Management Plan

Skeleton Coast National Park

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Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Environment and Tourism

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Cover Photo:

FOREWORD

National parks are a vital tool for conserving Namibia's essential biodiversity. By managing parks, their irreplaceable assets and unlimited potential will be conserved for future generations. In addition, every year Namibia's National Parks draw large numbers of tourists, generating employment and stimulating development nationwide. National Parks also provide unique opportunities to benefit local communities through rural development while providing research, education and recreation opportunities.

One of the protected areas in Namibia is the Skeleton Coast National Park. The name Skeleton Coast suggests a dramatic history and difficult conditions for human survival. These qualities make the park an attractive destination for eco-tourists. Similarly, its fine angling reputation attracts large numbers of fishermen from southern Africa and elsewhere. Altogether it is an area of international significance, set within a larger transboundary landscape that covers the length of the Namib Desert.

This management plan sets out the objectives and guidelines for the management and development of the Skeleton Coast National Park. As such, it represents the policies and intentions of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) on how the park should be managed.

Park neighbours, traditional authorities, line Ministries, Regional Councils, conservancies, private sector, tourists, contractors, organizations, institutions, parastatals, researchers, professional hunters, and any entity or individuals dealing with the park, in any way, must ensure that actions and decisions relating to this park are in accordance with the park management plan. In addition, specific rules and regulations in accordance with the applicable legislation will apply.

Shorter-term operational plans or work plans will be developed in accordance with the activities provided in the park management plan. These will identify specific or annual prioritized actions, which need to be performed to address the priorities specified in the park management plan.

The park management plan must be viewed as a valuable and central document by all management and policy level staff involved with a specific park. They should be familiar with its contents, and must make use of it to familiarize new staff with the aims, objectives, management principles and strategies for the park.

It is every staff member's (involved with Skeleton Coast National Park) responsibility to ensure that the park management plan is implemented accordingly.

Uahekua Herunga, MP
MINISTER

PREFACE

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) aims to manage, rehabilitate and sustainably develop the land and natural resources of the Skeleton Coast National Park as a globally significant protected area. Activities in the park will be appropriate to achieving a balance between protection, recreation and sustainable business development around the main coastal sites and inland desert landscapes. The activities will also ensure that the Skeleton Coast's assets are passed on to future generations in productive, diverse, aesthetically attractive and healthy condition, on an economically sound footing and as part of a larger landscape that contributes significantly to the sustainable development of the region and the nation.

The management plan for Skeleton Coast National Park was developed through a consultative process involving the management of the MET, local communities and other stakeholders. The plan has been designed and structured to be priority focused and action oriented, to facilitate implementation and the achievement of outputs and outcomes.

The plan gives a brief background of the Park, including its purpose and objectives, and placing it in a regional setting, before focusing on park management aspects. Chapter 2 focuses on the management of natural resources in the Park while Chapter 3 addresses aspects of regional conservation, park neighbours and resident relations. The zonation of the Park is detailed in Chapter 4. The management of prospecting and mining, and tourism development are covered in Chapters 5 and 6, respectively. Detailed management considerations for infrastructure are included in Chapter 7, while chapter 8 covers aspects of administration and management.

The plan is designed around a uniform structure for easy reference and use and should be used in conjunction with park legislation and regulations. The plan therefore articulates, at the strategic level, the 'What' must be done; with a brief description of the 'Why' these actions must be implemented to attain the specified objectives. It is imperative to operationalize these actions in a clear and detailed annual work plan.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism would like to thank all its staff members, partners and stakeholders who participated in developing this management plan, specifically the NACOMA Project that facilitated the compilation of the plan.

Simeon N. Negumbo
Permanent Secretary

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCLME – Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CA – Central Area
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
CF – Consultative Forum
DEA – Directorate of Environmental Affairs (in MET)
DPW – Directorate of Parks and Wildlife (in MET)
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP – Environmental Management Plan
HQ - Headquarters
HW – Honorary warden
IBA – Important Bird Area
IPA – Important Bird Area
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA – Key Biodiversity Area
LA – Local Authority
MDP – Management and Development Plan
MET – Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MFMR – Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
NAMETT – Namibian Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
NAMPORT – Namibian Port Authority
NAMPOL – Namibian Police
NatMIRC – National Marine Information and Research Centre
NGO – Non Governmental Organization
ORV – Off-road Vehicle
PCF – Park Consultative Forum
TORs – Terms of Reference
SCNP – Skeleton Coast National Park
SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment
SF – Strategic Forum

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Context of Namibia's Coastal Parks

The Coastal Parks of Namibia stretch along the entire Namibian coastline, a distance of about 1,570 km, from the Orange River in the south to the Kunene River in the north (Figure 1). The Coastal Parks comprises four main Protected Areas: the Tsau /Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park in the south, the Namib-Naukluft Park, Dorob National Park and the Skeleton Coast National Park. At its narrowest point in the Skeleton Coast, the Park extends about 25 km inland, while at its widest in the Naukluft area it extends inland about 180 km to the top of the escarpment. Namibia is the only continental country in the world that has its entire coastline protected as a national park.

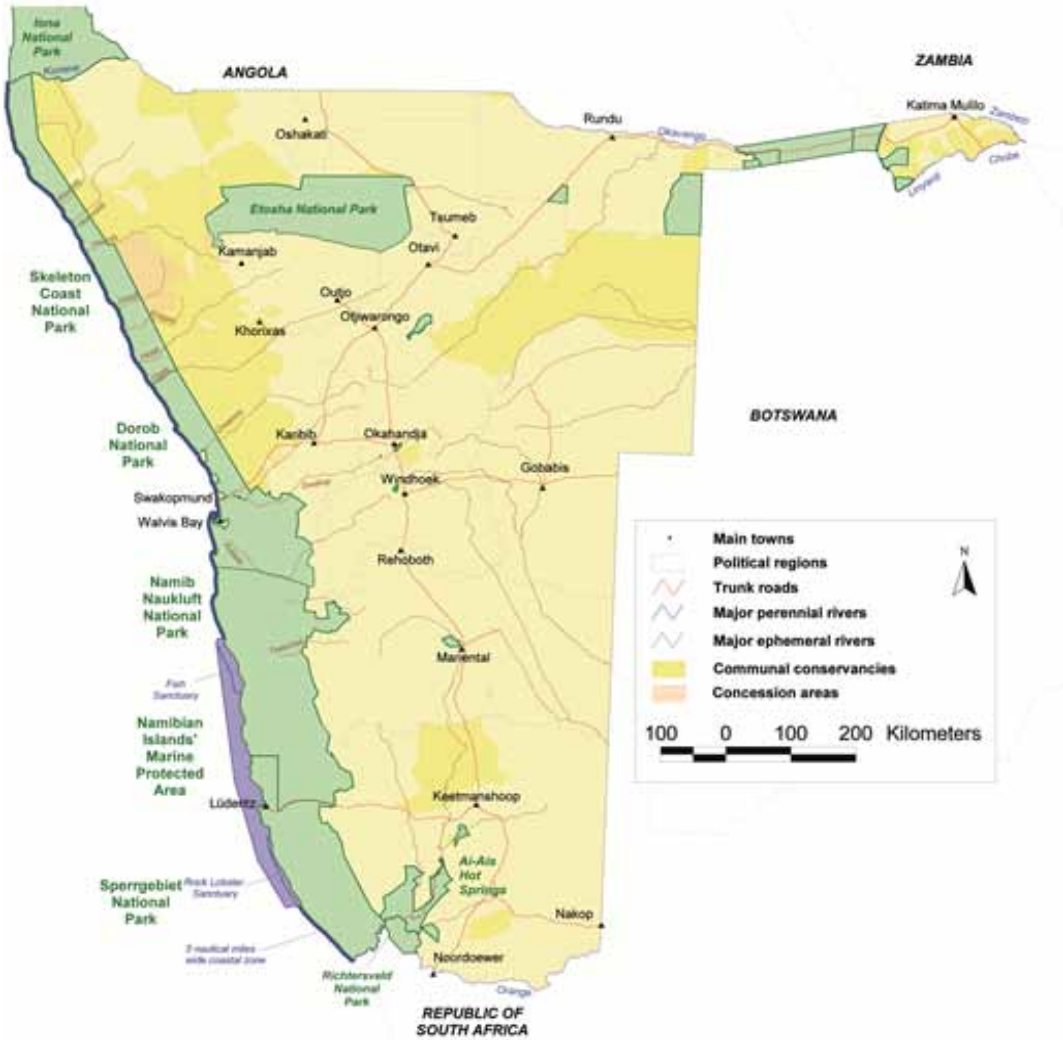


Figure 1: Protected Areas of Namibia including the four Coastal Parks, the proposed Marine Protected Area and the contiguous areas of land under different forms of conservation (e.g. National Parks in Angola, Namibia and South Africa, communal Conservancies and wildlife & tourism Concessions).

However, the Coastal Parks do not exist in isolation. In the south across the Orange River the Tsau /Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park borders on the Richtersveld in South Africa, which comprises a protected area of about 160,000 ha within a multiple use buffer zone of about 398,425 ha. This whole area forms the Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) under a formal cooperative Agreement between the Governments of Namibia and South Africa.

To the north across the Kunene River the Skeleton Coast National Park joins the Iona National Park in Angola, which covers about 585,000 ha. The Governments of Namibia and Angola have signed an Agreement to promote transfrontier cooperation between these parks.

In Namibia the Coastal Parks are adjoining with a large number of protected areas, concession areas, conservancies and private land managed for conservation. These are shown in Table 2. Most notable amongst these are the following:

- Coastal and Marine Protected Area off the Tsau /Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) and Namib-Naukluft areas, running for 400 km up the coast and about 30 km wide, covering an area of 1.2 million ha and containing all of Namibia's islands;
- Ai-Ais/Fish River Canyon National Park which in turn borders on private protected areas;
- Contiguous with 20 communal conservancies and three wildlife and tourism concession areas, and via them linked to the Etosha National Park (2.29 million ha) and thence to further communal and private conservation areas;
- Borders on at least 2 million ha of freehold conservancies and private protected areas.

Table 2: Contiguous conservation areas with Namibia's Coastal Parks

Country	Name / Tenure	Area (ha)
South Africa	Richtersveld and buffer area / communal (RSA Parks)	558,425
Angola	Iona National Park / state	585,000
Namibia	Communal conservancies	6,235,500
	Wildlife & tourism Concessions	800,000
	Freehold conservancies and private protected areas	2,050,000
	State Parks (Ministry of Environment & Tourism)	2,651,200
	Marine Protected Area (Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources	1,200,000
TOTAL		**14,080,125**

Note that the extent of land under conservation, particularly private land, is constantly changing (increasing) and that, because there is no registration mechanism for private protected areas and game farms, this figure represents an absolute minimum area.

In total the Coastal Parks border onto over 14 million ha of land that is managed primarily for wildlife, biodiversity, conservation and tourism. Together with the parks, this represents a contiguous area of almost 25 million ha. One of the greatest challenges with potentially the greatest rewards is to

develop effective, constructive and efficient co-management mechanisms across these land- and seascapes to optimize both the environmental (including biodiversity) and socio-economic values, while at the same time using these open systems to (a) allow the historic movement and migration patterns of wildlife in response to the highly variable climatic conditions to become re-established, (b) mitigate and buffer the impacts of climate change and thereby make the area more resilient to change, and (c) create incentives for neighbouring land owners and custodians to become part of this conservation landscape, thereby further strengthening the area's contributions to socio-economic development and environmental conservation.

The proclamation of this protected area represents one of Namibia's greatest conservation achievements since gaining Independence in 1990, and one of the most exciting developments in the history of conservation in this country.

1.2 Geographic features of the Namib Naukluft Park

1.2.1 Climate

Skeleton Coast National Park occupies some of the most arid lands in Africa south of the Sahara. The whole park falls below the 100 mm median annual rainfall isohyet and much of it below the 50 mm isohyet. In addition to the extremely low annual rainfall it is also hugely variable with an annual coefficient of variation ranging typically from 80% to over 100%. With its high evaporation rates and low rainfall, SCNP experiences an average water deficit of about 2 m per year. Rain falls mainly from January to March.

The climate of the Namib Desert is influenced mainly by the cold Benguela Current and the South Atlantic Anticyclone. Temperatures are generally moderate (average minimum and maximum temperatures during the coldest and hottest months respectively reflecting a range of about 7-32oC), fog is frequent (about 125 days per year on the coast dropping to about 40 days per year 80 km inland) and wind is a dominant feature. These winds are mainly from the south and drive the Benguela Current northwards, carry sand from the shore onto the adjacent land, and cause upwellings along the coast which bring nutrient-rich waters to the surface.

It is important to understand why the Namib is a desert. First, the cold waters of the Benguela Current cool the air so much that it cannot rise up and develop into large rain-bearing clouds. The sea air remains trapped in a layer from the sea to about 600 m above sea level. Moisture from the sea is seen only as low clouds and fog. Second, moist tropical air from the east and north has usually shed its moisture before reaching the Namib coastal areas. And even when rain-bearing clouds do approach, they are usually blocked by breezes from the sea which blow inland for some distance, often to the escarpment. And finally, any moist tropical air blowing towards the desert descends over the escarpment, warming and drying out as it sinks down. These factors all combine to make rainfall an unusual event in the Skeleton Coast.

1.2.2 Biomes

The SCNP covers the coastal biome and three terrestrial biomes, namely the hyper-arid Namib Desert and a small part of the Nama Karoo in the east. These biomes contain a number of different vegetation types and an even greater number of habitats, described in Section 2.1.

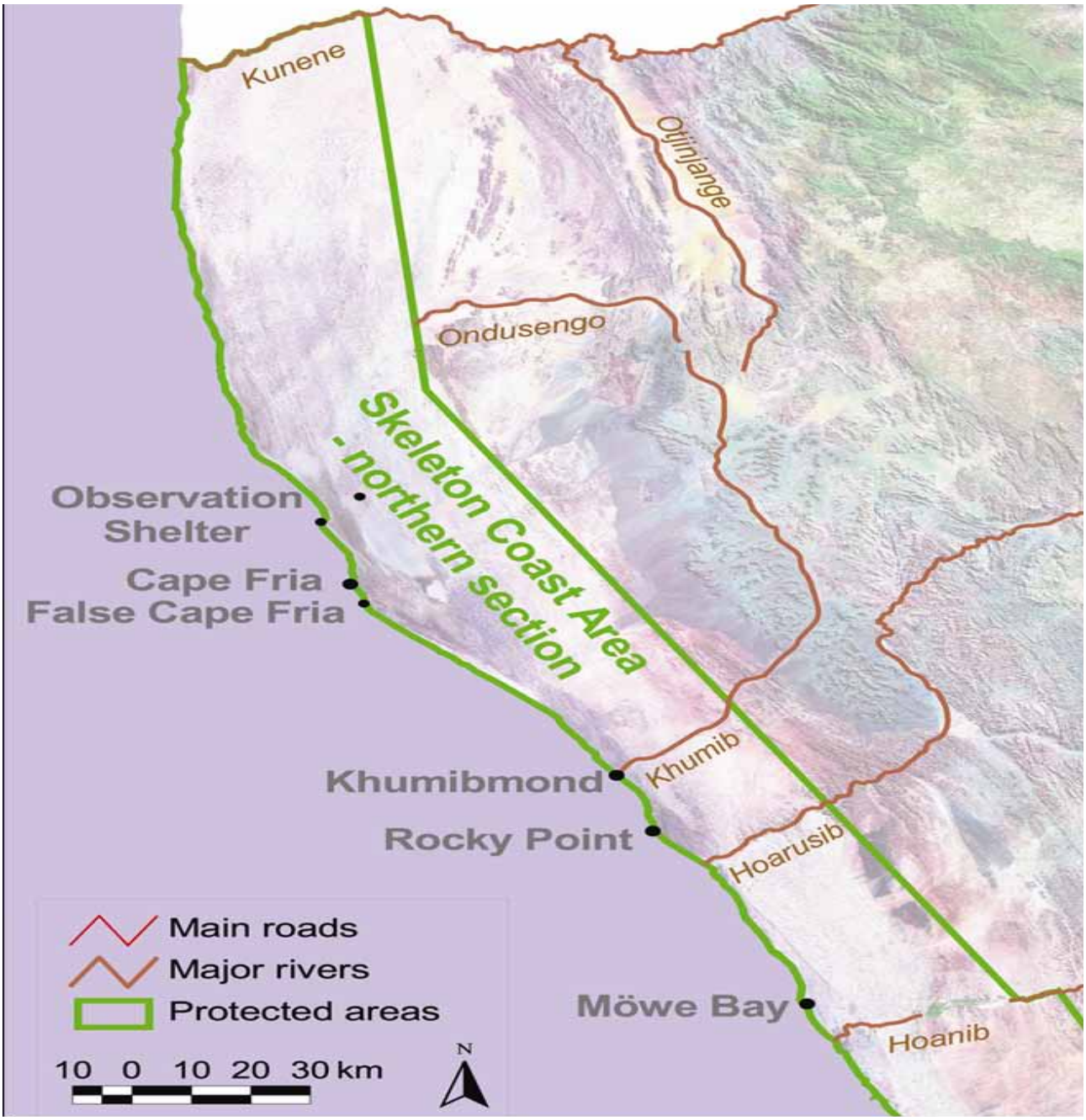


Figure 2: The northern section of the Skeleton Coast National Park

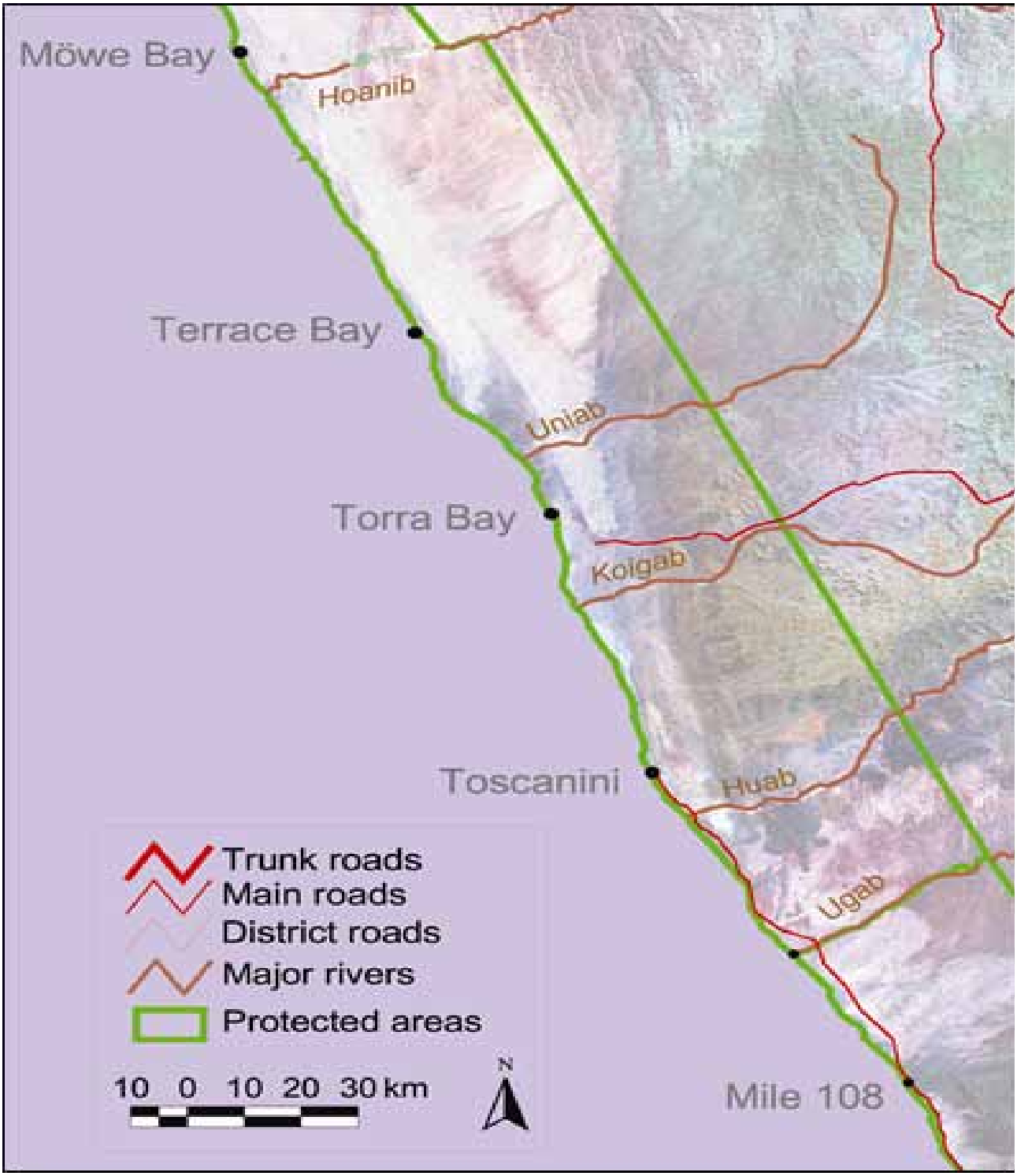


Figure 3: The southern section of the Skeleton Coast National Park

1.2.3 Important features

The SCNP contains a large number of globally significant features. The following are perhaps the most notable:

- An Important Bird Area (IBA) at the Kunene River Mouth.
- An Important Plant Area (IPA) in the east of the Park linking to the northern parts of the Dorob NP and the northern escarpment zone, and on to the Etosha National Park.
- IPAs and IBAs also qualify as Key Biodiversity Areas, sites of global significance for biodiversity conservation, and using globally standard criteria and thresholds.
- The perennial Kunene River crosses the Namib forming the northern border of the SCNP respectively. In addition, seven significant ephemeral river systems drain westwards across the Park.
- The SCNP contains a huge diversity of desert landscapes and scenery, habitats, biodiversity and, despite its fragility, a large number of economic opportunities if carefully planned and managed. The Northern Namib comprises large mountainous areas with incised river systems that support some of Africa's most charismatic megafauna such as desert-adapted elephants, rhino, giraffe, lion, leopard and cheetah, made all the more remarkable by their presence in this hyper-arid zone and desert scenery.
- The western border of the SCNP is on the coast. This enigmatic and poignant coast – the Coast of Skeletons – contains many shipwrecks, the bones of early mariners as well as those of whales and seals.
- The Park's northern border is shared with the Iona National Park in Angola. The eastern border of the Park is shared entirely with communal lands, comprising conservancies and wildlife and tourism concessions. These neighbours practice land uses that are both friendly and compatible to that of the Park. This offers huge opportunities for partnership and co-management.

1.3 Purpose of the Park Management Plan

- To document all relevant information, including historical, biodiversity, archaeological and social context which is relevant for the park.
- To describe the general characteristics of the ecosystems contained within the park, as well as the regional biodiversity context within which the park is located.
- To guide staff and stakeholders of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on how a specific park should be developed and managed.
- To assist the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in setting priorities during planning.
- To form part of a monitoring and evaluation system that provides the basis for determining whether goals, objectives and strategies specified in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism Strategic Plan and National Development Plans are achieved.
- To ensure that the park contributes to sustainable utilization of natural resources and socio-economic development.

The plan for this Park has been designed and structured to be priority focused and action orientated, to facilitate implementation and the achievement of outputs and outcomes. The plan is linked to an annual cycle of management and oversight, involving the preparation of annual work plans and budgets.

The plan is "principles" based. These principles serve essentially as mini policy statements. Not all eventualities can be planned for, but if the basic principles are established, decisions can be readily made against these principles and thus be in line with Park policy.

The plan is designed around a uniform structure for easy reference and use, and the language is kept simple for broad accessibility.

The plan should be used in conjunction with Park legislation and regulations, as well as with other relevant literature on the area. No superfluous or duplicate information is provided in the plan.

1.4 Objectives of the Park Management Plan

- To manage coastal and marine ecosystems so that they can support limited and controlled recreational angling and mid to high-end beach tourism on a sustainable basis
- To accommodate the development of tourism and residential facilities at selected sites, ensuring that these are designed to reflect the unique character of the Namib Coast
- To guide and manage high-impact land uses including prospecting and mining, ensuring compliance with relevant Namibian legislation and international best practice
- To protect specific natural habitats, notably lichen fields, dune hummocks, Damara tern breeding areas, seal breeding areas, wetlands and, where necessary and feasible, to restore and rehabilitate degraded systems to their natural productive states.
- To establish strong partnerships with line ministries, Regional Government, private sector (e.g. mining, tourism) so as to enhance the management and viability of the area.
- To link and seamlessly integrate the management and development of the SCNP with the overall Coastal Parks complex.

Chapter 2

Management of natural resources

2.1 Habitats and special sites

The Skeleton Coast National Park is a strip of land approximately 500 km long and 30 to 40 km in width situated on the northern Namibian coastline between the Ugab River in the South and the Kunene River in the North. The park covers an area of approximately 16,500 square kilometres. The marine component measuring 1 km wide by 500 kms long adds a further 500 km2, making the total size of the park 17,000 km2.

The coastal portion of the SCNP covers two marine biomes, the cold Benguela system in the south and the warmer tropical system in the north. Given that these two systems meet along the shores of the SCNP there is another zone of marine importance where the Benguela and tropical systems meet. The littoral areas of the SCNP support unique faunal and floral communities.

The SCNP includes many areas of outstanding natural beauty and/or geomorphological and geological interest. These include the multi-coloured and mostly pristine gravel plains, extensive salt pans some of which are thought to cover ancient shipwrecks, Uniab alluvial fan formation, the Clay Castles in the Hoarusib River and the geological formations in the Ugab River Valley. There are also many areas of archaeological/ historical interest, including all present and past shipwrecks, shelters of early inhabitants and localities where early and recent explorers either lost their lives or struggled to survive the inhospitable coastline and desert.

The dunefields are the major habitat of a great variety of invertebrate and vertebrate species, some of them endemic to the SCNP, many endemic to the Namib and several Namibian endemics. At least 90% of the world population of Angolasaurus skoogi, the world's largest totally herbivorous lizard, occurs in the SCNP.

The intertidal and littoral zones along the northern coast of the SCNP supports a unique invertebrate diversity as well as being the change-over from the cold Bengela system to the warmer tropical influence.

The Kunene River estuarine system supports: a significant White Pelican population, is an important stop over for migrating palearctic waders, the only population in Namibia of the Nile Soft Shelled Terrapin, a population of Nile Crocodiles and a large number of marine Green Turtles. The Kunene Mouth is one of only two permanent river estuaries in Namibia and was previously proposed as a RAMSAR site.

The marine terraces and coastal gravel plains are extremely sensitive and have a high aesthetic value. They are also important breeding grounds for Damara Terns and some other endemic passerine bird species.

The riparian forest of the ephemeral Hoarusib, Hoanib, and Ugab Rivers provide habitats for many reptile, bird and mammal species. Another four major ephemeral rivers flow into the SCNP and provide important habitat and food.

Despite covering a relatively small area within the vast Coastal Parks the SCNP has a large number of different habitats, which explains why it is given such high conservation consideration. For the purpose of this management plan, the SCNP is divided into Coastal, Terrestrial and Urban Categories. A sensitivity rating is provided below, ranging from ☼= low sensitivity to ☼☼☼☼☼☼= highly sensitive and / or of high environmental value.

Table 4: Preliminary list of habitats and their sensitivity rating within the SCNP

Category	Habitat	Sensitivity	Notes
Coastal	Sandy shore	☼☼☼	Generally moderately sensitive because sandy beaches are dynamic, relatively robust ecosystems. However, the northern coast supports a unique invertebrate diversity as it is the change-over from the cold Benguela system to the warmer tropical influence of the Angola current
	Rocky shore	☼☼☼☼	Generally slightly more sensitive because of high biodiversity.
	Littoral shelf above high water mark	☼☼☼☼	Moderately sensitive because of presence of invertebrates, plants and shorebirds, some of which nest here. Dune hummocks especially important for biodiversity – and they are vulnerable to disturbance by off-road driving and mining.
	Kunene mouth	☼☼☼☼☼	The Kunene mouth: • Supports a significant White Pelican population, • is an important stop over for migrating palearctic waders and is also a proposed RAMSAR site. • is the only place in Namibia where the Nile Soft Shelled Terrapin occurs, • has a population of Nile Crocodiles and a large number of marine Green Turtles • is one of only two permanent river estuaries in Namibia.

Terrestrial	Damara tern breeding sites	☼☼☼☼☼	Gravel plains used as breeding areas by Damara Terns are rated as highly sensitive because of the Tern's endemic and Near Threatened status.
	Coastal gravel Plains	☼☼☼☼☼	These are the gravel plains that are strongly influenced by fog occurrence. These gravel plains are fragile systems that show little recovery after long periods (centuries) and are thus rated as sensitive. The plains in the Toscanini area, between Terrace and Mowe Bay, around Sarusas and Cape Frio especially important visually.
	Inland gravel plains and associated drainage lines	☼☼☼☼	These are the vast plains inland of the coastal dunes and that are only occasionally subjected to fog. These areas support annual grasslands (and plains game) after rain events. The river washes have relatively large trees that provide nesting sites for vultures and other birds. These plains are visually important as a vast open landscape that provides a 'sense of place' that epitomizes the "Namib experience".
	Lichen fields	☼☼☼☼☼	Occur on gravel plains and hills close to the coast. Most lichens are endemic, important food for various forms of wildlife, and highly sensitive to impacts from off-road driving and mining.

Terrestrial	Coastal rocky hills	☼☼☼☼☼	Mainly Springbokwasser, Terrace Bay, Sarusas, Hartmann Beacan and Agate Mountain areas – biodiversity is strongly influenced by fog. These areas support lichen and other important plants. Vulnerable to off-road driving and mining.
	Ephemeral Rivers (Ugab, Huab, Koichab, Uniab, Hoanib, Horausib, Khumib, Sechomib, Nadas and Engo)	☼☼☼☼☼☼	These are all linear oases that are the 'highways' through which wildlife migrate east-west, and from which wildlife undertake foraging forays into the proper desert. By providing relatively lush habitat (water and vegetation) they support 'desert animals' of great variety that are world famous as tourist attractions. These rivers are vulnerable as they are also linear tourism products – resulting in impacts on wildlife and sense of place.
	Sand Dune Belt	☼☼☼	
		Relatively insensitive but support various forms of desert wildlife, including reptiles and insects. At least 90% of the world population of Angolasaurus skoogi, the world's largest totally herbivorous lizard, occurs in the SCNP dunes.	
	Small ephemeral fountainsand springs (e.g. Uniab delta, Oasis, Auses, Hunkab, Okau, Ganias, Khumib spring)		

Terrestrial		☼☼☼☼☼	Mostly underground flow concentrates moisture in these small areas, supporting plants and biodiversity. Because these sites are remote and usually surrounded by vast expanses of inhospitable desert, they are disproportionately important to wildlife that depend to a greater or lesser extent on water. Most are 'safe' but all are vulnerable to over-abstraction of the aquifers that underpin them.
	Vegetated dune hummocks	☼☼☼	Extend all along the coastline, right to the Kunene mouth. Vegetated by a variety of plants (e.g. Salsola, zygophylum), and an important habitat for various types of wildlife, some endemic. Vulnerable to offroad driving and mining.
	Salt pans	☼☼	Important visually (sense of place) and in some cases support breeding Damara terns. Some (e.g. Cape Frio) thought to hide old shipwrecks. Tracks can last for years on this substrate, but they are relatively sterile in terms of biodiversity.

Principle

The comprehensive diversity of landscapes, habitats and special sites in the SCNP are protected and optimally managed.

Objective

To protect and conserve the diversity of landscapes, habitats and special sites of the SCNP in healthy and productive condition within the context of the Greater Namib Area.

Strategies

a) Because of the large open systems involved, and the intention to create linkages with adjacent ecosystems (e.g. coastal and marine to west and escarpment belt to east), ecosystem management should be minimal, and a largely hands-off approach should be adopted, but 'hands-on' in terms of preventing and/or minimizing damage to important habitats and species in the park.

b) Should it become necessary to apply active management, interventions should aim to manage the arid ecosystems for long-term diversity, health, productivity and climate change resilience and adaptation, by ensuring connectivity, preventing over use of all components, including water, fauna and flora, landscapes, etc.

c) Allow and promote variability in management and "patchiness" in ecosystem expression in response to variable climatic conditions and ecosystem functioning.
d) Build up a good monitoring record of ecological and bio-climatic information, including the diversity and abundance of various species in different taxa such as less studied lower plants, invertebrates, etc.
e) Monitor the health of populations of species high on the food chain (e.g. key predators and scavengers), flagship and key-stone species and other strategic key indicator species (including indicator species for early warning of climate change impacts) – if these species prosper it follows that the base of the food chain is likely to be diverse and in good condition.
f) Monitor key habitats such as Ramsar sites, Important Bird Areas and Important Plant Areas.
g) Monitor human impacts of landscapes, ecosystems, habitats and species with particular attention to fragile and high value components of the system, and human activities known to have significant impacts.
h) No poisons or pesticides (or other toxic chemicals) will be used in the park.

Priority habitats and species are:

- The westward flowing rivers, which are linear oasis that provide crucial habitats for a great diversity of wildlife
- The intertidal and subtidal zones – both of which are crucial to fish breeding, shellfish populations and the coastal tourism industry
- Various fish species, especially those targeted by anglers (galjoen, steenbras, kabeljou, black-tail). Commercially important pelagics occur mostly beyond the boundary of the SCNP.
- Lichen fields – important to the gravel plains food chain
- Dune hummocks – habitat for various invertebrates, including endemic species
- Damara terns – endemic seabird, red data species, vulnerable to coastal development and other human impacts
- Seabirds – especially migrants such as albatross that are vulnerable to fish depletion and harmful fishing practices (occur mostly beyond the border of the park)
- Seals – important marine predators
- Hyaena and jackals – coastal scavengers and part of the Namib Coast 'image'
- Coastal shorebirds, both resident and migratory
- Wetlands – especially the lower Kunene River and the various springs/fountains/seeps in the westward flowing rivers.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Set up (where necessary), implement and support monitoring systems for ecosystem health, key habitats, and biodiversity building on existing systems used elsewhere (e.g. Event Book system) and continuing with long-term data series (e.g. wetland bird counts)	During 2014
Identify priority baseline information needs	During 2014
Set up, implement and support monitoring systems for human impacts on important components of the SCNP	During 2015

The Kunene River mouth is a particularly important special site.

Internationally important wetland sites – Kunene Mouth

Principle

This wetland area of international significance with high numbers of wetland bird species, including Red Data species, are afforded the highest levels of protection that legislation, zonation and management practices can provide.

Objective

To protect, monitor, understand, manage and conserve the lower Kunene, and its ecosystem functioning, with particular attention to the wetland birds, turtles, crocodiles, fish and various invertebrate species.

Strategies

a) Protect the lower Kunene River from invasive and destructive land use, such as mining
b) Establish and build strong relations with Angolan authorities so that compatible strategies are followed on both sides of the river.
c) Ensure that long-term monitoring of the health of this wetland continues, using bird counts, water quality and other appropriate means, and via participatory and outsourced mechanisms.
d) Establish an early warning system to mobilize appropriate action in the event of problems being identified, either through monitoring or from incidental information.
e) In collaboration with Angolan authorities and other partners, track upstream activities that may have implications for the lower Kunene (e.g. dams, irrigated agriculture, aquaculture, bulk abstraction).

Activities

Actions	Timing
Engage Angolan authorities and establish a communication and joint management system	2013 and ongoing

2.2 Fire

Fire is not a significant part of the SCNP ecological dynamics, and is not addressed in the management plan.

2.3 Rehabilitation

Principle

Natural landscapes and biodiversity are, as far as possible and practical, reestablished to their pristine condition or in line with agreed future land use.

Objective

To remove all unnecessary evidence of human activity and/or occupation from the Park, except agreed infrastructure that has practical or tourism value, and to rehabilitate landscapes and biodiversity, using best available practices, with emphasis on those areas of greatest ecological and aesthetic importance.

Strategies

a) Commission a rehabilitation plan based on an inventory and criteria (log of areas, prioritization, costs and timelines) for the SCNP.

b) Identify responsibilities for rehabilitation – both technical and financial responsibilities.

c) MET and other relevant parties, including designated organizations entrusted or employed to do this work, to systematically implement rehabilitation in areas and on aspects of respective responsibilities, to agreed standards and levels, starting with the affordable priorities.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Commission a rehabilitation plan	2014
Identify responsibilities for rehabilitation	2014
Implement rehabilitation in areas and on aspects of respective responsibilities, starting with the affordable priorities and using job-creating opportunities where possible.	2015 and ongoing

2.4 Wildlife population management

Principle

A rich diversity of indigenous wildlife prospers within an open, dynamic and resilient ecosystem.

Objective

Wildlife population numbers will be managed, mainly through self-regulation, at levels where biomass carrying capacity is considered conservatively appropriate and sustainable, per species and for the total wildlife population, under different rainfall and range conditions.

No hunting or consumptive off-takes of terrestrial wildlife will be permitted within the SCNP, other than as live capture for special reintroduction elsewhere

Strategies

a) Population trends, health (age and sex structures and body condition) and distribution of populations will be monitored as necessary, as part of the Coastal Parks monitoring process.

b) Wildlife management decisions will be taken in an adaptive manner, with a minimalist intervention philosophy, and based on good monitoring and research information, as may be decided from time to time.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Design and implement integrated monitoring systems for rainfall, vegetation condition and wildlife (numbers, age & sex classes and condition), making use of "Event Book" system	Design during 2014, implementation there-after and ongoing
Obtain and document historic information on wildlife diversity, numbers, extinctions and other relevant issue.	2014
Proactively review information on key variables to determine if any management actions are necessary, and identify management op-tions	Systems set up and tested starting 2015 and then ongoing
Adaptively manage wildlife using a minimalist intervention approach and most relevant practices	As necessary

2.5 Wildlife introduction

Principle

The historic diversity of wildlife and their full suite of interactions are reinstated, as far as is practically possible under prevailing conditions.

Objective

To set mechanisms for reintroduction of appropriate species that were locally indigenous within historic times provided these have a reasonable chance of survival under current conditions and are practically and socially acceptable.

Strategies

a) Carry out an assessment of species that historically occurred in the SCNP.

b) Review which species that no longer occur, or occur at below optimal numbers, could be re-introduced under current conditions, and prepare a prioritized list.

c) Be mindful that the SCNP is on the extreme western edge of a number of species' ranges. In higher rainfall years such species may/would have moved westwards into the SCNP of the Park, and in lower rainfall years they would have retreated eastwards into the escarpment. Once large, open areas have been secured, reintroductions into the greater area may be viable, but which would not be so if confined to the SCNP. Thus take a larger picture view of wildlife reintroductions, and be mindful of the linear oases provided by the various westward-flowing rivers.

d) Introduce wildlife in phases as per the list, and subject to rainfall and veld condition being adequate to enhance survival chances.

e) Acquire wildlife from similar habitats (e.g. Namib and Karoo Transition ecosystem) for genetic integrity and optimal chances of success.

f) Introduce wildlife in sufficient numbers to be viable, rather than having small token introductions.

g) Where species are likely to recolonise or to augment existing populations by in-migration,

allow this to happen rather than active reintroduction.

h) No species exotic to the SCNP of the Namib-Skeleton Coast Park will be introduced.

i) No subspecies or components of populations from elsewhere will be introduced if there is any risk of genetic pollution to the indigenous populations' genetic integrity, and where suitable animals can be acquired from within the required gene pool.

j) In the case of introductions that have a potential impact on residents and communities adjacent to the SCNP, full consultations will take place prior to any introductions.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Carry out an assessment of historic distributions of wildlife in the SCNP and adjacent areas	2015
Based on the above and present-day viability and acceptability, develop and implement a phased reintroduction and augmentation plan (e.g. rhino in Kunene Region).	2015 and ongoing
Monitor introduced and augmented populations – numbers, breeding, sex and age ratios, distribution, etc.	From each introduction and ongoing

2.6 Water points and water management

Principle

A minimalist, ecologically appropriate and tourism friendly water plan is implemented, taking into account neighbouring land use and water provision.

Objective

To ensure that the provision of water for wildlife is undertaken strategically in the interests of maintaining biological diversity in an unfenced ecosystem. Emphasis will be placed on securing open systems and corridors in west-east and north-south directions, to facilitate natural ecological processes and reinstating historic movement patterns. Water use for other purposes will be judicious, minimalist and based on environmental assessment principles.

Strategies

a) Water point development and management will be on a strategic basis.

b) In a critical situation, e.g. wildlife dying in times of extreme drought, then temporary water provision may be availed if considered absolutely necessary.

c) The park-neighbour policy and strategy will be energetically pursued to explore partnerships to the east, and the opening up of west-east corridors with land managers that share compatible values and land-uses with those of the park.

d) All natural water points will be carefully managed to avoid disturbance and degradation, and an appropriate monitoring system will be established.

e) Abstraction of groundwater from the SCNP, and in adjacent areas, will be carefully monitored, both the volumes abstracted and impacts on the environment, and adaptively managed.

f) Use of water for tourism, mining and other purposes must be judicious, minimalist, demand

managed and monitored. Sustainable sources of water must be used. No unsustainable extraction will take place or any extraction that may have negative biodiversity impacts.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Create a map and inventory of all natural water points as well as boreholes and infrastructure, together with their attributes, such as yield and depth	2014
Ensure that all natural water points remain undisturbed, with low level monitoring	Ongoing
All bulk water abstraction projects must be preceded by an EIA	Ongoing
Good water demand management practices and monitoring should be implemented for water use in the SCNP and throughout the Coastal Parks.	Ongoing

2.7 Domestic animal management

Principle

Domestic animals are not allowed in the park.

2.8 Fencing

Principle

Open systems are maintained for the largest possible landscape integrity, both within and beyond the SCNP.

Objective

To maintain a "fence free' SCNP, by only fencing essential sites (Remove all fences except those that have strategic value - e.g. fences around refuse dumps, security fences etc).

Strategies

a) Maintain secure fencing around refuse dumps and other secure areas to avoid breach by humans or scavengers.

b) Maintain the fence between Ugabmond park entry gate and the beach, to avoid illegal entry through this alignment.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Patrol and maintain fences as appropriate	2013 and ongoing

2.9 Human wildlife conflict management

Principle

The SCNP harbours a few species (lion, elephant, black rhino) that may damage property and threaten the safety of livestock and people living in neighbouring (conservancy) areas. Individual animals that cause conflict must be dealt with according to the National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management and agreements with the respective conservancies.

Objective

To actively engage with neighbours to ensure that there are effective and responsive mechanisms in place to minimize conflicts.

Strategies

a) MET should give preference to SCNP neighbours when allocating concessions, to help offset livestock and crop losses as a result of HWC and to promote positive relationships with park neighbours.

b) SCNP and other MET staff should assist neighbouring communities to engage in land uses that avoid and help to reduce HWC. This extends to technical advice and support (e.g. applied livestock management, consolidation of garden and crop fields, siting and operation of electric fences etc)

c) Decision-making authority should be delegated to appropriate staff so that individual problem animals can be speedily destroyed where necessary, providing protection to people and their property. Procedures for arriving at this decision must include sufficient safeguards so that specific animals are destroyed for good reason.

d) SCNP staff should fulfill monitoring and reporting requirements for MET's database on HWC, including effectiveness of mitigation methods.

e) SCNP and other MET staff should help to build capacity of neighbouring communities to develop HWC management and mitigation plans and to implement appropriate mitigation methods.

f) Government will not provide direct compensation for livestock losses due to wild animals, but will help to build the Human Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme which will partially offset farmers' losses, and only where reasonable precautions have been taken.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Collaborate with neighbouring communities to engage in appropriate land uses and apply appropriate farming practices to minimize HWC	2013 and ongoing

Ensure lines of authority clearly outlined for speedy resolution of HWC problems, particularly if an animal needs to be destroyed / removed.	2013 and ongoing
Keep an inventory of HWC cases that is consistent with MET practices and feeds into the MET HWC database.	2013 and ongoing
Participate in activities to build the local Human Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme.	2013 and ongoing

2.10 Diseases and parasites

Principle

Wildlife in the SCNP should not pose any risk of diseases (e.g. rabies) to humans.

Objective

To ensure collaboration with other relevant public service agencies in finding solutions to the management and control of notifiable and contagious human, livestock and wildlife diseases.

Strategies

a) Establish a monitoring system, in cooperation with line Ministries that keeps an eye on diseases and parasites in the Park. For instance, rabies is legally notifiable, so incidents of this disease in jackals should be communicated to Veterinary Services staff and reported in their official records. The monitoring system should ensure lines of communication between relevant ministries are kept open.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Liaise with health and veterinary health departments to link in to their monitoring and reporting procedures.	2013 and ongoing

2.11 Alien species

Principle

The SCNP should be free of all invasive alien plants and animals.

Objective

To ensure that alien species are controlled or removed in the park.

Strategies

a) No aquaculture projects will be allowed in the SCNP.
b) Establish a monitoring system for alien species, with particular attention to high-risk species and areas such as along rivers and drainage lines, roadways, mining areas, water points, etc.
c) Support and participate in national policies and action plans for strategic management of

alien invasive plants, since alien invasive plant problems originate mostly outside the park.

d) Establish community interest groups of local residents to help eradicate nad monitor alien species.

e) Manage feral populations of plants and animals as appropriate and practical, including eradication where feasible.

f) Monitor infestations/spread of the alien invasive mussel (Mytilus galloprovincialis) and initiate remedial action if appropriate and practical.

Activities

Actions	Timing
1. Manage and where practical eradicate invasive alien species throughout the SCNP	2013 and ongoing
2. Work with neighbours to eradicate alien plants from drainage lines entering the SCNP	2013 and ongoing
3. Follow up on cleared areas and remove regrowth/new seedlings	2013 and ongoing
4. Monitor intertidal zones	2013 and ongoing

2.12 Law enforcement and crime prevention

Principle

Permits will be required for access to any parts of the SCNP. Restricted or concession areas (designated camp-sites, special tourism concession areas and sections of the park which are closed to general public access.) require special permits. Illegal entry, activities and use of wildlife, plants and other natural resources within and adjacent to the park is controlled and kept to a minimum.

Objective

To control and limit the illegal use of wildlife and natural resources within the park, and through all efforts possible, to ensure the safety and security of tourists and visitors to the park.

Strategies

a) Develop a practical, harmonized approach to the implementation of law enforcement within the context of this PMP and Park regulations, by establishing strong partnerships between MET and MFMR, the Namibian Police, Community Game Guards in neighbouring conservancies.

b) Plan, develop and implement, in partnership with MFMR, and adjacent conservancies an efficient and effective tourism management and access control system.

c) Ensure security and anti-poaching (including plant, reptile and other natural resource collection/theft) patrols and surveillance are conducted at regular but unpredictable intervals, particularly in high-risk areas (e.g. in and around the westward flowing rivers and in and around villages in neighbouring areas) and that they are highly visible.

d) Develop an attractive reward system and let it (and the zero tolerance approach) be widely known in the area.

e) Establish a "Hot-Line" for people to report transgressors, and an efficient response mechanism.
f) Ensure that the Honorary Nature Conservator system, their roles and authority, are well publicized and known throughout the area, to both residents and visitors.
g) Ensure that MET, MFMR and Honorary Wardens are well trained to preserve and collect evidence so that arrests result in convictions.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Plan a practical plan for implementing law enforcement in the context of this MDP & relevant legislation	2014
Develop (with partners) an effective tourism management and access control system, with particular attention to the holiday seasons and illegal entry via the westward flowing rivers	2014
Disseminate information on zero tolerance approach & reward scheme, as well as information on roles and authority of Hon. Nature Conservators	2014 and ongoing
Carry out regular patrols (ground and air) to ensure high presence level	Ongoing
Train staff and Hon Wardens in collection of evidence	2014 and ongoing
Establish a Hot-Line for reporting of transgressors	2013

2.13 Environmental impact assessment and management

Principle

Developments within SCNP and/or that have an impact on the Park should be properly assessed so that environmental harm is minimized and benefits are optimized.

Objective

To prevent and mitigate negative effects and enhance positive effects of conservation management and tourism activities on the environment, by conducting a due environmental impact assessment and management process.

Strategies

a) MET staff in SCNP should be familiar with the Environmental Management Act and their role in enforcing it. They are important for ensuring that proposed developments in or close to the Park comply with the EMA.
b) EIA reports and applications for Environmental Clearance under the EMA should be circulated to local MET staff for their input.
c) DNP staff should keep familiar with developments in and close to the Park through the workings of the Management Committee and the Consultative Forum.

Activities

Actions	Timing
SCNP staff to be briefed about potential port and mining developments in the Park through the channels	Ongoing
Give EIA training to park staff so that they know what role they should play in ensuring proper compliance with the EMA.	2014 and ongoing

2.14 Consumptive resource utilization

Principle

The SCNP shall not be used for harvesting of indigenous plant resources. Wildlife may be harvested or culled or translocated as long as there is adequate proof from ongoing monitoring that the population can withstand the intended offtake, and that there is full justification for one of the following reasons:

- removal of individuals causing conflict with people;
- provision of meat for traditional festivals or national events, in keeping with sustainable offtake levels and never for personal gain by individuals. This must also be in line with the National Policy on Utilization of Game in Protected Areas;
- for community benefit in collaboration with neighbouring conservancies and in keeping with sustainable offtake levels.

Objective

To ensure that plant and wildlife resources in the park are harvested for social and economic gain, at offtake levels that are sustainable.

Strategies

a) Wildlife populations and movements should be monitored and recorded so that sustainable offtake quotas can be calculated.
b) Hunting for festivals or other important functions should be carried out in accordance with the National Policy on Utilization of Game in Protected Areas.
c) Depending on the offtake level calculated from ongoing population monitoring records, the SCNP could be used as a source of live animals for introduction to other areas.
d) Consumptive use of wildlife goods must comply with existing national and international legal frameworks and conventions.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Undertake regular wildlife population monitoring using a standard MET format.	2013 and ongoing
Calculate sustainable offtake levels for appropriate species, using recognized methods and adaptive management principles	2013 and ongoing.

Provide game meat for special occasions only when properly authorized as set out in the National Policy, and only when calculated offtake levels allow.	2013 and ongoing

2.15 Aquaculture

No aquaculture will be permitted in the SCNP.

2.16 Archaeological and historical heritage

Principle

The very rich archaeological and historical heritage of the Namibia's coast, which presents valuable information about occupation of this area going back 700,000 years, has unique value and should be properly preserved.

Objective

- To ensure that cultural, historical and archaeological sites are identified, conserved and where appropriate, sensitively used, to improve society's understanding and knowledge of the people who used the area in the past.
- Specifically, to prevent negative impacts on archaeological and historic sites that might be incurred by tourism, mining, infrastructure development, or other activities.

Strategies

a) All sites used and proposed for development must address cultural, historical and archaeological aspects in their EIAs and EMPs;

b) Where appropriate, sites may be made accessible to the public, but this must be done in a sensitive and responsible manner. Sites that add to the tourism experience should be interpreted for the public's benefit. Activities to monitor the state of these sites should be included so that preventative action can be taken if they become degraded.

c) Collaboration with other agencies and ministries (e.g. research institutions, National Heritage Council, UNESCO) should be initiated and maintained for appropriate management of these resources. Where necessary, technical and financial assistance should be sought.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Ensure EIAs done for development projects in the SCNP address risks to the archaeological and historic heritage. Where impacts are unavoidable, ensure that adequate mitigation, restoration or offsetting is achieved. As stipulated in the Environmental Management Act, this should be at the cost of the developer.	Ongoing

In collaboration with the National Heritage Council develop and maintain a register of all known sites of archaeological and historic interest.	2015 and ongoing
Keep familiar with and if possible, participate in archaeological and historical research projects undertaken in SCNP. Ensure that data and materials are securely deposited with the National Museum for safe-keeping.	2015 and ongoing
In collaboration with the National Heritage Council and other possible stakeholders, develop archaeological and historic sites (only those that can tolerate human pressure) for well managed tourism access.	2015 and ongoing
Include sites of archaeological or historic interest in the regular patrols and Event Book management systems, for regular inspection and monitoring.	2015 and ongoing

2.17 Research

Principle

Management and development of the SCNP will be information-based, drawing on good quality research and monitoring. To ensure that good data are available, the Park will implement a research-friendly and supportive philosophy and encourage the non-invasive use of the park as an open-air laboratory. The Gobabeb Training and Research Centre and the National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) in Swakopmund shall provide research services for the Park.

Objective

To base park management on pertinent available information and data to support an adaptive management approach, and to create a research friendly environment, encouraging non-evasive research within the park.

Strategies

a) A prioritized and open-ended list of key research topics will be developed for the Park and disseminated to appropriate research institutions.

b) An appropriate support mechanism will be developed for visiting scientists, making use of Gobabeb where appropriate, with emphasis on those addressing priority research topics relevant to the park.

c) Appropriate mechanisms will be developed to ensure that optimum feedback and other values from national and visiting researchers are obtained.

d) Links will be established with research activities carried out in other parks, particularly in arid regions, as well as with other relevant research organizations and field stations in Namibia. Comparative studies between the different desert ecosystems will be encouraged, including transboundary projects with other components of the Namib ecosystem in adjacent countries.

e) Ensure that Gobabeb and NatMIRC are integrated into the Park Information System and meta database and that results from research are added to this system.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Develop an open-ended list of priority research topics based on information needs for the SCNP management, facilitated by Gobabeb and NatMIRC	2014 and ongoing
Design a reciprocal "support package" for researchers addressing priority research topics and ensuring maximum returns to the SCNP, the Park and Namibia	2014 and ongoing
Participate actively in comparative research programmes across arid zones and between various desert ecosystems	2014 and ongoing
Ensure research outputs and findings are integrated with monitoring data in the Park Information System.	2014 and ongoing

2.18 Monitoring and Information Management

Principle

Carefully selected indicators and groups of indicators are monitored to allow for timely and judicious assessments and adaptive management.

Objective

To ensure that minimal but regular monitoring of climate, key habitats and biodiversity, land use impacts, water quality, park management performance and other key indicators will be conducted and promoted to help understand ecological changes, stresses and management effectiveness.

Strategies

a) Monitoring will focus on key indicator processes, impacts, habitats and species, with an emphasis on ensuring regular data collection at appropriate intervals, cost efficiency and sustainability.

b) Monitoring will also assess the effectiveness of management of the SCNP, applying best practice tools such as "Namibia's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool" (NAMETT).

c) Monitoring systems shall apply approved tools already being widely used (e.g. Event Book system), and shall also continue with systems already established and running within the Coastal Parks (e.g. wetland bird counts, coastal bird counts, Damara Tern monitoring).

d) Monitoring systems will be balanced to ensure that the entire range of critical information needs is covered.

e) A Coastal Parks Information System will be established to store, manage and help analyse spatial and temporal data sets as well as other pertinent information.

f) Information will be made widely and freely available, in accessible format, to all stakeholders, including via the media.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Develop an appropriate monitoring framework to include the monitoring requirements of the SCNP, and incorporate ongoing monitoring initiatives (e.g. wetland counts, coastal bird counts, Damara Tern monitoring), and where appropriate, adapt other national systems such as the "Event-Book", with appropriate training for staff and other implementing partners	2015 and ongoing
Develop an accessible and user-friendly Coastal Parks Information System and meta database (for spatial & temporal data and other info), that can be easily expanded and up-scaled to serve larger co-managed landscape complexes, to: • store, manage, curate data/info • retrieve, interrogate, analyse and aggregate data/info • generate reports based on carefully designed templates for key information needs	2015 and ongoing
Establish fixed photo-point and aerial photography monitoring of key aspects (e.g. ephemeral river for impact of water abstraction, tracks, mining footprint, etc), and repeat photographs at regular intervals (every 6 or 12 months)	2016
Make time-series data and analysed information available for adaptive management, and for distribution to interested stakeholders, decision-makers and the general public	Ongoing

2.19 Coastal management

Principle

The intertidal coastal zone, its biota and the species that transcend the marine/terrestrial interface are managed jointly by the MET and MFMR under agreed co-management principles and protocols that promote synergy, efficiency and elevated conservation management, monitoring and protection of habitats, processes and species.

Objective

To ensure that management of the coastal environment for the Skeleton Coast Park is done properly.

Strategies

a) A close and mutually supportive working environment will be created between the Park MET and MFMR institutions and their respective staff.

b) The above partnership will identify the key areas, issues and species that require joint monitoring and management.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Establish practical and efficient operating procedures for collaboration, communication and reporting for identified priority areas and species.	2014 and ongoing
Explore ways of expanding collaboration where this would be beneficial to the ecosystem and to the partner institutions.	2014 and ongoing

Chapter 3

Regional conservation, park neighbour and resident relations

3.1 Transfrontier conservation

The SCNP share its northern boundary with the Iona National Park in Angola. The northern Namib, covering both Namibian and Angolan territory, is under consistent conservation management between the two countries. The management teams for both protected areas are in regular contact at both the strategic and technical levels, to form a regionally integrated conservation area that achieves optimal conservation benefits.

Principle

Contiguous landscapes across the international border, and the shared Kunene River, should be managed to ensure ecological integrity and shared conservation benefits for both Iona and Skeleton Coast National Parks.

Objective

To manage the park within the context of a regionally integrated conservation area that encompasses neighbouring conservation areas in the country and conservation area in Angola.

Strategies

a) Share management objectives between Iona and SCNP staff. Face-to-face meetings and physical cooperation on joint issues will help to achieve effective collaboration.

b) Identify priority areas for collaborative management, such as Kunene Mouth or cross-border anti- poaching patrols.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Establish a collaborative planning, management and monitoring framework between Iona and Skeleton Coast National Parks.	2013 and ongoing

3.2 Landscape level management

Principle

Open, contiguous and ecologically optimal landscapes and seascapes are maintained and managed to ensure seamless linkages between the SCNP and adjacent terrestrial and coastal ecosystems.

Objective

To maintain and, where relevant, expand the area under conservation management, and manage for larger landscape values, through partnership, with particular emphasis on:

(i) east-west linkages between the terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, in partnership with the MFMR and neighbouring land-holders (especially conservancies);
(ii) linkages with neighbouring Dorob National Park.

Strategies

a) Work with MFMR to identify coastal and marine protected area collaboration adjacent to the SCNP, with priority attention to Kunene Mouth, Cape Frio Seal Colony and spawning areas for angling fish species.
b) Establish seamless collaboration and cooperation procedures and practices with other management units in the Coastal Parks and neighbouring areas.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Establish an effective collaborative framework between MET and MFMR to plan and harmonise terrestrial and coastal/marine protected areas and their rational and efficient management, including a focus on collaboration and co-management	2013 and ongoing
Establish a planning, management and monitoring framework for collaboration, cooperation, mutual support and harmonization with other management units in the Coastal Parks and neighbouring areas.	2014 and ongoing

3.3 Park neighbours and resident communities

Principle

The SCNP should be managed and developed through positive and constructive relationships with its neighbouring communities.

Objective

To include park neighbours and adjacent conservancies in collaborative management of the overall area, for the long term benefit of both SCNP and the conservancies that adjoin it, in terms of conservation outcomes and the livelihoods of community members.

Strategies

a) Establish positive, constructive relationships with park stakeholders in line with the National Policy on Protected Areas, Neighbours and Resident Communities.
b) Facilitate park-to-neighbour liaison, with particular focus on establishing linkages between the Namib and the escarpment, to reinstate wildlife movement patterns and to help counter the potential impacts of climate change.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Where relevant, draw neighbours into planning for a Greater Namib-Coastal Parks Complex with links to and beyond the escarpment.	2015
Create an inclusive, participatory management approach where all stakeholders can contribute ideas, energy and time and keep everyone well informed of activities and progress in the SCNP	Ongoing

3.4 Private partnerships

Principle

The SCNP is managed, developed and monitored using a collective partnership-management approach that fully involves civil society, business, and government agencies.

Objective

To develop mechanisms that fully integrate park managers, other relevant government agencies, civil society and private sector interests into all aspects of the management and development of the SCNP, in full collaboration and "smart partnerships", and with the respective partners being empowered to contribute to their full competencies.

Strategies

a) Establish partnerships with businesses whose activities extend into the adjacent Iona and Dorob National Parks, communal conservancies and coastal and marine areas. These will help to unify the management for greater overall effectiveness.

b) Together with the Dorob National Park, engage pro-actively with willing partners and neighbours, to implement a collaborative management and development approach for the "Greater Namib - Coastal Parks Complex". This approach should enhance the development of a shared vision, common objectives and agreed principles, and should facilitate park-to-neighbour liaison, with particular focus on establishing linkages between the Namib and the escarpment, to reinstate wildlife movement patterns and to help counter the potential impacts of climate change.

c) Work closely with Regional Government, organized business and interest groups, communities, NGOs and the media to keep people informed of developments, to invite their input and participation in these and future evolving initiatives.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Establish close and collaborative working relations and clear procedures for seamless collaboration between the different components of the Coastal Parks.	2014 and ongoing

Establish close and collaborative working relations and clear procedures for seamless collaboration between MET and partners on the terrestrial landscapes with MFMR in the coastal and marine ecosystems	2014 and ongoing
Where relevant, participate in the development of a Greater Namib-Coastal Parks Complex with park neighbours	2015
Create an inclusive, participatory environment within the SCNP where all interested stakeholders can contribute ideas, energy and time; foster a spirit of volunteerism; and keep everyone well informed of activities and progress in the SCNP	2016

3.5 Environmental education and awareness

Principle

The Namib and adjacent coastal ecosystems offer unique open-air classroom and laboratory opportunities for education and awareness creation on the subjects of geology, geomorphology, climatology, hydrology, zoology, botany, arid-zone ecology, wetland biology, adaptive evolution, paleontology, archaeology, conservation, sustainable development and many other fields. The SCNP contains dune fields, gravel plains, ephemeral rivers, sandy and rocky shores, important wetlands, a host of arid-adapted plant and animal life plus human-ecosystem interactions. The area thus has huge educational and awareness-raising potential, which should be exploited in the interests of ensuring that visitors and staff are well informed and enriched by associating with the SCNP.

Objective

To develop good quality, accessible and stimulating information and activities on the key biophysical and socio-archaeological aspects of the different habitats within the Namib and coastal ecosystems that are represented within the SCNP, and to share this information with guests, visitors, youth groups, specialist groups, decision-makers, officials and the general public in interesting and exciting ways so as to promote an understanding of and commitment to the conservation and sustainable development of the Namib Desert and coastal areas of Namibia.

Strategies

a) Establish an Information Centre in the SCNP, preferably at the two entry points (Ugabmond and Springbokwasser).

b) Prepare good quality information in different forms (posters, brochures, reports, maps, newsletters, displays, booklets, DVDs, website, etc.), that is made available to visitors, staff and the general public.

c) Ensure that research carried out in the SCNP and other parts of the Park is translated into accessible information for the layperson.

d) Ensure that tour guides are well trained at national and local levels, and that they create exceptional field experiences for tourists by sharing their knowledge in interesting and stimulating ways.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Establish an Information Centre at each of the entry points	2017
Compile good quality information on different aspects of the geology, ecology, archaeology, etc. of the SCNP and from this, prepare materials for the dissemination of key information, e.g. Damara Terns, Important Bird Areas, wetlands, desert wildlife, lichens, etc.	2016
Set standards for tour guides – both procedural (e.g. track etiquette) and technical (environmental knowledge, etc), as well as social (tourism interaction skills) - for both the SCNP and neighbouring conservancies.	2016

Chapter 4

Zonation

Principle

The matrix of landscapes and habitats are optimally managed and sustainably used within the SCNP, based on their sensitivity, conservation importance, recreational potential and business opportunity, in that order. This will be achieved by means of a Zonation Plan. This plan must also take into account the role that the SCNP plays within the Coastal Parks, the greater Namib co-management Complex and the country. It must also remain dynamic and responsive to the potential for future opportunities, partnerships, linkages and corridors, and to developing the economic potential of the greater area within the context of biodiversity and landscape conservation, and sustainable development.

Owing to the physical shape and width of the SCNP it does not constitute a core wildlife conservation area. The SCNP does, however, provide a safe haven and food resource at certain times of the year.

Objective

To zone the SCNP for enhanced conservation management and appropriate utilization, to minimize potential conflicts between activities and to facilitate potential "bigger picture" conservation and development goals for the area.

Zones

Zonation is based on best available information on environmental sensitivity, biodiversity status and conservation priorities. Around this are built the recreational use of the area by residents and visitors, business activities and opportunities, and infrastructure development.

The following zones have been identified and mapped, based upon environmental sensitivity and following international guidelines for protected areas (IUCN 2012) (Figures 4a and b):

- Highly sensitive areas
- Areas of medium sensitivity
- Areas with general landscape or seascape value

Zones	Activities	Specific application in the SCNP
Highly sensitive areas	• Highly sensitive and high value conservation / biodiversity areas set aside for sensitive and low non-intrusive scientific study • No or minimal mechanized access – except for officials on duty. • No permanent structures • No overnighting except by of ficials on duty	• Areas of high endemicity with highly range-restricted species: • All lichen fields and Damara Tern breeding areas • All wetlands – specifically the Uniab delta, lower Hoanib river (from the mouth to the dunes), Oasis, Auses, the Hoanib floodplain, the lower Hoarusib (from the poort till the park boundary), Sarusas spring, Okau fountain and the Kunene River mouth. • All vegetated dune hummocks
		• All inselbergs, notably Sarusas ridges, Agate Mountain • The entire intertidal zone (i.e. from the spring low water mark till the spring high water mark) • The Clay Castles in the Hoarusib • The geological formations in the lower Ugab valley
Areas of medium sensitivity	• Managed for conservation and controlled tourism • Mechanised access permitted • Overnighting only at designated sites	• Whole SCNP proclaimed under this category. The other categories are managed as land-use zones within the park. Where no other zone is provided, the zone is taken to be this category.
Areas with general landscape or seascape value	• Relatively open access for public enjoyment • Generally higher intensity and lower regulatory areas • Add to welfare of local communities	•]Terrace and Torra Bay angling areas. 4x4s allowed, but other than the beach area, they must stay on tracks. No overnighting except in the Terrace and Torra Bay demarcated areas. • Toscanini coastal village

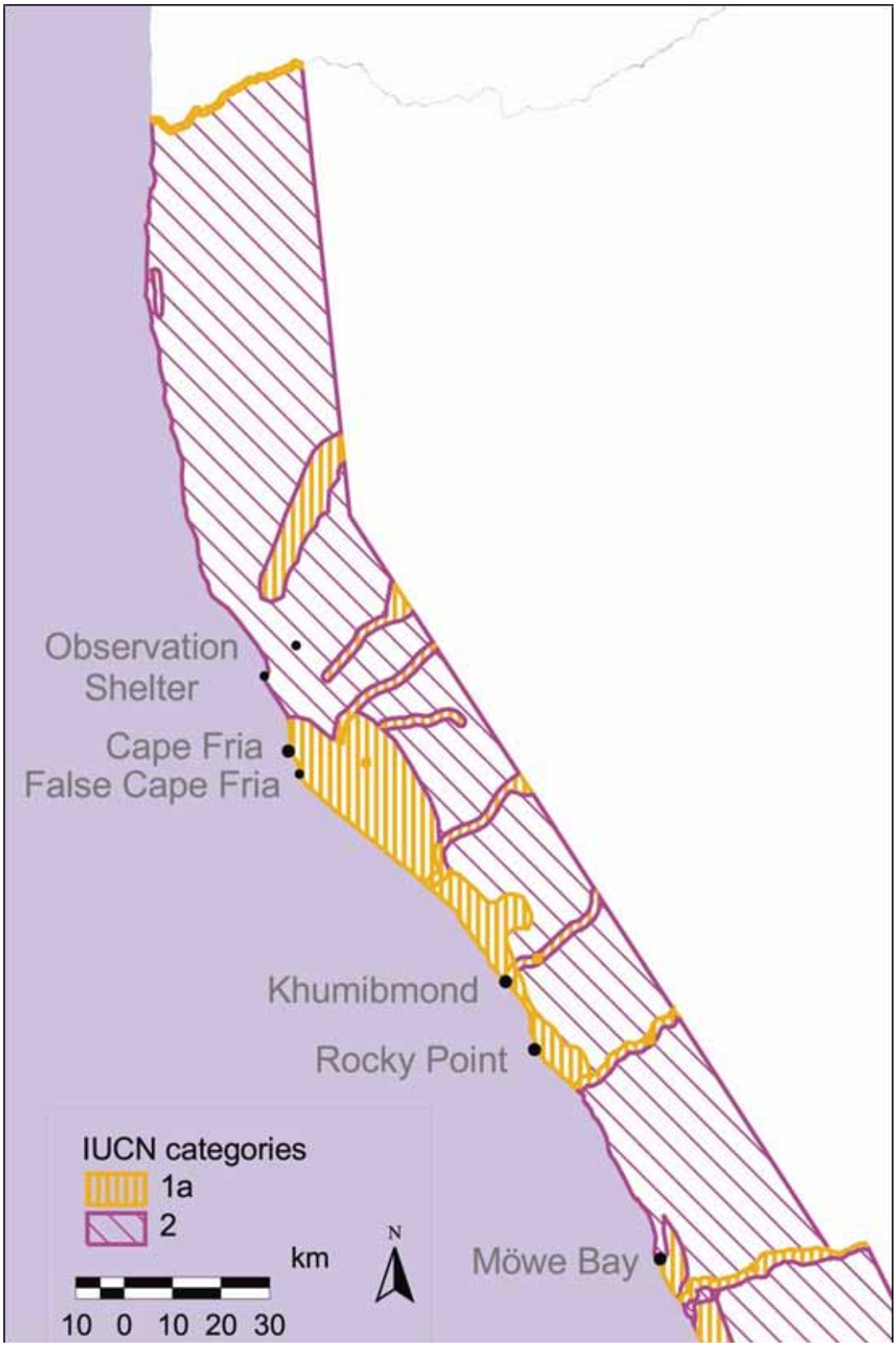


Figure 4a: Areas of conservation priority and environmental sensitivity in the northern area of the SCNP.

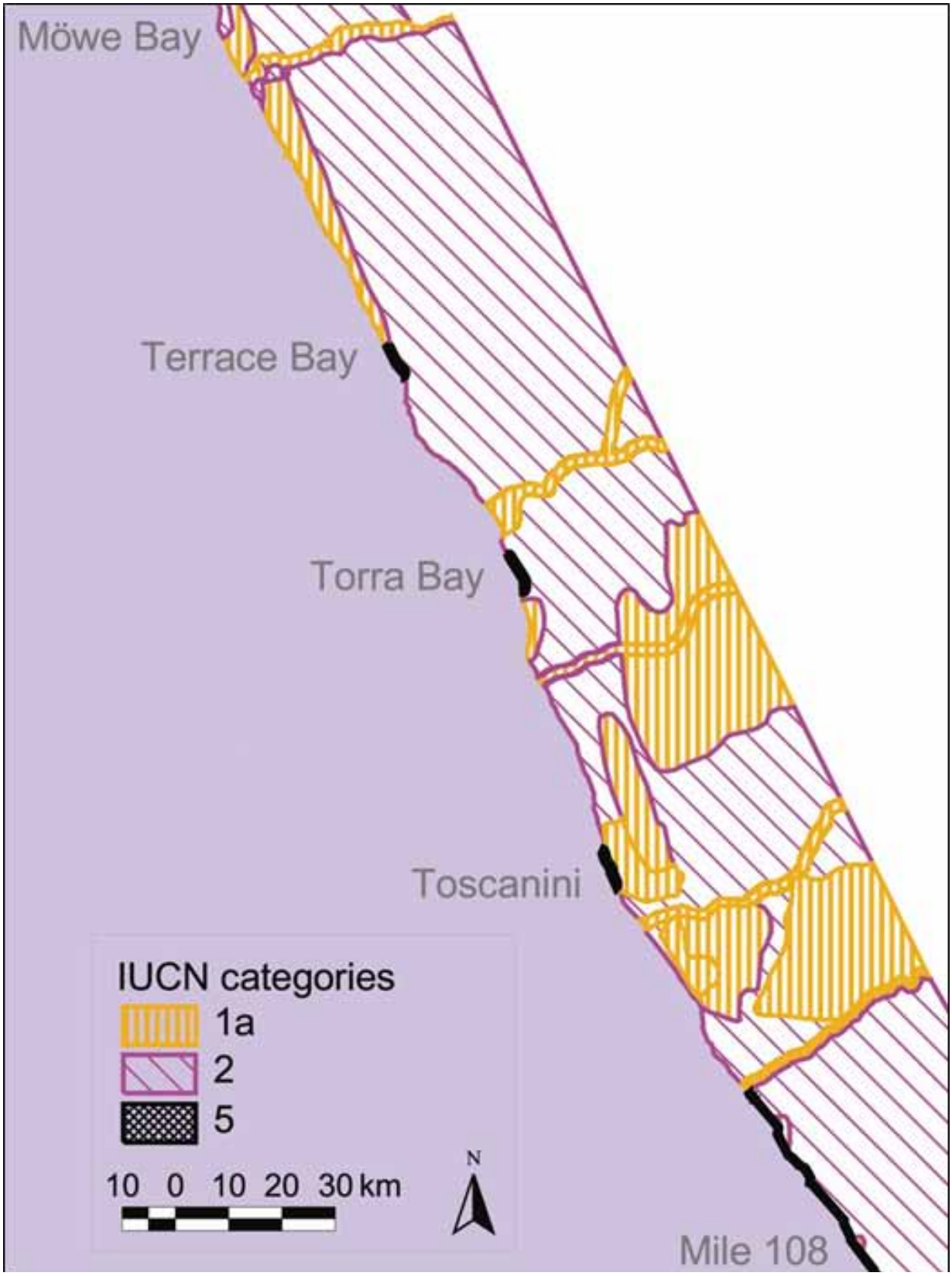


Figure 4b: Areas of conservation priority and environmental sensitivity in the southern area of the SCNP.

Recreational areas

The recreational areas for the SCNP are as follows:

- Terrace Bay and Torra Bay angling areas. 4x4s allowed, but other than the beach area, they must stay on tracks. Bikes not permitted anywhere except on a proclaimed road. Walkers and joggers may exercise anywhere within the Terrace and Torra areas.
- The Toscanini beach village is set aside for holiday-making, where residents may drive on designated tracks and pursue angling from the beach. Walkers and joggers may exercise anywhere within the Toscanini area.
- Anglers (rock and surf only) must obtain permits from MFMR.

Business areas

The business areas for the SCNP are as follows:

- Skeleton Coast Tourism concession
- Kunene Mouth Lodge
- Terrace Bay Lodge
- Filming of nature documentaries

Infrastructure and residential areas

- Lodges (as noted above)
- MET Offices and residences (Mowe Bay, Springbokwasser, Ugab).

Chapter 5

Prospecting, mining and industry

5.1 Prospecting and mining

Principle

No prospecting and mining activities should be allowed in the SCNP, and all old mines must be decommissioned and rehabilitated to as near a natural state as possible.

Objective

To ensure that the SCNP is free of all prospecting and mining.

Strategies

a) Negotiate an agreement between MME, MFMR and MET that prevents new prospecting and / or mining licenses to be awarded in the SCNP, and that already approved licenses are terminated where possible (as soon as possible), or terminated as soon as the operation in question closes of its own accord.

b) Applying safeguards is a key strategy for avoiding and/or reducing impacts to acceptable levels. All prospecting and mining activities already permitted MUST be preceded by an Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with the word and spirit of Namibia's EAPolicy (1995) and legislation (Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007, and Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, 2003.). The logical consequence of the EIA is the compilation of an Environmental Management
Plan (EMP). The EMP must define both outcomes and the methodology (in some detail) as to how the outcomes will be achieved.

c) Approved prospecting and/or mining company must provide the Skeleton Coast National Park staff with an environmental report every 6 months, showing its progress towards meeting agreed upon safeguard targets. Once prospecting and/or mining have ceased, the impacts must be rehabilitated in accordance with the stipulations of the EMP.

d) Communication with prospecting and mining companies must be conducted on a regular basis to ensure that mutual expectations are clear and re-enforced. Mining representatives should serve on the Consultative Forum, but it is still necessary for the Park staff to visit and talk to operators on the ground. Regular visits will not only facilitate dialogue, but they will also demonstrate MET's "hands on" approach towards monitoring. Visits by MET staff must be fully facilitated by mining companies in a spirit of open-cards and transparent partnership.

e) Monitor implementation of EMPs, paying special attention to the achievement of safeguard targets. A detailed inspection report must be completed after each visit to the prospect or mine by Park staff, with copies sent to MET Head Office, the Strategic Forum, the mine/ company inspected and the Mining Commissioner within MME. The report must include an "action" column, where it is clear what action needs to be undertaken by whom and by when, to remedy an environmental concern. As far as possible, the inspecting office should take photographs of key issues of concern. These should be digital since the camera

will record date and time – both essential pieces of information. If possible, the inspecting officer must obtain the counter-signature of the prospector/miner who was present during the inspection.

f) In the case of non-compliance, Park staff must immediately report the matter to the Strategic Forum in order to enable "in house" remediation. If this fails, the matter must be reported to MET HQ for higher-level attention. The Park should request external review/inspection should they not have the technical capacity to assess the situation themselves. If possible (i.e. within the provisions of the law), the prospector/miner must be responsible for carrying all the costs of external consultants. Refer to the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) for specific actions to be taken.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Compile an inventory of all prospecting and mineral licenses in the park, noting type of license, its boundaries, conditions of approval, ownership, status and contact persons.	2014
Establish a library of all the relevant EIA reports, EMPs and Records of Decision for each license.	2014 and ongoing
Develop a "prospecting and mining monitoring sheet" that enables easy field monitoring.	2016
Monitor as per schedule.	Ongoing

5.2 Industries

Principle

The SCNP should not accommodate any industry other than the types of recreation and tourism described earlier.

Chapter 6

Tourism development and management

6.1 Commercial tourism operations

Principle

Use of the SCNP is planned and implemented to promote appropriate tourism development and growth, but this is done within a zonation and management framework that ensures that the character, beauty, diversity and integrity of the fragile SCNP is maintained, that visitors have a high quality experience that includes a sense of place, peace and tranquility, and that contributes effectively to socio-economic development, employment creation and empowerment as envisaged in the Tourism Transformation Charter.

Objective

To provide for present and slightly expanding high quality eco-friendly tourism opportunities through good planning, zonation, management and collaboration between the conservation and tourism sectors, to help raise awareness and educate visitors about the SCNP and the Coastal Parks, desert and coastal environments, and to promote investment opportunities for all Namibians, particularly those previously excluded from the tourism sector as envisaged in the MET's Concessions policy and the Tourism Transformation Charter.

Strategies

a) Develop a detailed "Tourism Plan" for the SCNP within the context of the Coastal Parks, that includes a feasibility assessment, sets carrying capacities, management actions and tourism impact monitoring within the context of the Park's zonation plan. The plan should address the following components:

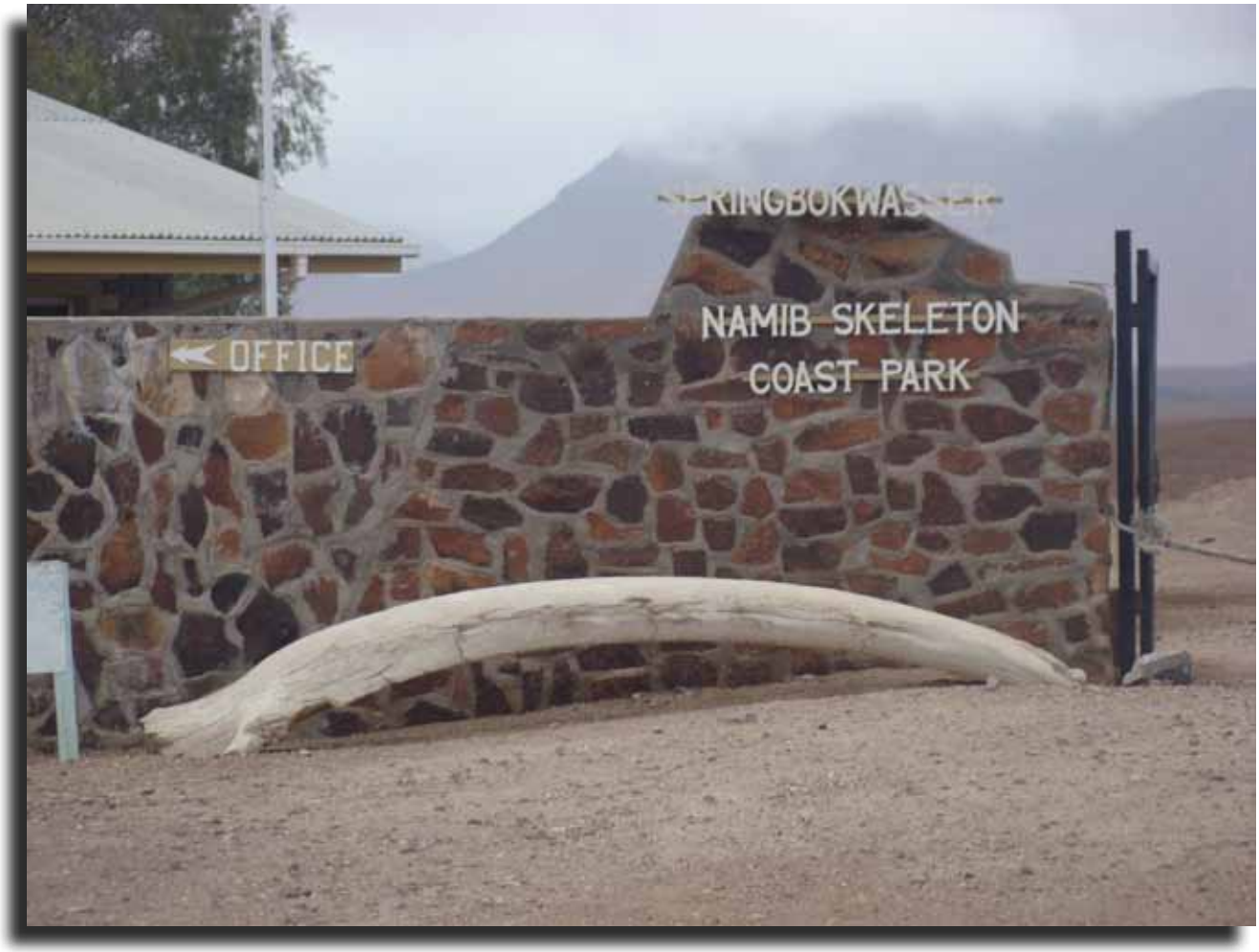
- Take full cognizance of the environmental sensitivities and biodiversity values of the area and its zonation, and strive to enhance, but never diminish these.
- Take full cognizance of the recreational requirements of the visitors to the area.
- Take full cognizance of the rights and livelihoods of local communities and residents adjacent to the park.
- Promote mid and high-end tourism, but with an emphasis on promoting sustainable tourism practices.
- Make special provision for opportunities for community participation in the tourism development of the SCNP. In this regard, the MET's Concessions policy will apply.
- Place special consideration on promoting broad-based Black Economic Empowerment and involvement in the tourism development of the SCNP.
- Focus should be on high-end tourism in the more remote areas (e.g. northward of the Hoanib River), and non- exclusive mid-market tourism in the Terrace Bay and Torra Bay areas.
- Explore potential of one small high end-of-market lodge in the Kunene Mouth area, and promote the idea of this being a cross-border tourism product.
- Develop nature walks in areas of beauty and interest (e.g. Uniab Delta).

- Establish, maintain and stock good quality interpretation materials (maps, posters, brochures, exhibits) at the main entry points to the SCNP (Ugab and Springbokwasser) and promote their inspection and / or distribution (as appropriate) to visitors.
- Develop these entry points as centres of information, aesthetic appeal and friendly service so that visitors appreciate the fact that they are entering a highly valuable and carefully protected part of the Coastal Parks. Park staff must realize that the image created by the entry points sets the tone for how visitors will either respect or disrespect the park. Therefore, their uniforms, appearances, offices, gardens and other infrastructure, must be maintained with pride.

b) Initiate investment proposals for priority tourism ventures.

c) Prepare and disseminate maps and information on the ecology, biodiversity, sensitivity, zonation and regulations of the SCNP, with special attention to priority conservation areas.

d) Develop agreed procedures and conditions for the various concessions. An important



Chapter 7

Infrastructure

7.1 Access and roads

Principle

A minimal, practical, ecologically and aesthetically appropriate road network will be maintained to help achieve the objectives of the SCNP.

Objective

To rationalize and maintain a road network to serve the management (including monitoring and research) and tourism needs of the SCNP.

Strategies

a) A carefully selected network of roads will be maintained for the effective management of the park and it's approved recreational, tourism and business activities.
b) Existing roads, tracks and borrow pits not forming part of the network will be closed and rehabilitated.
c) Any new roads and associated infrastructures (e.g. borrow pits) will be subject to an EIA.
d) No billboards (that advertise products or services) will be allowed anywhere in the Coastal Parks.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Develop an accurate GIS-based map of current roads & tracks, including making use of aerial photographs	2015 and ongoing
Develop a road network plan showing roads and related infra-structure to be retained or decommissioned and rehabilitated	2015
Close off unneeded roads	2014
Rehabilitate closed roads, tracks and old borrow pits	2015 and ongoing
Any new roads, borrow pits, etc to be subject to EIA	Ongoing

7.2 Buildings

Principle

Buildings are required to accommodate the needs of management staff and tourists, and as support infrastructure for management functions. All buildings in the Park should be simple, functional, and with minimal footprint and visual impact and should not be constructed in conservation priority areas. All buildings for tourism and recreational purposes should be non-permanent.

Objective

To ensure that buildings are kept to a minimum, and are designed to be visually attractive, energy efficient and in keeping with the sense of place of the surrounding area.

Strategies

a) Where buildings are required by non-MET authorities in the Park, they should be located as close to existing services and roads as possible.
b) All structures (including non-permanent ones) must be designed and constructed to create minimal visual impacts.
c) Planning for buildings should take into account the long-term management costs and servicing and maintenance responsibilities.
d) Conservation staff should be concentrated near areas where management and control demands are highest, and ideally near to services. Non-essential staff should be accommodated near the periphery of the park.
e) Structures containing fuel, gas and oil must meet national requirements and containment structures must be erected to minimize the effects of leaks and spillages.
f) No billboards (that advertise products or services) will be allowed anywhere in the SCNP.

7.3 Tourism infrastructure

Principle

Tourism infrastructure and facilities should be established to promote the environmental and outdoor assets of the Park, without compromising alternative and future use of the resources.

Objective

To ensure that tourism and recreation facilities in the park are aligned with the area's sense of place, sustainable use of the resources, and respect for wishes of other visitor to the Park.

Strategies

a) All structures (including non-permanent ones) must be designed and constructed to create least visual impacts.
b) Apply Namibia's Eco-Awards guidelines and criteria to the development and management of all tourism initiatives and developments.

7.4 Airstrips and aircraft

Principle

Aerial tourism such as scenic flights along the coast and fly-in transport to specific lodges add value to SCNP's tourism products. These aspects should be promoted within a framework of Namibia's civil aviation regulations, safety, sense of place and minimal disturbance to wildlife and people.

Objective

To ensure that aerial tourism in fixed wing aircraft is promoted, and carried out responsibly so that negative impacts such as disturbance of birds (e.g. in coastal wetlands) does not occur.

Strategies

a) The 'no-flying' restriction below 1,000 m should remain applicable over the entire Park, with the exception of designated corridors for approved airstrips.
b) Flights over the Kunene mouth should be prohibited except for emergency or nature conservation purposes.
c) No low-level flights should be permitted.
d) Noise pollution to other Park users must be considered in any flying operations.
e) No landing at airstrips inside the park without the permission of the MET.

7.5 Waste management and pollution

Principle

- The overall principle is that no pollution from wastes should occur in the SCNP. Different types of waste should be treated as follows:
- Biodegradable household waste should be dumped in a designated site and allowed to decompose without causing nuisance effects to people and wildlife.
- Sewage from accommodation establishments should be properly treated in appropriate sewage facilities.
- No non-biodegradable solid waste should be disposed of in the SCNP.
- Domestic solid waste such as bottles, plastics, tins and paper should be transported out of the park to the nearest designated authorized landfills.
- This also applies to hazardous wastes such as used oil, which should go to an authorized hazardous waste site.
- Emergency pollution events, such as marine oil spills, should receive a safe, timely, effective and coordinated response in coordination with the responsible government ministries and the Emergency Management Unit.

Objective

To ensure that environmental pollution does not arise from poor waste management in the SCNP. Littering and pollution from waste is discouraged by strategies, encouraging proper disposal and enforcing compliance with vigilance and strong penalties.

Strategies

a) Pro-actively undertake routine clean-ups so that people in the park see clean, litter-free surroundings.
b) All visitors and operators of whatever activities in the Park should practice the principle of 'take in – take out,' and the prohibition of littering should be strictly enforced by Park officials and Honorary Wardens. In particular, wastes from shore angling (e.g. offal, unused bait, Klippies bottles) should not be left on beaches.

c) Beach patrols by MET and MFMR officials should strictly enforce the regulations on littering.
d) Public toilet facilities at various sites such as at angling beaches should be kept in a sanitary condition so that people are not discouraged from using them by dirty facilities. 'Bush toilet' practices should not leave any mess that degrades people's outdoor enjoyment. During peak seasons (especially over the Christmas and Easter holidays) public toilet facilities and rubbish bins should be cleaned and refreshed at least every day (including public holidays and weekends). Lines of responsibility carried by the municipalities and MET/MFMR officials should be clearly defined for these duties.
e) All visitors and operators (including MET) in the Park should encourage and practice the 3-R principles of waste Reduction, Re-use and Recycling wherever possible.

The strategies for different types of waste are as follows:
f) Designated, fenced waste sites should be created for diodegradable household waste. Secondary pollution from wind-blown litter or from scavengers such as crows and jackals should be prevented by adequate enclosure of the site. Because decomposition rates in this arid environment are very slow, decomposition of this waste should be encouraged by circulating some flow of grey water over the waste site on a daily basis.
g) Septic tanks should be installed for water-borne sewage.
h) Sites which generate domestic solid waste such as bottles, plastics, tins and paper should have a fenced repository area for storage of this waste before it is transported out of the park to the nearest designated authorized landfills.
i) Workshops and fuel storage areas should be designed so that contamination from hazardous wastes is prevented. These wastes should be safely contained before transportation to an authorized hazardous waste site.
j) Marine oil spills should be handled according to the directives of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan. There should be constant preparedness for an emergency of this sort.

Activities

Actions	Timing
Include regular clean-ups as part of scheduled park maintenance activities. Increase frequency of clean-ups doing peak angling seasons.	2014 and ongoing
Implement the Honorary Warden law enforcement system and ensure that HWs include anti-littering vigilance in their patrols.	2014 and ongoing
Clearly define responsibilities for MET and MFMR, to ensure that routine cleaning of public rubbish bins and toilets is carried out, especially in popular areas during peak tourism periods.	2014 and ongoing
Ensure waste landfills and repository areas are well secured against dispersal of wastes by wind and scavengers.	2014 and ongoing
Arrange that trucks going to towns for supplies can carry wastes out of the park and dispose of them in authorized municipal landfills.	2014 and ongoing

For the Oil Spill Contingency Plan, collaborate with the Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate of Maritime Affairs in MWTC, and Benguela Current Commission, to be always adequately prepared for an oil spill emergency on the coast. This should include planning for access to remote areas of the coast by emergency teams.	2014 and ongoing

Chapter 8

Administration and management

Since management and administration underpin all operations, an efficient administrative structure is required to support financing, procurement, human resources, stores and supplies, and maintenance of the Park. Many of these aspects are controlled by public service and/or MET policy, procedures or legislation. These measures limit the autonomy of park administrators and managers. Innovative operating procedures could nonetheless be implemented to address issues specific to local conditions.

Objective

To ensure compliance with public service policies and procedures within which an efficient operating system is implemented for the conservation and economic development of Skeleton Coast National Park.

Strategies and Principles

a) MANAGEMENT PLAN: The current document represents Skeleton Coast National Park's management plan that includes the following minimum components: the purpose and objectives of the Park; a summary of core ecological, social, and economic principles and drivers. The management plan must be in standardised, useable, practical format that is easy to implement and adapt and complies with the MET's 'Framework and Guidelines for Development of Park Management Plans'. Skeleton Coast National Park shall further have an operational plan that summarises and guides all the normal activities and developments conducted by park management. This operational plan comprises eight management tools: 1) a summary of the policy framework, 2) an annual work plan, 3) a monthly work plan, 4) a development planning calendar, 5) zonation plan and guidelines, 6) a financial planning system, 7) a compilation of background information, and 8) a monitoring and evaluation system.

b) LAW ENFORCEMENT: Illegal hunting remains a major management issue for MET as well as conservancies since poaching poses a major risk to wildlife and tourism products. Vigilance against wildlife crime is therefore a very high management priority.

c) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Since communities have close links to the Park and its natural resources, mechanisms must be found that improve management efficiency by employing or outsourcing work to local people, and through joint implementation of key activities such as law enforcement, fire management, etc.

d) RESEARCH AND MONITORING: An active monitoring system of carefully selected and agreed indicators, both bio-physical and socio-economic, is essential if management effectiveness is to be improved and adapted as conditions change. Monitoring systems, such as the IBMS must therefore provide key information, especially regarding threats or opportunities. Monitoring on an operational level is not limited to the natural resource base, but also includes management efficiency. Research will be supported, primarily through collaboration, and will focus on the following:

- high value areas such as wetlands and riparian forests, as well as game movements and re-

introductions;
- improving management effectiveness, especially that which pertains to human-wildlife conflict, fire, community wildlife-and-tourism-related impacts;
- the socio-economic impact of the Park.

e) HUMAN RESOURCES play a critical role in the management of the Park, and therefore training and
continuous staff development are essential. The MET policy on HIV/AIDS must be implemented. Procedures should be implemented to redress past gender imbalances.

f) FINANCIAL CONTROL AND FUNDING: Financial controls as required under MET and other policies and legislation must be complied with. However, a broader, proactive business approach that continually resets targets of performance must be adopted. Resource and cost estimates must be monitored to ensure that targets for specific deliverables are met and improvements made.Alternative sources of funding should continually be explored to improve the management and operating efficiency of the Park.

g) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION: Mechanisms, which improve effectiveness of delivery, must always be explored. All assets must be accounted for, maintained and applied to their intended uses. Where appropriate, new technologies, equipment and fixed infrastructure must be explored and introduced.

Activities

a) Formulate annual work plans with outputs and budget allocations (this task falls to park managers) that are agreed to by senior staff. Monitor implementation of the plans. Plans are to address major

challenges and should ensure that important opportunities are optimised, for example:
- activities must be resourced with appropriate staff, equipment and funding;
- mechanisms should be provided to overcome challenges;
- opportunities to review and modify work plans must be created, and adaptive management applied as circumstances change;
- work plans with expected deliverables and dates should always be communicated to peopleresponsible for these functions.

b) Decision makers at all relevant levels should support park managers in their endeavours to implement this plan.

c) Ensure that all MET assets are accounted for, protected and maintained in working order and deployed to contribute towards this plan.

d) Monitor any changes in legislation and advise on their impact on the Park and associated operations.

e) Identify gaps in knowledge relating to management and where appropriate, through collaboration,
find solutions to improve the understanding of the natural system and the socio-economic benefits
from the Park.

f) Establish a system of monitoring and recording all aspects of the Park so that control can be exercised and management improved, especially with respect to:
- the socio-economic benefits which result from the Park;
- the development and responsible operation of tourism products;

- compliance with all collaboration agreements;
- adherence to budgets, and accountability for finances.

g) Develop a respectful and efficient working relationship with staff and other stakeholders, especially resident and neighbouring communities.

h) Make recommendations and follow up on any reviews or changes to this plan, relevant legislation, development requirements, funding, research and other management related issues.