**iSimangaliso Wetland Park: The goal is to end the paradox of poverty amidst the beauty of nature**

Tides of Time

**From tropical reefs to Africa’s highest forested dunes**

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park — the first South African site to be in the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List — is said to be South Africa’s most preserved coastal wetland and a shining example of its biodiversity and natural pride. The story begins in the park’s coastal dunes. The park is a marine site with terrestrial components, and its dunes, forming part of the eastern Cape coastal dunes, are the site of a looming ecological disaster prompted by mining in its interior. Former South African President Nelson Mandela describes it this way: “The Wetland Park must be the site on the globe where the world’s oldest sand dunes and the most recent human settlements are co-existing at peace with the world’s oldest and the world’s youngest mammal, the elephant seal and the elephant, respectively.”

**The fight against mining at iSimangaliso’s defining moment**

In the late 1980s and early ‘90s, the site faced opposition from conservationists and a looming ecological disaster prompted by mining in its interior. The wetland’s thriving estuarine ecosystem and the world’s oldest sand dunes, over 80 meters (260 feet) tall, are made of coral and at risk of being lost forever.

The park, the site includes reefs, lakes, lagoons, forests, and is a wildlife sanctuary. With the world’s oldest sand dunes, the park is a UNESCO World Heritage site. When the site was inscribed onto the World Heritage List, it was linked to the nation’s ecological wealth and the world’s oldest sand dunes. And the site has a unique role in the world’s oldest sand dunes.

**The Master Compressor Diving watch:** A gift for divers

Since no water can enter the watch, the gauge is 100-meter (333-foot) water-resistant and is built on 175 years of dive watchmaking. Lambert adds. Since its establishment in 1842, the company has made the most of the expertise in dive watchmaking. The new model, combining a new nation, is a gift for divers, who expose their watches to the world’s oldest sand dunes.

**What is natural heritage?**

Unesco’s 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage states that the following shall be considered as natural heritage:

- Natural features of physical and biological importance, or groups of formations, of widespread or outstanding value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view, geological or physiographical aspects of natural areas
- Natural sites of exceptional beauty and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation and natural sites of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and conservation