



MALOTI-DRAKENSBERG PARK WORLD HERITAGE SITE COMPACT SITE STRATEGY

2018-2022



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Science of the Netherlands



*Maloti Drakensberg
Transfrontier Programme*

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AWHF	African World Heritage Fund
CBO	Community Based Organisation
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas Programme
EGS	Environmental Goods and Services
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GEF SGP	Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme
IAP	Interested and Affected Persons
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
IFCD	International Fund for Cultural Diversity
MDP	Maloti Drakensberg Park
MDTP	Maloti-Drakensberg Trans-frontier Programme
MTEC	Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SNP	Sehlabathebe National Park
TFCA	Trans-Frontier Conservation Area
TP	Trans-frontier Park
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UDP	uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park
WHS	World Heritage Site



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FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

The transboundary Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage property, composed of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg National Park in South Africa and the Sehlabathebe National Park in Lesotho, is renowned for its spectacular natural landscape, its importance as a haven for many threatened and endemic species, as well as its wealth of rock paintings made by the San people over a period of 4000 years. The local communities that inhabit this landscape today are important contemporary custodians of the site and its values, which go beyond the natural and cultural value recognised under the World Heritage Convention.

The decision to enhance the engagement of local communities in the stewardship of the World Heritage site and to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from heritage is in line with the strategic objectives of the World Heritage Convention (the 5 C's). By the adoption of the World Heritage policy on sustainable development, the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention have acknowledged the great potential of World Heritage to contribute to inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security. By endorsing the COMPACT community conservation programme, I see Maloti-Drakensberg Park making headway towards putting into action this landmark policy, which aims at improving the quality of life of our communities.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a founding partner to the United Nations-initiated COMPACT programme to deliver small-grants for community-based initiatives that benefit people and nature alike. The programme relies on the long-standing partnership between UNESCO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), with a methodological guide on COMPACT published by UNESCO in 2014. Today, COMPACT is working with an increasing number of World Heritage sites around the world, notably in Africa, with over one million beneficiaries and more than 400 small grants awarded to community-based activities in the World Heritage land- and seascapes.

The COMPACT programme in Maloti-Drakensberg Park has been initiated thanks to the financial support of the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences through the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust cooperation, UNDP Lesotho, Small Grants Programme Lesotho, Small Grants Programme South Africa and the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project. We are very grateful to our UN sister-agency and partner, UNDP and its Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, for its matching contributions to COMPACT, and for the interest and commitment of the UNDP country offices and the site management institutions, namely Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife and the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture of Lesotho as implementing partners to the programme.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the State Parties of Lesotho and South Africa for their unreserved support to this initiative. Moreover, I would like to thank all the community representatives and non-state actors for generously contributing their time and expertise, as it is with communities that the community conservation programme will thrive.

To ensure the future success of this initiative, I encourage all existing and new partners to invest in putting into action the COMPACT strategy. I am confident that the Maloti-Drakensberg Park will become a leader in efforts to demonstrate the relevance of heritage for sustainable development, contributing to Lesotho's and South Africa's effort towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Yours sincerely,



Mechtild Rössler
Director
World Heritage Centre

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 BACKGROUND

The international community has embarked on a new development agenda from 2016 to 2030 in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The era offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to end poverty and to transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting our environment, ensuring peace and realizing human rights (UN, 2014). In view of the critical importance of integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, a policy on World Heritage was adopted in 2015 (UNESCO, 2015). Although the Strategy talks to all the 17 SDGs, of more relevance to Heritage conservation are goals **1**. Ending poverty in all its forms, **2**. Ending hunger and achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, **12**. Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, **11**. Particularly Target **11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage and **15**. Protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss and **17**. Partnerships for the goals. To contribute towards achievement of this enormous agenda, there is need for design and implementation of sustainable projects and businesses that take everyone on board at the local community level.

It is in pursuance of this agenda that, the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site is adopting the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme (COMPACT) approach. COMPACT is an innovative model for engaging communities in conservation and shared

governance of World Heritage sites and other protected areas and is based on the proposition that 'community-based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in World Heritage sites while helping to improve the livelihoods of local people'. With an emphasis on complementing and adding value to existing conservation programmes, COMPACT uses small grants to support clusters of community-based activities that are intended to strengthen biodiversity conservation in and around protected areas (UNESCO, 2014). It is currently a jointly funded programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the institutional host of the programme. The initiation of the COMPACT project in Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site (MDP WHS) has been jointly funded by the UNDP Country Office in Lesotho, GEF SGP in Lesotho and South Africa, UNESCO-Netherlands Funds-in-Trust Cooperation, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW), Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC) and Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme (MDTP).

With the MDP WHS being a transboundary site shared between Lesotho and South Africa, two separate but parallel processes were undertaken to produce site strategies for the COMPACT initiative. The two processes have been collated to form a single Strategy with a Joint Results Framework for the MDP WHS which includes the Sehlabathebe National Park (SNP) WHS in Lesotho and the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park WHS in South Africa.



Figure 1. MDP WHS COMPACT Joint Strategy Formulation workshop held at MDTP Office, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa on 12 December 2017

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

1.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site is the largest (249 313 ha) and most significant protected area within the Protected Area Network of the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area. It is an asset of international significance due to its unique natural and cultural values already recognised by the listing of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park as a World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Site. The addition of the SNP broadens the spectrum of natural and cultural heritage protected by this Transfrontier Park (TP) and therefore the approval this addition and the listing of the TP as a WHS in 2013 was appropriate.

The Transfrontier MDP WHS is dominated by the Maloti Drakensberg - a mountain range of

unique origins, and as such has a diverse range of ecological niches resulting in a rich biodiversity and a high number of endemic species. In addition, it is home to thousands of rock art paintings, a product of the San's long historical relationship with this mountain environment as well as an interesting historical cultural heritage.

The MDP WHS furthermore contributes significantly towards the economy of the Southern African sub-region through protecting a vast portion of this mountain range and thereby securing the supply of high quality water from its dense network of wetlands (hence the Ramsar Site designation), the sustainable use of natural resources, and the development of appropriate forms of tourism.



Figure 2. Location and Extent of the MDP in Southern Africa

1.2.2 HISTORY OF CONSERVATION AND DECLARATION OF THE MALOTI DRakensBERG PARK



Figure 3. uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park (Sani Pass)

The uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park (South Africa) is a statutory protected area in terms of South African legislation and was expanded, consolidated and declared under various provincial and national statutes between 1903 and 1989 [as indicated in its Integrated Management Plan (2006 -2011)]. These include the declaration of four Wilderness Areas within the Park. It was listed in the Directory of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Site No. 886) on 21 January 1996 and as a World Heritage Site No. 985 by UNESCO on 29 November 2000.

The Sehlabathebe National Park (Lesotho) is a statutory protected area in terms of the Lesotho National Parks Act of 1975 and was declared under various statutes between 1970 and 2002

(as indicated in its 2006 Management Plan). The Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site which allows for the joint management of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site and Sehlabathebe National Park based on this Joint Management Plan was jointly declared by the responsible country Ministers during September 2007. This declaration was undertaken in terms of the MDTP bilateral Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Government of the Republic of South Africa at Sehlabathebe National Park on 11th June 2001 and the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project Implementation Plan signed by the MDTP Bilateral Coordination Committee in Maseru on 23rd November 2001.



Figure 4. Sehlabathebe National Park at the bracket (Three Bushmen / Devil's Knuckles)

2. APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

The MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy was led by a Joint COMPACT team made up of representatives from EKZNW, MDTP, SNP, MTEC and UNDP GEF SGP. The Team appointed 2 consultants, one for Lesotho and another for South Africa to undertake parallel processes of developing the respective strategies. The strategies were developed through extensive consultative processes and input from a wide variety of stakeholders in Lesotho and South

Africa which included the UDP and SNP, MTEC; UNESCO, GEF SGP National Steering Committee representatives, traditional authorities; national, provincial and local government authorities; civil society organisations; private sector and academia. Besides the parallel national consultation workshops, a number of joint strategy workshops were held between the two countries to help synchronise the respective strategies.



Replication workshop (March 2015)

The mentoring mission was led by the SGP National Coordinator – Tanzania assisted by SGP Lesotho and South Africa. In attendance were Park Management Teams from Lesotho and South Africa.

Joint COMPACT Team Strategizing Meetings

(7 July 2016, 3–4 April 2017, 25 August and 27–28 September 2017) Following a pledge to avail planning grant by UNESCO WHC (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust), three bodies were formed: Lesotho and South Africa COMPACT Teams and a Joint COMPACT Team all comprising Park Managers, Park Authorities, GEF SGP Secretariats in Lesotho and South Africa and the MDTP Personnel. Results achieved: A costed project work-plan; TORs for engagement of consultants for Site Strategy development and reporting; and validation of baseline assessments reports and conceptual framework; and site strategies.



Consultative Process in South Africa

COMPACT sensitisation workshops: National Coordinating Committee on the 21 April 2017; MDTP WHS Local Board on 9 May 2017. These committees comprise representatives from national governments, provincial and local governments, traditional authorities as well as civil society organisations (CSOs). The MDTP Bilateral Biodiversity and Protected Area Working Group was also briefed on 3 May 2017.

Multi-stakeholder workshops

(3–4 August and 18 September 2017) in Midmar, Howick to build a shared understanding of the status quo of the area as well as provide a framework for the COMPACT Site Strategy. In attendance were traditional leaders, national, provincial and local government representatives, South African Police Services, academia, MDTP Local Board members, CSOs as well as the private sector. This informed development of the Baseline Assessment Report and a Conceptual framework.



Consultative Process in Lesotho

Introductory Stakeholder Consultations: National Coordinating Committee on 9 April 2017; District Planning Unit (DPU) on 10 April 2017 and Sehlabathebe Community Conservation Forum (CCF) on 11 April 2017, in conjunction with the Sehlabathebe Management Plan review process. These institutions comprise representatives from national and local governments, local authorities and CSOs including local youth, women and herder associations and the business community.

Multi-stakeholder consultative workshops: Expanded COMPACT Team on 5 June 2017, District Planning Unit on 14 June 2017 in Qacha's Nek, Sehlabathebe CCF at Sehlabathebe on 15 June 2017 as part of the scoping exercise and baseline assessments to inform development of conceptual frameworks and Site Strategy development.



The Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site COMPACT Site Strategy Development Process in Pictures

Figure 5. MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy Development Process in Pictures

The strategies build on the work and information gathered and captured in the preceding reports which also form part of the strategies, i.e. the Consultation and Scoping Reports and the Baseline Assessments, Conceptual Models and Strategy Framework Reports. These three reports provide a record of the stakeholder consultation process and a preliminary indication of the issues and

opportunities relevant to the COMPACT initiative. The baseline assessment delves deeper into the natural, cultural, social, economic and political dynamics of the area, providing relevant information on how these impact the integrity of the MDP WHS and its Buffer Zone. The baseline further informed the development of the Conceptual Model where the linkages between these dynamics, their

impacts, related strategies and desired outcomes are illustrated. According to the findings of the Connecting Practice initiative the relationship between the cultural and the natural values is not self-evident, therefore the COMPACT initiative seeks to strengthen the interconnectedness of the cultural and natural values.

An ecological goods and services (EGS) approach was used to broadly determine the general state of the MDP and its Buffer Zone. This was the first

time that the COMPACT process made use of this approach to aid the discussion and identification of initiatives to achieve the desired state of Park and its buffer zone. On the basis of the understanding developed through this process a framework for the Strategy was developed and which is built on in the baseline reports. These reports must be read in conjunction with each other as duplications between them, while being inevitable, have been minimised as far as possible.

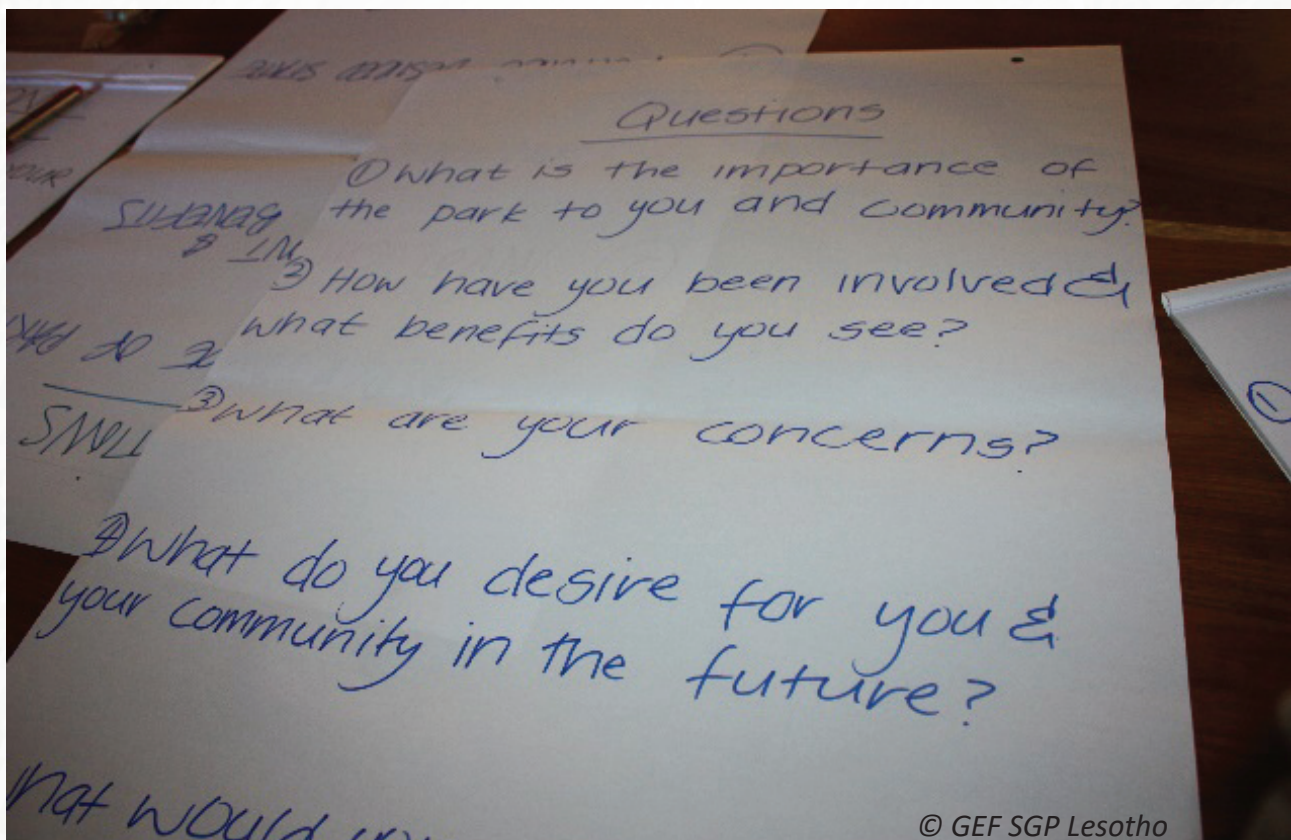
2.1 THE STRATEGY RESULTS FRAMEWORK

In order to build a Strategy it is important to begin with a framework and this was produced as part of the preceding step and has been carried across here.

The structure of the Site Strategy Framework is based on a hierarchy of statements that begin being broad and long-term and are broken down into those that are more specific and of a shorter

term nature. While the naming of the statements can differ from process to process, UNESCO (2014) uses key goal, core objectives, thematic areas and potential activities to reflect this hierarchy.

The key goal, core objectives and envisaged outcomes for the MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy are summarised in Figure 5 and further elaborated in Table 1 below.



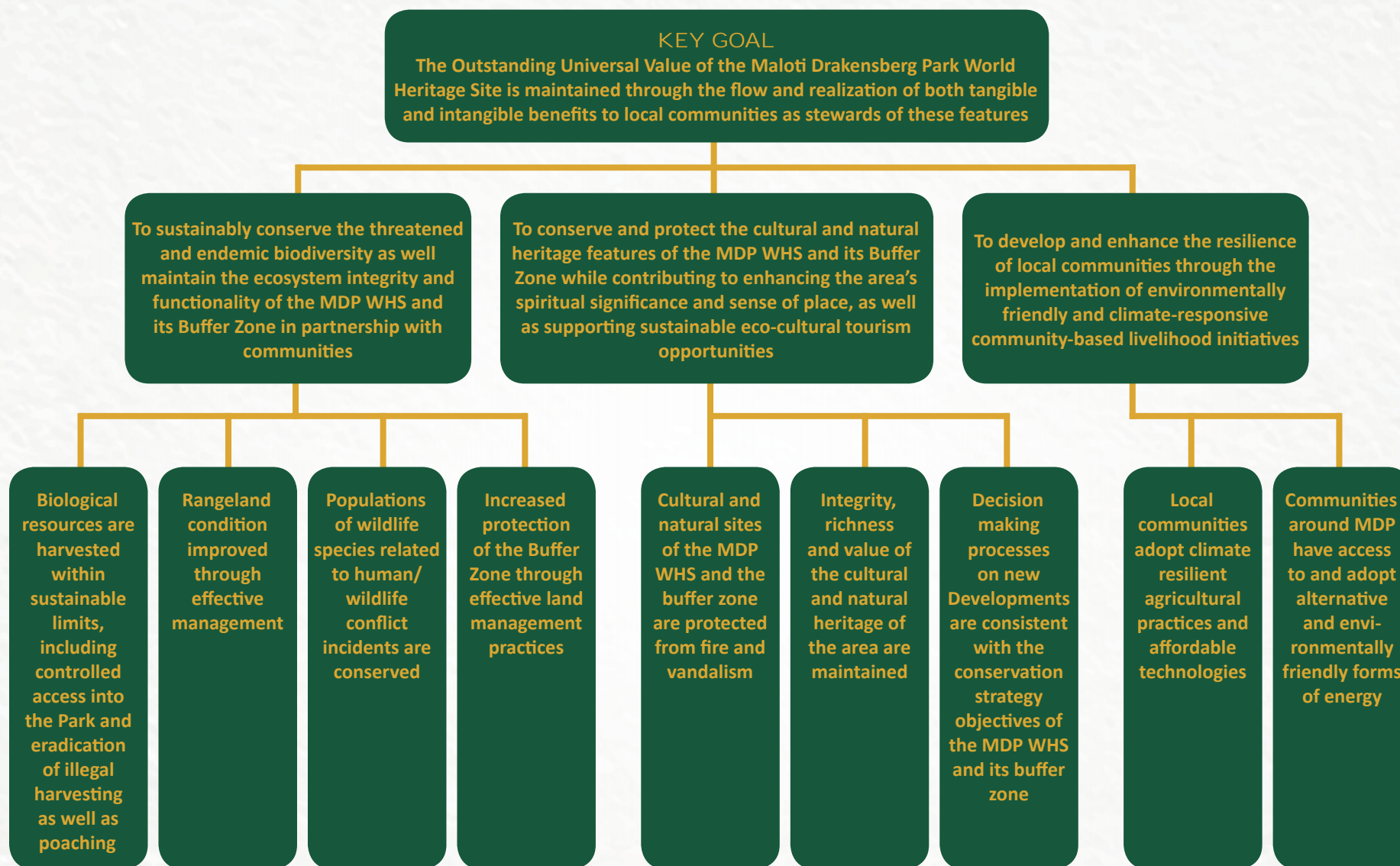


Figure 6. Hierarchy of Objectives for the MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy

Table 1. MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy Results Framework

Overall Goal The Outstanding Universal Value of MDP WHS is maintained through the flow and realization of both tangible and intangible benefits to local communities as stewards of these features.				
Project Objectives				
Objective 1: To sustainably conserve the threatened and endemic biodiversity as well maintain the ecosystem integrity and functionality of the MDP WHS and its Buffer Zone in partnership with communities.				
OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	INTERVENTIONS	LINKAGE TO SDGs
a) Biological resources are harvested within sustainable limits, including controlled access into the Park and eradication of illegal harvesting as well as poaching.	i. Traditional healers subscribe to the control mechanisms for medicinal plants. ii. Commercial collections for urban centre markets are controlled. iii. Reduced incidences of illegal harvesting. iv. Reduced incidences of poaching incidents. v. The conservation of threatened and endemic biodiversity is improved. vi. Conservation status of critical ecosystems is improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant control measures developed. Reduced incidents of illegal harvesting of biological resources such as medicinal plants by at least 30%. Poaching incidents reduced by at least 30%. Structure(s) for law enforcement established. Increased number of community environmental monitors capacitated to support enforcement (<i>Baseline to be determined by the MDP assessment</i>). Reduced illegal human movement in the Park. Number of relevant awareness campaigns and materials developed and the numbers of participants/traditional healers reached. Number of medicinal plant nurseries established. A systematic monitoring and evaluation program is in place. Community based monitoring and evaluation tool (Citizen Science) established. Up to date data on the status of biodiversity is integrated in planning with a resultant list of priority interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of relevant control measures (e.g. permit systems) within existing legal frameworks and traditional law and building of institutional capacity for enforcement within these structures. Training, equipping and deployment of community environmental monitors to enforce local control measures. Development and implementation of relevant awareness and education campaigns for the communities in general and specifically for the Traditional Healers and gatherers and relevant government law enforcement agencies. The establishment of medicinal plant nurseries in collaboration with traditional healers. Establish and implement a systematic monitoring and evaluation program for interventions aimed at improving the biodiversity status. 	SDGs 11, 15
b) Rangeland condition improved through effective management	i. Improved rangelands condition and grazing opportunities for livestock. ii. A improved vegetation cover (on rangelands). iii. Improved livelihoods for local communities through household level income generated from, for example, the Meat Naturally and/or similar initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of grazing management plans developed. Reduced number of incidents of illegal grazing in the Park. Integrated IAP management plans developed. Extent (in hectares) of areas cleared of IAPs and restored. The extent (in hectares) to which IAP infestation is limited, controlled and contained within woodlots. Improvement in water quantity and quality. Number of livestock owners and other community members participating in the Meat Naturally and/or similar initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of grazing management plans. Development and implementation of integrated IAP management plans. Designing and implementing community beneficiation initiatives related to the use of invasive alien plants and their management as an important source of fuel and building material. Support for the application for and implementation of Working for Water projects or similar sources of funding. 	SDGs 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17

	iv. Reduction in the number of arson fires started and the areas burnt annually. v. Reduction in fire related losses experienced. vi. Improvement in the implementation of fire management strategies aimed at limiting the area burnt annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of exchange visits facilitated. • Adapted and replicated Meat Naturally and/or similar initiative results in increased and sustainable tangible benefits. • Number of community environmental monitors and other eligible entities supporting fire management initiatives. • Number of “Working on Fire” or similar projects implemented in the area and the number of related local structures impacted. • The number of awareness raising campaigns and related material produced. • The number of community members reached. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement community beneficiation initiatives similar to the Meat Naturally and/or similar initiative promoting production and selling of grass-fed beef, and income generation for local communities. • Create a platform for cross-pollination of information in the Meat Naturally and/or similar initiative to promote sharing of lessons learned. • Training, equipping and deployment of community environmental monitors and other eligible entities in the early detection and fighting of fires. • Support for the application and implementation of Working on Fire projects, and/or similar funding sources, including the institutional strengthening of local structures in integrated fire management. • Development and implementation of awareness campaigns for the communities in general as this relates to the control of fire. 	
c) Populations of wildlife species related to human/wildlife conflict incidents are conserved.	i. Incidence of human/wildlife conflict is reduced. ii. Levels of tolerance towards wildlife increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant control measures developed. • Increased number of community environmental monitors and other community governance structures with capacity to implement and enforce. • Increased number of relevant awareness campaigns and materials developed and the numbers of participants reached per campaign. • Cultivated areas protected by fencing projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of control measures by the Traditional Authorities related to the control and management of wildlife/human conflict, e.g. permit system. • Development and implementation of awareness campaign programmes. • The fencing in and protection of crops and crop land from wildlife. 	SDGs 11, 12
d) Increased protection of the Buffer Zone through effective land management practices	i. Increased protection of the Buffer Zone through implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas influenced. • Hectares of land under sustainable agricultural and water management practices. • Improved crop yield of suitable varieties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement sustainable agricultural and water based community livelihood projects. 	SDGs 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17
Objective 2: To conserve and protect the cultural and natural heritage features of the MDP WHS and its Buffer Zone while contributing to enhancing the area’s spiritual significance and sense of place, as well as supporting sustainable eco-cultural tourism opportunities.				
OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	INTERVENTIONS	LINKAGE TO SDGs
a) Cultural and natural sites of the MDP WHS and the buffer zone are protected from fire and vandalism	i. The incidents of arson fires and acts of vandalism that damage cultural and natural sites are significantly reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of community members trained for the protection of cultural and natural heritage sites. • The number of arson fires and acts of vandalism detected and dealt with. • Number of “Working on Fire” and similar projects implemented in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessment, development and implementation of a capacity development program. • Training, equipping and deployment of community environmental monitors and other entities in the early detection and fighting of fires. • Establish and or revitalise, equip and sustain the Rock Art Monitoring Groups and replicate these in other areas. 	SDGs 11, 12, 15, 17

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of functional and well equipped Fire Fighting Teams. • The number of rock art monitoring groups established and capacitated. • Improved preservation status of Rock Art and other heritage resources 		
b) Integrity, richness and value of the cultural and natural heritage of the area are maintained	i. Cultural and natural features of the MDP WHS are safeguarded as a result of increased appreciation for cultural and natural heritage amongst local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of relevant awareness campaigns and materials developed • Increased numbers of people reached through campaigns • Increased number of community initiated actions for heritage protection • Number of inventories of undocumented cultural and natural heritage features e.g. eco-cultural mapping exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness creation on the importance of eco-cultural tourism in relation to MDP WHS management • Development and implementation of cultural heritage awareness and education campaigns for the communities in general • Support community action for advocacy and protection of cultural and natural heritage • Creation of opportunities for communities to identify sites of cultural and natural heritage significance and integrate outcomes into the awareness raising and local development and training activities. 	SDGs 11, 12, 15,17
c) Decision making processes on new Developments are consistent with the conservation strategy objectives of the MDP WHS and its buffer zone	i. Decision making processes on new developments are characterised by strong collaboration between Traditional Authorities and Local Government structures, as well as the application of environmental sustainability principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of events facilitated and the number of participants attending. • Increased number of policies and management plans influenced by local communities • Number of by-laws developed, enacted and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue platforms for Traditional Leaders and Local Governments to build their awareness of the MDP WHS OUV. • Capacity building for Traditional leaders and local governments to engage in sustainable development decision making processes 	SDGs 11, 12, 15, 17
	ii. Increasing realization of the value of the scenic splendour of the area in supporting local livelihood strategies through tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of functional, profitable and sustainable tourism based businesses in the area. • Increased number of local community members employed and benefiting from the initiatives. • Tourist attacks reduced to zero. • Increased number of sustainable tourism based CBOs. • Continuous engagement within local communities on MDP WHS issues • Existence of effective community partnerships on MDP WHS issues • Increased number of learning exchange visits • Reduced incidences of cross border clashes within the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and improvement of tourism based businesses in the area. E.g. tour guiding, handicrafts, culture based tourism, homestays, agro-products for tourism etc. • Strengthening the MDP Bilateral Security working group • Establishment and improvement of tourism CBOs. • Promotion and strengthening of cross border networking and collaboration within the site • Support to joint planning, programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community conservation and management action plans in the MDP 	
Objective 3: To develop and enhance the resilience of local communities through the implementation of environmentally friendly and climate-responsive community-based livelihood initiatives.				

OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	INTERVENTIONS	LINKAGE TO SDGs
a) Local communities adopt climate resilient agricultural practices and affordable technologies	i. Improved sustainable agricultural practices and water saving technologies adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of farmers implementing sustainable agriculture/climate smart agro-ecology projects • Hectares of land under sustainable agriculture • Improved crop yield of suitable varieties. • Number of households using rain water harvesting techniques. • Number of livestock watering projects implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and implement projects related to enhancing community-based food security, e.g. permaculture projects. • Develop and implement rain water harvesting projects for human consumption. • Develop and implement projects related to the provision of water for livestock. 	SDGs 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 13
b) Communities around MDP have access to and adopt alternative and environmentally friendly forms of energy.	i. Reduced reliance on biomass for energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of renewable energy and energy efficient projects rolled out in the communities. • Number of available and affordable renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. • Number of households adopting environmentally friendly renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and implement projects related to the provision of appropriate and affordable renewable energy solutions to communities such as solar energy for lighting & cooking, biogas digesters, etc. 	SDGs 1, 7, 11, 12, 15

3. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

In order to support the implementation of the MDP COMPACT Strategy, a financial strategic plan should be developed for sustainable financing of this initiative. The financial strategy should identify and cost COMPACT's grant and operational resource needs in the short, medium and long-term horizon and map out potential partners i.e. international donors, foundations, local private and public sector partners. From strategizing meetings that were held during the country Site Strategies development process, potential partners were identified, particularly those that are supporting initiatives that are currently running in and around the Site, with which synergies could be established to attract new and additional resources for the implementation of the COMPACT project in the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site (MDP WHS).

Potential funding opportunities from the Lesotho side include, inter-alia, the following: United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) through the Emergency Response initiative which also focuses on wetland restoration and water provisioning for livestock, capitalising on ongoing National Conservation Programmes led by the 3 line ministries of Water, Environment as well as Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation within the site; support from the GEF Small Grants

Programme as the site falls within the SGP priority landscape and application to the UNESCO's World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) funding assistance. Both South Africa and Lesotho can tap onto the UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) as well as the SADC Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) funding for capacity building and joint applications should be explored. On the South African side, the GIZ rangeland management programme in the Upper uThukela area supports the work of livestock owners in the Northern Drakensberg, KwaZulu Natal. The MDP COMPACT can also benefit from partnering with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) through their capacity building support as well as grant-funding support. Project-level co-financing is also anticipated from national, provincial and local government, civil society organisations as well as tourism-based revenue generated by EKZNW used to fund community projects through the Community Levy Fund.

The COMPACT financial sustainability strategic plan should take cognisance of the need for the diversification of funding streams to reduce reliance on donor funding in the long-run and to explore the feasibility of payments for ecosystem services as a mechanism to secure sustainable financing through leveraging the work that

has already been undertaken by MDTP and South African National Biodiversity Initiative (SANBI). In this way it may be possible to ensure that on-going and incremental funding support is secured, together with market-based mechanisms that may be used to generate an income stream. Examples include supporting income generating

projects in agriculture, livestock management (Meat Naturally or similar initiatives promoting generating household level income through grass farming and livestock production and auction) and ecotourism, using the COMPACT small grants as seed or catalytic funding.

4. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

The MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy will be reviewed every five years in line with the principles for reviewing its Joint Management Plan. The next review period is planned for December 2022 where amendments will be made to the existing Site Strategy in preparation for the next five year implementation period (2023-2027). If deemed appropriate by the Joint COMPACT Team, the review can take place sooner.

The two implementing entities will, in consultation with the Local Consultative Board, annually review the MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy at their last meeting of the year to monitor and evaluate its implementation progress, note minor amendments,

consider the next steps in implementation and, if necessary, re-prioritise management activities for the next year.

The Joint COMPACT Team will also be responsible for the approval or recommendation (as may be appropriate) of any policies, projects and plans that are developed in terms of this Site Strategy or other ad hoc projects not covered by the Site Strategy.

The Joint COMPACT Team must ensure that any approved amendments to the MDP WHS COMPACT Site Strategy are duly noted and all operational and library copies are amended accordingly.

5. ANNEXES

The Joint MDP COMPACT Site Strategy is a product of synchronization of parallel processes that took place in the two countries co-managing the MDP WHS. These processes culminated into a set of three reports for each country: Consultation and Scoping Report and the Baseline Assessment,

Conceptual Model and Strategy Framework Report all of which informed formulation of COMPACT Site Strategies. The MDP COMPACT Site Strategies of Lesotho and South Africa can be accessed on the UNESCO website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985>

Partner websites

UNESCO World Heritage Centre / Maloti-Drakensberg Park: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985>

UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme: <https://www.sgp.undp.org/>

Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife: <https://www.ekznw.co.za/>

