine mollusc *Siphonaria compressa* (Hebert 1999) which is found in the high eelgrass *Zostera capensis* beds.

A total of 29 bony fish species have been caught in the lagoon. These include important recreational and commercial linefish species (Sparidae family) such as geelbeek (silver kob) *Atractoscion aequidens*, blacktail *Diplodus capensis*, elf *Pomatomus saltatrix*, baardman *Umbrina canariensis*, fransmadam *Boopsoida inornata*, steentjie *Spondylosoma emarginatum*, white stumpnose *Rhabdosargus globiceps*, Cape gunard *Chelidonichthys capensis*, carpenter *Argyrozoa argyrozoa*, hottentot *Pachymetopon blochii*, snoek *Thysites atun* and yellowtail *Seriola lalandi*.

There are twelve recorded species of the shark, skates and rays in the Lagoon. The species include soupfin shark *Callorhynchus capensis*, blue stingray *Dasyatis pastinaca*, smoothhound shark *Mustelus mustelus*, white-spotted smoothhound shark *Mustelus palumbes*, eagle ray *Myliobatis aqualia*, striped catshark *Poroderma Africana*, lesser guitarfish *Rhinobatos annulants*, piked dogfish *Squalus acantias*, 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).

The near shore islands are designated as important bird areas (IBAs Les Underhill 2009) for Red Data listed seabirds. These include the some 70,000 nesting sites of the Cape gannets *Morus capensis* (Vulnerable), 1,500 nesting sites of the African penguin *Spheniscus demersus* (Vulnerable) and almost 100 nesting sites for the Bank cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus* (Vulnerable). In terms of Near-threatened species the islands host some 33,000 nesting sites of the Cape cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*, almost 250 breeding sites for the Crowned cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus* and approximately 200 breeding sites for the African black oystercatcher *Haematopus*. Substantial numbers of non-threatened species also breed on the islands e.g. Kelp gull *Larus dominicanus* and Hartlaub’s Gull *Larus hartlaubii*.

Cape fur seal colonies historically occurred on the 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 (Makhado et al. 2006).
The Langebaan Lagoon provides an important feeding area for migrant and resident waders. The lagoon supports approximately 26% of all waders found 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 Palearctic 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 waterbirds decline to approximately 10,300, which include about 4,500 flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* and *P. minor* (Navarro et al. 1995).

**Terrestrial environment**

The Park comprises 8 National Vegetation Types of which 4 are listed endangered and 2 vulnerable i.e. Saldanha Granite Strandveld (Endangered), Saldanha Flats Strandveld (Endangered), Saldanha Limestone Strandveld (Endangered), Langebaan Dune Strandveld (Vulnerable), Hopefield Sand Fynbos (Endangered), Cape Estuarine Salt Marshes (Least Threatened), Cape Inland Salt Pans (Vulnerable) and Cape Seashore Vegetation (Least Threatened) (Map 3 Appendix 2). Plant community surveys stared in 1970's (Boucher & Jarman) and completed in 1995 (Heydenrych) recorded 482 plant species of which of which 24 are Red Data Book listed.

A total of 53 mammal species have been found in the Park. Of these 19 are rodents, 11 are insectivores, 13 are carnivores and 10 are ungulates species (Avery et al. 1990). Five of the ungulates and one rodent are extra-limital (i.e. they were introduced into the park and lie outside their normal range of distribution). Grant’s golden mole (*Eremitalpa granti*), the honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*) and the Bontebok (*Damaliscus dorcas dorcas*), are the three Red Data mammals found in the park (Friedmann & Daly 2004). The Bontebok is however considered an extra-limital species.

A checklist of birds recorded within the WCNP by Liversidge & Broekhuysen (1958) was updated by the Percy Fitz Patrick Institute of African Ornithology and enlisted 255 species. The Park hosts approximately 26% of all waders population recorded in South African wetland systems (Ryan et al. 1988). The area adjacent to the lagoon supports the highest density of the Vulnerable black harrier (*Circus maurus*) in South Africa (Curtis et al. 2001).

**Palaeontology**

Extremely rich Plio/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 5 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 calcareous areas in and near the dunes at Geelbek are accessible to visitors.

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. 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.
Archaeology & 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. 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. Braun et al. (unpublished) in his study of Acheulean hominids behavioural ecology has discovered extinct specimens with Acheulean stone artefacts, which highlights the history of human activities in this area. In addition, they have identified several sites for 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 Presbyterian Church at Churchhaven, the old “Postbox” at Postberg and die VOC beacon at Geelbek.

Social Economic Context
The Park is located within the West Coast District Municipality and a joins the Saldanha Municipality in and around Langebaan in the north and the Swartland Municipality in and around Ysterfontuin to Hopefield in the South. Around the Park there are seven areas of urban and semi-urban development i.e. Langebaan, Saldanha Bay, Vreedenberg, Langebaanweg, Hopefield, Darling and Ysterfontuin as well as several smaller farming communities and informal settlements. Of the regions estimated 287,000 inhabitants some 28% (79,000) fall within the Saldanha Bay Municipality and 27% (78,000) fall within the Swartland Municipality. Since 1996 there has been a steady rate of urbanisation to the larger towns in the Saldanha and Swartland municipalities from the more rural surrounding areas. 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 District's 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 are relatively high (29%) of persons older than 14 years that are illiterate.

1.2. West Coast National Park’s Desired State

Purpose of a Desired State for a Park
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 West Coast National Park involved: reviewing the Park’s Vision, understanding the operating values and principles, evaluating the Park’s key attributes and determining high-level management objectives. This process was done in conjunction with the current Park Forum and other key stakeholders. The management objectives then guided the formulation of management
strategies and programs that are required to achieve the desired state. As such, the Park Vision and high-level objectives reflect the essence of what the Park is aspiring to achieve.

SANParks Vision:
National Parks will be the pride and joy of all South Africans and of the world.

Park Vision
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 natural environments of the West Coast for the appreciation, and use of, for present and future generations.

Operating Values & Principles
Park Operating Values
The Park’s values are deeply-held beliefs that guide the formation of principles for decision-making and action, and are inherited from SANParks’ Conservation values. These values include:

- Respecting the complexity, as well as the richness and diversity of the socio-ecological system making up each national park and the wider landscape and context. Respecting the interdependency of the formative elements, the associated biotic and landscape diversity, and the aesthetic, cultural, educational and spiritual attributes. Leveraging all these for creative and useful learning.

- Striving to maintain natural processes in ecosystems, along with the uniqueness, authenticity and worth of cultural heritage, so that these systems and their elements can be resilient and hence persist.

- Managing with humility the systems under our custodianship, recognising and influencing the wider socio-ecological context in which we are embedded.

- Striving to maintain a healthy flow of ecosystem and cultural goods and services (specifically preserving cultural artefacts), and to make these available, through access to national parks, thereby promoting enjoyment, appreciation and other benefits for people

- When necessary, intervening in a responsible and sustainable manner, complementing natural processes as far as possible, using only the level of interference needed to achieve our mandate.

- Do all the above in such a way as to preserve all options for future generations, while also recognizing that systems change over time.

- Acknowledging that conversion of some natural and cultural capital has to take place for the purpose of sustaining our mandate, but that this should never erode the core values above.

Park 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 the SANParks and it is the duty of all involved with the Park to 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 shall strive to develop relationships with stakeholders in planning and managing the Park and the surrounding areas, based on mutual respect, empowerment, equity, co-operation, collaborative problem solving, accountability and in a transparent manor.

• 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.

Key Park Attributes

The key park attributes are the important characterises and/or properties of the Park that concisely describe the key features of the Park. Currently the Park has 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 Parks’ management objectives, strategies and programs are developed. The key attributes are:

• 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 of the saline Lagoon, off-shore islands, salt marshes, and several nationally important vegetation types

• As an open ecological system, the Park is dependant 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 merge within the park where internationality important archaeological, paleontological, geological (including unique rock formations) sites meet a landscape of shipwrecks, old farmsteads and very old family lineages.

• The Park has a high level of protected conservation status: National Park; Marine Protected Area, Ramsar status; 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 within the West Coast Region. This allows for the development of unique and complementary visitor experiences and facilities.
• **Distinctive Sense of Place** with clear night skies and full moon viewing; Peace, quiet, solitude; tranquillity, good vista’s, a variety of landscape features, a range of day visitor sites and historic homesteads.

• *Good 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 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.

• *Multi-use residential areas* (Postberg and Stofbergfontein, Skurwevershoek) are found within the Park.

• The Park is at the centrally situated and has facilities for the implementation of a *vibrant eco-education programs* in the west coast region

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*Formulation of Park Management High Level Objectives*

The management objectives (Figures 2a-c) 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 Vision. The management requirements were determined by looking at the determinants of, constraints and threats to, and the vital attributes of the Park. The management objectives are grouped into 2 broad categories. The first are those objectives relating to the delivery of the core park operations and the mandate of SANParks (e.g. Biodiversity Management), while the second set are those objectives of a generic nature (e.g. Financial Management) that are required to effectively manage the Park. These objectives can be further detailed and elaborated on to form a hierarchy of objectives.
Table 1: West Coast National Park Key Management Challenges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Attribute</th>
<th>Factors to be considered pertaining to the Park Attribute</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>unique marine lagoon system</td>
<td>• Expanding harbour and increasing shipping traffic&lt;br&gt;• Oil pipeline Saldanha – Milnerton&lt;br&gt;• Inappropriate Developments in and around the Lagoon&lt;br&gt;• Water quality entering the Lagoon from urban surrounds &amp; potential large scale pollution events&lt;br&gt;• Non-sustainable extractive resource use&lt;br&gt;• Invasive alien species&lt;br&gt;• Alteration of flows by Flow barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globally important biodiversity</td>
<td>• Alien species invasion&lt;br&gt;• Fire management&lt;br&gt;• Sea-bird / waders management&lt;br&gt;• Fisheries management&lt;br&gt;• Use of the Park as a ‘short-cut’ between R27 and Langebaan&lt;br&gt;• Large Herbivore Management&lt;br&gt;• Ecosystem connective and functionality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open natural system</td>
<td>• Expanding harbour and increasing shipping traffic&lt;br&gt;• International treaties and agreements&lt;br&gt;• Joint and co-operative management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altered landscapes</td>
<td>• Natural ecosystem processes&lt;br&gt;• Tourism and recreational potential&lt;br&gt;• Heritage landscapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High conservation protection</td>
<td>• RAMSAR site&lt;br&gt;• Contractual Lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural and natural heritage</td>
<td>• Local knowledge is dying out and being diluted before it is formally captured;&lt;br&gt;• Perceived lack of coordination in the collation, archiving and dissemination of the cultural heritage of the Park;&lt;br&gt;• Different perceptions exist of entitlement and mandate to “control” the heritage amongst the community and authorities;&lt;br&gt;• A limited budget for maintenance in the face of theft, removal and general deterioration of the physical heritage;&lt;br&gt;• Development that conflicts with heritage architecture;&lt;br&gt;• Potential conflict between biodiversity and cultural heritage management objectives with respect to shaded / cultural landscapes vs pristine Fynbos;&lt;br&gt;• SANParks has limited capacity, competency and expertise to implement heritage plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth in tourism demand</td>
<td>• Lack of overnight facilities within the Park&lt;br&gt;• Limited access to important recreational areas&lt;br&gt;• Need to ensure continued safety and security of visitors to the Park&lt;br&gt;• Need to build strong relations with local tourism industry&lt;br&gt;• Park products and pricing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct sense of place</td>
<td>• The preservation of the unique Spirit of Place by managing noise and visual intrusions from roads and urban development&lt;br&gt;• Potential for uncoordinated and inappropriate development and access within and surrounding the Park as well as conflicting user activities within the Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Support</td>
<td>• Vibrant and good support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of knowledge and research</td>
<td>• Current research is focused on biodiversity and needs to be broadened into heritage and tourism areas;&lt;br&gt;• The Park has no formal integrated monitoring programme and these need to be designed, funded and implemented;&lt;br&gt;• 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;&lt;br&gt;• Findings of research and monitoring need to be formally fed back into management strategies and actions;&lt;br&gt;• Shortage of funding for specific priority research projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use residential areas</td>
<td>• Access to and privacy of private properties&lt;br&gt;• Multi-ownership and tenant systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-education programs</td>
<td>• Potential for expansion of the Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**South African National Parks Vision:**
National Parks will be the pride and joy of all South Africans and of the world.

**West Coast National Parks Vision:**
West Coast National Park will conserve and enhance the unique terrestrial and marine, ecological and cultural, historical and scenic resources of the Langeberg region and Saldanha Bay, promote sustainability and natural environments of the West Coast for the appreciation and use of, for present and future generations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity Management</th>
<th>Cultural Heritage Management</th>
<th>Tourism Management</th>
<th>Conservation Constituency Building</th>
<th>Partners and Conservation Development</th>
<th>Corporate Governance</th>
<th>Financial Sustainability</th>
<th>Institutional Development</th>
<th>Communications, Marketing and Advertising</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To effectively manage the species and processes of the unique ecosystems of the park.</td>
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**Figure 2a: West Coast National Park High Level Management Objectives**
Figure 2b: West Coast National Park High Level Management Objectives – Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage Management
West Coast National Parks Vision:
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, adjacent islands and natural environments of the West Coast for the appreciation, and use of, for present and future generations.

Tourism Management:
To develop, manage, enhance and serve a range of sustainable eco-tourism products as to ensure a memorable experience for all Park visitors.

- Products and Pricing
- Growth of Local and International Tourism
- Sustainable Revenue Generation
- Tourism Monitoring
- Marketing

Conservation Constituency Building:
To enable the Park community to derive sustainable and equitable socio-economic benefit from opportunities created through the West Coast National Park thereby promoting a vibrant conservation ethic.

- Conservation Stakeholders
- Environment
- Economic Development
- Volunteer Programme

Figure 2c: West Coast National Park High Level Management Objectives – Tourism and Conservation Constituency Building
2. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED STATE.

This section deals with all the discrete, but often interlinked, management programs that make up the approaches to the Park’s management requirements, and lead to actions on the ground. Together they are the Park’s set of activities undertaken to achieve the management objectives of the Park as thus the desired state as specified in section 1. The Park’s Programs have been formulated to achieve one or more management objectives with the direct links between the different management objectives and programs.

For each management program, only a summary is presented, with the detail being located in specific lower level plans. In some cases these programs are presented as part of a long-term planning framework to be completed within 5 to 25 years. It is important to note that this long-term framework not only considers appropriate development in the Park per se, but also the Parks restoration and rehabilitation requirements in accordance with the Conservation Development Framework for the Park. All management programs have undergone a scoping process.

2.1. Park Planning and Bioregional Programs

The achievement of the Park’s growth 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 Spatial Development Frameworks, into the Park’s consolidation and conservation development frameworks.

2.1.1 Bioregional Programs

The Park falls within the boundaries of the Cape Action Plan for People and the Environment (CAPE), Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve (CWCBR) and future Saldanha Environmental Management Framework. In terms of the Cape Biosphere Reserve Spatial Development Framework, the West Coast National Park is designated as Core 1 Area. Core 1 Areas are those parts of the landscape that are set aside for biodiversity patterns or ecological processes (i.e. critical biodiversity areas). These include habitats classified as highly irreplaceable, critically endangered, or endangered terrestrial (land), aquatic (rivers, wetlands and estuaries) and important marine habitats.

2.1.2. Municipal Spatial Development Frameworks and Infrastructure Development Plans

The regional’s districts Integrated Development Plan, which contains the regional’s Spatial Development Framework (SDF), aims primarily at sustainable social and economic growth through the main goals of Social Wellbeing, Environmental Integrity, Economic Efficiency and Institutional Preparedness. The SDF outlines 4 Development Themes, each with a number of sub-objectives. In alignment with these themes the West Coast National Park contributes to 3 of the 4 themes as outlined in table 2 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District IDP Strategies</th>
<th>Complementary West Coast National Park Program</th>
<th>Implementation Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1: Sustainable economic development Obj 2 - Job Creation</td>
<td>Working for Water Alien Clearing Programs, Working for the Coast, DEAT SR IDP funding, Tourism Marketing and growth</td>
<td>On going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2: Promote sound urban</td>
<td>Heritage Management, Biodiversity</td>
<td>On going</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: West Coast National Park alignment with the West Coast District Municipality’s IDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District IDP Strategies</th>
<th>Complementary West Coast National Park Program</th>
<th>Implementation Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(re)structuring Obj. 4 - Conserve and strengthen a sense of ‘Place for All’</td>
<td>Management, Management of Marine Resources, Urban Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3: Ensure environmental sustainability and integrity Obj. 5. - Ensure the wise use of existing resources</td>
<td>Tourism Management, Sustainable Resource Use</td>
<td>On going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3: Ensure environmental sustainability and integrity Obj. 5. - Conserve biodiversity resources</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Program, Alien Clearing, Heritage Management, Fire Management, Working on the Coast, Marine Management Program, Park Consolidation Strategy Support to West Coast Biosphere.</td>
<td>On going</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1.3 Park Consolidation

In order for SANParks to achieve its national mandate of conserving representative samples of South Africa’s different ecological landscapes, the establishment of ecologically sustainable parks remains a priority. A bio-regional 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 key focus for SANParks in consolidating the Core Conservation Area is to bring an additional 38,000 hectares under SANParks management through a combination of land acquisitions, contractual inclusions and co-management arrangements of management arrangements with both private and state bodies (Map 4 Appendix 2). Private land inclusions will focus on securing the eastern and southern portions of the Park while the possibilities for state land include the military on the Langebaan Peninsula and Vondeling Island. The renegotiation of the Postberg Contractual Area is an important priority. There is an option to unify the 5 marine protected seascape into a single ecologically viable protected area.

2.1.4. West Coast National Park Conservation Development Framework (CDF) including Park Zonation, Park Interface Zones and Park Visitor Facilities and Access:

The primary objective of a Conservation Development Framework (CDF) is to establish a coherent spatial framework in and around a park to guide and coordinate conservation, tourism and visitor experience initiatives. A key part of the CDF is the zoning plan, which 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.

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.

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 5 Annexure 2. Full details of the use zones, the activities and facilities allowed in each zone, the conservation objectives of each zone, the zoning process, the Park Interface Zones (detailing park interaction with adjacent areas) and the underlying landscape analyses are summarized in Table 3.

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 unimproved 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 discernable 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), 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 shares the wilderness qualities of the Remote zone, but with limited access roads, trails and the potential for basic small-scale self-catering accommodation facilities such as small bushcamps. Human activity and development outside of the park may be visible from this zone. The conservation objective is to maintain the zone in a generally 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. In West Coast NP, 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 the park east of the R27, 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, cycle, canoe 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. The aesthetic/recreational objectives for the zone specify that activities which impact on the relatively natural appearance and character of the area should be restricted, though 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, as well as the mountain bike areas to the north of the lagoon. 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 Low Intensity Leisure Zone is characterized by relatively high levels of tourist activity, motorized self-drive access to certain areas, and the potential for small basic camps without facilities such as shops and restaurants. Facilities along roads are limited to basic self-catering picnic sites with toilet facilities. The conservation objective is to 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, and that the zone is maintained in a generally natural state that is in keeping with the character of a Protected Area. 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, wilderness etc) is inevitable, these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience. 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 Kraalbaai and Preekstoel areas that are intensively used for limited portions of the year are included in this zone. The offshore areas accessible to motorized vessels of the 16 Mile Beach MPA section of the park are included in the Low Intensity Leisure zone, as are the Marine A areas of the lagoon (opposite Langebaan town).

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, wilderness etc) is inevitable, these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area generally still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience. 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.

**Overview of the Park Buffer Zone of West Coast National Park:**
A National Park Buffer Zone is the identified area within which activities (e.g. landuse change) have an influence on the park (current and future extent). This section of the management plan is aligned with the DEA Policy on Buffer Zones for National Parks (2009) and the SANParks Buffer Zone Policy. This section of the management plan formally identifies and defines the buffer zone.

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.

West Coast National Park has three Buffer Zone categories (Map 6 Appendix 2). The first two are mutually exclusive, but the final visual/aesthetic category can overlay the others.

**Priority Natural Areas (48,000 ha):** 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 favorably.

**Catchment Protection Areas (10,000 ha):** 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 & 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.

**Overview of Park Visitor Sites:**
Within the Park there are certain existing sites that currently, or in the future, fulfil a specific tourism and visitor role. These sites are all at locations with
existing facilities and infrastructure and 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 needs to 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. Seven types of visitor and management sites were identified for the West Coast National Park i.e. Tourist Destination, Mixed Use, Picnic / Braai, Park Entry Point, Park Accommodation, Site of Special Interest and Park Utility. Table 4 summarises the role of the site, what facilities are suitable, which Park zones are applicable, what are the management guidelines for the sites.
<p>| Zone                  | General Characteristics                                                                 | Experiential Qualities                        | User Interaction | Types of Access | Types of Activities                                      | Types of Facilities                                                                 | Conservation Objectives                                                                 | Limits of acceptable change: Biophysical                                                                 | Limits of acceptable change: Aesthetics and recreational |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 | Hiking in small groups                                   | Established footpaths where erosion may be a problem. Essentially undeveloped and roadless | Maintain or restore where required the natural state of the veld. Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized, and existing impacts should be reduced. | Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized, and existing impacts should be reduced. | Activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area will not be tolerated. |
| Primitive            | Generally retains wilderness qualities, but with basic self-catering facilities. 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; 4x4 trails; hiking trails | Maintain or restore where required the natural state of the veld. Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be minimized, and existing impacts should be reduced. | Deviation from a natural/pristine state should be small and limited to restricted impact footprints. Existing impacts should be reduced. | Activities which impact on the intrinsically wild appearance and character of the area should be restricted, and impacts limited to the site of the facility. |
| Quite                | 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; 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. | Biodiversity restoration within the context of heritage resources and recreational use. The zone also acts a buffer and transition area between the Primitive Zone and the adjoining developed areas. | Some deviation from a natural/pristine state is allowed, but care should be taken to restrict the development footprint. Infrastructure, especially paths and viewpoints should be designed to limit the impacts of large numbers of visitors on the biophysical environment | Activities which impact on the relatively natural appearance and character of the area should be restricted, though the presence of larger numbers of visitors and the facilities they require, may impact on the feeling of wilderness found in this zone. |
| Low Intensity Leisure| The underlying characteristic of this zone is motorised self-drive access with basic self-catering facilities. The numbers of visitors are higher than in the Remote and Primitive Zones. Camps are without modern facilities such as shops and restaurants. | 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 self-catering picnic sites; ablution facilities; information/education centres; parking areas. Small to medium self-catering (incl. camping) rest camps with ablution facilities, but not shops or restaurants. Low spec access roads to provide a more wild experience. | Ensure that impacts on the surrounding areas are protected through intensive landscaping, vegetation management and on-going rehabilitation. | 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. | Although it is inevitable that activities and facilities will impact on the wild appearance and reduce the wilderness characteristics of the area, 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. | Ensure visitor activities have a minimal impact on the surrounding natural environment. | 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. | 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, these should be managed and limited to ensure that the area generally still provides a relatively natural outdoor experience appropriate for a national park. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Applicable zones</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Destination</td>
<td>Key tourist and visitor destinations. Seeing and experiencing specific attractions. Short duration visit.</td>
<td>Appropriate facilities to deal with tourists needs e.g. parking, ablutions, interpretation, footpaths.</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Due to pressure of visitors and the sensitive nature of the surrounds, these sites are maintained as destinations of low volumes and short duration. Facilities should not detract from the intrinsic qualities of the area.</td>
<td>Seeberg Lookout, Atlantic View Sight, Posberg Uitkyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>Serves a variety of purposes - recreation, leisure, transit, education, refreshments and accommodation. Varies in scale and purpose according to context</td>
<td>Ablutions, parking, food outlets, accommodation, interpretative centres, education facilities, recreation facilities (picnic &amp; braai). Park facilities.</td>
<td>High Intensity leisure, Low Intensity Leisure, Quiet</td>
<td>Length of stay is longer than for Tourist Destinations and provides for a range of activities and experiences.</td>
<td>Geelbek, Kraalbaai, Mooimaak Homestead, Seeberg Homesteads (Lagoon Side), Kleinmooimaak, Soutpans Homesteads, Abrahamskraal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic / braai</td>
<td>Provides braai and/or picnic facilities only.</td>
<td>Only picnic and braai facilities, tables with seating and ablutions. No other facilities. Limited scale refreshment outlets may be considered</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure, Primitive</td>
<td>Provides for safe and secure family orientated facilities for low intensity leisure activities and longer periods</td>
<td>Preekstoel, Tsaaarsbank, Plankiesbaai,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Entry Point</td>
<td>Points of entry into the Park which can be categorised as: -Pay Points, -Gateways, -Minor Access Points and -Local Access Points</td>
<td>Parking with signage &amp; information. Ablutions</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure, Primitive</td>
<td>Maintained as Park entry points Not suitable to diversify into Mixed Use sites.</td>
<td>Langebaan Yacht Club *, Alabama St Slipway *, Langebaan Gate, N2 Gate, Langefontuin Gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Accommodation</td>
<td>Provides Park accommodation from which adjoining zones can be accessed.</td>
<td>Medium (max. 50? beds) accommodation, preferably self catering for park visitors</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure, Primitive</td>
<td>The accommodation should be appropriate to the surrounding environment.</td>
<td>Duinepos, Bossieskraal, Joanne’s Beach Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site of Special Interest</td>
<td>Provides limited and specialised Park accommodation and viewing of the site</td>
<td>Small &lt; 10 beds, self catering</td>
<td>Primitive</td>
<td>The nature of the should impact negatively on the resource being protected, Access via special permit only</td>
<td>Jutten Island old buildings, Malgas Island old buildings, Marcus Island old buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Utility / Undetermined</td>
<td>Used for Park operations or a future need has not yet been determined</td>
<td>Staff housing, stores, workshops, research accommodation, heritage</td>
<td>Quite, Primitive</td>
<td>Operation impacts and activities should be compatible with the surrounding Park Zonation</td>
<td>Bottlary, Schyvershoek, Mooimeisiesfontein, Gravity Site, Langefontein Homestead, Elandsfontein Homestead, Kalkklooffontein Homestead, Van Niekerkshoop Homestead, Groottefontein Wes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1. Each visitor site can be graded according to the volume of visitors to be catered for: 
   - High Volume > 50 000 visits/annum 
   - Medium Volume >10 000 <50 000 visits/annum 
   - Low Volume <10 000 visits/annum 
2. The table indicates facilities that may be appropriate at different visitor sites. The development of specific sites is subject to detailed planning and following the relevant statutory approval processes. 
3. The CDF provides for linking visitor sites across different use zones as determined through local planning processes and relevant statutory approvals (e.g. EIA and HIA) 
* indicates visitor sites under separate or shared management with SANParks.
2.2 Biodiversity Related Programs

Proper biodiversity management is a core mandate of the Park. The programs listed below outline the key management strategies that have been put in place to move the Park towards achieving its Biodiversity Objective.

The key management strategies over the next 5 years are to:

- Eradicate, control and monitor alien biota through the Alien Plant and Animal Programs;
- Improve knowledge and management of Red Data Book-listed species through the Species of Special Concern Program;
- Increase management of the marine environment through supporting co-management, compliance and monitoring;
- Undertake appropriate fire management through the preparation of management guidelines and implementation of a Fire Management Program;
- Develop and implement guidelines and protocols for species re-introductions and removals through the Species Reintroduction and Translocation Program; and
- Continue with standard conservation management such as conservation infrastructure and operational activities.

2.2.1. Alien Plant and Animal Control and Eradication Program

Invasive alien plants are a key threat to the long-term conservation of biodiversity within the West Coast National Park. Several alien species (e.g. Port Jackson, Rooikrans, gums, etc) within the Park have been categorised as ecosystem transformers that alter the natural dynamics of the ecosystem. These species contribute the greatest threat as well as being a major fire hazard to the area and park infrastructure.

To date 8 plant species (Table 5) have been identified as needing management control including: *Acacia longifolia* - Long leaf wattle; *Acacia cyclops* - Rooikrans; *Eucalyptus spp*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
<th>Common name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Acacia cyclops</em></td>
<td>Rooikrans</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><em>Acacia longifolia</em></td>
<td>Long-leaf wattle</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><em>Acacia saligna</em></td>
<td>Port jackson</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><em>Eucalyptus lehmanii</em></td>
<td>Spider gum</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><em>Eucalyptus grandis</em></td>
<td>Saligna gum</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>Myoporum tenuifolium</em></td>
<td>Manatoka</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><em>Populus x canescens</em></td>
<td>Grey poplar</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><em>Opuntia monacantha</em></td>
<td>Prickly pear</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently, areas infested within the park boundaries as well as on some adjacent private land have been mapped and record on 1:50,000 topographical maps. Mapping details relating to the park areas, size of infestation and quantitative data in terms of densities, etc (housed at the regional Invasive Species Clearing Unit) have been collected. The long-term alien clearing planning takes into account that West Cost National Park is planning to acquire key properties and that park consolidation is an ongoing process with expanding budget implications.
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%. The second area of around 12,300 ha still needs to be brought on line, i.e. no clearing has taken place to date. These include the 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%.

The Alien Plant Clearing Programme 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 species, infestation type, density, rotational period, person day allocation per hectare, 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.

Currently the extent and effects of invasive alien animals within the Park is less known. The alien Mediterranean mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* has a widespread distribution in the Saldanha Bay - Langebaan Lagoon system where suitable rocky-shore habitat occurred, 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).

The European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* was introduced in the 17th Century in South Africa and across the worlds islands (Flux and Fullagar 2008). In the WCNP, the rabbits have been recorded at Malgas, Jutten and Marcus Islands (Saldanha Bay) and Meeuw and Schaapen Islands (Langebaan Lagoon).

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

### 2.2.2. Species of Special Concern Program

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. The Species of Special Concern Program aims 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 ‘Seed Banking’ of genetic material, 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 programs such as SANBI’s Red Data Listing Program.
2.2.3 Marine Environment and Marine Protected Area Management

Management of the marine environment (including the off-shore islands) and the Marine Protected Area’s (MPA’s) is focused on 4 main areas of management. The largest portion of this program is enforcement of the Marine Living Resource Act (Act 18 of 1998) though regular patrols and well as special operations in conjunction with Marine and Coastal Management (MCM).

The second is management and co-ordination of monitoring of key marine species e.g. island birds, waders, marine resource use and fish surveys. This data is fed back to both Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) and other external scientists who determine the population status of the species and the implication for park management.

The third is the management of recreations activities within the lagoon such as boating permits, sporting events and safety at sea. Lastly, through the Working for the Coast program, community involvement and awareness of the marine environment.

2.2.4 Fire Management Program

As the park contains both fire dependant (e.g. fynbos) and fire sensitive vegetation types (e.g Standveld). Given the profound effect that fire has on the ecosystems within the Park, special attention will be given to the implementation of a suitable fire regimes and program that maintains biodiversity without negatively affecting life and property as well as complying to national legislation.

To determine and implement a ‘natural’ fire system within the Park, a collation and analysis of historic fire 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 Plan can be developed in conjunction with the Fire Protection Agency (FPA) that considers amongst others, a legislative framework, fire prevention, fire protection, fire suppression, pre-scribed burning, post-fire recovery and appropriate fire indicators within in context of a regional fire management regime. Implementation of the Fire Management Plan will depend upon expanding inter-agency (Local and District Municipalities, Provincial Conservation Agencies, Working on Fire, The West Coast Biosphere Reserve) agreements, the securing of the necessary infrastructure and equipment for fire management and developing staff capacity for wildfire management.

2.2.5 Species Re-introduction and Translocation Program

Large numbers of extra-limital herbivores occur within the Postberg contractual area, some of which have already spread to the remainder of the Park. These animals may compromise natural biodiversity and ecosystem functioning as a result of competitive exclusion and associated effects. As such, further spread of extra-limital species from Postberg to remaining areas of the Park would be unacceptable, and removal of these species from the entire park (including Postberg) needs to be considered. The purpose of the herbivore management and reintroduction plan is to strive towards an herbivore complement indigenous to the strandveld and sandplain fynbos.
vegetation, while ensuring that these herbivores do not adversely or irreversibly alter the biodiversity of these vegetation types. Consideration should also be given to the tourism potential of a species as the current mix of herbivores is one of the prime tourism feature of the Park. On the eastern side of the Park, adequate fencing is required before herbivore introductions can achieved.

2.3 Cultural Heritage Related Programs

The cultural heritage program for the next 5 years focuses on 2 key areas of work:

- The Heritage Research and Mapping Program seeks to undertake the on-going site surveys and recording of new sites which will inform the formation of a Heritage Conservation Management Plan. This plan will identify sites that require restoration or rehabilitation based on priorities. The plan will further identify heritage sites, themes and areas that require formal research.
- The integration of the Parks cultural heritage into the tourism offerings for the Park through the Heritage Site Management Plans

2.3.1. Heritage Mapping, Research and Planning

As protected areas were readily seen as a means to protect only the natural environment, relatively little attention has been given to cultural resources in many of these areas, especially in terms of direct management activities such as inventorying, physical conservation, tourism development and indirect activities such as financing heritage resource management, creating staff awareness, integrated planning for heritage resource management and involving interested and affected parties to help curate cultural resources. To address this, the Park requires a Heritage Conservation Management Plan. This plan will be based on inventorying and mapping of tangible and intangible heritage associated with the Park and determining the significance thereof. The heritage plan will identify the priority sites that require restoration or rehabilitation as well as gaps information that require further research.

2.3.2. Heritage Integration Program

West Coast National Park offers fantastic range of natural, historical and cultural history. Key to its sustainable management is the integration of heritage management into the Parks tourism products. The approach to achieving this is as follows:

- The development and maintenance of historical sites;
- the development and management of historic buildings and associated features as part of cultural tourism product for the Park;
- The interpretation of key sites; and
- Support and promote the unique cultural skills that are found in the Region.

2.4 Tourism Management Related Programs

Two key tourism feature of the West Coast National Park is 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 5 years is to unlock the tourism potential of the Langebaan Hotel Site and the establishment of a Rest Camp within the Park. The long-term strategic plan calls for a move away form
the seasonal spikes in tourism numbers (Spring for flowers, summer of lagoon) to offer more sustainable year round attractions.

2.4.1 Infrastructure Development Program

The tourism potential of the Park is under developed. The two key tourism features of the Park is the Langebaan Lagoon and the spring wild flowers in certain areas of the Park. In order to enhance the visitor experience of these tourism features, appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and facilities need to be provided.

The Park will embark on the development of a commercial tourism centre on the old Langebaan Hotel site through a Public Private Partnership (PPP). Although further detailed precinct planning is required the current view is for a Nature-based commercial centre, Park Head Office and Park Gateway.

A shortage of Park accommodation within the Park as been identified as and important tourism gap. Currently an EIA process is underway to establish a rest camp at Kraalbaai.

There are a number of unused historical homesteads and farm out buildings that are currently falling into disrepair. In order to preserve their utility for the future an appropriate use needs to 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 programs (Table 6).

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 it is 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitor Sites &amp; Infrastructure</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Proposed Role</th>
<th>Use Zone</th>
<th>Proposed Main Activity (by 2020)</th>
<th>Recommended Park Management Action</th>
<th>Approx Budget (R'000)</th>
<th>Date Complete</th>
<th>* Process Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park High Volume Sites</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Head Office</td>
<td>Park HO</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>HIL</td>
<td>Park Head Office, Commercial Centre, Park Entry Point, Visitor Information</td>
<td>Release PPP and undertake Precinct &amp; Site Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelbek</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>HIL</td>
<td>Sightseeing, Visitor Information, Restaurant, Curio sales, Conference Venue, Environmental Education</td>
<td>Undertake Precinct Planning to determine additional future uses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EIA, HIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate Langebaan</td>
<td>Park Entry</td>
<td>Park Entry</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Day Visitor Site, Park Accommodation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete EIA and Implement. Resolve illegal houseboats</td>
<td>EIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kraalbaai</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preekstoel</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Day Visitor Site,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park Medium Volume Sites</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langebaan Yacht Club</td>
<td>Park Entry</td>
<td>Park Entry</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Transit, Slipway management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama St Slipway</td>
<td>Park Entry</td>
<td>Park Entry</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Transit, Slipway management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duinepos</td>
<td>Park Accom.</td>
<td>Park Accom.</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Park Accommodation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooimaak Homestead</td>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Environmental Interpretation, Visitor Information, Park Accommodation, Sight seeing</td>
<td>Undertake Precinct &amp; Site Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EIA, HIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plankiesbaai</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Day Visitor Site</td>
<td>Undertake Precinct &amp; Site Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeberg (Lagoon Side)</td>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>Quite</td>
<td>Sight seeing, Parking, Park Accommodation</td>
<td>Undertake Precinct &amp; Site Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EIA, HIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kleinhoiimak</td>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>Quite</td>
<td>Day Visitor Site, Park Accommodation</td>
<td>Undertake Precinct &amp; Site Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EIA, HIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soutpan Homestead</td>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>Primitive</td>
<td>Park Accommodation, Conference Facility</td>
<td>Undertake Precinct &amp; Site Planning, Put in place a holding tenant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EIA, HIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsasrankbank</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>Picnic Site</td>
<td>Primitive</td>
<td>Day Visitor Site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park Low Volume Sites</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abrahamskraal (all buildings)</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Park Accommodation, Sight Seeing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeberg Lookout</td>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Sight Seeing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic View</td>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Sight Seeing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posberg Uitkyk</td>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>LIL</td>
<td>Sight Seeing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salipetersvlei</td>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>Park Utility</td>
<td>Quite</td>
<td>Park Utility, Ranger Post</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottelary</td>
<td>Unused</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
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<td>Visitor Sites &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>Current Status</td>
<td>Proposed Role</td>
<td>Use Zone</td>
<td>Proposed Main Activity (by 2020)</td>
<td>Recommended Park Management Action</td>
<td>Approx Budget (R'000)</td>
<td>Date Complete</td>
<td>* Process Required</td>
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<td>Park Accommodation</td>
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<td>Ranger Post, Research</td>
<td>EIA, HIA</td>
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<td>Grootefontein Wes Homesteads Park Utility</td>
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<td>Ranger Post</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Required Process: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA); Basic Assessment (BA)
2.4.2 Current Nature-based Tourism Products
The Park currently offers the following range of tourism features. The 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 6-bed (4 Star grading) self-catering unit at the Abrahamskraal waterhole which has recently been upgraded, Joanne’s Beach Farmhouse, A 6-bed self-catering unit (3 Star grading); the concessionaire managed 44 bed Duinepos and the House Boats based at Kraalbaai.

The historical Geelbek homestead is successfully managed as a restaurant and curio shop. The joining outbuilding is used as a Park information centre. There is limited hiking and mountain biking network in the Park. Postberg contractual area is open for wild flower viewing in the spring months.

Kraalbaai and Preekstoel are popular day visitor sites during summer and public holidays drawing crowds from the communities surrounding the Park.

2.4.3 Marketing Program
As the range of tourism products expands so will the accompanying effort to market the Park and its products. The strategy currently is to ensure integration with SANParks regional cluster marketing to capitalise on existing visitors to Cape Town as well as maintain the well established relations with local, regional and provincial tourism authorities.

2.5 Conservation Constituency Building Related Programs
Given the inclusive approach to conservation management, the People and Conservation department was established to build constituencies among people in support of the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage assets within SANParks. 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 5 years includes:
- proactively engage a wide range of Park stakeholders on relevant issues;
- maintain an active Park Forum that guides the strategic direction of the Park;
- undertake targeted Local Economic Development projects which encompasses support for Local SMME’s, the outsourcing of commercial facilities through Public Private Partnerships and the development of sustainable natural resource products;
- continually improve the Environmental Education and Park Awareness Programs; and
- Develop and support the Park volunteers such as the Honorary Rangers and volunteer associations (e.g. Global Vision International).
2.5.1. Stakeholder Relationship Management
The Park aims to enhance its management through adopting a sound management ethic and actively promoting healthy community custodianship of the Park. 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 Government, local and district municipalities, conservation entities, business partners, communities, various Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisations, local farmers and fishermen, the media, 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.

2.5.2. Local Economic Development
Community empowerment, upliftment and poverty alleviation are central to the Park’s overall objectives, with special emphasis placed on providing local communities with new choices and opportunities. It is envisaged that through the establishment and development of the Park, the associated projects and management activities will provide an important contribution to poverty alleviation efforts in local communities.

The Local Economic Development has four key areas. The first is to ensure direct employment benefits through the participation of Government’s poverty alleviation programs such as the Working for Water alien vegetation clearing program, Working on Wetlands rehabilitation program, Working for the Coast rehabilitation program and the DEA Extended Public Works infrastructure development program. The economic motivation for undertaking the employment of previously unemployed persons is that they will stimulate new business within their respective communities.

The second is the support of new and established SMME’s and BBBEE entities through the outsourcing of contract opportunities associated with Park management activities such as, cleaning services, infrastructure maintenance, footpath maintenance, fire management, etc. Thirdly, the realisation of a rational approach for exploitation of natural resources (e.g. wood lots and marine resources) from the Park in order to develop rural livelihoods in areas where poverty is widespread. Fourthly, through the development of appropriate Public Private Partnerships for the management of designated tourism facilities and activities within the Park.

2.5.3. Environmental Education and Park Awareness
The greater part of the work conducted by the People and Conservation department is directly or indirectly related to environmental interpretation and education and focuses on the various park user groups and local communities. This involves developing an understanding of the environment, and developing values and skills that will help learners to contribute to the protection and improvement of the environment. The program includes talks, shows and educational excursions is based at Geelbek which old stables have been converted into 72 beds, kitchen and ablutions. Three cottages with 12 beds are managed as part of the school group facilities.
The Environmental education program includes a variety of trails at Geelbek and Postberg, and excursions highlighting marine, botanical, dune ecology, cultural, bird and saltmarshes and canoeing and camping experiences. A Kids in Parks programme is run to provide school goers the opportunity to visit and experience park supported by three partners (DEA, Pick ‘n Pay and the Department of Education (DoE). In addition to increasing access to national parks for kids, the programme also seeks to give them the opportunity to experience and interact with the wonder of our natural and cultural heritage and to explore the importance of conservation. Other programs include Morula Kids and calendar day celebrations, while the park also provides a traditional Open Day annually when communities are encouraged to visit the park for free. In addition, visitor programs, teacher support and development, environmental education networks and youth development programs such as the Junior Honorary Rangers Program are provided.

2.5.4. Volunteer Program
The Park has an active volunteer base co-ordinated through the Park’s Honorary Rangers. 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.

2.6 Programs enabling Effective Park Management
Effective park management programs are those geared to ensuring that the values and objectives of the park are maintained. These programs put in place the systems and processes that enable proactive management of the Park’s objectives. Currently there are four broad programs, Corporative Governance, Research Monitoring and Evaluation, Information Management and Institutional Capacity and Development programs.

2.6.1. Corporative Governance
The principles to what constitutes good corporate governance were outlined in the King II Report. SANParks has adopted these principles and aims to implement these alongside other relevant legalisation governing the management of public assets. To realise this, the Park will focus on the following 5 management areas:
- undertake an inclusive approach to strategy development of the Park through the Park Forum (see 2.4.1);
- proactively manage business risk, through an Environmental Management System to ensure business continuity through assessment and prioritisation of risks;
- ensure that Park Management Planning is in place for all programs;
- carry out legal compliance internal auditing programs on key business functions; and
- ensure pertinent Financial Management

Risk Management
Fundamental to good corporate governance is effective Risk Management, which has become a focus area in all corporate governance frameworks and public sector specific legislation (in terms of the Public Finance Management Act). The Park adopts the approach that Risk Management is about proactively identifying and understanding the factors and events that may impact the achievement of strategic management objectives, then managing, monitoring and reporting these risks. As such, the Park has developed a risk profile based on a risk likelihood, probability and impact rating.

The management of risk is done through the Park's Environmental Management System (EMS) that puts in place the actions required to manage the identified risk profile. The EMS also includes aspects of park management that are not issues at present, but could be come issues in the future. In effect, all internal and external threats and pressures to the park, e.g. Disaster Management Responses (oil spills), Visitor Safety and Security, Wildlife Disease Management (e.g. Tuberculosis), etc. are managed through the description of Standard Operational Procedures (SOP’s).

Park Management Planning
The Park has developed (e.g. Park Management Plan, Conservation Development Framework, Park Consolidation Plan) and will develop (e.g. Fire Management Plan, Resources Use Plan, Marine Protected Area Management Plan) a number of strategic Park Planning documents that need to be updated regularly to ensure that they adequately address the changing needs of the Park.

Legal Compliance
With the replacement of the National Parks Act (Act 57 of 1976) with the National Environmental Management Act : Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003 there has been fundamental changes to the overarching legal framework that governs the management of national parks. In addition there has been major advancements in other legal frameworks, including financial management, heritage management, occupational health and safety, wildfire management, etc. As such SANParks has put in place a Legislative Committee that reviews legislative changes in legislation and oversees park compliance with these changes.

Financial Management
Without incisive financial management of the Park, there can be no realistic conservation effort. For the next 5 years 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 the Park to move towards being financially sustainable.

2.6.2. Park Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
Management of the West Coast National Park requires that the appropriate data and information is collected, maintained and made readily accessible to staff responsible for all aspects of management. Such data is not only essential for formulating effective long-term management objectives, plans,
programmes 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, 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.).

2.6.3. Park Information Management

The management and dissemination of information plays a significant role in ensuring the efficient management of the Park. As such the Park requires integration with SANParks national information systems, i.e. financial, human resources and reservations while acting as a source of spatial and research information for both SANParks and research institutions. In order to keep the information in SANParks databases current, pertinent information systems and management support needs to be set-up for the Park. The information management program will draw on previous database developments from within SANParks as well as newly developed ones such as BIO-GiS from SANBI.

2.6.4. Institutional Capacity & Development Program

The Park currently has 24 staff on its permanent establishment. As outlined in this Park Management Plan, there will be additional management functions of tourism management and marine management that will need to be staffed. As such, the staff establishment is expected to grow with the addition of tourism facilities (e.g. Kraalbaai rest camp). (Figure 3).

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

3. STRATEGIC ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DESIRED STATE

3.1 Monitoring of Strategic Delivery

Section 43 of the Protected Areas Act requires the Park Management Plans to include a means of monitoring performance of a Park in accordance with a set of measures and indicators. SANParks uses the Balanced Scorecard (Kaplan and Norton 1992) for business objectives-setting and performance
management of national parks. The scorecard comprises high-level objectives (Table 7), measures and targets. These are grouped into four operational quadrants, namely mandate & financial; customer; internal and learning and growth. Although the targets will change as the operational circumstances shift, the high level measures for the management objectives should be constant for the management period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Objective</th>
<th>Strategic Measure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core Park Objectives</td>
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<td>Biodiversity Management</td>
<td>State of Biodiversity as per SANParks State of Biodiversity Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heritage Management</td>
<td>State of Heritage as per SANParks State of Heritage Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Management</td>
<td>% Occupancy level</td>
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<td>% increase in total number of visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>People Constituency Building</td>
<td>Number of person-days on temporary jobs created</td>
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<td></td>
<td>% Rand Value of Procurement from SMME Suppliers and Service Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Community-based socio-economic initiatives implemented</td>
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<td>Effective Park Management</td>
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<td>Park Consolidation</td>
<td>% Progress against the Parks Consolidation Program</td>
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<td>Corporate Governance</td>
<td>Park Forum in Place</td>
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<td>Reduction in Risk Profile</td>
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<td>State of Area Integrity Management</td>
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<td>Financial Sustainability</td>
<td>% Budget Variance</td>
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<td>Income to Cost Ratio</td>
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<td>% Increase in revenue</td>
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<td>Institutional Development</td>
<td>Percentage of approved Fixed Term and Permanent Establishment posts filed</td>
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<td>The % of Park Training budget Spent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>% Progress against implementation of Park’s Science Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The percentage of research reports received from researchers</td>
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3.2 Adaptive Management Reviews

The Parks objectives are reviewed through the process of Strategic Adaptive Management (SAM) which is SANParks’ preferred management approach to managing complex and dynamic socio-ecological systems. Adaptive management is based on a circular – rather than a linear – management process, which allows information concerning the past to feed back into and improve the way management is conducted in future. This approach helps management to adapt and improve through a learning process. SANParks has identified 8 feedback loops that need to be in place in order for the parks objectives being realistic in achieving the parks desired state. These feedback loops are:

- Feedback that the management action, as decided upon and specified, is carried out;
- Feedback whenever a TPC (specifying the endpoints of any biodiversity objective) or other management target is violated, or is credibly predicted to be violated in the future;
- Feedback that the predicted outcome of a management intervention, in response to the exceedance of a TPC or management target, is achieved, or what materialised instead in its place;
- Feedback as to whether the monitoring programme and list of TPC’s and management targets is parsimonious and effective;
• Feedback as to whether overall park objectives need adjustment in the longer-term
• Feedback regarding, or at least latent preparation for, surprises;
• Feedback to SANParks Head Office of the overall performance of the park relative to its stated objectives; and
• Feedback as to whether organizational or societal acceptance of the consequence of an intervention is, as agreed on previously, still acceptable;

When embarking on annual and 5-yearly management reviews, the underlying management condition (Figure 4) which can be grouped into three large “themes” of management: design (context and planning), appropriateness/adequacy (inputs and processes) and delivery (outputs and outcomes).

![Figure 4: Framework for reviewing park management effectiveness](image)

Figure 4: Framework for reviewing park management effectiveness