

iSimangaliso

Wetland Park

KOSI BAY COASTAL FOREST LAKE SIBAYA SODWANA BAY UMKHUZE FALSE BAY CHARTERS CREEK LAKE ST LUCIA CAPE VIDAL MAPHELANE

REGIONAL BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY FORUM

16 & 17 MARCH 2026

EXECUTIVE MANAGER TOURISM & MARKETING: MR JABULANI NGUBANE

ORIGIN OF THE NAME ISIMANGALISO

2

130 Years of Formal Conservation (since 1895)



“The Wetland Park must be the only place on the globe where the world’s oldest land mammal (the rhinoceros) and the world’s biggest terrestrial mammal (the elephant) share an ecosystem with the world’s oldest fish (the coelacanth) and the world’s biggest marine mammal (the whale).”

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONING IN KZN



- Has specific responsibilities under the UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention
- These responsibilities focus on protecting the sites **Outstanding Universal Value** (OUV) the qualities that make it globally significant
- The primary obligation is to maintain and protect the attributes that justified inscription of the Park on the World Heritage List in 1999
- **Criterion** (vii): Exceptional natural beauty
- **Criterion** (ix): Ecological and biological processes
- **Criterion** (x): Biodiversity and conservation of species
- iSimangaliso must ensure these values are **not** degraded by development, pollution or mismanagement

- Periodic Reporting to UNESCO
 - a) Conservation status of the site
 - b) Management effectiveness
 - c) Threats to the OUV



**Restoration
Employed 1588**



FOUR RAMSAR SITES IN ISIMANGALISO

Lake Sibaya

Lake St Lucia system

The Turtle beaches and

Coral Reefs of Tongaland

Wetland Rehabilitation: Western Shores

- old forestry road impeding wetland functioning in the uMphathe catchment



iSimangaliso
Wetland Park



Rehabilitation
of nearby
quarry pit
(infilling)



Hydrology being
restored...



Municipalities

Districts

- (i) King Cetshwayo
- (ii) uMkhanyakude

Local Municipalities

- (i) uMhlabuyalingana
- (ii) Jozini
- (iii) Big Five False Bay
- (iv) Mtubatuba
- (v) Umfolozi

12 X Traditional Authorities

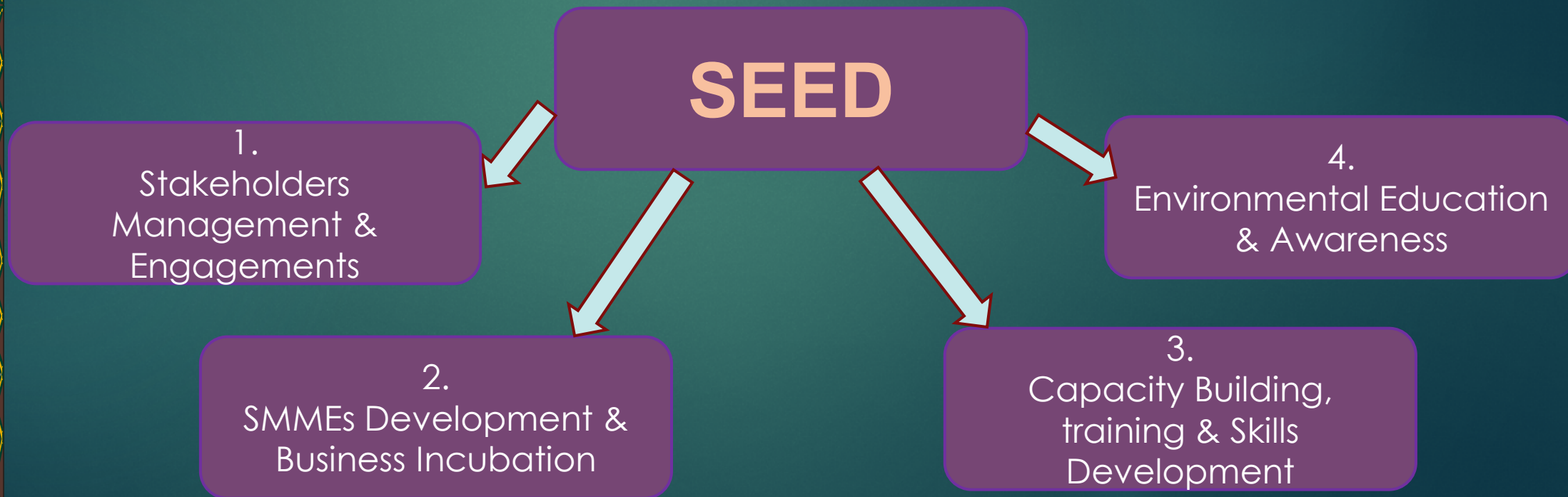
- (i) Tembe
- (ii) Mabaso
- (iii) Mbila
- (iv) Jobe
- (v) Nside
- (vi) Ngwenya
- (vii) Mnqobokazi
- (viii) Makhasa
- (ix) Nibela
- (x) eMdletsheni
- (xi) Mpukunyoni
- (xii) Sokhulu



ISIMANGALISO DEDICATES A UNIT TO DEAL WITH COMMUNITY MATTERS

Socio-Economic, Environment & Development (SEED)

The **purpose** of the division is to facilitate the development and implementation of **socio-economic** programmes for the **benefit** of local communities.



ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY BENEFICIATION

(FIGURES OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS)

	ITEM Programme Description	#of Beneficiaries
1	Higher Education Support Program	412
2	Skills development (Training)	12 460
3	Free park Access (excludes festive)	482 503
4	Revenue Sharing (Rands)	10 000 000
5	School visits	420
6	SMMEs support	500

PRODUCT OFFERING

11

- ▶ Bird watching
- ▶ Deep Sea Charter Fishing
- ▶ Estuary and lake boat cruises
- ▶ Game drives
- ▶ Trails and Guided walks
- ▶ Horse Riding
- ▶ Kayaking
- ▶ Scuba Diving
- ▶ Turtle Tours
- ▶ Whale Watching
- ▶ Diverse Accommodation Assets



CAPE VIDAL RESORT

Description

- Situated on the eastern shores section of the park in the big game and the beach destination.
- Cape Vidal is an upmarket and mid-market lodge, camping, family orientated, resort type of establishment with lodges, chalets and campsites.

Project Status

- Feasibility studies completed

Investment Requirements/Structure

- There is an opportunity to upgrade, refurbish, expand and rationalise the existing facilities. Build a restaurant.
- Activities on offer include game drives, snorkeling, fishing, birding, turtle watching and scuba diving.

Partnerships

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Local Municipalities and District Municipalities etc.



Private Party Minimum
Investment

**R202
Million**



WHALE WATCHING IN ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK

13





**NGIYABONGA
NDIYABULELA
KEA LEBOHA
DANKIE
THANK YOU!**

KwaZulu-Natal has it all
BELIEVE IT

