

uLwandle

KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group Coastal Management Newsletter Vol 1 Issue 1

Update on the Coastal Management Policy Programme

By Duncan Hay

Coastal Management Policy Programme Regional Manager

The national Coastal Management Policy Programme, which aims to develop a coastal policy for the entire South African Coastline, has made rapid progress. Since the KwaZulu-Natal launch of the Programme last year, a number of consultative workshops, run by "Prof" Sineke and myself, were held in the Province. These workshops, which took place in November and December 1997, aimed at developing Visions for the Coastal Regions, and at identifying the major coastal issues. We took the results of these sessions forward into a national 'think tank' and generated a national 'visions and issues' statement. Then, in May of this year, we ran another round of public sessions which looked at possible solutions to the identified issues or problems.

While all this public consultation was going on groups of experts were busy carrying out specialist studies:

- x A strategic assessment of the coast and its resources:

examining, from a technical view, what the coast offers in the way of opportunities and constraints for sustainable development.

- x The legal and institutional context: making sense of the existing jumble of laws and regulations, who administers them, and how they are implemented.
- x Lessons learnt from international and national experience: analysing successes and failures from here and elsewhere so we can build on success and avoid making the same mistakes.
- x Related initiatives: making sure that this initiative gels with all the others going on at national, provincial, regional and local level (probably an impossible task).

The results of these specialist studies and the public consultations have been pulled together into a Coastal Policy Green Paper. The Green Paper has been circulated for comment

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KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of uLwandle! uLwandle, which means sea in Zulu, is a Coastal Management Newsletter produced by the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG). The CWG was established to provide coordination among KwaZulu-Natal Government Departments, parastatal organisations and non-governmental organisations regarding Coastal Policy matters.

A key aim of the CWG is to disseminate information on coastal management issues and as a result the CWG saw the need to establish a newsletter to provide information on coastal issues to municipalities and government departments.

Please send all correspondence to: The Editor, uLwandle, c/o Department of Local Government and Housing, Private Bag x9078, Pietermaritzburg, 3200

The Implementation of Integrated Development Planning in KwaZulu-Natal

By Kerry N Haselau

Department of Local Government
and Housing

The planning arena within which all planning authorities are to function, has undergone substantial changes, with further changes on the horizon. It is within this planning environment that the responsible development of our coastline is to be addressed.

One such change within the planning arena has been the introduction of the Provincial Planning and Development Act (PDA), No 5 of 1998, and associated requirements for planning. The Act appreciates that it is no longer appropriate to address development planning on a sectoral basis, and that the adoption of a multi-sectoral, integrated planning approach is appropriate. The Act, thus, requires all Municipalities to prepare Development Plans, giving rise to the following hierarchy of Development Plans:

- X Provincial Government:
Provincial Development Plan;
- X Regional Councils: Regional
Development Plans;
- X Metropolitan Council:
Metropolitan Development
Plan; and
- X Smaller Municipal Councils:
Local Development Plans
(LDPs).

The Department of Local Government and Housing (DLGH) has suggested that the Provincial

Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS), along with the Spatial Growth and Development Framework, could serve as the Provincial Development Plan, addressing all aspects of Development Planning pertaining to KwaZulu-Natal, including both inland and coastal development issues.

At the Regional level, the Regional Development Planning Guidelines have also been formulated, guiding Regional and Metropolitan Councils through the formulation of their respective Development Plans. These Guidelines have been reviewed so as to include coastal development issues and requirements. Moreover, the Regional Planning Guidelines are being amended to integrate Land Reform into the development planning process.

At the next scale of development planning, LDP Guidelines are being formulated

to assist Transitional Local Councils in the preparation of their LDPs. In order for the LDPs to be legally binding, the said Guidelines are to mirror the content of the PDA Regulations, which are in the process of finalisation. The LDP Guidelines have therefore been postponed pending the finalisation of the PDA Regulations.

Irrespective of the scale of planning, all Municipalities are to adopt an integrated approach to development planning. Over and above the financial and technical assistance offered by DLGH in this regard, the Department of Constitutional Development has committed itself to providing support via the formulation of an Integrated Development Planning (IDP) Manual. With the above-mentioned assistance, Municipalities will be in a position to address the planning and development of our Province's coast in an integrated manner.

CMPP Update Continued

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to stakeholders and a round of public consultations to discuss it are currently being held in KwaZulu-Natal. These comments, together with the Green Paper, will be used to draft a White Paper which will then be published. Thereafter the process of enactment and implementation will begin.

Should you not have received a copy of the Coastal Policy Green Paper and wish to participate in the process please contact me at 0331-460796 or hay@inr.unp.ac.za. The deadline for comment on the Coastal Policy Green Paper is 16 November 1998. For more information access the CMPP website at www.cmpp.co.za.

Implementation of the Sensitive Coastal Area Regulations

By Sandy MacDonald

Department of Environmental
Affairs and Tourism

For years now, South Africa's beautiful and diverse coastal environments have not been afforded sufficient legislative protection from increasing development pressure. The National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) has initiated a participatory process to formulate a national coastal management policy, but this policy will only be implemented during 1999.

Until such time, protection will be needed because coastal ecosystems can be irreversibly damaged by certain activities - particularly those such as the indiscriminate clearing of plots and flattening of dunes which are often undertaken to prepare coastal sites for development.

DEAT therefore decided to formulate regulations in terms of Sections 21, 22 and 26 of the Environmental Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989) to control potentially harmful activities on a permit system within demarcated sensitive coastal areas (SCA's). These activities are vegetation disturbance, earthworks, dune-stabilisation and dredging. A sensitivity line, mainly determined using botanical, physical and archaeological criteria, is the basis for

identifying SCA's.

As the regulations are of a type never applied before in South Africa, DEAT believed it was necessary to test their viability before wider implementation. Regulations were therefore promulgated on 31 May 1996 for the initial test case - the Outeniqua SCA - a 35 kilometre stretch on the South Coast of the Western Cape Province extending from Tergniet to the Kaaimans River. There have been some "teething troubles", but DEAT is confident that these are being overcome.

DEAT is currently taking steps to extend the jurisdictional area of the SCA regulations for a further 120 kilometres along the Outeniqua coast to the Bloukrans River. The regulations will also be implemented in certain selected areas on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal, namely Pennington and Umtamvuna.

Draft regulations and boundaries for the Outeniqua SCA Extension, and the Pennington and Umtamvuna SCA's, were published for comment in the Government Gazette on 13 February 1998. Comments received have been evaluated, and DEAT is aiming to have the final regulations in place within the coming month.

There are, of course, other areas on the South African coastline which warrant

legislative protection. DEAT intends to progressively implement the SCA regulations in a phased manner in these areas, and has already commenced initial consultations with various authorities who have showed interest in the project. In the Western Cape, for instance, DEAT will be taking steps in conjunction with affected authorities to extend the SCA Regulations from Tergniet westwards to the Breede River. The Cape Metropolitan Council has also shown interest in having a SCA implemented in their jurisdictional area, and DEAT will be taking this forward during 1998 as well. In KwaZulu-Natal, steps will probably be taken to implement the SCA Regulations on other parts of the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, and certain areas on the North Coast as well. Regarding the Eastern Cape, DEAT is currently liaising with the Provincial Authorities and Municipalities with respect to implementing the SCA regulations in that Province.

In general, DEAT will continue to advertise the SCA Regulations, so that parties in other remaining areas will be made more aware of the initiative. It is hoped that these local organisations or Municipalities will request DEAT to implement the regulations in their areas. If, however, it is clear to DEAT that certain areas

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Determining the Value of Coastal Services

By Duncan Hay

Coastal Management Policy
Programme Regional Manager

Our coast is made up of a variety of natural ecosystems. These ecosystems can be thought of as 'factories' providing a range of beneficial goods and services to coastal communities. The benefits might be direct such as fish which we eat or indirect such as waste absorption and climate control.

Many of the benefits that we experience are exceedingly difficult to measure. How much is a view worth? What is the true economic value of a relaxing coastal holiday? What is the value of a 10 kg salmon to a subsistence fisherman and what is the value of that same fish to a recreational angler or commercial operation? As part of one of the specialist studies

of the Coastal Management Policy Programme specialists have had a 'first go' at trying to put values to these goods and services.

At a conservative estimate the total annual value provided by coastal ecosystems in South Africa is R179 billion. To put that value in context, it is about 37% of South Africa's GDP. In more detail, direct benefits are valued at R44 billion. Of this raw materials including diamonds and titanium supply R3.7 billion, and commercial food production (fishing, agriculture) R11 billion. Indirect benefits are valued at R134 billion and include waste treatment (R3.8 billion) and nutrient cycling (R125 billion).

In the context of KwaZulu-Natal, even if we disregard the huge value for nutrient cycling, annually, coastal ecosystems still provide goods and services valued at a minimum of R10 billion. If

we wish to ensure that this flow of benefits sustains itself in the long term we have to invest. Just like any factory, if one doesn't invest in it, it will break down and production will slow or stop. What do we need to invest? - money, time, effort, expertise and people. That is the compelling argument for effective management of our coast and its resources. Good management will protect the 'factory' itself - the ecosystems. It will help to sustain the flow of benefits, and it will help us structure our investment wisely for optimal returns.

The next time you are strolling along the beach or fishing off a ski-boat give a thought to the goods and services that you, as an individual, receive from the coast. Make a mental tally of the values that you attach to the fish you caught or the wave you rode or the beautiful sunrise over the sea. You will be amazed how it all adds up. Then give thought to what you actually 'paid' for these goods and services. Very little or nothing. If we want to continue to pay little or nothing we need to invest in effective coastal management now.

(This article has been derived from the Coastal Management Policy Programme Green Paper.)

Sensitive Coastal Areas Continued

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need regulatory protection, then we will take the necessary steps to implement the SCA Regulations in such areas, even if there have not been specific requests in this regard from local parties.

Municipalities who foresee a need to have the SCA

regulations published in their areas of jurisdiction are welcome to contact DEAT's Coastal Management Office at any one of the following:

Postal address: Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012

Telephone: 021 - 402 3228

Fax: 021 - 418 2582

e-mail: czm@sfrfi.wcape.gov.za