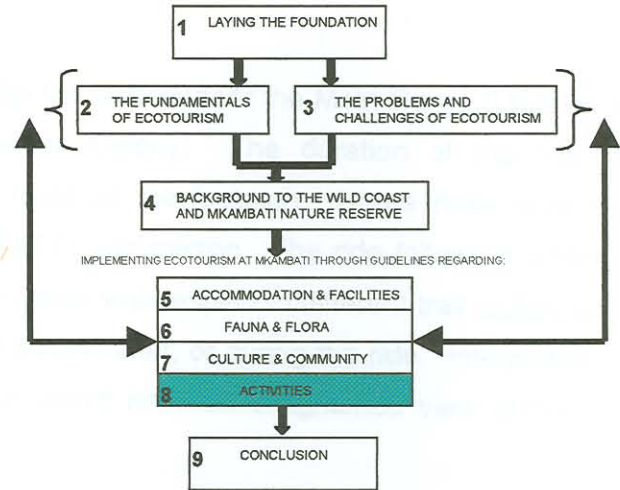


## Chapter 8

# Implementing ecotourism: activities



### 8.1 Introduction

This chapter is the final chapter on the translation of theory into practice at Mkambati Nature Reserve. It deals with the activities that can be offered at Mkambati Nature Reserve, describing how these can involve local communities and provide an enlightening, interactive, and participatory experience for tourists. Activities, and particularly multi-activities are essential for the 'new tourist', of which the tourist engaging in ecotourism is an example. In the recommendations regarding activities that Mkambati is already providing or could provide, the local repertoire in terms of knowledge, interpretation, and skills should not be overlooked. The local community can add much to the activities offered. This chapter therefore deals with the ecotourism fundamentals of the ecotourism industry as the instigators of activities, the local community as contributors to activities, and the tourists as the recipients. The fundamental of the resource base is also important here, as activities must be sustainable.

Adequate training of guides is essential to provide tourists with valuable experiences. Training must be done on a continuous basis and not only provides the local employees with employment and skills, but should also highlight any problems that might be experienced by tourists. Staff involved in interpretation need not have any formal qualifications, as practical experience is often the most useful base from which to enlighten tourists (Fennell, 1999).

### 8.2 Activities currently offered at Mkambati

#### 8.2.1 Trails

##### 8.2.1.1 Mountain biking

Mountain biking is allowed within the reserve. At present, there are no set trails for cyclists, the result being that riders use reserve roads and foot paths, as well as making their own tracks.

### 8.2.1.2 *Horseriding*

Mkambati offers one horse trail, which departs from the stables near the Main Gate. It follows a circular track past the Superbowl and the Vulture Colony. The duration of the trail is approximately two hours and follows the same route as the footpath. Horse rides must be booked the previous day at Reception and cost R40.00 per person. The ride follows a walking pace and is led by a guide. Visitors do not have a choice with respect to different trail routes, and the pace of the ride. No interpretation is provided before, after, or during the ride. Interpretation would enhance the trail experience, as the visitor would have an enlightened view of his/her environment and of horseriding itself.

### 8.2.1.3 *Hiking*

Walking trails are key elements in any protected area (Andersen, 1993). Trails are currently available in Mkambati Nature Reserve, although they do not cover all the areas that tourists would enjoy visiting. Some scenic views and waterfalls, for example, are not on set trails. Another drawback is that walking trails are not all in good condition, lacking thorough and regular maintenance. They are also not clearly marked, for example, the trail from the Mkambati Falls to Four Falls.

The existing trails are set out below.

- The Gwe Gwe Forest trail.
- The Vulture Colony trail, following a circular route past the Superbowl and Vulture Colony (Figure 8.1), returning to the Main Gate.
- The trail from Point Cottage, along the coast towards Riverside as far as Gwe Gwe.
- The trail from the Mkambati Falls, through the Wilderness Area to the shipwreck and the mouth of the Mtentu.
- The trail from the Mkambati Falls through the Wilderness Area to the Four Falls viewpoint.

### 8.2.2 *Fishing*

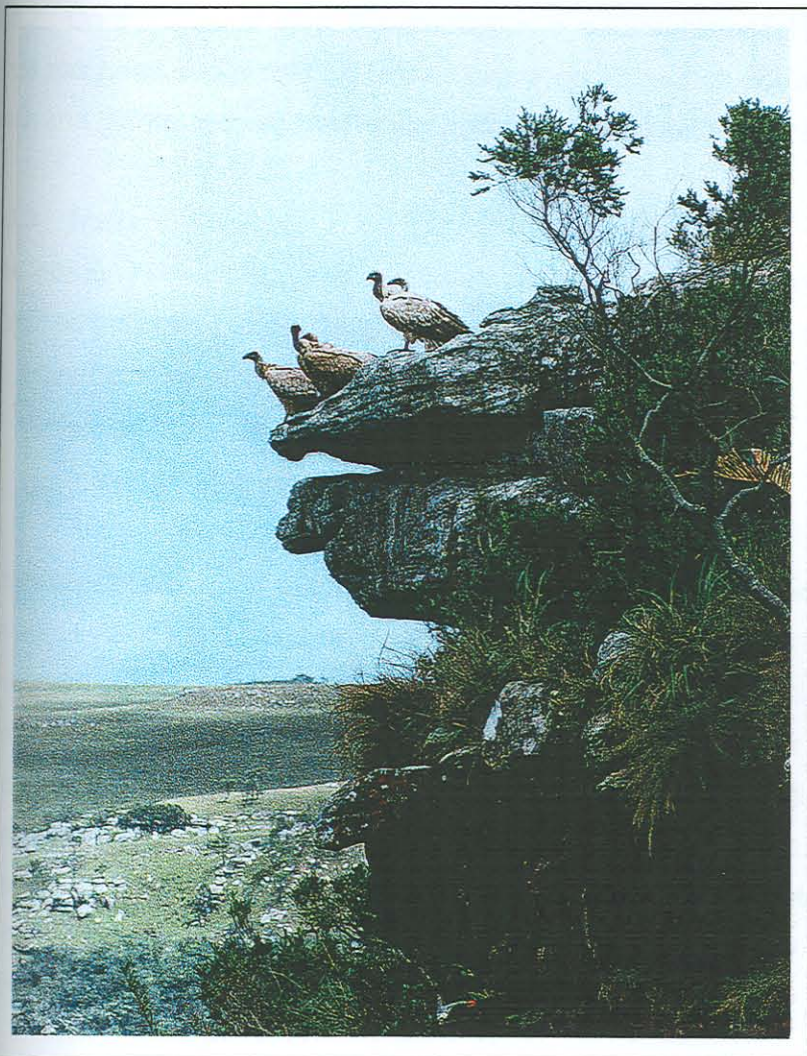
Fishing is probably the most popular activity at Mkambati. At the mouths of both the Mtentu and Msikaba Rivers, the fishing is good (Oakes, 1991; Reynierse, 1988; Wannenburg, 1984). For sea fishing, Gwe Gwe is by far the favourite spot, with the rondavels usually being booked by fishermen and their families.

### 8.2.3 Children's entertainment

Children's entertainment has received little attention at Mkambati. Fortunately, Mkambati has existing resources, which complement the guidelines given later regarding children's entertainment. Existing facilities and activities include:

- The beaches.
- The loft, situated near Reception and currently not in use.
- The swimming pool in front of the Clubhouse.
- The existing horse trail.
- Short walks, for example, the Vulture Colony trail, walking from Reception to the mouth of the Msikaba River, and from Reception to 'Die Gat'.
- A ferryboat ride on a rowing boat up the Msikaba River to see the Mkambati Palms.

Figure 8.1 The Cape Vulture Colony on the Msikaba River



## 8.3 Activities proposed for Mkambati

Mountain biking is a fairly new sport with popularity soaring in recent years. It is also seen as an activity that is becoming more popular with tourists. It is clear that Mkambati has much to offer the tourist. However, the greatest barrier to the success of activities is the fact that the current offerings are not packaged and promoted properly. The following section gives guidelines in this regard. The correct pricing is also vital. Tourists do not mind paying for a quality experience. However, prices must remain affordable while still covering overheads and generating profit.

### 8.3.1 Theming/packaging

One of the latest tourism trends is to package different attractions within an area according to a theme. At Mkambati, the themes are the natural and cultural environment. Within that, one can expand further, for example, indicating all the waterfalls in the reserve and their access routes, thus creating a waterfall theme. Most of the falls are covered in the routes proposed in Section 8.3.2. On the cultural side, the creation of a cultural-historical ramble in the vicinity of the Main Gate has been suggested. A further theme could be rock pools, encouraging tourists to swim in each one (some of them freshwater and others salt) during their visit.

### 8.3.2 Trails

The hiking, horseriding, and mountain biking trails have been divided into three groups and classified according to difficulty, with each group being awarded a colour scheme as follows:

- 'Hard Core route' indicated with red (most difficult).
- 'Enthusiastic route' indicated with blue.
- 'Novice route' indicated with green (least difficult).

Wherever possible, the proposed trails have been confined to existing tracks. In certain places, the same routes are used by hikers, cyclists, and horse riders in order to avoid the creation of new trails. This will, however, need to be monitored, as multi-use of trails can cause more damage to the environment than that caused by creating a new trail. The approximate time that each trail will take is also indicated. This includes adequate time to stop, and enjoy the attractions en route. Natural signage, using wood or a flat rock, must indicate the route type and difficulty by means of the appropriate colour. In grasslands Beeton (1998) suggests using raised wooden signposts as an alternative. The following sections (8.3.2.1 to 8.3.2.3) expand on the activities and their respective routes.

### 8.3.2.1 *Mountain biking*

Mountain biking is a fairly new sport with popularity soaring in recent years. It is also seen as an environmentally sound alternative to motorised transport, and is therefore appropriate within a nature reserve. However, proper guiding and instruction is essential. A cycling section should be provided in the guidelines booklet outlining all the 'do's' and 'don'ts' of sound cycling practices within a reserve. These guidelines must include issues such as:

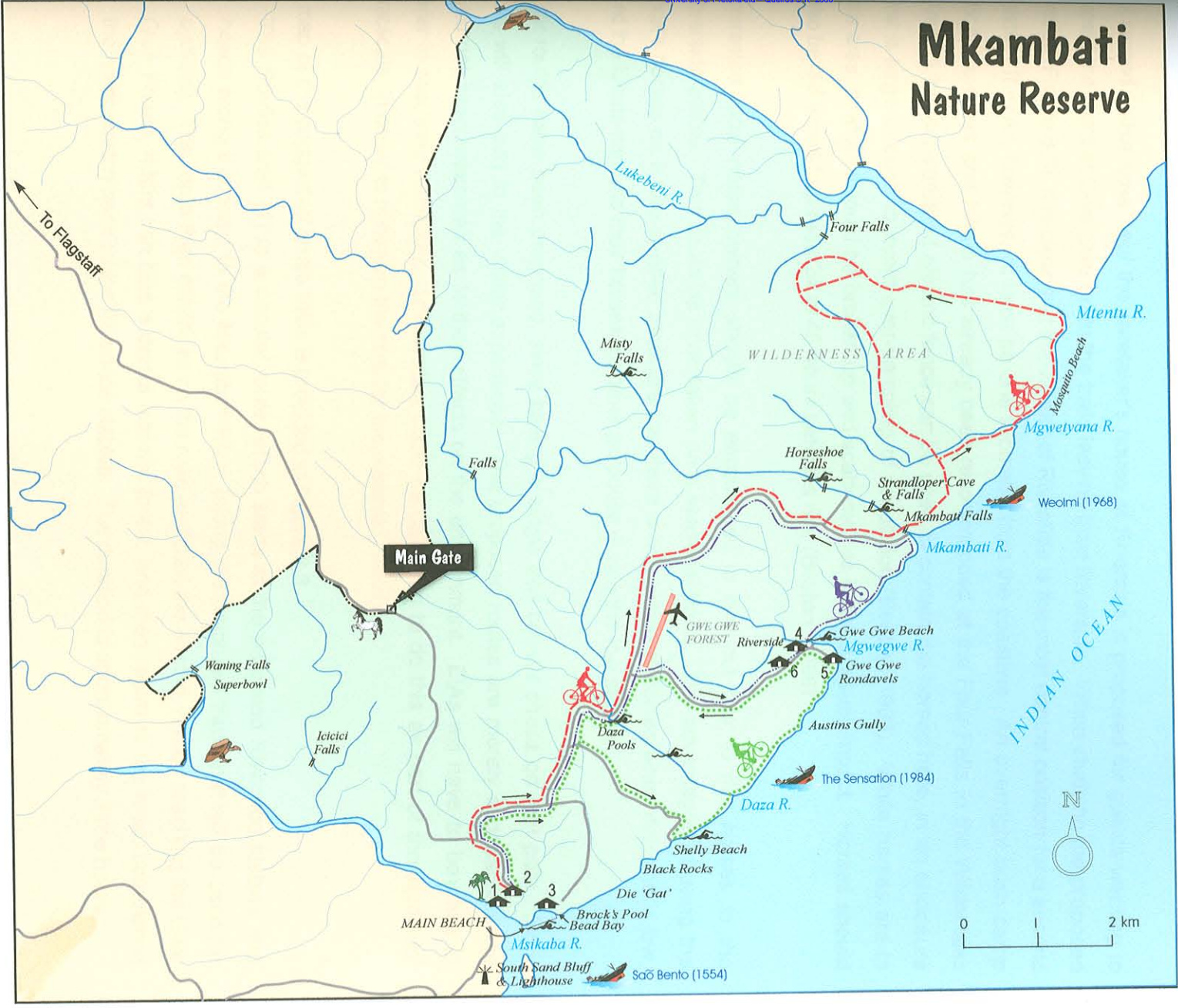
- No skidding. This can damage tracks and lead to erosion. Try to keep to the middle of the tracks at all times.
- Avoid muddy tracks wherever possible, as tire tracks will channel water into new areas and increase erosion.
- Cyclists should give right of way to horses and be aware that a frightened horse can be dangerous.
- Keep to the designated tracks and never cut corners as this may damage flora and create imbalances (Beeton, 1998).

The proposed routes are outlined in Figure 8.2 and described below. They consist of a combination of dirt road and track. In addition to these, cyclists can ride on any reserve roads open to visitors' vehicles.

- The **Novice route** takes approximately two and a half hours. It starts at Reception and follows the road down to Shelly Beach. From Shelley Beach, the route proceeds on the existing track along the coast to Gwe Gwe. The cyclist then returns via the road, passing the Gwe Gwe Forest and Daza rock pool.
- The **Enthusiastic route** lasts between four to five hours. It leaves from Reception, and follows the road past the Daza rock pool and Gwe Gwe Forest and down to Gwe Gwe Beach. From here the route proceeds along the coast to the mouth of the Mkambati. From the Mkambati River, the route follows the main road past the airstrip and back to Reception.
- The **Hard Core route** takes one day. This route also begins at Reception, and follows the main road to the Horseshoe Falls, and then on to the Mkambati Falls. At this point the cyclists continue into the Wilderness Area on the existing track, which curves inland, returning to the coast at the mouth of the Mgwetyana River. Cyclists then ride across Mosquito Beach, and will arrive on the rocks near the bank of the Mtentu River. From here, bicycles must be carried up to the field rangers' hut on top of the cliff, using the existing footpath. The route then continues to the Four Falls. After viewing the Four Falls, cyclists return to the route they came on using the existing track that runs roughly parallel to the Mgwetyana River. On leaving the Wilderness Area, cyclists could enjoy a swim in the Mkambati River or a refreshing shower in one of the twin drops of the Mkambati Falls. Cyclists return via the same route.

Figure 8.2: Proposed mountain biking trails

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# Mkambati Nature Reserve

## Key

- Mkambati Nature Reserve
- Major roads
- Rivers
- Waterfalls
- Swimming
- Cape Vulture Colonies
- Stables
- Shipwreck
- Airstrip
- Mkambati Palms

## Existing Accommodation

- 1 The Lodge
- 2 Reception & Cottages
- 3 Point Cottage
- 4 Riverside
- 5 Gwe Gwe Rondavels
- 6 Caretakers house

## Mountain Biking Trails

- Novice
- Enthusiastic
- Hard Core

### 8.3.2.2 *Horseriding*

It is important that the visitor understands how to manage horses while on a trail (Beeton, 1998) and that the trails are laid out correctly. Visitors should ride in single file, and keep to existing paths. Some trails at Mkambati will be used by walkers, horse riders, and cyclists. The varying motivations and relationships with the environment that different trail-users may have must therefore be considered (Beeton, 1999). Codes of conduct will help in this matter, so that tourists understand and respect others.

A second stable area near the caretaker's house at Riverside is proposed for guests wanting to spend the night at Gwe Gwe or do the trails leaving from Riverside. When studying the proposed routes (Figure 8.3), it is clear that the vicinity of Riverside is the most central position for a second stable. It must, however, at least be one kilometre from the coastline. An overnight bush camp for horse riders and hikers has already been recommended at the Four Falls in the Wilderness Area. A battery-operated electric fence can be used to contain the horses here, in an enclosure that is large enough to avoid over-trampling of vegetation (Beeton, 1998). While horses are in this area, manure should be broken up and scattered, as it has a visual impact. Horses should also be fed weed-free feed 24 to 48 hours before a ride (Beeton, 1998).

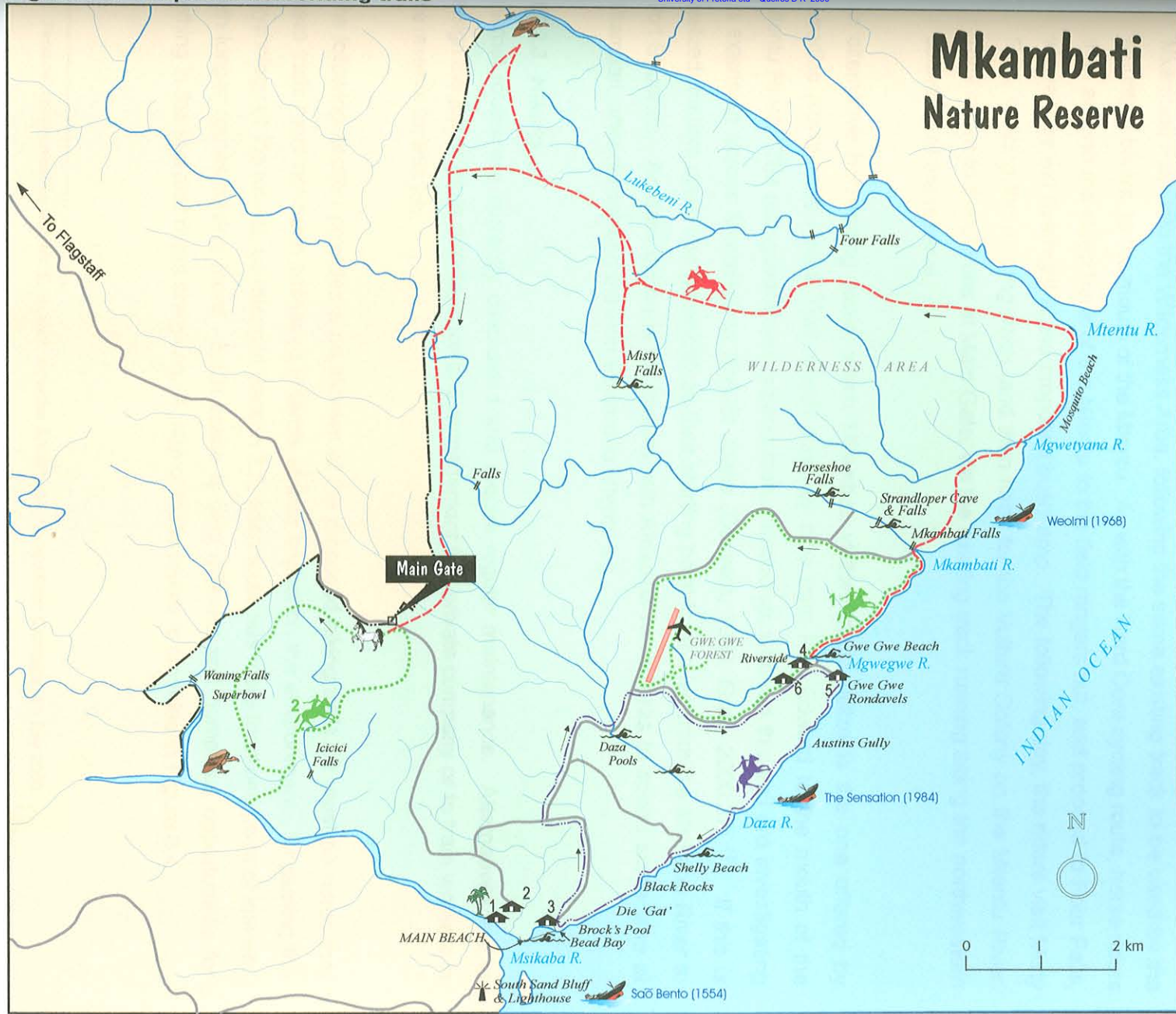
Interested local horse owners should be encouraged to hire out four to five horses to the Riverside stable. This could be undertaken on a seasonal basis. The advantages of using the local's horses on a hire-to-need basis are that there is no upkeep of horses when demand is low, and the locals can use their horses for other purposes during the low season.

Four routes have been proposed, since having a single trail causes stress on that path. More trails will also add to the visitor experience. The proposed routes are merely suggestions and have not been examined as to their effects on the environment. EIAs will have to be done in order to test their feasibility. Universities could be called on to do this as part of the students' practicals, in order to minimize the cost for the reserve.

A map of the suggested horse trails is provided in Figure 8.3.

- The **Novice trail (1)** is a circular route, which starts at the proposed Riverside stables and heads along the coast to the Mkambati River (along the proposed track that will be used for cyclists). The route then continues on the road and past the airstrip. When reaching the Gwe Gwe Forest, riders can take a detour into the forest, and then return to the road, completing the homestretch back to the Riverside stables. The duration is approximately three hours.

Figure 8.3: Proposed horseriding trails



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### Key

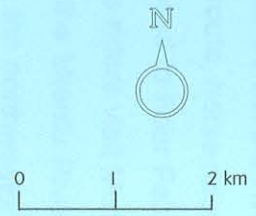
- Mkambati Nature Reserve
- Major roads
- Rivers
- Waterfalls
- Swimming
- Cape Vulture Colonies
- Stables
- Shipwreck
- Airstrip
- Mkambati Palms

### Existing Accommodation

- 1 The Lodge
- 2 Reception & Cottages
- 3 Point Cottage
- 4 Riverside
- 5 Gwe Gwe Rondavels
- 6 Caretakers house

### Horseriding Trails

- Novice
- Enthusiastic
- Hard Core





- A second **Novice trail (2)** is the current route, which takes tourists to the Superbowl and on to the Vulture Colony on the Msikaba River. This route takes approximately three hours.
- The **Enthusiasts trail** will take approximately four to five hours, and starts at the proposed Riverside stables, heading along the coast to Austin's Gully, Shelly Beach, Black Rocks, 'Die Gat', Brock's Pool, and Bead Bay, joining the road at Point Cottage to return to the Riverside stables via the road or the same way back along the coast.
- A **Hard Core two-day trail** starts at Riverside, goes along Gwe Gwe Beach and across the Mkambati Falls into the Wilderness Area, following the same existing track to be used by the mountain bikers, to the mouth of the Mtentu. As with the Hard Core cycling route, horse riders then ascend the steep bank of the Mtentu to the field rangers hut, and proceed to Four Falls, where they will overnight at the proposed bushcamp. The following day, the riders visit Misty Falls, utilizing the existing track, and then head for the Vulture Colony on the Mtentu River. They return to the stables at Main Gate, via the existing track running along the northwestern boundary of the reserve.

An alternative horseriding route, which Mkambati visitors could utilize is the one offered by Amadiba Adventures Horse Trail, which currently runs from Port Edward to the mouth of the Mtentu River. The non-government organization, Pondocrop, who run this trail are investigating its extension across Mkambati to Port St Johns (Derwent, 1998; Gray, 2000:37; <sup>18</sup>). If this is realized, trailists could use Mkambati as their starting point for the leg from the Msikaba River to Port St Johns. Another option is for tourists with Amadiba Adventures to spend some time at Mkambati, after completing the Port Edward to Mtentu leg.

### 8.3.2.3 Hiking

Internal routes are currently dilapidated and require regular maintenance. Alternatives are to assign the job of route maintenance and management to a private company or to train workers in the reserve for this job.

The following section provides a breakdown of the proposed hiking trails. It must be noted that these trails have not been assessed in terms of their impact on the environment. Regarding the psychology of the tourist, as raised in Section 2.5, each route has more than one point of interest, with longer routes having more. Each scene is very different and numerous opportunities for bathing in the sea and rivers are given. A map of these routes is provided in Figure 8.4.

<sup>18</sup>. Personal communication with Mr. E. Russell, Amadiba Adventures, Mtentu River Campsite, 21 July 2000.

- **The Novice route (1)** – The duration of the route is approximately three hours. The trail starts at Reception, taking the walker past The Lodge, and down the existing path through the dune forest to the Main Beach. It then proceeds past Point Cottage and along the coast to Shelley Beach on the existing walking path. At the mouth of the Daza, the trail heads northwest to the Daza rock pool next to the road. It then follows the road back to Reception.
- An alternative **Novice route (2)** is the one hour walk from Shelley Beach to the mouth of the Daza River, and then up the Daza to the roadside rock pool, or in reverse order. Ideally, this walk should be done with one car parked near Shelley Beach and the other at the Daza pool.

Three **Enthusiastic routes** have been proposed, all of which have a three to four hour duration.

- **Enthusiastic route (1)** - A vehicle is driven to the start of the signaged footpath near main gate. The route takes hikers past Icicici Falls and on to the Vulture Colony. Heading northwards and in a clockwise direction, the route passes the Superbowl, and returns to the point where the walker began.
- **Enthusiastic route (2)** - A vehicle is taken to the mouth of the Mkambati River. The walk commences from here, goes to the Mouth of the Mtentu and returns along the track used by mountain bikers and horse riders.
- **Enthusiastic route (3)** - This walk also proceeds from the Mkambati River mouth, and goes to the Four Falls (on the existing track used by the mountain bikers) and back.
- **The Hard Core route (1)** – Walkers drive to the entrance of the Wilderness Area (at the mouth of the Mkambati), and walk northeast towards the mouth of the Mtentu. From there they hike in a westerly direction to the Four Falls, and then on to the less known Vulture Colony in the northwestern part of the reserve. The final stretch of the hike takes the walker back past Misty Falls and then back along the trail they came on to the mouth of the Mkambati or along the track running roughly parallel to the Mgwetyana River.
- An alternative **Hard Core route (2)** is the 22km return trip of six hours across the Msikaba, and out of the reserve to the site of the Grosvenor wreck (near Port Grosvenor) and back.

### 8.3.3 *Abseiling and cliff jumping*

Abseiling is an activity that can be done within a nature reserve, because no permanent fixtures are needed since ropes are attached to a sturdy rock or tree. Areas that could be used for abseiling are the Superbowl and most of the falls. In environmentally sensitive areas, abseiling must be prohibited. Proper guidelines should be given in the Mkambati guide booklet, also supplying tourists with the reasons for these regulations - an informed tourist is a wise tourist. For the daring, Mkambati offers cliff jumps ranging from 3m to 14m high from the cliffs around Strandloper Falls, and out of the Strandloper Cave.

Figure 8.4: Proposed hiking trails

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### Key

- Mkambati Nature Reserve
- Major roads
- Rivers
- Waterfalls
- Swimming
- Cape Vulture Colonies
- Stables
- Shipwreck
- Airstrip
- Mkambati Palms

- Existing Accommodation
- 1 The Lodge
  - 2 Reception & Cottages
  - 3 Point Cottage
  - 4 Riverside
  - 5 Gwe Gwe Rondavels
  - 6 Caretakers house

- Hiking Trails
- Novice
  - Enthusiastic
  - Hard Core

### 8.3.4 **Canoeing**

With the Main Complex situated close to the banks of the Msikaba River, canoeing is an ideal activity. Canoes could be hired out, allowing tourists to explore the river mouth, including the Mkambati Palms, or to journey higher upstream. A second suggestion is to provide canoes on the Mtentu River. Alternatively, Mkambati tourists can make use of the guided canoe trips offered by Amadiba Adventures to the bottom of the Four Falls. The Mkambati guide booklet should indicate the points of interest that one can experience from the water.

### 8.3.5 **Fishing and swimming**

If planned, conducted, and supervised in a sustainable manner, fishing has little influence on the environment. The latest project undertaken by Pondocrop is an excellent example. Fishing rights to the Mtentu River were sold by the reserve to Pondocrop in order to host a fishing competition. Kingfish were merely caught and released back into the river. This project had minimum effect on the environment and a substantial return on investment. The annual value of recreational marine angling is thought to exceed R100 million, including some R2 million in prize money (Swart, 2000).

Mkambati should investigate the viability of hosting a fishing competition, or continue to outsource resources to companies such as Pondocrop. An 'Mkambati fishing guide' section should be included in the guide booklet, where even the most avid fisherman can learn something. A general overview of the marine area could be given, indicating the most popular fish types and other interesting facts for the tourist/fisherman. Guidelines on sustainable practices should also be included and must address issues such as:

- the danger of fishing line to animals that get tangled in it;
- proper disposal of fish remains, so as not to lure unwanted insects (Beeton, 1998); and
- indicating the season for harvesting certain species, for example, crayfish.

The abundant fresh and seawater pools at Mkambati should be packaged and promoted for the visitor. The safe beaches for bathing must also be indicated.

### 8.3.6 **Children's entertainment**

Guidelines for the provision of entertainment for children and/or school groups are based on the assumption that the existing loft is converted into an Environmental Education Centre/ Games Room, as recommended in Section 5.3.9. This room should contain:

- board games relating to nature;
- games played by local children, which are taught by a community member;

- simple games that are durable and/or permanent, for example, painting hopscotch on the floor, darts, and table tennis; and
- traditional musical instruments.

Traditional storytelling (even via video) and arts and crafts, with a specific focus on the interpretation of the natural environment from a cultural perspective, could be offered to children as entertainment alternatives. Other activities could include drawing competitions of anything that the children saw or participated in that day. The prize need not cost the reserve a lot of money, for example, a free ride on horseback or by canoe. The walls of the loft should be used for information displays, simple colourful maps of the reserve, and posters that children have made. Should a television be provided in the loft, it is recommended that it be used for educational purposes. Interest groups, for example, recycling enthusiasts, could be invited to display their posters and leave videos for the children to watch. Children will only have access to the Environmental Education Centre at certain times and under the supervision of an environmental education officer. The children will learn more in a controlled environment and the facilities and games will be better protected for future use.

A proposal is that one or two local people are trained as environmental education officers for children. It would be their job to run and oversee the above activities and centre. Mkambati already has one environmental education officer, but more training would be needed before she is ready to 'entertain' and provide environmental education to holidaymakers children.

### 8.3.7 *Additional activities*

There are many activities that are not currently offered in the reserve. These activities need not necessarily be expensive, but would enhance the tourist experience at Mkambati, and assist in attracting a diverse clientele. These include spotlighting, helicopter rides, rubber duck trips, whale and dolphin watching, and stargazing. The latter two cannot be scheduled like the other activities, but do, however, require interpretation.

- **Stargazing** – The clear night skies ensure that this will be a valuable activity. The first step would be to include a stargazing section in the guide booklet, identifying all the clusters in the Southern Hemisphere that can be seen from Mkambati. Further explanation and interesting facts could also be mentioned, as most visitors probably do not have extended knowledge of astronomy. A telescope which functions once a R2 or R5 coin has been inserted into it, could also be bought and erected on the platform outside the loft.

- **Whale and dolphin watching** – A marine section could be compiled and included in the guide booklet which identifies the local marine resources and provides interesting facts relating to them. In addition, a guide/interpreter could be available for visitors interested in marine life.
- **Spotlighting** – This activity involves wildlife viewing at night by foot or from a vehicle, and will have to be coordinated and led by a ranger who has a sound knowledge of the area and its fauna.
- **Helicopter flights** – These can be offered on certain days during holiday seasons by helicopter operators from outside the reserve, who would be willing to fly in to Mkambati (the heli-pad near The Lodge is in good condition). They could take tourists to see the various sights of the reserve from the air, as well as going further to places such as Waterfall Bluff.
- Although **rubber ducks** are prohibited in the reserve, once Nature Conservation owns one for patrolling the coastline, it could also be used for the following trip, which can provide extra income, and if done properly would have no environmental or social impact. A trip could depart once a day, taking people out of the reserve, 20km southwards along the coast to Waterfall Bluff and then on to the Mfihlelo Falls, both of which cascade directly into the sea, with the latter being higher than the Victoria falls at 160 m. This activity would take place only if a viable number of people have booked at least 24 hours in advance, and if the weather and sea conditions permit. It would also depend on the schedule of conservation officers. The rubber duck should never be used to take people on wave rides, as this is a noisy irritant, and not suited to a nature reserve.

### 8.3.8 Mini activities

These are activities that can be fitted in anywhere during a day or part of a day. They are suitable for tourists wanting to enjoy the attractions at Mkambati without doing a major hike or ride. Ultimately, it is these activities that will be done the most, and they require no effort on the part of the reserve, besides packaging them within the Mkambati guide booklet and erecting clear signs to them.

- Gwe Gwe Beach is the best swimming beach in the reserve, being very safe with large waves.
- Walking from Gwe Gwe Beach in a northerly direction along the rocks. There are magnificent cliff edges and sea sprays.
- Swimming at Main Beach.
- Taking the ferryboat or the proposed canoes up the Msikaba River to view the rare Mkambati Palm.

- Swimming or paddleskiing up the small river in the middle of Main Beach.
- Rambling along the shore from Main Beach to 'Die Gat'. At high tide there are spectacular sprays and at low tide, beautiful rock pools can be seen.
- Walking to the island at the mouth of the Msikaba River at low tide. The island is known for the wreck of the Saõ Bento in 1554. Beads and fragments of china still wash up on the beaches, hence the name, Bead Bay.
- Walking to South Sand Bluff and to the lighthouse across the Msikaba River at low tide.
- Clambering on the wreck of the Weolmi (from 1968) to the northeast of the mouth of the Mkambati River. This is a one-hour round trip from the parking area at Mkambati Falls, including time at the wreck.
- Swimming in the rock pools above the cascades at the Daza River mouth. These pools are ideal for small children.
- Swimming at the beautiful Daza rock pool next to the road. This is a lovely stopover after visiting Main Beach.
- Swimming in the rock pools above the Mkambati Falls.
- Exploring the Strandloper Caves on the Mkambati River.
- Swimming up the Mkambati to the Strandloper Falls, and the olympic sized pool beneath them.
- Cliff jumping off Strandloper Falls.
- *Kloofing* up stream in the Mkambati River. One can start at the Mkambati Falls and *kloof* quite a distance beyond the Horseshoe Falls until the river becomes too narrow and overgrown in the vicinity of the Mkambati Gates. There are numerous large and beautiful pools *en route*.

## 8.4 Conclusion

Mkambati Nature Reserve is a unique destination. In order to comply with new tourism, of which ecotourism forms a part, and to become more financially viable, certain improvements have to be made in the activities. This is necessary to ensure repeat visits and extended stays. The different attractions have to be linked to one another, themed, and well promoted. If these proposals are implemented, Mkambati will certainly have multi-activities, which today's tourists seek in a destination. This is in line with developments in many other South African parks, although some of the above activities are certainly unique.

This chapter has focussed mainly on providing tourists with a unique participatory experience from which they are also enlightened. These activities are based on both the natural and cultural resources of the reserve. Ideally, as is indicated in Figure 2.3, they should move tourists to a point where they experience a behavioural and lifestyle change. This task lies primarily with the ecotourism industry, although the involvement of the local community is essential and adds much value to the tourist experience. The sustainable usage of the resource base through the activities is also important.

## 1.1 Problem statement, aim, and structure

In Section 1.1.1 the problem was identified that ecotourism is seldom understood and implemented in a healthy way, and that the term is often misused. The aim of this dissertation was therefore to explore the fundamentals of ecotourism in depth via a literature study, and then to put them into practice at Mkomazi Nature Reserve. Although the linkage between Chapters 5 to 8 and Chapter 2 was often clear, the author has indicated which aspects of the fundamentals were used in the fieldwork at Mkomazi in Table 2.1. The relevant aspects are marked using ticks. At the end of Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8, the conclusion related the work back to the fundamentals of ecotourism (Table 2.1), both in the ecotourism introduction (Figure 1.2) and in the comparison of Figure 2.3.

The relationship of the guidelines for Mkomazi (Chapters 5 to 8) to the problems and challenges of ecotourism (Chapter 3) was usually obvious. The author did not, however, directly refer back to these problems and challenges in Chapters 5 to 8, in order to avoid clutter. In the following section, the relevance of Chapter 3 to the guidelines will therefore be examined. Table 2.2 indicates which of the problems currently occur at Mkomazi and which are potential future problems.

As mentioned in Section 1.1.4, the author believes that this comprehensive study on the fundamentals of ecotourism according to the ecotourism introduction is a valuable contribution to this emerging field. In addition, it simplifies the implementation thereof, as has been seen with the case study of Mkomazi Nature Reserve. The detailed theory on the fundamentals of ecotourism is supplied in Chapter 2, while Table 2.1 supplies a useful summary of the theory. The implementation thereof at Mkomazi is shown in Table 2.1. The same aspects of the fundamentals as reproduced in this table can be used to implement ecotourism in any suitable destination, activity, or facility.