Synergy between protected conservation area and community development: the case of Hluhluwe-imfolozi game reserve, KwaZulu-Natal

By

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Submitted

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DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own original work. Where other sources have been used, these are duly acknowledged in the text. It is being submitted for the degree of Masters in Extension and Rural Development in the University of Pretoria. It has not been submitted for any degree or examination in any other university.

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Ntombizethu S. Mkhwanazi Date

DEDICATION

To

My wonderful and caring parents Mr &Mrs Mkhwanazi whose support, encouragement and love were my greatest source of inspiration.

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"*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*"

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ABSTRACT

SYNERGY BETWEEN PROTECTED CONSERVATION AREA AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE, KWAZULU-NATAL

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Community Based Conservation (CBC) is an approach that started in the 1980's due to protests and clashes between conservation bodies and local neighbouring communities because of attempts to only protect environmental biodiversity without attending to the social needs of communities. The objective of CBC is to improve the lives of local people, while at the same time also conserve protected areas.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the socio-economic achievements of the CBC programme implemented in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) in KwaZulu-Natal to two neighbouring communities (Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni) and to what degree these two communities participated in the implementation of the programme.

The study used qualitative as well as quantitative research methods for collecting data. The respondents include key informants of HiP responsible for the implementation and coordination of the CBC programme as well as 208 randomly selected respondents in the two selected communities adjacent to the Park. The data was analysed to provide descriptive statistics using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Due to the high unemployment rate in both communities (72%), respondents perceived pension (37%) and social grants (35%) to be the main sources of monthly household income. Although many of the youth finished secondary school level, very few secure employment opportunities in the area. Therefore, many respondents perceived HiP as a potential source for direct job opportunities through ecotourism. The reality is that only a very small percentage (9%) of the respondents were employed by HiP as game rangers or security staff, although small business opportunities like Vukuzame and Vulamehlo curio markets were created by HiP at their

entrance gates where community members received opportunities to trade curio, firewood and other art articles free of charge.

Three sub CBC programmes are currently employed in HiP, namely the Rhino Ambassadors Programme, Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme and the Ezemvelo RBM Cup Programme. The study revealed that in general community members were poorly informed, as only 23% knew about the existence of these programmes. The discrepancy between what respondents revealed and what officials from HiP reflected about communities' awareness and existence of programmes is worrisome and applied are not effective for general awareness raising of adjacent community members, especially not to inform the great number of youth residing in the area.

The views of community members regarding economic and social benefits spill over were detected. The main economic benefits perceived were direct job opportunities as generated through HiP, participation in the Expanded Public Works Programme (specifically Working for Water), opportunities to participate in small business ventures like curio markets and offering of accommodation to tourists, and the impact of the Community Levy Trust Fund. Social benefits by neighbouring communities include the impact of the CBC sub programmes on school children and youth. Some of the concerns raised included the fact that community members are not allowed to collect firewood, medicinal plants or hunt or let their livestock graze inside the Park.

Recommendations with the planning and implementation of CBC programmes included to ensure that community aspirations and needs should be taken fully into consideration with the design of CBC programmes, as this affects their immediate lives. Secondly the process of implementation should be transparent and current communication channels should be revised as it leads to miscommunication and scepticism about Park management.

Keywords: Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, CBC Programme, Community, Participation.

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CAMPFIRE	Community Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
CBC	Community-Based Conservation
CBCP	Community-Based Conservation Programme
CL	Community Levy
CM	Community Members
CLP	Community Levy Programme
CRA	Community Rhino Ambassadors
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
HH	Households
HHH	Household Head
HiP	Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park
KiP	Kids in Parks
KZN	KwaZulu- Natal
LC	Local Community
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NPB	Natal Parks Board
PA	Protected Areas
PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
RC	Ramsar convention
RPP	Rhino Protection Programme
SANParks	South Africa National Parks
SAPS	South African Police Service
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TA	Traditional Authorities
TI	Tourism Industry
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientist and Cultural Organisation
USAID	Unites States Agency for International Development
WHC	World Heritage convention

CHAPTER ONE

ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

According to the World Bank (1996), Africa is endowed with a rich biodiversity, varying between savannahs, rainforests, deserts, and wetlands. Furthermore, African people fully rely on natural resources for their livelihood. Though the importance of biodiversity as natural resource capital for economic development has been highlighted (Costanza, 1997), the degradation of natural resources continues (Mugisha, 2002). The United Nations (UN) 1972 and 1992 conferences on the Human Environment, highlighted that the approaches to conservation have strived to harmonise conservation with social needs and development nationally and internationally.

A possible way to conserve and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources is to place them in protected areas (PAs), to restrict access and monitor their use by local communities. Several international agencies and organisations, including the World Bank, the World-Wide Fund for Nature, the World Conservation Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United Nations Agencies, recommend that biodiversity conservation programmes should take into consideration the socio-economic needs of the local population (Pelser, Redelinghuys & Velelo, 2011).

Community-Based Conservation (CBC) aims to provide an incentive for the sustainable management of biodiversity resources (Glew, Hudson & Osborne, 2010). The aim of the establishment of CBC worldwide is to incorporate local people in the conservation of resources while respecting their cultural values. CBC should impose a win-win outcome, which means that local people situated next to PAs should gain both economically and socially. South Africa is currently experiencing serious rhino poaching, which necessitates a healthy, positive relationship between PAs and their neighbours.

Since 1994, South African National Parks (SANParks) has undergone major changes in its vision regarding the management of the PAs under its supervision. The aim of the new vision

acknowledges that the protection of biodiversity is linked to human benefits and sustainable utilisation (Cock & Fig, 2000).

SANParks established a five-year strategic plan in 2015, which includes a productive strategy for both organisational and community socio-economic development, through effective, broad-based transformation. The primary focus of SANParks is to ensure the conservation of PAs and their associated biodiversity for the benefit of the whole nation. SANParks has a strong history of well-structured management objectives and the implementation of intensive monitoring programmes to ensure successful biodiversity conservation and easy access to its potential benefits by the society (Swemmer & Taljaard, 2011).

The current strategy involves establishing several programmes, which aim to provide jobs and economic improvement to the neighbouring communities. There are two key objectives underlying this strategy, namely 'growing societal support and providing access and benefit sharing' and 'facilitating socio-economic development' (SANParks, 2012a). SANParks envisages creating 19 300 temporary jobs and 12 community-based, socio-economic initiatives during the five-year plan (SANParks, 2012a).

The new strategy of SANParks seeks to include communities by increasing dialogues around the management of natural resources, rather than excluding these communities from the process. The idea, as highlighted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (United Nations, 2002) and the World Park Congress (UNESCO, 2003), is to develop a harmonious relationship between people and parks. This will link the protection of biodiversity to human benefits, such as employment and access to resources within the parks. SANParks recognises the shift from the old colonial model of conservation to a new version of conservation as important (Cock & Fig, 2000).

Agenda 21 of the 1992 Convention on Sustainable Development emphasises protecting and promoting human health (World Health Organization, 2016). In 2002, South Africa hosted and participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which took place in Johannesburg. The focus point of the summit was on sustainable development. The theme was *"People and Parks and Benefits Beyond Boundaries"*, which highlighted the role that conservation agencies should play in the sustainable development of areas and also provided

policy guidance for the management of PAs. The following challenges to sustainable economic development were identified (Bushell & Eagles, 2006):

- The role of society with regards to PAs.
- The recognition of the multiple values of PAs alongside the current primacy of biodiversity conservation goals.
- The need to engage local communities.

The Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003) promotes the cooperative governance and protection of natural landscapes in South Africa according to the 1996 Constitution of South Africa (Government Gazette, 2004). As part of a strategy to manage and conserve biodiversity in South Africa, the Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003) provides an acceptable approach to a national system of PAs. One of the Act's objectives is "to promote participation of local communities in the management of PAs, where appropriate" (SANParks, 2015). The Act further promotes the sustainable utilisation of PAs for the benefit of people, in a manner that would preserve the ecological character of such areas (SANParks, 2015).

The National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) aims to promote co-operative management matters affecting the environment and communities' institutions to communities living close to PAs. As stated by the principles of the Act, "environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern and serve their physical, psychological, development, cultural and social interests equitably." The principles also state that "development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable" (National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998). Therefore, participatory, cooperative management and benefit sharing in South Africa are well institutionalised.

An example of successful community conservation is the Tonga community in Zimbabwe who felt side-lined for a long time when it comes to conservation, because park management cared more about the wild animals than the community. An introduction of the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) in 1980 to the community changed many of the local people's perceptions about conservation, as well as their living conditions. The turnover from projects, established because of conservation, resulted in benefits such as the building of new infrastructure (schools and clinics). Not only were these tangible benefits shared with the community, but the community also became the moral owners

of wildlife on their land through the transfer of ownership of those resources (Sibanda, 1995). The CAMPFIRE protects local people from being treated like trespassers and poachers (Sibanda & Omwega, 1996).

After the World Summit in 2002 and the 2003 World Park Congress, SANParks decided to create a directorate in 2003 (People and Conservation Directorate), which specifically deals with people and parks' interface (SANParks, 2012c). The vision of the People and Conservation Directorate was to create more awareness of the concept and to do more social research on the participation between people and parks. SANParks also established various community projects and in some cases allowed communities around the parks to harvest resources (like firewood, medicinal plants, etc.) (SANParks, 1998). The Directorate aimed to improve the relationship between parties and to increase the dialogue around the management of parks in general (SANParks, 1998).

Several initiatives by SANParks serve as examples where community-based projects were implemented. In the Addo Elephant National Park a community-based programme called the Mayibuye Ndlovu Development Programme was registered as the Mayibuye Ndlovu Development Trust (MNDT) (SANParks, 2012b). The MNDT is responsible for initiatives like the profit sharing agreement with SANParks and projects like student assistance and small, medium, and micro enterprise (SMME) development through which the communities are empowered. Currently the MNDT manages several community upliftment programmes within conservation tourism and the agricultural environment of the Sundays River Valley. The Matyholweni Rest Camp Cottage is the MNDT's first joint project with SANParks, a profit sharing venture, which sees a percentage of the turnover of the Addo Elephant National Park's Matyholweni Rest Camp (on a sliding scale ranging from 6-12%, depending on occupancy levels) being fed into the Trust's funds to be utilised for community projects. This was the first project where neighbouring communities experienced tangible benefits from the local PA (SANParks, 2012b).

As proof of the effectiveness of CBC programmes, the Eyethu Hop-on Guides were established in 2000 with the assistance of the Mayibuye Ndlovu Development Programme. The Eyethu Hop-on Guides are a group of guides from the community neighbouring the park who provide guiding services for visitors with their own vehicles. In addition, the park assists the guides

with training and some of the guides have secured employment with the park or with private lodges (SANParks, 2012a).

Since the Kruger National Park (KNP) is the largest national park, it has a significant number of community projects, such as:

a. The contractor development programme fits into the long-term commitment of the KNP to involve and empower neighbouring communities in the economic and community activities of the park. The programme develops civil and building contractors from the neighbouring community, who then become involved in the capital and maintenance works of the KNP.
b. The Community Park and Ride project was initiated in 2011. With the help of SANParks, the community approached the Vusa Fleet Service and four open safari vehicles were obtained on favourable terms. The project was registered on the SANParks website, thereby assisting the community with the marketing. This project raised R228 156 during the 2011/12 financial year and is still growing.
c. Arts and crafts. This is one of the most visible projects in the KNP and it has been assessed as having great potential to make substantial contributions towards job creation and small business development. SANParks plays a very important role in the marketing of crafts, and at six of the 10 entrance gates community craft shops exist that are owned and managed by communities.
d. Makuya traditional projects. The KNP started to work with traditional healers from the Makuya village in Limpopo to make natural resources available to practitioners.

SANParks has entered into contractual park arrangements with a number of private landowners around several national parks. SANParks has also signed contractual park agreements with communities for the incorporation of their communal land into national parks for conservation. SANParks co-manages contractual parks with neighbouring communities though joint management committees but remains solely responsible for the conservation management. The aim of contractual parks is that communities can explore opportunities to benefit from ecotourism activities associated with the national parks.

The following contractual park management arrangements were formalised with national parks:

a. Contractual Community Park: Richtersveld Transfrontier Park.

The first community-owned contractual park was the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, which was established in 1991 by Dr Robinson (previous manager of Tsitsikama National Park). He saw the need to systematise community relations and started the process (Cock & Fig, 2000). A 30-year agreement was signed and the annual lease payment of R110 000, linked to inflation, is made to the Richtersveld Community Trust Fund. This fund is used for various community projects, such as study bursaries and transport for school children. The Richtersveld Transfrontier Park management and community provide strategic and operational direction, as well as managing the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park jointly (SANParks, 2012b). This joint park committee ensures implementation of the management plan and community participation.

b. Contractual Community Park: Kruger National Park.

Adjacent to the KNP, the Makuleke community regained their title to 25 000 hectares in 1998. The community decided to retain the land as part of the KNP and entered into an agreement with SANParks to co-manage the area through a Joint Management Board (JMB). The purpose of the JMB was conservation and related economic development (particularly ecotourism). The Makuleke region was also declared as the 18th Ramsar site. As part of the agreement, Wilderness Adventure operates the Pafuri Lodge on the banks of the Levuvhu River. Other economic and job creation opportunities include: Makuleke electrification, where the Makuleke certified public accountant (CPA) electrified three villages for the amount of 3.9 million Rand (SANParks, 2012b); the upgrading of the Joas Phahlela Primary Schools and the Makuleke Primary School; and the fencing of the N'wanati High School premises.

Another agreement has been made with the community adjacent to the KNP, namely the Nkambeni community, where the community received a portion of state land which was fenced within the park. The community and SANParks afforded this land the highest possible conservation status and the community is benefiting from the agreement. SANParks is responsible for the conservation of the land, while the community has entered into an agreement with tourism operators with the aim of sharing benefits. The community has also partnered with the Nkambeni tented camp in the park.

The third agreement exists between SANParks and the Mjejane community, where the "black Sabi Sand" type of ecotourism concept came into being. The 4000 hectares game reserve was transferred to the Mjejane Trust, and SANParks signed an agreement with the community to help the community benefit from the development of ecotourism (SANParks, 2012b).

c. *Contractual Community Parks: Khomani San and Mier communities.*
The San and Mier communities, located adjacent to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, also formed joint management ventures with the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park after 28 000 hectares of land was restored to the San and 30 000 hectares to the Mier. These two communities have separate contractual agreements. A community-owned lodge, namely Klein Skrij Lodge, employs local people and generates income for community projects (SANParks, 2012b).

These SANParks initiatives aim to popularise the concept of 'social conservation', which was later changed to people and conservation, with the primary objective of creating economic opportunities for communities living next to national parks.

1.2 HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK POLICY FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) is situated 20 km northwest of the town of Mtubatuba and east of Hlabisa and the foothills of the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province. It is located between the latitudes 27º59'55" and 28º26'00" S and longitudes 31º41'40"and 32º09'10" E (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). The area is 94 984 hectares in size and comprises Hluhluwe Game Reserve, iMfolozi Game Reserve, and the Corridor. Most of the area is characterised by a steep, broken landscape and some parts by a gently undulating landscape. The topography is much related to the weather; the temperatures are influenced by altitude and they range from ±13 ˚C to ±35 ˚C. The annual rainfall season occurs mostly between October and March.

The HiP is fenced as one unit but managed as two distinct entities. Since 1952, the staff of the Natal Parks Board, currently the KZN Wildlife Service and also known as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, have been responsible for the management of the park.

The HiP is divided into two parts, namely Hluhluwe Game Reserve and iMfolozi Game Reserve. The size of the park is 96 000 hectares. The park is surrounded by 10 Traditional Authorities (TAs), namely: Mpukunyoni, Mdletsheni, Mpembeni, Matshamnyama, Mlaba, Zulu-Mandlakazi, Biyela, Mthembu, Mthethwa, and Zungu.

These communities are largely rural and are characterised by large masses of poor, unemployed and illiterate people. These communities were located in the area prior to the establishment of the park in 1895, and they sustained their livelihoods by hunting wild animals, picking firewood, and collecting building materials. The establishment of the park changed the social and economic pattern of these people (Wadge, 2008). Four of these mentioned traditional communities were evicted from the area where the park is currently situated, while a land claim was successfully launched by two TAs (Mpukunyoni and Matshamnyama) in June 2008. The other two TAs (Mlaba and Zungu) are in the process of launching their land claim.

In 1997 when the HiP was celebrating 100 years of existence, three chiefs representing the 10 TAs surrounding the park approached the park management to complain about their sharing of benefits as local communities surrounding the park. This led to a decision taken by the HiP that a proportion of the income of the park will be equally divided among the 10 TAs to start community projects like infrastructure development (staff rooms and administration blocks) in schools (Ngobese, 2016).

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife eventually amalgamated with the KZN Department of Nature Conservation on a fundamental policy, which emphasises the derivation of tangible and financial benefit from conservation and encourages the community's active participation in environmental management (Wadge, 2008).

The park introduced the Ezemvelo CBC programmes in 2007, which aim to address the socio-economic aspirations of the neighbouring communities associated with the specific conservation area. These programmes do not exclusively focus on the conservation of wildlife, but rather on developing strategies that can encourage full community participation, as well as ensure that communities benefit from these programmes. As stated by the HiP in their Park Management Plan, the park's role with regard to community development is as follows (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011):

(i) engage with land claimants to ensure tangible benefits and acceptance of responsibilities and develop strategic partnerships to enable sound management;
(ii) provide a range of tourism opportunities that cater to a range of income brackets, especially for neighbouring communities within the constraints of the approved community development project (CDP); and
(iii) contribute to the local economic development by encouraging local entrepreneurial and employment opportunities associated with the park.

This implies that local people have an input in the decision-making process regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and review of the management plan and proposed development plans. More importantly, they are legitimate beneficiaries (SANParks, no date). These activities are aimed at integrating the park into the social, economic, cultural and political systems of the area, and to ensure that the park is relevant to neighbouring communities.

The communities face various challenges. Firstly, wild animals invade these communities and kill domestic animals. Before the electric fence was installed, a lot of incidences were reported where wildlife invaded homesteads, killing livestock and destroying crops, and this occurred because poachers cut the fence to get inside the park. The park has a policy which offers financial compensation. However, certain wild animals such as hyenas and leopards are not compensated for, hence these wild animals are the most problematic animals of all. Secondly, poaching, specifically rhino poaching, presents a challenge to the community as it sometimes involves vandalism (fence cutting).

Looking into the success of African conservation agencies supported by the South African Police Service (SAPS), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has been fighting poaching since 1991. Between 1991 and 1999, 27 rhinos were poached (Wadge, 2008). As from June 2015, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has arrested five poachers in four different incidents (Business Events Africa, 2015). These efforts are not only beneficial to the survival of the rhino population, but also protect all other species suffering under the threat of wildlife crime. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, in partnership with SANParks and the South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), implemented the Rhino Protection Programme (RPP), which is funded by the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and other donors (Peace Parks Foundation, 2015a). Money challenges (insufficient budget to maintain ongoing conservation programmes) are a constraint

to the programme's progress. Table 1.1 displays the history of formal park protection for the HiP.

Table 1.1: The history of formal park protection the HiP

1895	Conservator in charge of the Lower iMfolozi district appointed.
1897	iMfolozi Game Reserve established.
1905	Government Notice No. 93 of 1905 proclaimed all of the land now known as the Corridor, together with the land to the east as far as Lake St Lucia, as a game reserve. However, this was deproclaimed shortly afterwards.
1907	Reserve extended by the addition of 23 200 hectares in the south. However, in the same year the Provincial Administration deproclaimed the extension in response to a deputation of farmers from the Lower iMfolozi Magisterial District. Thus, the size of the reserve was reduced to approximately 30 000 hectares.
1916	Special shooting areas were proclaimed in an effort to eliminate nagana through the destruction of the game which supported the tsetse fly.
1920	Reserve deproclaimed (P.N. 231/20 of 13 August 1920) as a result of an outcry from farmers.
1922	Campaign launched by the Provincial Administration to reduce the numbers of game in the Southern Crown Lands, to the south of the White Umfolozi River. On account of complete disorganisation, it proved to be an utter failure.
1929	Second campaign launched. Strictly organised, and carried out only by paid employees controlled by selected rangers.
1930	Deproclamation repealed (P.N. 15/1930 of 15 January 1930).
1932	Control of game and the anti-nagana operations handed to the Division of Veterinary Services of the Department of Agriculture.
1943	Removal of Zulu people from Northern Crown Lands (the Corridor), primarily to create a stock-free zone surrounding all the game reserves, in an endeavour to check the spread of nagana.
1945	The farming community made successful representations to the Minister for Agriculture to make a clean sweep of all game inside the iMfolozi Game Reserve.
1945	iMfolozi Game Reserve deproclaimed.
1952	Control of the area vested in the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board. The Division of Veterinary Services succeeded in eradicating the area of nagana, tsetse fly, and most of the game animals by 1952. As a result, practically all the big game animals (except Rhinoceros), numbering close on 24 000 head, were destroyed.
1953	The Corridor is fenced into the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Corridor Complex and managed as part of the park.
1962	Southern and western Crown (State) Lands were added to the existing game reserve, bringing the total area of the iMfolozi Game Reserve to 47 753 hectares.

Source: Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011

With this background, this study aims to evaluate the achievements of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in implementing CBC programmes in the HiP. It also determines the attitude of communities towards tourists and the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the degree of participation by selected communities in CBC initiatives implemented by the HiP.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The limited involvement of local communities in management of protected areas has been identified as a major constraint in the developing of ecotourism and managing of protected areas (Pelser, Redelinghuys & Velelo, 2013). Protected areas in the developing countries cannot be successfully managed without consideration of the subsistence and economic requirements of the poverty-stricken neighbouring communities (UNESCO, 2003). Therefore, it is expected that protected areas like HiP to cross the boundaries of conventional biodiversity protection and take their place in the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 to create an inclusive and integrated rural economy (National Planning Commission, 2012). With this in mind, CBC programmes were established in 2007 with the objective to improve the lives of the people living adjacent to protected areas, while at the same time conserving wildlife.

The White Paper on Tourism Development in South Africa (1996) clearly indicated that limited integration of local communities and previously neglected groups into tourism in rural areas is one of the constraints which limit the effectiveness of the tourism industry in terms of creating an inclusive rural economy. In rural areas there are many key tourist attractions and yet local communities are not receiving the benefits curtailing from the tourism industry (Pelser et al, 2013). This limits the (cultural and village-based tourism) opportunities that tourism can bring to protected areas like the HiP.

Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni are two traditional communities located in the northern part of KwaZulu Natal and are located in close proximity of HiP, one of the oldest protected areas in South Africa. These communities are experiencing harsh living conditions and is characterised by high levels of poverty and unemployment, and very poor subsistence agriculture. Many heads of households migrated to industrial areas of Gauteng, Durban and Richards Bay to find employment, where they are employed by government and private sector (Wadge, 2008). Most of the households (41%) have no secure household income, and the majority of households earn less than R3200 per month (Hlabisa Local municipality, 2013)

Since unemployment levels are high in the area, local communities hoped that living next to HiP would be an advantage in their seeking for job opportunities and skills development through ecotourism. According to Bennett et al. (2012) ecotourism perhaps more than any other industry, can provide unique opportunities for rural people. In fact, approximately 62 billion Rand is generated each year in South Africa through ecotourism. A portion of this income is directed to the communities where lodges and hotels are located. Through these proceeds, jobs are created, and poverty is being reduced. In addition, over 5 000 jobs have been created by ecotourism for local areas around national parks in South Africa and ecotourism can bring infrastructure development such as hospitals, roads, and medical clinics to isolated locations (Pinsof & Sanhaji, 2009). Therefore, communities like Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni, expect CBC programmes to be driven by local people in collaboration with park management to ensure economic impact in their areas. This facilitated the study to determine to what extend these two communities experience benefits (economic and social) by staying next to the park.

Pelser et al. (2013) stated that there is a long history of conflict and sour relationship between local communities and protected parks. Also, in HiP, Wadge (2007) elaborated on the suspicion and fear that existed for many years between the communities and park management on objectives of park management. Management viewed communities as opposed to conservation programmes since they were not necessarily perceived by neighbouring communities to change their living conditions. Local communities also perceived park management as agents of the state, who are determined to deny communities from access to natural resources (Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). This study seeks to determine if the Community Conservation Unit of HiP through the respective CBC programmes has succeeded in changing these negative perceptions, and to what extent members of local communities are participating in HiP CBC Programmes.

1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to evaluate the socio-economic achievements of the HiP CBC Programmes for two neighbouring communities (Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa) in KwaZulu Natal and determine to what degree these two communities participate in the implementation of CBC by the HiP.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To profile the socio-economic characteristics of the two selected communities associated with the HiP.
- To identify and describe the various sub-programmes of the HiP CBC Programme.
- To determine the two communities' attitudes towards ecotourism and the conservation of biodiversity.
- To assess possible socio-economic benefits of the HiP CBC Programmes for these two communities.
- To evaluate the communities' perceptions and opinions regarding their participation in HiP CBC Programmes.
- To provide recommendations and lessons for sustainable implementation of CBC programmes in other conservation areas in South Africa.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Recently there has been a shift from the narrow idea of wildlife conservation to a more open notion of conservation, which incorporates social development. Tourism acts as a mediator between conservation areas and local communities and therefore proper linkages should be developed where the local communities should be involved in all stages of the planning and implementation process. This study will highlight lessons learned towards the implementation of conservation programmes in the HiP.

1.7 DELIMITATION AND ASSUMPTION

The study was conducted in two communities adjacent to the park (Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa communities, which are only two of the 10 possible communities neighbouring the HiP). The limitations and delimitations experienced during this study included the fact that although respondents did respond to all the questions asked, not all questions were answered honestly. Some respondents tried to save face when answering some of the questions and some answers were exaggerated due to the respondents' attitude towards the existence of the park. In addition, only two park officials were interviewed. One of the officials was considered to be more knowledgeable about the CBC programmes of the park by park management, as he has been employed in the park for the last 10 years.

1.8 STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation comprises the following chapters:

- **Chapter One: Orientation to the study**
  This chapter outlines the introduction to the study, the statement of the research problem, the objectives set for the study, the significance of the study, and the study assumptions and limitations.

- **Chapter Two: Literature review**
  Chapter Two reviews the current literature focusing on PAs, the sustainable development CBC, conservation policies, SANParks outreaches, and collaborative management.

- **Chapter Three: Methodology**
  The chapter comprises the research design and procedures under which the study was conducted and a description of the study area.

- **Chapter Four: Socio-economic characteristics of the Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni communities**
  Chapter Four details the socio-economic characteristics of the Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa communities.

- **Chapter Five: Perceptions and attitudes of local communities towards conservation and tourism**
  Chapter Five features a discussion of local communities' perceptions of and attitudes towards conservation and tourism.

- **Chapter Six: Potential benefits perceived from neighbouring Hluhluwe Imfolozi Game Reserve**
  Chapter Six presents the benefits perceived by the neighbouring communities, which are generated by the HiP.

- **Chapter Seven: Conclusions and recommendations**
  The final chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

CBC is an approach that started in the 1980s due to protests and clashes between conservation bodies and local communities (LCs) because of attempts to only protect environmental biodiversity without addressing social challenges. The objective of CBC is to improve the lives of the local people, while at the same time conserving areas through the creation of national parks or wildlife protection (Berkes, 2009).

The CBC paradigm includes collaborative management models of PAs, as well as sharing of conservation benefits. To elevate biodiversity and improve the management of PAs, co-management should consider the amalgamation of scientists' modern knowledge with local people's traditional knowledge (Berkes, 2009).

Although CBC often fails due to a lack of resources and unbalanced implementation, there are some CBC programmes that have been successfully implemented (Nepal, 2000). The conservation movement relies on the active participation of community members. Therefore, the success or the failure of the CBC Programme is influenced by factors such as the attitudes and behaviour of the community members (Nepal, 2000). Nepal (2000) noted that for a PA and the CBC Programme to remain viable, the LC should be given a bigger role in park management, and their livelihood challenges should be addressed through park policies.

2.2 WHAT ARE PROTECTED AREAS (PAS)?

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, 2004), a PA is "a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values." Table 2.1 shows different categories of PA's, where they either privately owned or owned by government.

Table 2.1: Protected Areas management categories

Category i	Strict nature/ wilderness area	PA managed mainly for science or wilderness protection.
Category ii	National park	PA managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation.
Category iii	National monument	PA managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features.
Category iv	Habitat/ species management area	PA managed mainly for conservation through management intervention.
Category v	Protected landscape/ seascape	PA managed mainly for landscape/ seascape conservation and recreation.
Category vi	Managed resource PA	PA managed mainly for the sustainable use of the natural ecosystem.

Source: Dudley, Parrish, Redford & Stolton., 2010

Because of the different categories of PAs, there are different governance or management options associated with them. Many of the PAs are owned and managed by the South African Government, while other types of governance can also occur (Borrini-Feyerabend, Johnston & Pansky, 2006) (see Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Different governance types in PAs

Government managed Pas	• Federal or national ministry agency in charge • Local/ municipal ministry or agency in charge • Government-delegated management (e.g. to an NGO)
Co-managed Pas	• Transboundary management • Collaborative management (various forms of pluralist influence) • Joint management (pluralist management board)
Indigenous and community conserved areas	• Declared and run by indigenous people • Declared and run by local communities
Private Pas	• Declared and run by individual landowner/s • Declared and run by a non-profit organisation (e.g. NGO, university, or cooperative) • Declared and run by a for-profit organisation (e.g. individual or corporate landowners)

Source: Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2006

2.3 THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

According to McLain and Jones (1997), and as referred to in this study, a LC "is a discrete social entity whose members reside within a bounded geographic space and have land management motivations and interests that are distinct from people residing outside that space."

The community itself should not be taken as a monolithic whole, because a community is dynamic and complex (Rechlin & Taylor, 2008). Firstly, a CBC programme has to understand the different aspects that could exist within a community, and it is imperative that it should be aligned with a community's needs and their capacity (in terms of finances and skill level). Nobody ever exists in a vacuum, and therefore a community exists within its historic and social contexts (Rechlin & Taylor, 2008), which must be taken into consideration. A CBC programme has to be planned and implemented in a way that will fit the characteristics (socio-economic,

gender balance, political issues and ethnic issues) of a particular community (Rechlin & Taylor, 2008).

a) Hand use practices: People living close by the Park engage in curio crafting, construction and subsistence agriculture, these are the normal hand use activities in which they generate their income on.
b) Living within the risk factor like climate: About 40 % of underprivilege population reside in rural areas and depend on the land as source of livelihood (Turpie & Visser, 2013). The situation differently affects people living in rural areas through agriculture, biodiversity and water supplies on which they are dependent on.
c) Living within the risk factor like HIV/AIDS: Some household live within risk factor like HIV/AIDs, it is common among household members who are economically active supporting their families. Generally, families who are victims of HIV/AIDS and those who has lost their loved ones even breadwinners through HIV/AIDS are vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity.
d) Employment: Unemployment rate is high in uMkhanyakude District 39% with 46.9% youth unemployment. In short, unemployment has a negative impact on the people and the community as whole. Unemployment can lead to people committing crime to fulfil their needs, and sometimes it has impact that is more social than economic.
e) Skills levels: Education levels in uMkhanyakude District is low, 11.6% people have no schooling, 36.7% people obtained matric and 7% people with tertiary education (Municipalities of South Africa, 2016). Generally, the higher the education level the more skills you get, however, skills development can be done through training. Even though people have no schooling possesses low level of education, it is still possible for them to have high skills level. At the end both literate and illiterate community members require skills development training in order to function well in cases where they need to participate.
f) Hierarchy level: The higher the position in the ladder, the more power you have. District Municipality have more influence and power when it comes to decision making as well as government financial support. Chiefs and Ward councillors have authority to influence decisions made by HiP regarding the communities neighbouring the park. District municipality, chiefs, ward councillors are in need of evidence regarding end results because it is useful to make decision whether to continue giving support to the communities and how much resources are needed to commit to it. HiP need educational and practical evidence which will be more useful in making judgements to whether the

programme is effective and efficient toward reaching the desired outcome. At the bottom is the community, and often they have less power over processes like decision making, planning and implementation even in matters that directly affecting their immediate community.

Sometimes, you may find young people not participating in community activities, because they try to avoid such structures (King, 2007). Involving the entire community in conservation activities, as well as co-managing the park, is the right way to establish a good working relationship. Hence, community participation is crucial for sustainable development (Grainger, 2003). Furthermore, involvement of religious institutions in conservation will stimulate community support of conservation even more (Sheikh, 2006).

2.3.1 The difference between neighbouring and distant community

There are two types of communities that reside around the national parks, namely neighbouring and distant communities. The neighbouring community is more rural in character, while the distant community is more urban in character (Simelane, Kerley & Knight, 2006). These communities differ based on lifestyle, levels of income, and also expectations. Usually communities residing next to the national park have an interest in the use of its resources. Communities differ not just from each other, but also within themselves (Newmark & Hough, 2000). The neighbouring rural communities want the park to provide them with job opportunities and access to natural resources, while distant communities expect the park to provide them with recreational and learning opportunities (Simelane et al., 2006). It is therefore important to realise that the resource use and needs of communities will differ and thus some standards modelled on community development will not work (Chitambo, Smith & Ehlers, 2002).

2.4 DRIVERS OF PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

The participation of LCs in conservation programmes is influenced by factors such as financial mechanisms and policy instruments (Ruiz-Mallen, Schunko, Corbera, Ros & Garcia, 2015). Local people participate in conservation initiatives when they perceive tangible benefits and upliftment (Schwartzman & Zimmerman, 2005). The participation of the community is not only influenced by economic incentives, but also motivation (Ruiz-Mallen et al., 2015).

Neighbouring communities were exposed to the natural resources before they were removed from the land. This association with ownership of the land helps to improve citizen participation in development initiatives (De Caro & Stokes, 2008 as quoted in Ruiz-Mallen et al., 2015). Soule, Tenege & Wiebe (2000) is of the opinion that a community's sense of ownership and providing incentives are the tools which can be used to influence participation in future conservation programmes.

Some people are still attached to the resources for the benefit of their well-being. For example, some local people will engage in the management of the PA, because they will obtain food, medicine, and other livelihood assets in doing so. In other cases, local people will participate as a commitment toward their customary rights (Mendez-Lopez, 2014).

In parks where LCs hardly have access to natural resources, CBC Programmes will give the community an opportunity to be close to the resources. In the past, LCs were evicted from their land which is now part of the park and, although they got their land right back in terms of ownership, they still have no access to physical land. Therefore, the community will take the opportunity presented to them to be able to take responsibility to conserve the land that once belonged to them. The community values their culture. Culture encompasses values, norms, beliefs and attitudes which are created by the people in the community and passed on to the next generation. Hence, the establishment of the CBC Programme in the park adjacent to the community fits in under the umbrella of community culture. Therefore, the community will participate in the CBC programme because they are influenced by their culture. The CBC Programme will benefit the community financially and politically, meaning that the programme will create job opportunities and entrepreneurial opportunities, which will empower the community economically. Besides the economic opportunities that the programme will provide, it will also open management positions. Community participation is sometimes influenced by the distribution of authority in the society, where community members can have the power to influence any decision that affects their immediate community (Mendez-Lopez, 2014).

Co-management is where people who are ultimately affected by management decisions should have a say in how those decisions are made. Hence, co-management is not entirely about resources, but about managing relationships (Berkes, 2009). Bene and Neiland (2004) argue that co-management is not very effective in reducing poverty unless it strengthens local elite

power. Co-management is more about sharing power and responsibility with users (the community). Joining fees are not always required when community members want to join park management, so do not present a hindrance. However, the local institution (park management) may not be comfortable having community as partners, as this would mean that they have to share power, and this sometimes hinders community members from joining (Berkes, 2009). Thus, co-management may be seen as institution building on its own; it cannot develop in the absence of institutions or organisations, as they all have a major role to play in networking and the evolution of co-management (Berkes, 2009). Regarding the integrated conservation and development project, a community receives incentives in the form of shared decision-making authority, employment, revenue sharing, limited harvesting of plant and animal species, or the provision of community facilities (Newmark & Hough, 2000). What is significant about integrated conservation and development is that it links the conservation of biodiversity to social and economic development. Regardless of the popularity of integrated conservation and development approaches, reviews show limited success accomplished in both conservation and development in more than 50 projects in 20 countries (Newmark and Hough, 2000).

Collaborative management is referred to as co-management or joint management. Collaborative management is described by Borini-Feyerabend (1996) as follows: *"A situation in which some or all of the relevant stakeholders in a protected area are involved in a substantial way in management activities. Especially in a collaborative management process, the agency with the jurisdiction over the protected area develops a partnership with other relevant stakeholders (primarily including local residents and resource users) which specifies and guarantees their respective functions, rights and responsibilities with regards to the protected area".*

Collaborative management is not a new approach, and it does not necessarily mean that the community gets power equal to that of park management. Instead it symbolises an inclusion approach to development and the use of resources, coordinated decision making, the provision of rights, obligations and rules concerning the use of resources and decision making (Gardner & Roseland, 1989). Based on Berkes, George & Preston. (1991), Figure 2.1 is the illustration of community involvement in resource management which emphasises the full engagement of the community. The community needs to be informed about the new development and be consulted for their input. Furthermore, community co-operation and two-way communication

will allow transparent processes to take place, which will result in community empowerment through their participation in the development and implementation of management plans.

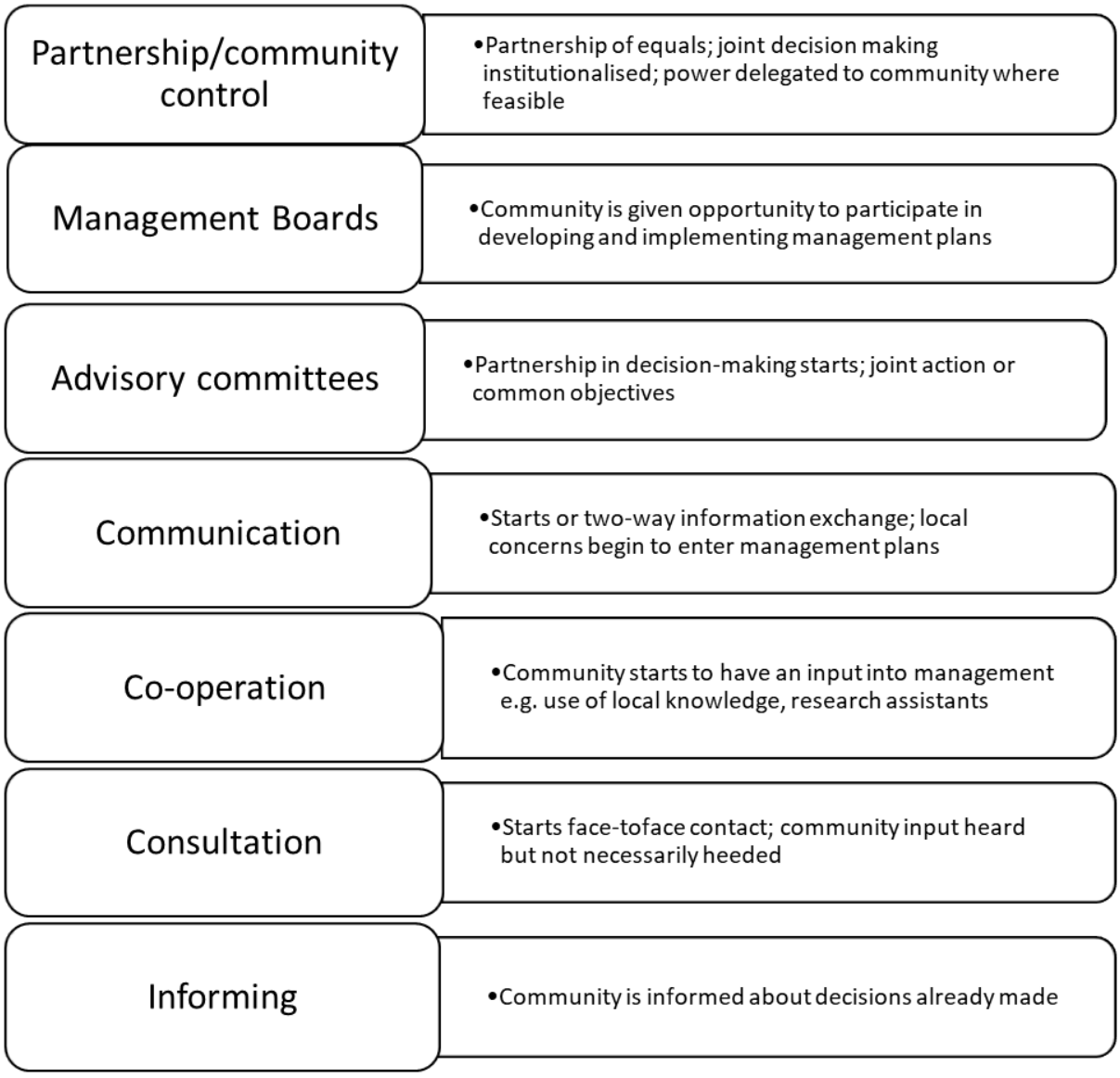

Figure 2.1: Increasing levels of community involvement in conservation

Source: Berkes et al. (1991)

Wanje (2017) also mentions numerous drives for community participation, namely:

- Community ownership: the community is aware of the project, and has accepted it and owned it, in the sense that they go to the extent of bearing the responsibility to raise funds to sustain the project.

- Strong group cohesion: the relationship among group/ community members goes beyond group business to include social issues. Social relationships are vital to them, and not just a means to an end.
- Partnership with stakeholders: Identify groups that share the community's vision and work together to achieve the desired goals.
- Technical support: technical assistance in terms of skills, especially where the level of education is low.
- Availability of market for product: to sustain the project, there should be cashflow and for that to occur, the product or service should be well marketed and made known to the target market. In this case, the target market is the communities neighbouring the park and they should know about the project or programme.
- Strong group leadership: strong leadership determines the future of the project. Strong leadership is required to give direction to the members and empower members of the group to ensure fair participation by all members and the success of the project.
- Availability of volunteer services: providing free services to cut back on expenses, so that the project can be effective in re-investing money. Members of the community need to be motivated and willing to work as a team, sharing responsibility.
- Tangible benefits to community: the community members' participation and support is prompted by the tangible benefits the project promises to bring. In this way the community can willingly sacrifice their time and resources, because they know it will bring tangible benefits.
- Good will/ support from the government: community members sometimes only take things seriously when certain trusted parties are involved, such as the police force or other government agencies, especially concerning the enforcement of rules and policies.

These drives go hand-in-hand with one another and encourage informed participation from all the relevant stakeholders to ensure the envisioned sustainability of the CBC Programme.

2.5 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVATION

The LCs and wildlife have complex interactions, which are sometimes difficult to understand (Leader-Williams, Kayera & Overton., 1996). To encourage the community's involvement,

tangible and sustainable benefits should be made available and this will result in successful wildlife management (Leader-Williams et al., 1996). The involvement and participation of the LC in the early stages of conservation activities will likely keep them motivated, because of the time and resources they would have invested in it (Forgie, Horsley & Johnston, 2001). Foremost, the involvement of the community will reduce the park management's workload, as the responsibilities will be shared with the community, including resolving conflicts. The community's involvement, even in resolving conflicts, will give them an ability to understand how the institutions operate. This will eliminate criticism directed at park management by the community about how they handle things and the community will offer them support instead (Forgie et al., 2001). Apart from the above-mentioned advantages of involving the LC, capacity building of community members is very important. The building of resilient and self-reliant communities is important for conservation (Borini-Feyerabend, 1996). LCs gain new skills and knowledge as a result of their involvement in addressing environmental issues (Forgie et al., 2001). If poverty alleviation strategies are not changed it will be at the cost of biodiversity and sustainable development.

Community involvement or mobilisation in conservation decision making is critical for the establishment of partnerships. It is more likely that a community will accept the final decisions made by park management if they had an input in the decision-making process. Park management can exchange information with the community, but also gain indigenous, sustainable, ecological knowledge from the elders of the community. Community members can be educated about environmental ethics through collaborating with park management in management activities. This can only happen when power is decentralised, so that the community can have a say in decisions that affect their environment (Forgie et al., 2001). When the community is involved in processes, like sharing of information and decision making, awareness is built, and positive outcomes can be expected from the community members. Table 2.3 shows the anticipated outcome from the involvement of the community in conservation activities.

Table 2.3: Community involvement in conservation decision-making

Low ⟷ High Full control by the agency in charge ⟷ Full control by stakeholders					
Process	Information sharing	Consultation	Deciding together	Acting together	Supporting independent community initiatives
	• Awareness building • Telling people what is planned	• Identifying problems, offering solutions & getting feedback. • Increasing the knowledge base from which decisions are made.	• Encouraging interested stakeholders to contribute ideas and options and together decide the best way forward.	• Different interest decide together what is best and formalise an organisational structure to carry it out.	• Groups are helped to do what they want within a grants, advice & support provided by the resource holder.
Outcome	Understanding	Legitimation	Participation	Participation	Determination
• Tools (to achieve the desired outcome)	• Public relations • Educational material • Informal feedback	• Submission making • Voluntary projects • Conservation corps • Focus groups	• Working groups • Action planning • Citizen juries	• CBC Initiative • Land care groups • Trusts • Partnerships	• Independent CBC Initiatives

Source: Forgie et al. (2001)

2.6 LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PARKS AND TOURISM

The links between PAs and communities occur at different social scales (individual, household, and community) and within different functional areas (spiritual, economic, quality of life, etc.). This makes it difficult to understand the complex linkages required between PAs and LCs (Eagles & McCool, 1949).

Eagles and McCool (1949) highlight three different linkages with regards to community tourism and PAs:

- The first one is the most obvious linkage, where the economy of the LC is influenced by the visitors' expenditure in the PA. There are different industries that the community's economy may be composed of, namely agriculture, mining, or manufacturing. It is noted that sometimes the community is not economically dependent on the tourism occurring in the neighbouring PA.
- Secondly, the employees of the park reside in the community. Thus, their salaries and wages are spent within the community and businesses in the community benefit from such spending.
- Thirdly, the park management obtain funds for development activities from different sponsors and these funds serve as the economic base for the community and park administration.

2.7 COMPONENTS OF A COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

CBC used to be a top-down approach, which led to failure and a shift was required. It is now recognised as a "new conservation". One that is inclusive of the participation and involvement of the neighbouring community (Wanje, 2017). CBC, which is recognised by many parties as "new conservation", is guided by frameworks which emphasise moving conservation from being state-centred to being more society-based. People are no longer kept away from nature but are regarded as close neighbours since the community is the locus of conservation (Hulme & Murphee, 2009).

This "new conservation" seeks to improve the relationship between the community and the park in various ways that benefit both the community and the park. Firstly, CBC programmes are aimed at directly benefiting the LC and conserve wildlife. PAs and LCs obtain new

conservation benefits through benefit sharing. PAs generate income through tourism and create employment opportunities to LCs.

Secondly, it indirectly benefits the community by contributing to social infrastructure development for the community neighbouring the PA, such as schools and health clinics.

Thirdly, it promotes environmental awareness and emphasises responsible and acceptable behaviour towards PAs at a local level, which is demonstrated in education, extension programmes, and the decentralised management of natural resources to a local level (Hulme & Murphee, 2009).

2.8 PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), the objectives emphasised as most important were: "enhancing biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and fair benefit sharing with local people" (South African National Parks, no date a). These objectives are then fully supported by the following principles:

(1) Environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront of its concern, and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably.
(2) Development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
(3) Sustainable development requires the consideration of all relevant factors, including:
    - that the disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity are avoided or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied;
    - that pollution and degradation of the environment are avoided or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied;
    - that the disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage is avoided or, where it cannot be altogether avoided, is minimised and remedied;
    - that waste is avoided or, where it cannot be altogether avoided, minimised and reused or recycled where possible and otherwise disposed of in a responsible manner;
    - that the use and exploitation of non-renewable natural resources is responsible and equitable, and takes into account the consequences of the depletion of the resource;

- that the development, use and exploitation of renewable resources and the ecosystems of which they are part do not exceed the level beyond which their integrity is jeopardised;
- that a risk-averse and cautious approach is applied, which takes into account the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of decisions and actions; and
- that negative effects on the environment and on people's environmental rights be anticipated and prevented and, where they cannot be altogether prevented, are minimised and remedied.

(4) Environmental management must be integrated, acknowledging that all elements of the environment are linked and interrelated, and it must take into account the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment and all people in the environment by pursuing the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

(5) Environmental justice must be pursued so that adverse environmental impacts will not be distributed in such a manner as to unfairly discriminate against any person, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged persons.

(6) Equitable access to environmental resources, benefits, and services to meet basic human needs and ensure human well-being must be pursued and special measures may be taken to ensure access thereto by categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

(7) Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, programme, project, product, process, service or activity must exist throughout its life cycle.

(8) The participation of all interested and affected parties in environmental governance must be promoted, and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured.

(9) Decisions must take into account the interests, needs, and values of all interested and affected parties, and this includes recognising all forms of knowledge, including traditional and common knowledge.

(10) Community well-being and empowerment must be promoted through environmental education, the raising of environmental awareness, the sharing of knowledge, and experience and other appropriate means.

(11) The social, economic and environmental impacts of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, must be considered, assessed and evaluated, and decisions must be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment.
(12) The right of workers to refuse work that is harmful to human health or the environment and to be informed of dangers must be respected and protected.
(13) Decisions must be made in an open and transparent manner, and access to information must be provided in accordance with the law.
(14) There must be intergovernmental coordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment.
(15) Actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state should be resolved through conflict resolution procedures.
(16) Global and international responsibilities relating to the environment must be discharged in the national interest.
(17) The environment must be held in a public trust for the people, the beneficial use of environmental resources must serve the public interest, and the environment must be protected as the people's common heritage.
(18) The costs of remedying pollution, environmental degradation, and consequent adverse health effects, and the cost of preventing, controlling or minimising further pollution, environmental damage, or adverse health effects must be paid for by those responsible for harming the environment.
(19) The vital role of women and youth in environmental management and development must be recognised and their full participation therein must be promoted.
(20) Sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems, such as coastal shores, estuaries, wetlands, and similar systems, require specific attention in management and planning procedures, especially where they are subject to significant human resource usage and development pressure (United Nations, 2002).

The above-stated principles are clearly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN. These principles, as stated above, implicate the promotion of a safe, sustainable and inclusive environment, and these principles fit all 17 SDGs (UN, 2017).

2.9 CONFLICT BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION

Looking at the definition of development, it means different things to different people. This includes infrastructural, economic, or even social development. The aim of sustainable development is to bring about improved and desired infrastructural, economic, political, and social development (Furze, De Lacy & Birckhead, 1996). Looking at community as well as rural development, it is crucial to involve the community in the conservation of PAs. In community development, a bottom-up approach is important to allow the community to express their needs, and at the same time provide specialists a chance to create a relationship with the community (Furze et al., 1996). Handing over full control of development to the community can be a challenge. However, they will gain full understanding on how development and conservation works. The meaning of the term rural development is clear; it entails the improvement of rural areas and can also be related to conservation, since many of the PAs are located in rural areas (Furze et al., 1996). Developing rural areas while conserving biodiversity is important in both the short and long term. These two items seem difficult and impossible to achieve at the same time. Due to the rapidly growing population, there is also a corresponding increase in population density (Longlong & Hongbo, 2008), prompting a need for sustainable development. However, sometimes development initiatives directly (e.g. through deforestation or pollution) and indirectly (e.g. through the rising of sea level due to melting glaciers) affect the environment (Longlong & Hongbo, 2008). As important as development is, it has negative effects that negate the concept of conservation.

2.10 CONSERVATION POLICIES

For over 20 years, delivering conservation benefits to the communities close to PAs have been in question (Ahebwa, Van Der Duim & Sandbrook, 2012). Conservationists are convinced that the only way to achieve conservation goals is by having support and coordination from local people (Ahebwa et al., 2012; Pelser et al., 2011). With that being said, it makes perfect sense that the conservation of wildlife should contribute to communities adjacent to PAs by meeting their livelihood needs (Ahebwa et al., 2012). These communities should receive their share of direct benefits, such as employment and revenues, as well as indirect benefits, such as capacity building and opportunities to diversify their local economy.

Details are provided below on protocols, conventions, and agreements for conservation and sustainable use.

2.10.1 Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention (RC) is the first of the modern global intergovernmental treaties on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2013). It therefore provides the framework for international cooperation for the conservation of wetland habitats (Koester, 1989). The convention aims to halt the worldwide loss of all wetlands (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2010).

2.10.2 World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention (WHC), Act No. 49 of 1999, was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) during its general conference in Paris on the 16th of November 1972 (Suter, 1991). The WHC is concerned with the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage (Department of Environmental Affairs, 2009). Thus, the WHC is a successful global instrument for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. The aim of the convention is to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritages around the world (Titchen, 1996). The WHC encourages fundamental linkages between LCs and their heritage (Rossler, 2006).

2.10.3 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

This convention is aimed at preventing the uncontrolled massacre of wild animals and ensures the conservation of diverse wild animal species. Furthermore, this convention sets up a selective mechanism for the protection of useful or rare and endangered wild animal species and the sufficient reduction of "pest" species. It also encourages signatories to engage in the creation of reserves. The convention takes into consideration the general approach to environmental protection, as natural resources include soil, water, flora, and fauna (IUCN, 2004).

2.10.4 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was established in 1975, because of a concern regarding the over-exploitation of wildlife through international trade, which was resulting in a decline in the number of wild animals and plant species around the world. The CITES aims to ensure that the survival of wild animals and plants are not threatened by international trade. The goals of this convention are to: monitor and stop commercial international trade in endangered species; maintain species under international commercial exploitation; and assist countries toward the sustainable use of species through international trade (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2009).

2.10.5 Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement

This protocol ensures cooperation at the national level among governmental authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector. Cooperation between conservation and the sustainable use of wildlife is promoted in order to achieve international agreements applicable to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife (SADC, 1999).

Objectives of this protocol:

- Promote the sustainable use of wildlife.
- Facilitate the harmonisation of the legal instruments governing wildlife use and conservation.
- Promote the enforcement of wildlife laws within, between, and among state parties.
- Facilitate the exchange of information concerning wildlife management, utilisation and the enforcement of wildlife laws.
- Assist in the building of national and regional capacity for wildlife management, conservation, and the enforcement of wildlife laws.
- Promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of Transfrontier Conservation Areas.
- Facilitate community-based natural resource management practices for management of wildlife resources.

2.11 SANParks

SANParks was known as the National Parks Board before 1996. SANParks' new approach links the conservation of biodiversity with the socio-economic development of LCs. The change in conservation philosophy has been supported and enabled by, among others, the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) and the Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003) as amended in 2006, which provides the legal framework for SANParks' People and Parks Programme. In order to ensure that conservation remains a viable contributor to the social and economic development in rural areas. SANParks invested in the building of the Social Ecology Unit (Swemmer & Taljaard, 2011). Before 1990, things were strained between the parks and the neighbouring communities, but changes took place after the 1994 elections and the Social Ecology Unit was established. "The aim of the Social Ecology Unit was to improve strained relationships with neighbouring communities, avert threats such as poaching and land grabs and respond to the general trends towards democracy in Southern Africa" (Swemmer & Taljaard, 2011). Between late 1990 and early 2000, the Social Ecology Unit experienced difficulties, which led to the organisation's value and contribution being questioned. During that time, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism was already pursuing the new concepts of "People and Parks" and "Benefits Beyond Boundaries" that ignited at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2000. The message from the summit highlighted the role that SANParks had to play with regards to the sustainable economic development issue. Thus, the Social Ecology Unit was transformed into the People and Conservation Department in 2003. The People and Conservation Department resulted in the growth of the "People and Parks" section of SANParks (Swemmer & Taljaard, 2011).

2.11.1 SANParks outreach initiatives

The People and Parks Programme was born through the World Parks Congress held in Durban in 2003. The People and Parks Programme is a direct response to the congress, which recognised communities, conservation interdependence, and that PAs can play a big role in poverty alleviation (Pelser et al., 2011). In addition, the People and Parks Programme addresses land reform, rural development, and conservation in a harmonious way (Pelser et al., 2011).

Several outreach initiatives have been running since 2007, whereby school children have free access to national parks and cultural heritage sites. With the Expanded Public Works

Programme (EPWP) and the Sustainable Resource Management Programme, 5 100 people are employed per annum. Community programmes are also assisted to harvest resources in a sustainable and economically beneficial way (SANParks, no date a).

As a drive to lessen poverty through labour intensive activities, as well as temporary job opportunities to vulnerable communities, five environmental programmes were dedicated to job creation (Pelser et al., 2011):

- People and Parks (focusing on infrastructure)
- Working for Wetland (wetland rehabilitation)
- Working for Water (alien vegetation removal)
- Working on Fire (fire control and prevention)
- Working for the Coast (greening and waste management)

Pelser et al. (2011) state that as part of these programmes, capacity building was the most crucial outcome that beneficiaries ever received. Skills were attained from the different types of training offered to beneficiaries, such as personal finance management, first aid, safety training, contractor development, and business management. Beneficiaries were eligible to start their own businesses after completing the training and some beneficiaries passed the knowledge received to the rest of the community as they saw fit (Pelser et al., 2011).

2.11.2 Working for Water and Working for Wetlands Programmes

Chamier, Schacht-Schneider, Le Maitre, Ashton & Van Wilgin. (2012) revealed that alien plants are a big problem in freshwater ecosystems and therefore threaten water security and hamper the productivity of land. The Department of Water Affairs saw it fit to launch the Working for Water Programme in 1995 to control alien plants. The programme not only aimed at improving environmental conservation in South Africa, but also to provide job opportunities to alleviate poverty (Department of Water Affairs, 2011). De Beer and Marais (2005) claim that sustainable community development is only possible through sustainable environmental development, in which the eradication of poverty is the objective. The Working for Water Programme works in partnership with various government departments and private companies, such as the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Tourism, the Department

of Agriculture, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Conservation and Environment, as well as research foundations and LCs (Pelser et al., 2011).

- *Success and failure in the Expanded Public Works Programme*
  A total of 6 364 full-time jobs were created between 2015 till 2016 through SANParks' EPWP. The Working for the Coast, People and Parks, and Working for Wetlands programmes went through funding constraints during these years, but the target for job opportunities was achieved. Programmes like Eco-Furniture and Groen Sebenza, which fall are under Working for the Coast, experienced severe problems (SANParks, 2016).

- *Reflections on the Golden Gate Park, Kruger National Park, and the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park*
  In 2002, the Working for Water and Working for Wetlands Poverty Relief programmes were implemented in Golden Gate Park. Employment was provided to workers from neighbouring communities and farms. Nearly 770 people were employed during the establishment of the EPWP in 2002 (SANParks, no date b). The EPWP aims to employ 60% women, 20% youth and 5% disabled people over a five-year period (EPWP Report, 2009). The initiative by Golden Gate Park represents the characteristics of a PA outreach programme. Hence, the KNP and Richtersveld Transfrontier Park were both developed in the form of a contractual park, where a joint management committee manages the park, which is made up of representatives from the community and conservation authorities (Connolly, 2010).

  The KNP is being jointly managed with the Makuleke community. The Makuleke community now benefits from this joint management agreement through the EPWP. The KNP hosted a contractor training course for the EPWP during 2011, which was funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs. This programme aimed to support small and medium construction companies in the area to become economically active in communities around the KNP. The training included teaching skills such as bricklaying, plastering, painting, tiling and plumbing (Siyabona Africa, 2011). In the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, the Eksteenfontein Youth Forum embarked on field trip in 1997 to see petroglyphs along the Orange River, but when they arrived, they discovered that the petroglyphs were either removed or damaged. This incident caused a sense of cultural

loss for the community and this convinced them to protect their cultural and natural heritage. The community committee drafted a plan proposing that a large area of Richtersveld should be set aside for conservation. During 2005, six million Rand was allocated by the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism for the Richtersveld Community Conservancy (Richtersveld National Park, no date).

2.12 COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMES BY SANParks

The programmes offered by SANParks are discussed below.

2.12.1 Park Forums

Through Park Forums, SANParks communicates matters that affect national parks and neighbouring communities. The objective of Park Forums is "to engage stakeholders in all issues affecting the collective good of the national parks and adjacent communities" (SANParks, 2012b). SANParks has all the decision-making power, however, stakeholders participate in the processes of park management plans in order to foster good relations (SANParks, 2012b).

2.12.2 Kids in Parks (KiP)

The Kids in Parks Programme was established in 2005 with an aim "to expose as many children as possible to South Africa's diverse natural and cultural heritage in order to foster a lifelong passion for conservation and a sense of pride of South Africa's biodiversity" (Cites COP17, 2016). The Kids in Parks Programme provides opportunities to learners from less privileged backgrounds to learn about the environment and explore nature. Learners and educators use national parks as a learning environment; their learning material is aligned to the national school curriculum. A three-day workshop is in place, which trains educators on topics such as environmental ethics (SANParks, 2012b)

2.12.3 Imbewu (meaning 'seed')

The Imbewu Programme started in 1996 and aims to restore self-identity within and among the youth and acknowledge the cultural perspectives in broadening environmental education

(Hamu & Goldstein, 2004). The concept of the Imbewu Programme is to discover and use past African learning methodologies in building traditional knowledge. A group of eight to 16 young people attend three days' training in the wilderness. As an outcome of the visit, each youth is expected to start their own conservation club and/or school or community-based environmental project within their community. Through this process, traditional and cultural knowledge is transferred. The Imbewu Programme has been able to train more than 2 000 youth through the programme since its launch (SANParks, 2012b).

2.12.4 Kudu Green School Initiative

The Kudu Green School Initiative is a climate-mitigating project which started in 2010 and involves schools and their communities. The programme aims "to enhance climate science literacy by advocating lifestyle and behavioural changes that favour resource conservation and contribute to climate change mitigation" (Bizcommunity, 2017). The learners are enabled to understand the significance and magnitude of the effect of climate on society. The learners and communities are influenced through the programme to adopt a lifestyle that mitigates climate change. The projects that branch from the Kudu Green School Initiative ranges from waste management and recycling, to water conservation, greening, and food gardens (SANParks, 2012b).

2.12.5 Kids in Kruger

The Kids in Kruger Programme aims to stimulate the transfer of knowledge and experience from children to their parents and to expose the learners to the KNP (Siyabona Africa, no date). An approximate sum of 6 000 children per annum are bussed into the park, where they are taught about the environment. During community outreach programmes, which include soil erosion prevention, sustainable agriculture, and building of the nursery, these children provide assistance with manual labour. The Kids in Kruger Programme does not only empower the community educationally, but also enriches the relationship between the park and the communities (SANParks, 2012b).

2.12.6 Heritage Education

The Heritage Education Programme's main purpose is "to conceptualise, plan, strengthen and oversee implementation of cultural resource management and indigenous knowledge in all National Parks. Through partnership between the National Heritage Council, the Department of Basic Education, and SANParks" (SANParks, 2012b), the Heritage Education Programme approaches schools from the nine provinces to showcase cultural heritage issues in their areas. The 10 best-performing schools get a week's heritage education camping in a selected national park, where each learner is asked to write about their discovery. The best three scholars are awarded prizes (SANParks, 2012b).

2.13 HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI CONSERVATION-BASED SUB-PROGRAMMES

The following conservation-based programmes are offered.

- **Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme**
  The Sifundimvelo Programme engages with primary schools located within the communities close to the park. The programme is aimed at grade six learners, and 6 000 learners and teachers from 125 schools participate in the programme. This is in line with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) and therefore forms part of the curriculum of the school programme (Environmental Affairs, 2015).

- **Ezemvelo RBM Cup**
  The Ezemvelo RBM Cup Programme aims to improve the relationship between the community and the park. The HiP decided to use sport as a platform to create an awareness of biodiversity conservation and introduced soccer and netball in 2009. The Park hosts annual tournaments, where 80 teams for each soccer and netball are selected to represent the traditional authorities from across the KZN Province (Environmental Affairs, 2015).

- **Community Rhino Ambassadors**
  Community Rhino Ambassadors (CRAs) aims to fight rhino poaching and to promote biodiversity within the communities. The Ambassadors' primary role is to advise the communities about environmental issues in the area, specifically on rhino conservation.

A total of 100 ambassadors were chosen from the community (10 from each TA). Furthermore, ambassadors participate in environmental awareness, and events that they organise for the communities are the following:

- Community clean-ups.
- Arbour week: an annual event where ambassadors go to schools to donate and plant trees.
- Amarula Festival: an annual event that celebrates the arrival of fruit on the Amarula trees.

2.14 LAND CLAIMS IN PROTECTED AREAS

During the establishment of PAs, indigenous people who occupied particular pieces of land were removed from their land. After 1994, justice came into place with the land restitution (restoration) programme being implemented. People who were removed from their land were given a chance to claim their land back. In the case of Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve land, the Mpukunyoni community's land claim has been processed, while the Hlabisa land claim is still underway. Both Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa can only receive their land rights back, but not the physical land, as it is now a PA. As an example, Makuleke is a community adjacent to the KNP who were forcefully removed from their land in 1969 (De Villiers, 1999). During the time of removal, they were offered a piece of land of similar size in exchange, but then only received 6 000 hectares instead of 20 000 hectares (the size of the piece of land that was taken from them at a time). The people of Makuleke claimed that they never agreed to the exchange, that they were offered insufficient compensation for the land and, lastly, that they have been robbed of their rights to the land (De Villiers, 1999). In 1999 the land claim was taken to court for consideration and rights to the land were restored to the Makuleke community, who decided to offer the land of their own volition for proclamation as a national park. The suffering people endure during land claims is not a South African issue alone, but one that affects Africa as a whole (De Villiers, 1999).

2.15 THE ROLE OF ECOTOURISM IN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There is no single concrete definition for ecotourism. Table 2.4 displays the recognised and familiar definitions of ecotourism

Table 2.4: Definitions of ecotourism

Authors	Definitions
Ceballos Lascurain (1987) (Joshi, 2011)	"Ecotourism is defined as travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying scenery and its wild animals and plants as well as existing."
Conservation International (Ziffer, 1989).	"A form of tourism inspired primarily by the natural history of an area, including its indigenous cultures. The ecotourist visits relatively undeveloped areas in the spirit of appreciation, participation and sensitivity. The ecotourist practices a non-consumptive use of wildlife and natural resources and contributes to the visited areas through labor or financial means aimed at directly benefiting the conservation of the site and the economic well-being of the local residents."
The National Ecotourism Strategy (1994) (QuickStart Guide to a Tourism Business, 2006)	"Purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the culture and natural history of the environment, taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem, while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people."
McCormick, 1994	"Purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the culture and natural history of the environment, taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem, while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people."
World Conservation Union (Brandon, 1996)	"Environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations."

Authors	Definitions
Honey, 1999	"Travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strive to be low impact and (usually) small scale. It helps educate the travellers; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights."
Weaver, 1999	"Interest in ecotourism, now widespread among tourism planners and marketers, is rationalized by a number of popular assumptions regarding the sector's potential economic, environmental, and socio-cultural benefits."
Weaver, 2001	"Ecotourism is a form of tourism that fosters learning experiences and appreciation of the natural environment, or some component thereof, within its associated cultural context."

Source: Kiper, 2013

The emphasis of the definitions is on experiencing and learning about local cultural artefacts, as well as the local landscape, flora, and fauna, including their habitats (Kiper, 2013). Above all, ecotourism is a local economic activity.

Ecotourism plays a role in community development by providing different, sustainable livelihood opportunities to LCs. It is a potent tool that can positively impact community development through the conservation of biodiversity (Kiper, 2013). In addition, it seeks to meet the present needs of LCs without jeopardising the ability of future generations to do the same (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2012).

To ensure sustainable community development through ecotourism and to maintain ecotourism characteristics, there should be a suitable balance between the environmental, economic, and social aspects of tourism development (Bhuiyan, Siwar, Ismail & Islam., 2012 and Kiper, 2013). Table 2.5 details how each component is supposed to further the goal of ecotourism.

Table 2.5: System of sustainability in ecotourism

Systems	Functions
A: Environmental sustainability goals of ecotourism	Promotes environmental protection (impact assessment and environmental planning, construction methods and materials, visual impacts, water supply, air quality, waste minimisation and litter drainage and stormwater, wastewater, water conservation, energy minimisation— buildings, energy minimisation— transport, minimal impact on wildlife) provides environmental education -increases public environmental consciousness -fosters healthy attitudes and behaviors towards nature encourages donations to contribute to the protection of local natural resources air quality.
B: Sociocultural sustainability goals of ecotourism	Promotes local people's active participation Promotes local ownership Empowers local people -e.g. builds up local people's confidence/self-esteem Enhances local community's equilibrium Encourages intercultural appreciation and communication between host communities and tourists
C: Economic sustainability goals of ecotourism	Contributes to lasting local economic development Creates permanent jobs for local people Drives the development of other related industries Upgrades local infrastructure Profits earned retained within local communities' Equal distribution of revenues Promotes consumption and production Finances the establishment and maintenance of protected areas Uses natural resources efficiently

Sources: Jlang, 2008; Kiper, 2013

The characteristics of ecotourism are as follows:

- Sustains the well-being of local people.
- Involves responsible actions on the part of tourists and the tourism industry.
- Promotes small and medium tourism enterprises.
- The lowest possible consumption of natural resources.
- Stresses local participation, ownership and business opportunities, particularly for rural people.
- Provides learning experiences.

Ecotourism was foreseen as an approach that will offset the benefits it was envisioned to provide; therefore, ecotourism should be environmentally sensitive, economically viable, and culturally appropriate.

2.16 CONCLUDING REMARKS

From the literature reviewed, it is evident that conservation may be affected by different factors that could lead to its success or failure. The intention of the CBC programme is to better biodiversity conservation and the livelihood of the neighbouring communities, but its success depends on proper planning and implementation, proper enforcement of conservation policies, and proper management of the programme, as well as the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Ecotourism provides funds for conservation and directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of LCs. It is also influenced by numerous factors that could lead to either its failure or success, depending on the sustainability of the system. CBC systems and approaches evolve over time, and thus CBC and ecotourism have the potential to alleviate poverty, create plentiful employment opportunities, and resuscitate local economy. The literature shows that CBC has failed in a few cases, while succeeding in others. The following chapter is Chapter Three, which discusses the study area and sampling method, as well as data collection and analysis.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Methodology is a design and strategy that connects the choice of methods, it looks in all aspects of the study from the beginning to the end of the process (Sefotho, 2018) This chapter briefly describes the area where the research was conducted, as well as the criteria used to select the area. It also reflects on the research design, which encompasses the methodology and procedure followed to conduct a scientific research study. The study used descriptive and quantitative methods.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

MacMillain and Schumacher (1997) define research design as a plan for selecting subjects, research sites and data collection procedures to answer the research questions. The research design entails the methodology and procedures used to conduct a research.

This study used descriptive and quantitative methods. Both methods present a number of perspectives from which a particular case can be studied, and they also share a common understanding of a goal of knowledge dissemination for practical use (Mafuwane, 2011). Quantitative research aimed at testing theories, determining facts, demonstrating relationships between variables and predicting outcomes (Mafuwane, 2011). A descriptive research is a study designed to collect accurate data on characteristics and situation of respondents (Pilot & Hungler, 2004).

This study used a case study and survey for a descriptive research:

- Survey: For Easwaramoorthy and Zarinpoush (2006) an interview is a gathering of information through conservation. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with the key informants and respondents from two selected communities. This enabled the respondents to add new comments, experiences, challenges and opinions depending on the response of the respondent.

- Case study: Structured questionnaires were employed as research instruments. Two different questionnaires were used for two different groups of respondents. One set of questionnaires was administered to the key informants of HiP. Another set of questionnaires was administered to the respondents in the two communities (Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa).

3. 3 STUDY AREA

3.3.1 Situation of Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park

The HiP is situated in Northern Zululand in the KZN Province of South Africa. It lies to the west of the town of Mtubatuba and east of the town of Hlabisa (Figure 3.1). These two towns are linked by a road which bisects the park through a section known as the Corridor and demarcates the management divide between the Hluhluwe and iMfolozi Game Reserves (Wadge, 2008).

3.3.2 Landscape of Hluhluwe- Imfolozi Park

The HiP has an altitude range from 70m above sea level to about 580m above sea level at the highest point in the north. The area is characterised by a steep, broken landscape, and rolling hills from the north area of the Hluhluwe River, some areas between the Corridor Road, the Black Umfolozi River, and some parts of the south of the White Umfolozi River. The remaining areas of iMfolozi are marked by very gently undulating landscapes (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011).

3.3.3 Climate

The local topography in the HiP is much related to the weather and the annual temperatures range from ±13 ˚C to ±35 ˚C and are influenced by altitude. The annual rainfall season occurs mostly between October and March. The mean annual rainfall within the park ranges between 650mm in the north of the low-lying western areas and 985mm in the high-altitude regions (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011).

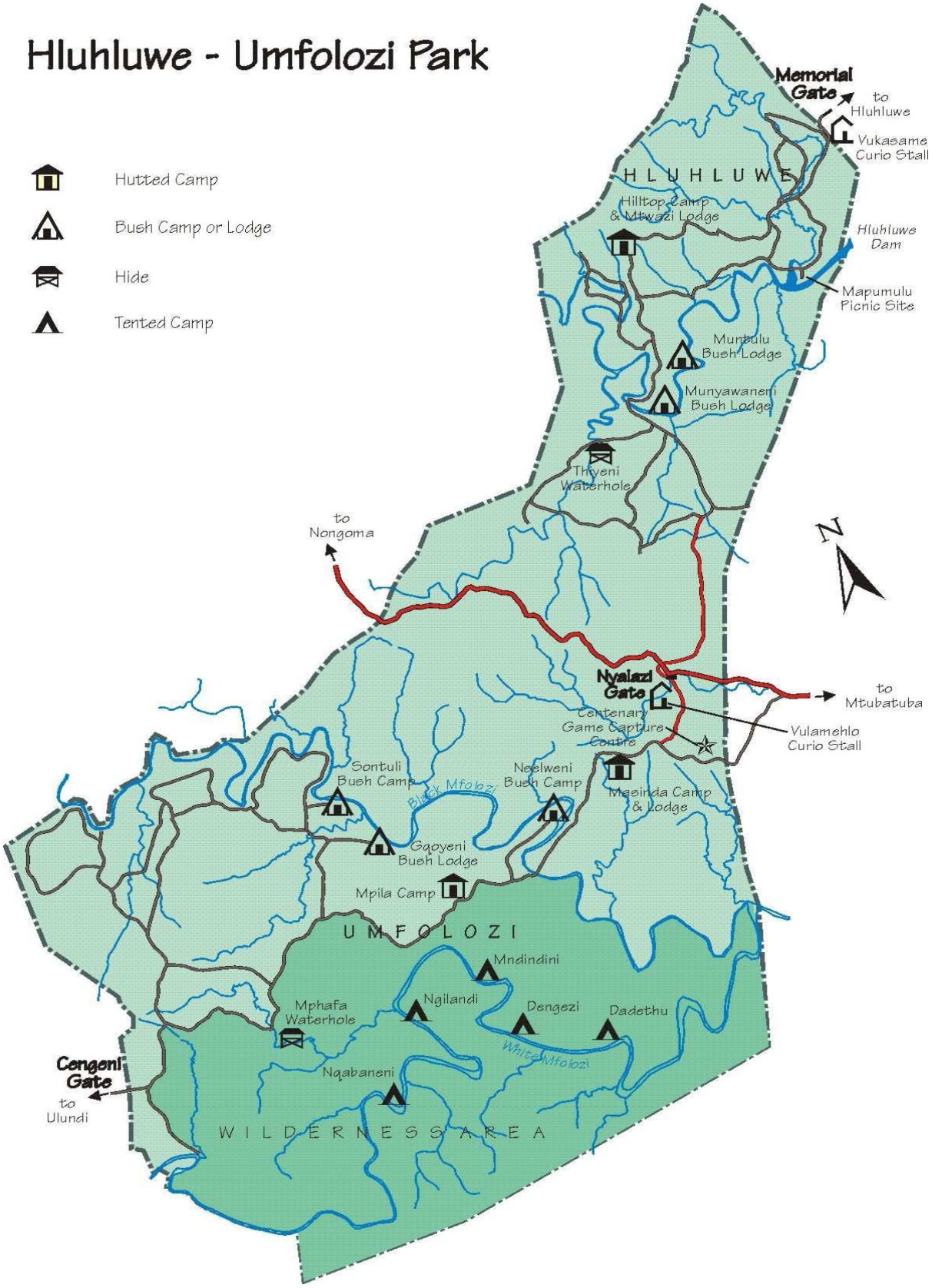

Figure 3.1: Map of Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park

Source: Wadge, 2008

3.3.4 Size of Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park

The HiP is 94 984 hectares in size and consists of two sections, namely: the Hluhluwe Game Reserve (25 633 hectares) and the iMfolozi Game Reserve (47 753 hectares which are connected by the Corridor (21 598 hectares).

3.3.5 Vegetation and Aquatic systems

The HiP falls into the savannah biome; therefore, the park encompasses a large percentage of savannah. The park's savannah ranges from open fire-maintained grasslands and open woodlands, to densely encroaching woodlands, thickets and closed woodlands, as well as grazing lawns (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). Alien plant species exist in the park due to wind spread. The White Umfolozi River, the Black Umfolozi River, and the Hluhluwe River are the three main watercourses that trisect the HiP.

3.3.6 Wildlife

The HiP is one of the most important PAs that conserve a variety of species, including mammals (herbivores and carnivores, including the big five), invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011).

3.3.7 Background to social aspects of HiP

Before the current inhabitants settled here, namely the Nguni-speaking community, Iron Age farmers used parts of the land for growing crops, while the animal population extensively occupied other areas. Conservation has been a tradition in the HiP since 1895, when a tsetse fly and nagana breakout occurred (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). A variety of natural and man-made attractions, such as the Nqabaneni Cave, still exist in the HiP, as well as a variety of heritage resources, such as Stone Age rock art and Iron Age settlements and fossils. People living adjacent to the HiP are Nguni-speaking communities, speaking isiZulu as the local language. The HiP lies in the marginalised region, with a population of two million people that is growing at about 2.5% per annum, and approximately 75% of the population lives in poverty (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011).

3.4 SAMPLE DESIGN

A random sample of 208 households was selected, using the multi-stage sampling method (Table 3.1). Simple random sampling was used to select a sample of 208 households from the

seven wards existing within the two communities. Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni are the two selected TAs where the research was conducted (Figure 3.2). Hlabisa is divided into two wards, namely Matshamnyama, with a population of 1 607 people in 276 households, and Mpembeni, with a population of 1 224 people in 181 households.

Mpukunyoni is a huge community, and for the purpose of the study the focus was on wards that are closely situated to the park. These include Gunjaneni with a population of 2 550 people in 409 households, Esiyembeni with a population of 1 002 people in 181 households, Mthole with a population of 1 926 people in 335 households, Machining with a population of 3 771 people in 599 households, and Mvutshini with a population of 423 people in 82 households (Statistics South Africa, 2011). These two communities were purposefully selected after consultation with park officials. These communities actively participate in the conservation management programmes of the park. Only leaders or elders of the programme were selected as key informants.

Table 3.1: Sampling of households in each ward

Community	**Ward/Village**	**HH size**	**Sample size**
Hlabisa	Matshamnyama	276	30
	Mpembeni	181	20
Mpukunyoni	Machibini	599	60
	Gunjaneni	409	40
	Mthole	335	30
	Esiyembeni	181	18
	Mvutshini	82	10
Total		2063	208

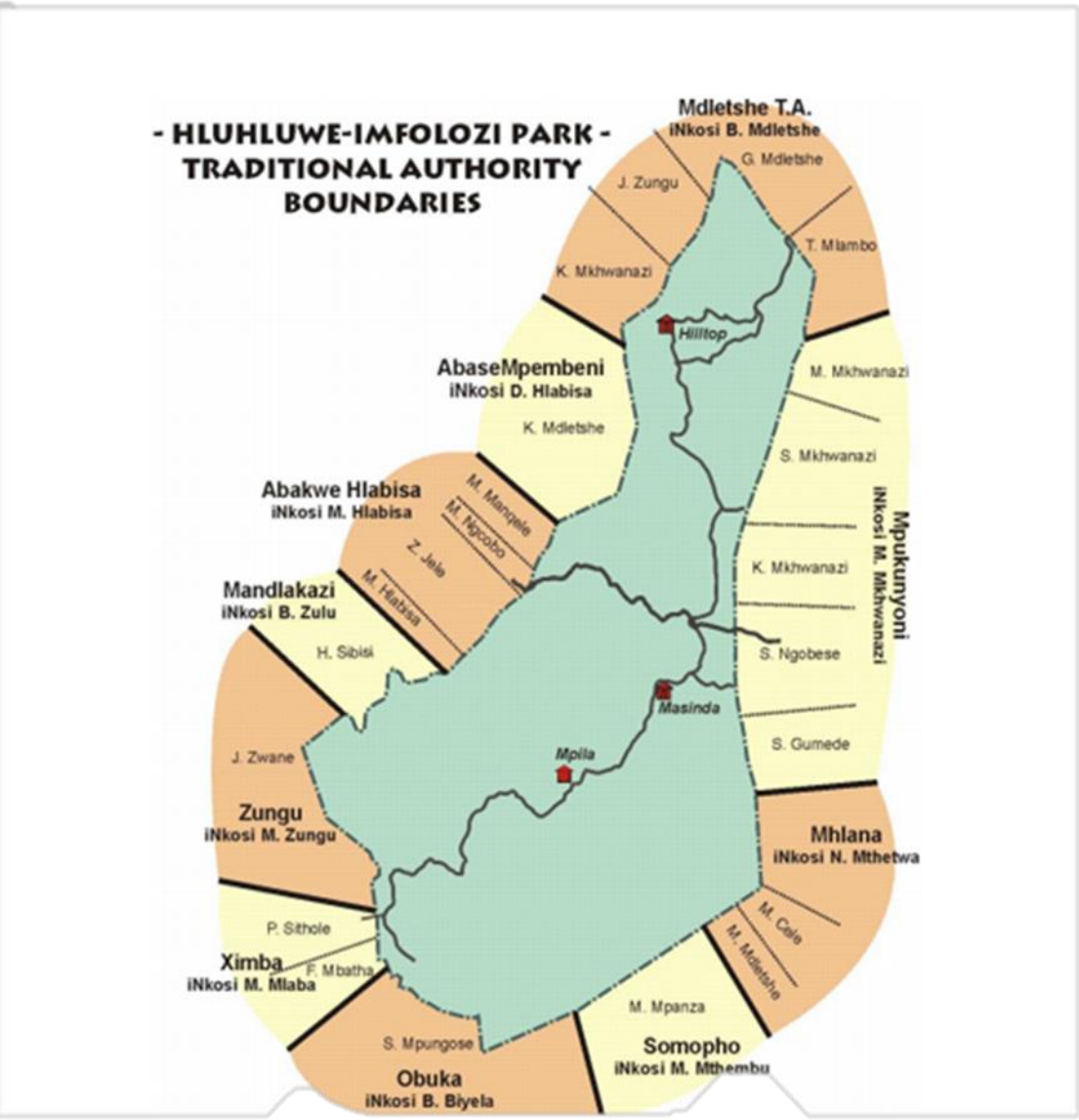

Figure 3.2: Map of the park showing Traditional Authority Boundaries

Source: Wadge, 2008

The two officials interviewed were Johan Ngobese (HiP official) for the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme, and Sinothile Gama (programme leader) for the Rhino Ambassadors Programme. The official respondent for the Ezemvelo RBM Cup was not available to be interviewed. One of the interviewed officials was considered by park

management to be more knowledgeable about the CBC programmes of the park, as he has been employed in the park for the last 10 years.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

The study made use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data collection involved the use of semi-structured interviews with key resource persons (HiP officials and key informants) and in-depth interviews with 208 household members of the Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa communities. The 208 households interviewed included household heads (HHH) where possible. The head of a household is an individual who bears responsibility for the household, either male or female (Anthony, 2007). In the absence of the household head due to migration for job opportunities, the house occupants decided among themselves who would be interviewed. To establish some common ground with the respondents before administering the questionnaire, the researcher introduced and explained the relevance of the study and they were assured of the confidentiality of the information they gave.

3.5.1 Primary data collection

Interviews took place during November 2016. The questionnaire included questions on the socio-demographics of the respondents, including gender, age, household size, education level, and source of household income. It also incorporated questions about community perceptions and attitudes towards tourism and biodiversity conservation, as well as opinions regarding their participation in the CBC Programme. Although the questionnaires were drafted in English, interviews took place in Zulu. In the case of the key informants semi-structured questionnaires were used for the two key informants from two different sub-programmes (Sifundimvelo Environmental Education and Rhino Ambassadors) that fall under the umbrella of the CBC Programmes in the HiP.

3.5.2 Secondary data

Secondary data is “data originally collected for a different purpose and reused for another research question” (Hox & Boeije, 2005). Secondary data was obtained from the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan (2011), previous studies related to the research topic, books, journal articles, news, and administrative reports, which were significant to explain some of the relevant issues.

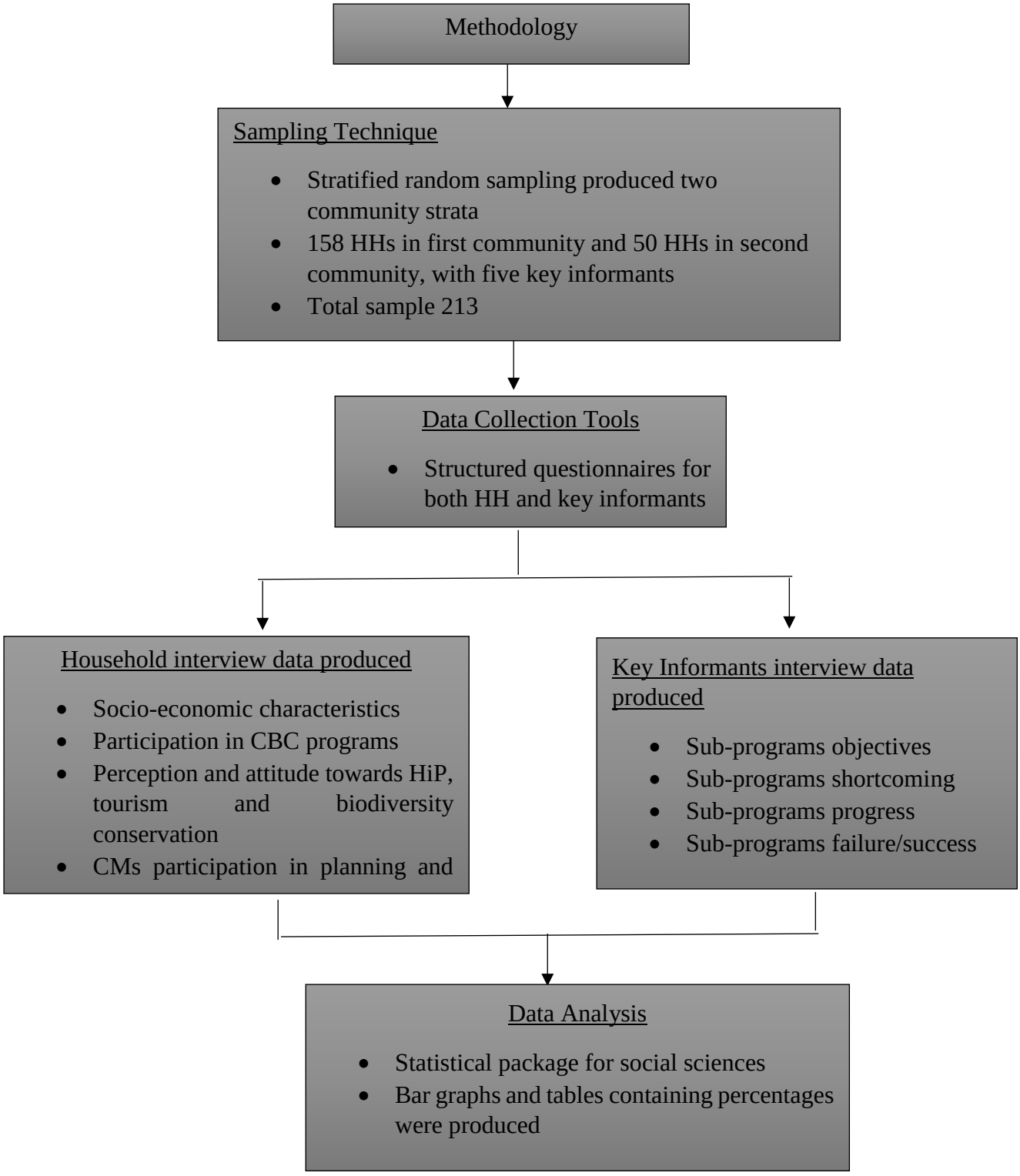

Figure 3.3: Framework for Research

Source: Author

3.6 DATA ANALYSIS

The survey data were quantitative and qualitative, and the quantitative data were analysed (to produce descriptive statistics) with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 24.0. Data produced on community attitudes towards tourists, conservation, and the socio-economic impact of the HiP CBC Programme were derived from the open-ended questions and helped to synthesise to a better understanding of the implementation of the programme. The questions were mainly qualitative in nature. Some of the qualitative data collected were mainly to support or act as evidence for inferences of quantitative data appearing in the data presentation.

The data collected from the key informants' interviews was mainly qualitative and helped to synthesise the views of park officials on the implementation and the impact of the CBC Programme.

3.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Since the study investigated the socio-economic characteristics of the community, as well as the attitudes and perceptions of the community towards the park and tourism, financial implications were another ethical consideration. The respondents willingly participated in the study, Neuman (2000) and Casley and Lury (1987) noted the following: "*A fundamental ethical principle of social research is: never to coerce anyone into participating; participation must be voluntary. It is not enough to get permission from the subjects; they need to know what they are being asked to participate in so that they can make informed decision*".

The names of the participants will not be disclosed in order to protect their identities. The researcher will also take care to ensure that the responses cannot be connected to any particular participant. Casley and Lury (1987) make the following statement: *"The right to privacy demands that direct consent for participation must be obtained from adults and, in the case of children, from their parents or guardians. Moreover, this consent must be informed, in the sense that the participants must be aware of the positive and negative aspect or consequences of participation"*

The researcher gained the participants' trust through the ethical principles mentioned above to ensure that honest responses were obtained from the participants.

CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HLABISA AND MPUKUNYONI COMMUNITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

For researchers and readers to better understand the respondents under study, it is essential to present a thorough description of the respondents' socio-economic characteristics. It also contributes to information needed for secondary data analyses (Fakere, Ayoola & Carmichael, 2018).

This chapter provides an overview of the socio-economic profile of the two selected communities, namely, gender, household size, age, employment, levels of education and access to running water and electricity. The demographic characteristics are important determinants of livelihood activities and outcomes.

4.2 AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

There are proportionally more females than males in the two communities across all age cohorts with 59.5% in Mpukunyoni and 52% in Hlabisa (Table 4.1). In cases where the household head was not available during the interview, the eldest available person was alternatively interviewed. It is common in households that the gender roles differ. In general, the women's role in the household include executing house chores, nurture children, and fetching water, while men are often migrating to other cities looking for a job to provide basic needs (food, education, clothes and health care) for the family. Because of this tendency many women in houses are taking up the role of the household head when their husbands are absent. This is in keeping with migration patterns identified in the literature as well as the prominence of female headedness. This is important since it shows the importance of offering basic life skills in order to create their own jobs.

Table 4.1: Household distribution by gender

			Gender of respondent		Total
			Female	Male	
Community	Mpukunyoni	Frequency	94.0	64.0	158.0
		Percentage (%)	59.5	40.5	100.0
	Hlabisa	Frequency	26.0	24.0	50.0
		Percentage (%)	52.0	48.0	100.0
Total		Frequency	120.0	88.0	208.0
		Percentage (%)	56.7	43.3	100.0

Figure 4.1 illustrates the age strata in the communities. Few respondents (1.7%) were younger than 20 years, while 45.5% of the respondents fall within the range of 40-59 years. This age category represents the potentially economic active group of household members. In household where the head is younger than 20 years, it represents situations where perhaps both parents migrated to cities to find better jobs, or else, in those in which they passed away and left children behind. Many of the young community members (less than 25 years) were no longer staying in these communities due to the high unemployment rate in the area, which once again highlights the need to create job opportunities for the youth.

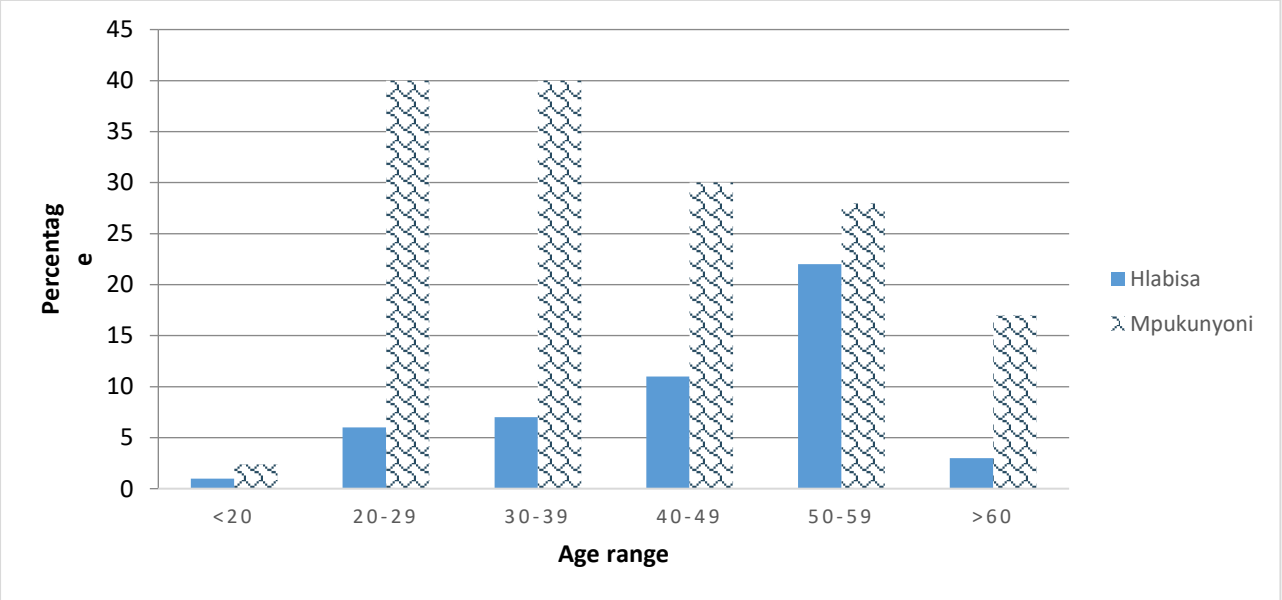

Figure 4.1: Age of respondents

The proportion of female-headed households in SA increased from 51.0% in 2001 to 53.9% in 2011, while 1.6% house holdings were headed by youth between 2001 and 2011 (Statistics South Africa, 2012). Anyone can be a household head regardless of their age, gender, or education status, (Anthony, 2007). The author is of the opinion that any individual who bears the responsibility for a household can become the household head. In Table 4.2, 51.4% of the respondents that were interviewed were household heads.

Table 4.2: Number of household heads interviewed in Mpumalanga and Hlabisa

Are you the household head?				**Gender of household head**	
		Yes	**No**	**Male**	**Female**
Mpukunyoni	Frequency	71.0	87.0	38.0	49.0
	Percentage (%)	34.1	41.8	18.3	23.6
Hlabisa	Frequency	36.0	14.0	6.0	8.0
	Percentage (%)	17.3	6.7	2.9	3.8
Total number		107	101	44.0	57.0
% of Total		51.4	48.6	21.2	27.4

In Table 4.2, it shows that in both communities there were more female headed households (Mpukunyoni 23.6% and Hlabisa 3.8%) than male headed household (Mpukunyoni 18.3% and Hlabisa 2.9%) and the main reasons for this are migration to other cities for job opportunities and passing away of the husband. Information provided by the head of the household is assumed to be credible and therefore important to researchers. This consideration may have been prompted by the general characteristics that the head of the household should possess; availability at home, authority to make overriding decisions and hold an economic support responsibility (Rosenhouse, 1989). However, this neglects the fact that "members of the same household may have different socio-economic characteristics and may not equally share resources and responsibilities" (Hedman, Perucci & Sundstrom, 1996).

4.3 HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

Some of the interviewed households were very large, with families of up to 38 members. Large households are difficult to maintain as they reflect demands that are likely to be placed on the

natural resource base. Not only food is necessary to maintain these households, but also amenities like uniforms for scholars, a shelter that is big enough to cater for the entire family, and also resources to take care of health services of a relatively big household. Respondents raised the point that they experience difficulties in maintaining such big households and are therefore always on the lookout for job opportunities.

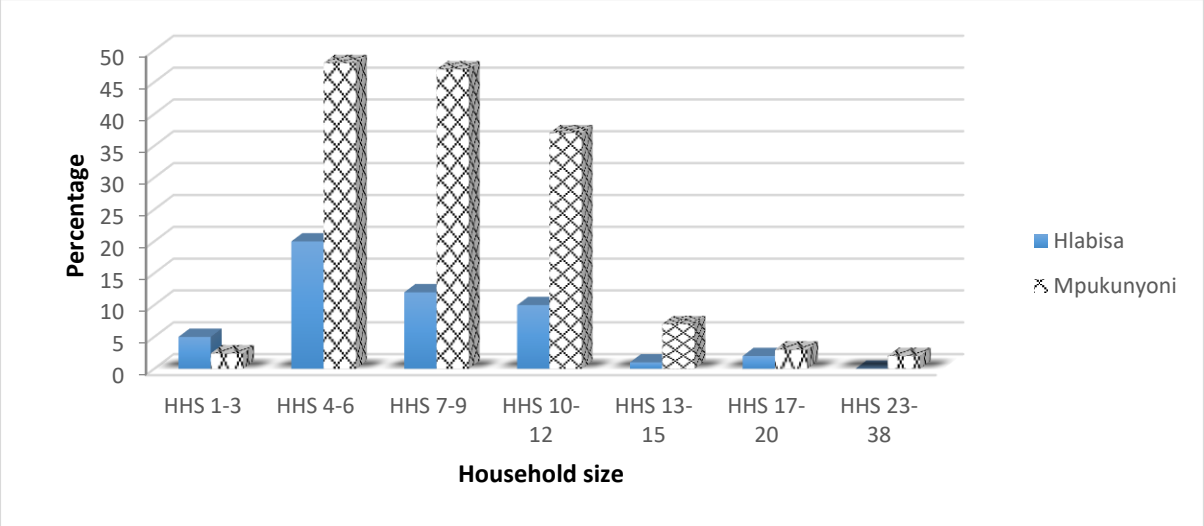

Figure 4.2: Household size

Data shows that the average household size for Hlabisa is 7.14 and for Mpukunyoni 22.57 (Table 4.3). SA Stats (2011) stated that the average household size in Hlabisa is 5.4 and 4.8 in Mtubatuba in which Mpukunyoni falls under. The average household size of especially Mpukunyoni is relatively big, which can be because in general many African households are composed of extended family members. Only 4% of households had three household members. The results in Figure 4.2 indicate that households in Hlabisa had a household size range of 1to 17 and 3 to 23 in Mpukunyoni. The reasons for this are: it is African tradition that reproduction of many children is regarded as a source of wealth and; children who had children out of wedlock, have their children stay home with the grandparents and them (parents).

Table 4.3: Average household size

Communities	Range	Average
Hlabisa	1-17	7.14
Mpukunyoni	3-23	22.57

4.4 EDUCATION LEVEL

Education is an important factor that influences individuals with regards to development and adoption of new technologies (University of Agder, 2017). Table 4.4 shows notable differences in the education level between Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa communities. In Mpukunyoni 42 % of the respondents have a primary school education level while in Hlabisa it is 50%. It was also found that 11% of the respondents in Mpukunyoni and 4% in Hlabisa have tertiary education. The study shows that 46% of the respondents hold secondary education (matric qualification) in both communities. Eleven percent of the respondents from Mpukunyoni obtained tertiary education, in the form of tertiary diplomas or degrees.

People with relatively high education levels continued to pursue some form of training and therefore could acquire training and jobs in ecotourism. Although the educational level is relatively high in both communities, many respondents (73 %) revealed that they are unemployed,

Table 4.4: Education levels obtained by respondents

					Total
			Mpukunyoni	**Hlabisa**	
Highest education level	Primary School	Frequency	67.0	25.0	92.0
		Percentage (%)	42.4	50.0	44.2
	Secondary School	Frequency	73.0	23.0	96.0
		Percentage (%)	46.2	46.0	46.1
	Tertiary	Frequency	18.0	2.0	20.0
		Percentage (%)	11.4	4.0	9.7
Total		Frequency	158	50.0	208
		% of Total	100	100	100

4.5 MARITAL STATUS

Table 4.5 shows that 55% of the respondents were single, followed by 42% who are currently married. The highest percentage of single respondents occur in Mpukunyoni (62%), where many of these single respondents stayed at home to take care of their younger siblings as their parents have passed on. Furthermore, although establishing a household is ideal, several

respondents indicated that they prefer not to get married because of the relatively high rate of unemployment and the resulting financial implications. Establishing a household requires economic resources and it is expected that members of the household should contribute appropriately to its maintenance. Generally, in the Zulu culture a lobola of eleven cattles is to be paid to the bride's family plus the groom is also responsible for wedding preparations which requires a lot of money.

Table 4.5: Marital status of respondents

			Mpukunyoni	**Hlabisa**	**Total**
Marital status of respondents	Never married	Frequency	98	17	115
		Percentage (%)	62	34	55.2
	Married	Frequency	56	31	87
		Percentage (%)	35.4	62	41.8
	Widowed	Frequency	4	2	6
		Percentage (%)	2.6	4	3.0
Total		Frequency	158	50	208
		Percentage (%)	100	100	

4.6 BIRTHPLACE

Table 4.6 shows that 87.6 % of the respondents from Mpukunyoni and 68.0% from Hlabisa were native to the area. This illustrates that respondents from Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa have been living in the area since their birth and are therefore familiar with the area. This perhaps explains why they have deep embedded expectations from HiP as an alternative source of direct job opportunities. Having been bestowed the land by their elders, most of the respondents grew up in their respective areas to which they have a great sentimental attachment. This finding is important for the HiP management to take note of. The respondents that are not native to the area did not express a strong dependence on HiP resources, although they all expressed their interest if job opportunities in the park can be established.

Table 4.6: Birthplace of respondents

			Yes	Percentage (%)	No	Percentage (%)
Where your birthplace?	Mpukunyoni (n=158)	Frequency	138	87.3	20	12.6
	Hlabisa (n=50)	Frequency	34	68.0	16	32.0

According to Table 4.6, 44.6% of the respondents were not born in Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa community, they have migrated to this area, because they want to be close to relatives and the land is affordable.

4.7 SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY INCOME

In Southern Africa, it is common that 78% of households rely on non-farm income (Abdu-Raheem & Worth, 2011). The next part of the discussion reveals that respondents of Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa engaged in a variety of income generating activities. Thirty five percent rely on social grants like child support grants and disability grants as a source of monthly income, while 37% received pension, only a small percentage are self-employed and trade firewood outside HiP and curios in Vulamehlo and Vukuzame markets in HiP (2%) or are involved in construction businesses (2%). Figure 4.3 shows that 23% of the households interviewed are earning their income from remittance by working for the government, community services and providing migrant labour to areas like Gauteng, Durban and Richards Bay.

Subsistence agriculture embodies an important component of rural areas and plays an important role in rural development (European Commission, 2000). In the study area, only one respondent was involved in agriculture (Figure 4.4). In response to a question why the specific respondent was doing subsistence agriculture she replied as follows: "*I plant so that my children and grandchildren can have food. The maize also helps to feed my chickens and every season I reserve some of the seeds to plant in the next planting season".* Respondents claimed that their vegetable gardens used to be green throughout the year, but due to the extremely hot climate and no rain, they no longer participate in this exercise. Furthermore, crops suffered due to constant water restrictions on household water caused by insufficient dam levels. Generally

speaking, livestock farmers should also be struggling with ensuring that livestock has enough pastures to graze.

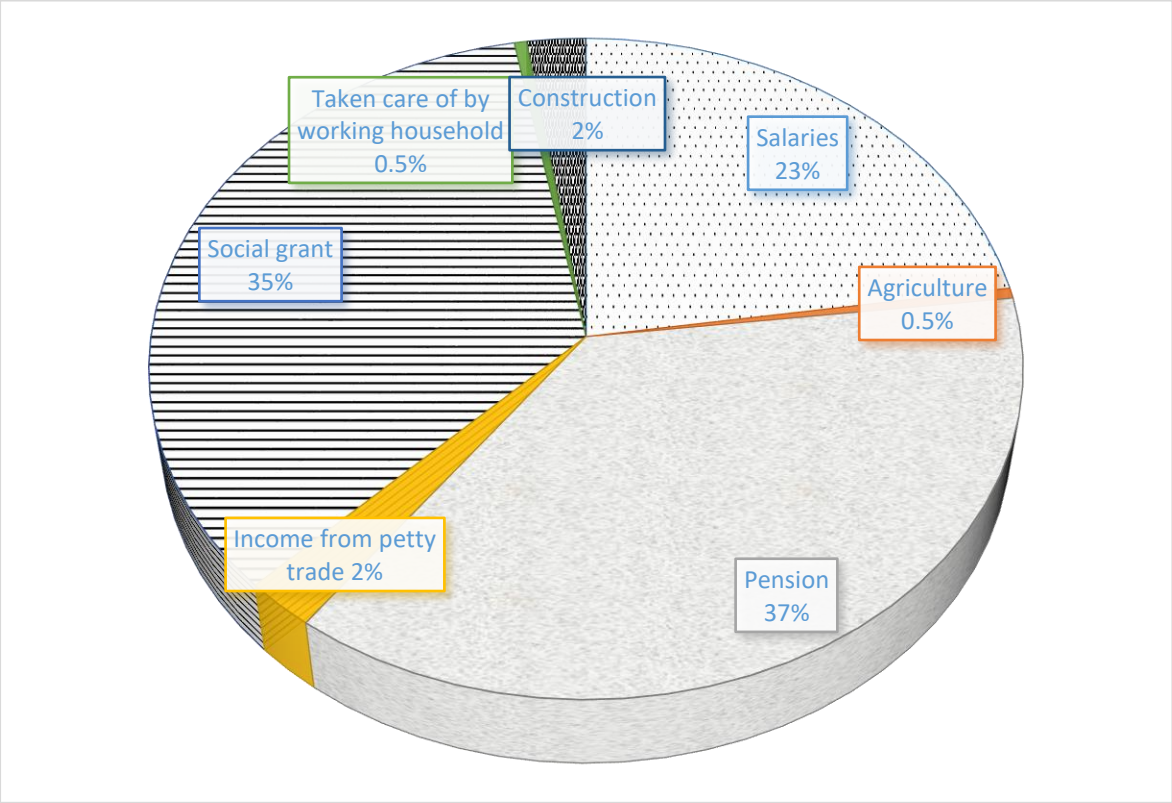

Figure 4.3: Household income distribution

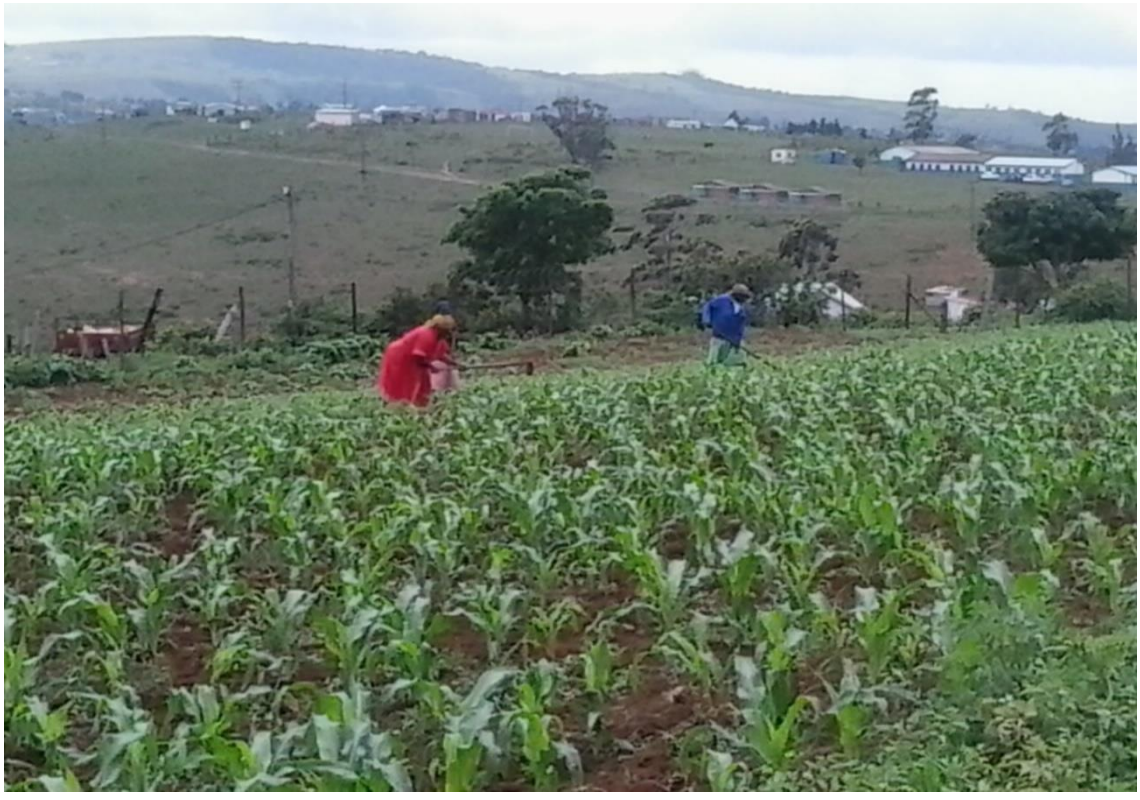

Figure 4.4: Picture of household subsistence farming

According to Saunders (2002), poverty is mostly caused by unemployment. The cost of living is high, and with relatively high unemployment rate, many households find it tough to make ends meet. Despite the variety of income generating activities, most of the respondents claimed they were living below the poverty line and struggle to meet their basic needs. Therefore, many respondents suggest that HiP should create job opportunities and income generating projects for them to address these challenges. Supporting other people with limited financial means is an act of mercy. One of the respondents conveyed: "*I was working with a firm but had a terrible accident that required my legs to be amputated. At my age, I was not eligible for pension, and have been trying in vain to secure financial support. I have to rely on my neighbours and relatives to help feed me".*

4.8 JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The unemployment level in Mpukunyoni and Hlabisa is high and is a huge concern to community members. The majority of respondents (72%) indicated that they are economically inactive and receive pension and/or social grants. Although many of the youth obtained high levels of education most finish school but fail to secure employment opportunities in the area. Since both of these two communities are completely rural, residents live great distances from employment centres and experience inadequate transport facilities. Direct job opportunities in the area consist of positions at HiP where ecotourism offers opportunities like curio markets, accommodations (Bed and Breakfast), shops in the Park which are leased to local business operators, and projects like the Expanded Public Works Programme, of which one of the programmes is Working for Water, removal of alien invasive plants, government positions, private sector and own private businesses like construction firms. Table 4.7 shows the commercial activities of the few and that are not relying on social grants. Thirty three percent of respondents are government (teachers and nurses), while 27% indicated that they are running their own businesses which mainly includes construction businesses. Twenty percent of the respondents are employed by private companies in the area.

Table 4.7: Job opportunities surrounding HiP

					Total
			Mpukunyoni	**Hlabisa**	
The main employer	Own their businesses	Frequency	13.0	4.0	17.0
		Percentage (%)	27.1	25.0	26.6
	Government (Teachers, and nurses etc.)	Frequency	18.0	3.0	21.0
		Percentage (%)	37.5	18.7	32.8
	HiP	Frequency	3.0	3.0	6.0
		Percentage (%)	6.3	18.7	9.4
	Private sector (mine, chemical companies,)	Frequency	14.0	6.0	20.0
		Percentage (%)	29.1	37.6	31.2
Total		Frequency	48.0	16.0	64.0
		Percentage (%)	100	100	100

Nine percent of the respondents employed by HiP attained positions like security guards (4) and game rangers (2). A statistically significant relationship ($\chi^2 = 12.084$, P = 0.002) was found between HiP employment and household income of the respondents. Which implies that, it does not contribute much to people's life. Only 6 respondents out of 208 were employed by HiP.

4.9 ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY, WATER, AND TRANSPORT

It was also important to assess the current state of living conditions of neighbouring communities in terms of running water, access to electricity and availability of transport. The provision of services improved steadily since 1994 (Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011) and many rural homesteads received access to electricity, water, cell phone towers,

schools, and clinics. The major access routes to HiP are from the N2 along the R618 national road from Mtubatuba and from the D453 road from the N2 to the memorial gate. The results revealed that 83.7 % of the respondents have access to electricity in their houses, while the rest have the following sources of energy that they use: candles (for light), and fire and gas stove for cooking and heating water. Two reasons why 16.3% households do not have electricity are that they recently migrated into the area or the electricity control box was stolen. When electricity is installed, it is the responsibility of the household to pay for it. The electricity is on a pre-paid basis and each household has its own unique electricity meter number that they use to purchase top-up voucher.

Twenty nine percent of respondents indicated that they have access to running water in their houses. The rest of the respondents (71%) do not have water in their houses and collect water from central boreholes installed for the community (Table 4.8).

Figure 4.5: Respondent collecting water from the community borehole

The problem with the communal boreholes is that respondents have to walk a long distance to collect water. The provision of safe drinking water has an effect on the living standards of rural people (SA Stats, 2011). In addition to the long distance to the nearest boreholes, respondents from Hlabisa community also complained of the borehole water being very brackish, probably because of the current drought in the area. It is the responsibility of government through the Department of Water and Sanitation to provide clean water as a basic human need.

Table 4. 8: Access to running water, electricity and transport

	Yes		**No**		**Total**	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Access to electricity	174	83.7	34.0	16.3	208	100.0
Access to running water	60.0	28.8	148	71.2	208	100.0
Access to public transport	167	80.3	41.0	19.7	208	100

No public transport is available in Mvitshini ward, the only available transport is a public delivery van which leaves the ward at 08:00 hrs and make a return trip at 17:00 hrs. This implies that if one misses the van during the above-mentioned times, the only alternative is walking 34 kilometres to the local town. According to the results 80% of the respondents from Machibini, Siyembeni, Mthole, Gunjaneni, Mpembeni and Matshamnyama indicated they have access to public transport, while 19.7% use private transport. The distance between villages and the local town are as follow:

Machibini to Mtubatuba town- 31.3km

Siyembeni to Mtubatuba town- 33.0km

Gunjaneni to Mtubatuba town- 25.5km

Mthole to Mtubatuba town- 30.0km

Mvutshini to Mtubatuba town-34.0km

Mpembeni to Hlabisa town- 10.8km

Matsamnyama to Hlabisa town- 5.0km

Mostly people have to travel to Mtubatuba and Hlabisa town to access services like the library, internet café, private schools, training centres, police station, and doctors, fortunately there are public clinics and schools located in these villages.

4.10 CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, there is a possibility that some households have a member whose income is enough to raise the family above the poverty line (Saunders, 2002). However, in the case of these two communities the majority (72%) of respondents, receive pension and social grants, which implies that unemployment figures of these neighbouring communities are relatively high. A total of 51% of the respondents were females and also heading their households. The active economic group are household members within the age category of 40-59 years. The education level in both communities is high, which means that respondents can read and write and therefore, can even start their own businesses.

The strong emotions and attachment to HiP natural resources shown by Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni community members are more obvious with those who were born and grew up in HiP area. The 17% respondents, who migrated from elsewhere into these communities, had different perceptions about the utilisation and use of HiP natural resources. The living conditions since 1994 improved with the availability of running water and electricity. In spite of constant water cut caused by insufficient water from the feeding dam, community boreholes always have water. Water is free of charge in Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni, besides the costs incurred with tap installation since households purchase their own pipes and taps. About 84% of respondents have access to electricity in their houses, which shows that a huge number of respondents can afford electricity notwithstanding the high unemployment rate in the area. The state of infrastructure development (especially roads) is poor in Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni area, with poor infrastructure, mobility is mired. Basically, public transport is the main transportation and therefore, the state of the roads should be improved to allow mobility especially during the rainy season, where rivers are to be crossed.

In the next chapter, (Chapter 5) perceptions and attitudes of communities toward conservation and ecotourism will be discussed.

CHAPTER FIVE

PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TOWARDS CONSERVATION AND TOURISM

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The chapter provides an overview of the Community Based Conservation Programmes, through which Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife encourages local community members to participate, and secondly it focuses on the awareness and general perception of these communities towards these programmes. Lastly, it provides an overview of the attitude of communities towards tourism and conservation. The information was gathered from both key informants and the communities.

5.2 COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION SUB-PROGRAMMES

The CBC Programme is aimed at involving all the communities surrounding the park in nature conservation and attempts to enable communities to become involved in eco-tourism partnership projects (Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). Another purpose of the programme is to change communities' perception regarding Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The CBC Programme serves as an umbrella of three sub-programmes namely: Rhino Ambassadors Programme, Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme and the Ezemvelo RBM Cup Programme.

5.2.1 Rhino Ambassadors Programme (RA)

The Rhino Ambassadors Programme was established in 2012 with the main purpose of conducting an awareness of rhino poaching. The aim of the RA programme is to make people aware of the fauna surrounding them as well as the endangered species like rhino and wild dogs. The programme recruits the youth (18-35 years), and after three years, releases the members who are above the age of 35 in order to recruit new members who are still within the age range. Since the start of the programme, there has been two recruiting cycles. The primary goal of the RA programme links perfectly with World Youth Wildlife Declaration, which was compiled and signed by the youth from 20 countries during the first World Youth Rhino Summit 2014 (Peace Parks Foundation, 2015b). The summit aimed to empower

representatives to become ambassadors for wildlife and conservation and thus the youth declared: "*We do not want to be the generation that tells our future generation that we did nothing about it, and so we call upon global leaders to join us in bringing the illegal trade in wildlife to an end*" (Peace Parks Foundation, 2015b).

The park is well known as the breeding place for white and black rhino, and the Rhino Capture Unit of the Park helped to save the white rhino from the brink of extinction (Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). As part of Project Rhino KwaZulu Natal, Rhino Ambassadors are taken for different skills training and in-field mentorship (Ngobese, 2017). Thereafter, RAs are dispersed to support schools and their communities by creating conservation and environmental-related issues (pollution and littering) awareness (Ngobese, 2017). The success of this programme has been compromised by the increase of rhino poaching in the park. The leader of this programme in HiP emphasized that it has succeeded in making neighbouring communities aware of the problem of poaching. However, not all community members are equally interested in the awareness campaigns. Nevertheless, the programme is effective from the point of educating the community about nature and it was also successful in the identifying and arresting of a rhino poacher towards the end of 2016. The HiP management claims that the programme has created 100 job opportunities for people (ten people per traditional authority) living adjacent to HiP. Awareness of the RA Programme was done through education programmes offered in all schools surrounding the park, through participating in tribal council meetings in local communities as well as running of awareness campaigns at taxi ranks, clinics and at pension and social grant points. The leader of the programme at HiP however, stressed that more resources are required in order to effectively raise awareness. Respondents were aware of the RA programme, but none of them were serving on any of the committees that focus on this programme.

5.2.2 Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme

The Sifundimvelo Programme, which was known as the Khwezela Programme before 2012, had two sub-programmes namely: Biodiversity Environmental Education Programme, and Kids and Parks Programme. In 2012 when the programme was renamed, these sub-programmes were combined into one programme namely the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme.

The Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme engages with primary schools located within communities that are close to the park. The programme involves grade six learners,

to whom it delivers lessons about the environment, in alignment with the CAPS curriculum, which is currently used in schools. Six thousand learners and teachers from 125 schools participated in this programme since 2012 (Ngobese, 2016). According to the leader of the programme, it is slowly making a difference in the general attitude and perceptions of communities towards conservation, however, more funding is required for continued awareness raising (Ngobese, 2016). None of the respondents were participating in this programme, although some of them were aware of the outcomes and objectives of the programme.

5.2.3 Ezemvelo RBM Cup

The aim of the Ezemvelo RBM Cup programme is to provide the youth with the opportunity to participate in recreational sporting activities in order to contribute to social upliftment of the community. Therefore, the HiP introduced soccer and netball in 2009 and the Park hosted several tournaments with teams, each representing TAs across Kwa-Zulu Natal Province. The main sponsor of the programme is Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), which was honored by naming the programme after the company (Ngobese, 2017). According to Table 5.1, only 3% of the respondents participated in Ezemvelo RBM Cup Programme, although all respondents indicated they are aware of the existing of the programme.

Table 5.1: Number of respondents participating in Ezemvelo RBM Cup

			Communities	
			Mpukunyoni	**Hlabisa**
Involvement in Ezemvelo RBM Cup	Yes	Frequency	3.0	1.0
		Percentage (%)	1.8	2.0
	No	Frequency	155	49.0
		Percentage (%)	99.2	98.0
Total		Frequency	158	50.0

Since no official from HiP was available to answer questions on this specific programme, the four respondents involved in the Ezemvelo RBM Cup Programme were interviewed. These respondents were asked about their experience in participating in the Ezemvelo RBM Cup

programme and they responded as follows: *"There is lack of communication between us (the participants) and programme coordinators, and therefore the programme is inconsistent. More importantly, the programme has not contributed directly to our living conditions, and the only reason we are participating is because of our undying love for soccer".*

This illustrates that those that are participating in the programme are expecting more involvement from the responsible HiP coordinator, but what exactly they expect the programme to contribute to their living conditions, was not clear. These participants however, enjoyed taking part in playing soccer. It is therefore important that the HiP coordinator must perhaps investigate the reasons why not more youth are involved in the RBM Cup, since the proportion of youth in these two areas is very high.

5.3 COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN CBC PROGRAMMES

The Belize Audubon society focuses on birdlife, and they work closely with protected areas in Central America. This society involves local community members in order to foster their active participation in conservation. The Belize model motivates and empowers members of the community to participate in the conservation of their environment. It creates employment opportunities that enable community members to support their families while conserving biodiversity (BirdLife International, 2010). Information flow in rural areas is less efficient than in urban areas. Many protected areas are isolated and neighbouring communities are in danger of being unaware of the existing programmes in their midst if that information is not effectively communicated to them. For this reason, raising awareness on conservation programmes especially in developing countries like South Africa is important, since these programmes also have the potential to create employment. (Department of Environmental Affairs, No date).

According to Table 5.2, 76.9% of the respondents were not aware of the existing HiP CBC Programmes. This is in contrast to opinions of key officials from HiP, who stated that nearly all communities surrounding HiP should at this moment in time be well aware of the programmes offered by HiP. They however indicated that lack of funds to carry out proper awareness campaigns in all local communities may have an influence on the communities' perception on these programmes. Awareness can be executed in different ways, but the approach most commonly used by HiP is to raise awareness through local or tribal community meetings. However, respondents indicated not all community members attend these meetings, especially not the youth. It was recommended that HiP should consider methods like the use of social media

(Facebook and WhatsApp) in their awareness campaigns, which is very popular among the youth. The use of posters around community's busiest places such as schools, clinics, pension stations and taxi or bus ranks could also help with awareness raising. The more effective the awareness campaign is, the more people will respond to conservation- based programme and participate in the activities.

Table 5.2: Respondents 'awareness of the CBC programmes implemented by HiP

			Awareness of HiP CBC programmes		**Total**
			Yes	No	
Community	Mpukunyoni	Frequency	40.0	118	158
		Percentage (%)	25.3	74.7	100.0
	Hlabisa	Frequency	8.0	42.0	50.0
		Percentage (%)	16.0	84.0	100.0
Total		Frequency	48.0	160	208
		Percentage (%)	23.1	76.9	100.0

According to Table 5.2 respondents from Mpukunyoni showed higher awareness than Hlabisa respondents. There are no specific reasons raised for this, since awareness was raised in similar ways in both communities. A statistically significant association between respondents who are aware of the HiP CBC programmes and their willingness to participate in some of these committees and activities of HiP was found ($\chi 2= 13.595$; $p= 0.000$). This is very encouraging as it clearly shows the positive of respondents to actively participate in HiP activities. The main reasons stated for not participating in conservation programme activities was that information on how to join, who are eligible to join and when to join was not properly and clearly communicated to them.

No significant statistical relationship ($\chi 2= 1.898$; $p= 0.387$) exists between age, gender and education level of respondents with their awareness of CBC programmes of HiP. Therefore, in this study the age, gender and level of education of respondents are not determinants of their awareness of CBC programmes.

There are various operational and management committees functioning in HiP where local community members have the opportunity to serve like the Rhino Ambassador's Committee and Board, on the tourism committee, or on the Vukuzame and Vulamehlo craft management committee. When the respondents were asked if they would welcome an opportunity to be involved in the planning and implementation of CBC programmes? The majority (64.6 % in Mpukunyoni and 70% in Hlabisa) of the respondents in both communities said yes (Table 5.3). These respondents are of the opinion that their involvement in planning and implementation of CBC programmes from the very beginning can build a strong working relationship between the community and HiP management. They also are of the opinion that allowing communities to partake in all processes related to planning and implementation of programmes will improve the sense of ownership, and therefore communities will go an extra mile to ensure that programmes are successful. However, when respondents were asked whether they perceive participation in the planning and implementation of conservation programmes as important - one of the respondents answered the following: "*In order for us to encourage people about participating in CBC programmes, we need to be aware of the programmes first and again need to be participating so that we know what we are pushing others towards".*

Table 5.3: Communities preparedness to become involved in planning and implementation of the CBC programmes

			Prepared to become involved in CBC programmes		**Total**
			Yes	No	
Community	Mpukunyoni	Frequency	102	56.0	158
		Percentage (%)	64.6	35.4	100.0
	Hlabisa	Frequency	35.0	15.0	50.0
		Percentage (%)	70.0	30.0	100.0
Total		Frequency	137	71.0	208
		Percentage (%)	65.9	34.1	100.0

Thirty-four percent of the respondents who are aware of the CBC programmes in HiP do not want to participate in the planning or implementation of the programme. The following reasons were provided for not participating in the programmes (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Reasons for not participating in CBC programmes

		Frequency	**Percentage (%)**
	No interest	10.0	4.8
	Do not have time	37.0	17.8
	Do not know of the programme	161	77.4
Total		208	100

Table 5.4 shows that 77.4% of the respondents do not participate in CBC programmes because they are not clear about its existence, which once again emphasized the fact that the communication between HiP management and the communities about existing CBC programmes are not effective.

On a question to respondents who are currently participating in CBC programmes whether they will be prepared to encourage also their fellow members to participate in CBC activities? Fifty two percent of these respondents as indicated in Table 5.5 are willing and eager to encourage fellow community members to participate and get involved in HiP activities. Respondents gave the following reasons for their willingness to encourage other community members to participate in the CBC programmes:

- 57% of the respondents believe that community members will find jobs easily when they participate in the CBC programme.

- 5% of the respondents are convinced that community members would be able to share their needs as more effective to HiP management and therefore programmes will be more aligned to specific community needs.

- 38% of the respondents believe that the community will learn more about conservation if they are actively involved.

This finding is important since it clearly revealed a positive attitude of respondents towards the CBC programmes, although a very small percentage currently are involved in CBC programmes.

Table 5.5: Respondents' preparedness to encourage other community members to participate In HiP CBC programme activities

			Will you encourage others to participate in the CBC programme activities		**Total**
			Yes	No	
Community	Mpukunyoni	Frequency	88.0	70.0	158
		Percentage (%)	55.7	44.3	100.0
	Hlabisa	Frequency	21.0	29.0	50.0
		Percentage (%)	42.0	58.0	100.0
Total		Frequency	109	99.0	208
		Percentage (%)	52.4	47.6	100.0

The following discussion reflects the opinion of the respondents that are currently participating in in one of the CBC Programmes, namely the RBM Cup. They have identified the following shortcomings:

•50% of respondents believe communication between the community and the Park Management is not enabling of healthy relationships between the community and the Park – "*The park management only gives out instructions without feedback or inputs from us as the community*."

•25% of respondents believe that the lack of an experienced conservationist in CBC programmes is perhaps a shortcoming, because communication is haphazard and not well planned.

•25% of the respondents mentioned that they are of opinion that community needs are not clearly understood by Park Management.

To establish and maintain a good and healthy relationship, with strong ties between the community and management of HiP it is important for the building of strong socio- economic ventures in the rural areas around protected areas (Nsukwini & Bob, 2016).

5.4 VISITING THE PARK

Respondents were asked whether they have visited the park for social or cultural reasons during the last couple of years. The majority of respondents (80.1%) have neither visited HiP for excursion or to see relatives who are working inside HiP (Table 5.6).

The following reasons were provided for visiting the Park:

- 12.2% of respondents visit the park because they are employed in the Park.
- 4.9% of these respondents enter to the Park regularly because they trade their curios and firewood inside the Park curio market.
- 5% of respondents access the Park to visit their beloved family members buried inside the Park. These respondents were allowed free access to visit the graveyards any time they like, but not to perform any cultural ritual inside the Park.
- 77.9% of these respondents have visited the Park in the past for excursion purposes.

The above-mentioned reasons are assurance that the community has not fully disconnected their interest from the Park.

Table 5.6: Visiting HiP for social or cultural reasons

			Visit HiP		**Total**
			Yes	No	
Community	Mpukunyoni	Frequency	35.0	123	158
		Percentage (%)	22.3	77.7	100.0
	Hlabisa	Frequency	7.0	43.0	50.0
		Percentage (%)	12.2	87.8	100.0
Total		Frequency	42.0	166	208
		Percentage (%)	19.9	80.1	100

Respondents who indicated they have not visited the Park indicated the following reasons for their decisions (Figure 5.1). Twenty three percent of the respondents are not interested in visiting the park; while 27% of the respondents mentioned they do not have time to visit HiP due to their official employment hours. On weekends they are usually involved in community ceremonies like (funerals, weddings and unveiling) and therefore cannot visit the Park for excursion or any other reason. Fifteen percent of the respondents do not visit the park mainly because of bad past experiences with the handling of problem animals. They feel that the Park management is responsible for the handling of this issue, and this has not been done properly. The suspicion and negative attitude towards park management is still prevailing and has an effect on the relationship with these communities.

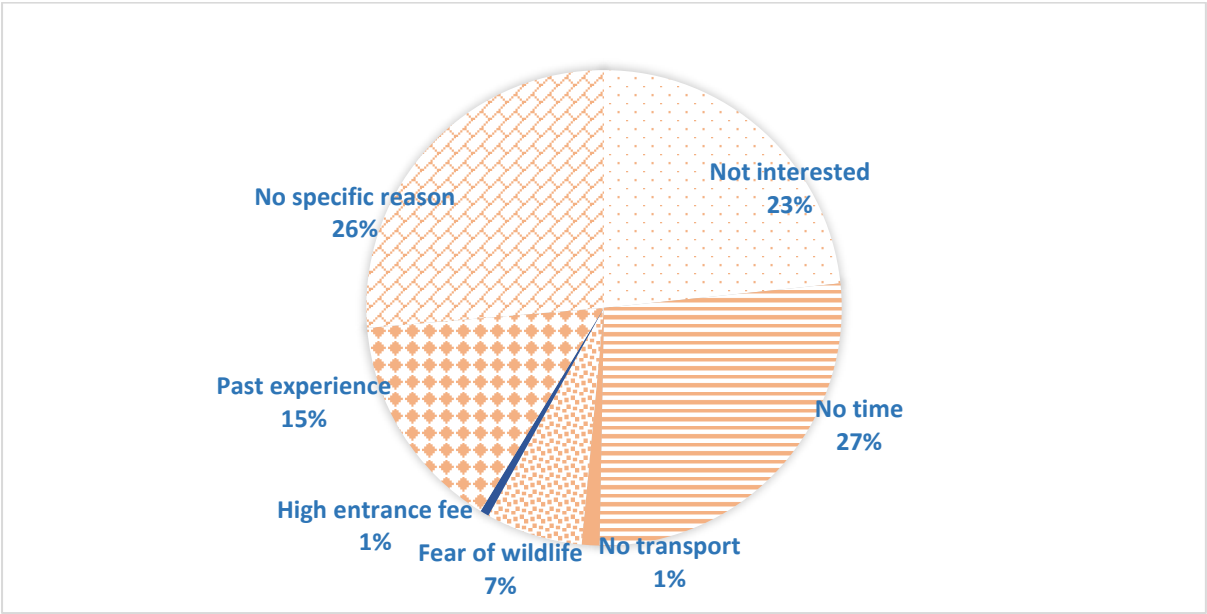

Figure 5.1: Reasons why respondents are not visiting the Park

These concerns raised by respondents are important to take note of, especially where the community perceives it to jeopardize development and collaboration with management of the Park. It is important that the community has a positive perception of the Park and for community members to be prepared to buy in to the objectives of the park.

The respondents are not happy with the fact that they are denied access into the Park to collect firewood. They are only permitted to collect thatch grass which they use for building their houses and making handcrafted products. The respondents believe that they should have access to natural resources in the Park since their grandparents lived in the Park before HiP was declared.

5.5 PROBLEM ANIMALS

Problem animals are common in communities neighbouring protected areas. Communities in Malawi and Zambia are also experiencing human-wildlife conflict. In these countries an initiative to share past experiences and teach communities about various topics including conservation and techniques for dealing with human-wildlife conflict, were implemented (Nzima, 2014).

Living adjacent to the Park has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is that the community may benefit from tourism and possible job opportunities, while the disadvantages are problem animals damaging crops and killing livestock. Table 5.7 shows that 33.2% of the respondents have experienced incidents where problem animals like hyena, leopard and baboons invade their homesteads and kill some livestock. These problem animals remain a conflicting issue with park management. When respondents were asked whether Park Management has taken any responsibility to resolve it, the response was as follows: "*When incidents of livestock loss happened in the past, park staff will come to assess the damage, but they will not compensate"*. These negative perceptions are in contrast to the initiatives taken by the Park to start an operation called, Sakha Izibaya, to build kraals for livestock farmers who are located close to the Park. Five hundred kraals (fifty kraals per traditional authority) were built from December 2016 until February 2017, and the operation was funded by the Park (Ngobese, 2017).

Table 5.7: Problem animal invasion experienced

		Frequency	**Percent (%)**
	Yes	69.0	33.2
	No	139	66.8
Total		208	100

5.6 REFLECTIONS OF COORDINATORS OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES IN HiP

The opinions of officials from HiP involved in the implementation and execution of the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education and Rhino Ambassadors Programme respectively were collected and are discussed here.

5.6.1 Rhino Ambassadors Programme

The Rhino Ambassadors programme, as discussed earlier, seeks to make the community aware of poaching and conservation of fauna. According to the conservation coordinator, this programme has not yet achieved the goals set for it. Continuous rhino poaching in the Park makes it seem as if the programme coordinator is not doing his job properly. She perceived the programme as effective in terms of creating job opportunities and educating school learners about rhino poaching, but the programme perhaps lacks in creating the necessary awareness within the community to combat rhino poaching in the area.

5.6.2 Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme

The Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme is aimed at creating awareness within communities about the value and sustainable use of biodiversity, and about the value of protected areas. The leader of this programme is of the opinion that it has not fully achieved its desired goals. The lack of funding to make more people aware of the programme and to effectively implement it in more schools is the major constraint. Although the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education programme has not fully accomplished its mandate, it is perceived as a success story, taking into account the number of schools involved in the programme. The communities adjacent to the Park in general struggle to understand the value of protected areas in generating tangible benefits and at the same time to integrate development and conservation. Tourism development and the potential creation of job opportunities can only be created if both private and government investments are in place, through the constructive and inclusive involvement of local people in sustainable environmental management (Department of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Tourism, 2006).

5.7 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Cooperation of neighbouring communities with Park management is in general not satisfactory and there is a need to provide incentives for local people to support rather than to oppose

protected areas. There have been problems experienced with interaction between Park management and communities in the handling of the challenges with problem animals. The communities also felt that no compensation was offered in the cases where livestock losses occurred. To take responsibility, the Park started operation Sakha Izibaya as an initiative to restore peace with communities adjacent to the Park.

Respondents are visiting HiP, mainly for ecotourism opportunities, visiting family that is employed by HiP or because of their own employment by HiP. The communities do not have access to practice cultural rituals in the Park, but they can harvest thatch grass for hand-crafts and building houses. The respondents stated that they witnessed social impacts of the Park through ecotourism investment by HiP in the small business ventures (inside and outside the Park) as well as maintaining sport fields and facilities by providing youth teams with soccer and netball kits.

The low percentage of respondents that are aware of the CBC programmes illustrates that the communication between HiP and the community is not very successful. It appears that only a few community members are informed.

CHAPTER SIX

POTENTIAL BENEFITS PERCEIVED FROM NEIGHBOURING HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Conservation and ecotourism have the potential to generate financial and social benefits like job opportunities, income and economic diversity which rural communities can benefit from. Hence, conservation and tourism development serve as a win-win scenario (Inamdar, De Jode, Lindsay & Cobb 1999). This chapter provides an overview of perceived tangible benefits Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve provide for rural communities residing close to the Park.

6.2 ECONOMICAL BENEFITS PERCEIVED BY NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES OF HIP

Like any other game reserve in the country, the main role of HiP is to ensure that the flora and fauna and any historical geological features are protected. Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park's best interest is wildlife conservation and creating a research platform for researchers (Hluluwe-iMfolozi Park, 2011).

There are different possibilities in which neighbouring communities to the Park can benefit: Visitors' expenditure to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park contributes not only to the economy of the Park, but also stimulates economic growth in the communities surrounding the Park. Hluhluwe-Imfolozi employees reside within the neighbouring community and employment by the Park is therefore indirectly contributing to economic growth of communities. Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park tourists stop by the curio outlets to buy curios from the community members, and even though the Park cannot provide massive direct benefits for communities neighbouring the Park Management put a plan into action where more tourists visit the Park annually, of which the benefits spills over to neighbouring communities (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011).

6.2.1 Employment or job opportunities

For many respondents, HiP is seen as a source for job opportunities and training of new skills such as ranger and management skills. However, it is not possible for HiP to satisfy everyone's

need, due to the relatively high unemployment in the area. The following employment opportunities in HiP were perceived:

a. Public Works Programme [Working for Water (WfW)] is recognised as an excellent conservation initiative in a continent. WfW reached communities neighbouring the Park through HiP, with the aim to create jobs. The field workers removed the alien plants from water using mechanical method (removing and burning alien plants), chemical method (using environmentally safe herbicides) or the integrated control which combine both approaches (Department of Environmental Affairs, No date).
b. HiP recruit people from the neighbouring communities as field rangers. Before they can begin to perform their specialised duties, they are required to complete a ten-week intensive training. The training content entails use of firearms, knowledge of firearms legislation, arrest procedures and a military-type drill to foster discipline and a sense of teamwork (Robertson, 2009).

6.2.2. Small business opportunities

Both Vukuzame and Vukezenzele are curio and craft markets built inside the Park at the gate entrances by HiP as a free trading space for community members who are willing and interested in curio trading.

Table 6.1: Items traded by respondents of Vukuzame and Vulamehlo market places

					Total
			Mpukunyoni	**Hlabisa**	
Trading	Fire wood	Frequency	0.0	1.0	1.0
		Percentage (%)	0.0	2.0	0.5
	Curio	Frequency	3.0	0.0	3.0
		Percentage (%)	1.89	0.0	1.4
Total		Frequency	158	50.0	208
		Percentage (%)	76.0	24.0	100

According to Table 6.1, a very small percentage of respondents (1.9%) are trading firewood and curio inside HiP. The respondents trading curio are of opinion they make better cash than with firewood. They are of the opinion that tourists are more interested in artwork than buying firewood or fruits or vegetables. The selling of firewood to community members is not high in

demand, since the majority of residences in these two areas have access to electricity in their houses. The households without electricity prefer to cut their own firewood in the area, instead of buying wood at market.

Other small business ventures that can be explored by the community include services that cater for waste removal and maintenance and should be further investigated.

All of the respondents indicated they would like to have tourists visit their communities, which shows that the majority of neighbouring communities have positive attitudes and perceptions about tourists. Van Wyk (2010) indicated that lodge operators in Madikwe Game Reserve (North West Province) take tourist to local villages to experience traditional food or theatre in return for a fee. Tourism is a lead economic sector in KwaZulu-Natal Province as a whole (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, 1999), and tourism in Hlabisa is perceived to have the potential for business operators and entrepreneurs (Hlabisa Integrated Management Plan, 2012).

Ecotourism development includes the building of more visitors 'facilities such as restaurants, comfortable accommodations and conference or function rooms. This can promote the participation of the local people in the design, construction and management of these facilities to generate further entrepreneurial opportunities (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, 1999). Respondents from both communities indicate they are overwhelmingly in favour of putting up tourist facilities within the communities like community accommodation (B&Bs) whereby community members can cater for tourists. The major challenge is however to find appropriate capital for such projects.

One respondent who makes a living by being involved in construction work was very enthusiastic about the potential of ecotourism and responded as follows: "*I make living by building houses for my neighbours. This is the skill I have and if the Park will give me and my colleagues a chance to be part of a construction teams in the Park whenever there is construction work underway, they will see that they do not need to outsource companies from outside the community.*"

6.3 SOCIAL BENEFITS OF ECOTOURISM

The study shows that both communities (39%) perceived HiP invested in schools through the educational training programme called the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education

Programme. Children from neighbouring communities receive the opportunity to be exposed to videos, lectures and outdoor environmental education by taking them into the Park (Adams, 2009). HiP has not only built administration buildings for schools but also persuade schools learners and their communities to learn about nature and the environment.

HiP invested in community sport facilities through the offering of the Ezemvelo RBM cup facilities (3.8%). HiP also reach out to schools in partnership with Amazulu football club to make the youth aware that sport is appropriate to socialise and stay healthy and fit. The Ezemvelo RBM cup it plays a very important role in keeping community members interested in soccer.

It was also revealed by the two officials from HiP, that in the past, HiP used to invest in the development of community gardens, which was relatively successful. However, these projects were stopped due the fact that community members wanted to engage rather in other income generating activities like curio stalls. Currently only a few farmers are still gardening on a small scale.

6.3.1 Impact of the Community Levy Trust Fund

The Community Levy Trust Fund was introduced to communities at community meetings held by traditional authorities. The community levy trust fund is generated through a community levy paid by visitors. The objectives of the trust fund strive to:

(i) bridge the gap between community and HiP;
(ii) create job opportunities within communities;
(iii)transfer skills from Park employers to the community (especially the youth); and
(iv)lastly, to help the communities economically.

According to the conservation officers interviewed, the Community Trust Fund is well administered and provides communities financial assistance for the development as being prescribed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Board Policies. The initiative had been going well during the initial stages, but recently it experiences some problems as the rate of visitors is dropping. Community levies helped to build infrastructure such as administration rooms in neighbouring schools to the Park and also the luxurious Nselweni Bush Lodge. The lodge provide job opportunities such as housekeeping and the income from the lodge go to the community to be used to address some of their needs.

6.4 UTILISATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ACCESS TO THE PARK FOR CULTURAL REASONS

In general, throughout Southern Africa, rural men and women obtain their food, fuel, building material and spiritual nourishment from natural resources (Fabricius, Koch, Turner & Magome 2013). Respondents were asked whether they have permission from HiP to access natural resources like the collection of medicinal plants, firewood, fishing or hunting. 98% of respondents indicated that they are not allowed to access the Park for fishing, nor the cutting of trees for poles for building material. Ezemvelo denied hunting in the Park, instead local communities are referred to Mkuze Game Reserve, which is situated in the Northern Zululand but 63 km from Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park to hunt.

The respondents (2%) that access the park's natural resources, are mainly cutting thatch (yellow thatch grass and tiger (broom) grass), which they use to make their handcraft products such as brooms, baskets, door mates and for roofing of their residential homes. Thatch grass is seasonal, available mostly in winter and is free of charge. The majority (99.5%) of the community is not happy with the current restriction on utilising natural resources in HiP, since they believe that as a community living adjacent to the Park, they have every right to use these natural resources. Regarding the restriction of collecting firewood, 16% of the respondents has no electricity available in their houses and are therefore relying on firewood they collect to cook.

According to the HiP official interviewed, traditional healers among the respondents are not allowed to collect medicinal plants in the Park. However, the Park built two nurseries inside HiP where traditional healers can grow their medicinal plants with the support of the Park (Ngobese, 2017). According to Madamombe (2006) health information and treatment provided by traditional healers is trusted, and they have the necessary skills and means in fighting most important diseases in the area. The plants that HiP grow in their nurseries include ones that combat serious and dangerous diseases as shown in Table 6.2 below extracted from Anton (2013) and confirmed by Qwabe (2017) from HiP nurseries in the area.

The role of traditional healers is precious to the local people. There is still a population of the elderly people that prefers traditional healers before approaching medical doctors, because they resist adopting to modern culture and do not want to take risk with their lives. Furthermore, traditional healers are not as expensive as medical doctors in general.

Table 6.2: Plants grown by traditional healers

Basic name	Scientific name	Disease to treat
Buchu	*Agathosma betulina*	Blood pressure, arthritis, gout, and UTI infections
Devil's claw	*Harpagophytum*	Pain, diabetes, neuralgia, headaches and menstrual problem
African potato	*Hypoxis*	Boost immune properties, battle against breast cancer, TB, and asthma
South African geranium	*Pelargonium sidoides*	Chronic respiratory tract infections (sore throat, sinusitis, bronchitis, and cold and flu
African/wild ginger	*Siphonochilus aethlopicus*	Coughs, asthma, and cold and flu

Sources: Anton (2013) and Qwabe (2017).

6.5 IMPACT OF TOURISM ON LIVING CONDITIONS OF NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

According to Groom and Palmer (2010) ecotourism is a profit maximizer, it provides cost-effective provisions of the environmental services that directly accrues to the rural community economy. On a question whether respondents perceive any improvement of their living conditions from ecotourism around HiP, only seven percent perceived positive impacts on their living conditions, especially through gaining of new skills and experiences from HiP training and educational programmes, limited job opportunities, trading opportunities and sport facilities. However, 93% do not perceive ecotourism to improve their current living conditions. Therefore, it was no surprise, that the impact of ecotourism and communities' living conditions was not significant ($\chi 2 = 0.061$; $p = 0.805$). Although, ecotourism and biodiversity conservation may not directly benefit everyone according to their expectations, it does prove some indirect benefits. The respondents benefited from tourism through: school administration buildings were built from the Community Levy Trust Fund; new skills were developed through art works traded to tourists; new information was shared through schools and the community's

educational programmes. One of the respondents said the following about the educational programme offered in the area "*Education programmes may seem to be a cliché, it sticks in our minds and it is a benefit of a lifetime only if you know how to use the information made available to you at a time"*.

The respondents perceived that sport events offered by HiP created a favourable image of a Park, where the tourists could enjoy sport tournaments happening during their stay at the Park. Despite the lower economic returns by HiP tourism due to a decline in number of tourists visiting the Park, tourists are still prepared to invest in the Rhino Ambassadors Programme. Tourism also impacted positively on the funding of the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education programme which seeks to educate children and the community about the value and sustainable use of the biodiversity. The programme is slowly showing positive results, by an increasing number of schools joining the environmental education programme recently.

The Park supported Ezemvelo RBM Cup programme participants with sports facilities like a proper soccer field and soccer kits. The Park also supported curio and craft traders by building them Vulamehlo and Vukuzame curio and craft markets. As mentioned earlier, HiP helped communities to start small vegetables gardens, but due to harsh climate conditions and a lack of interest, the garden initiative failed.

Table 6.3 reflects that the majority of respondents from Mpukunyoni (93%) and Hlabisa (92%) perceived tourism did not contribute to the improvement of living conditions. Discussions with respondents after interviews indicated that respondents were mainly disappointed that little job opportunities were created from tourism. As for this, respondents urge the Park to allow them opportunities to operate as tour operators in the Park and also allow the youth to hold cultural activities inside the Park to entertain tourists.

Table 6.3: Contribution of the tourism industry to improvement of living conditions

					Total
			Mpukunyoni	**Hlabisa**	
Ecotourism industry of HiP contributes to living condition	Yes	Frequency	11	4	15
		Percentage (%)	6.9	8	7.2
	No	Frequency	147	46	193
		Percentage (%)	93.1	92	92.8
Total		Frequency	158	50	208
		Percentage (%)	100	100	100.0

Table 6.4 illustrates the perceived positive impact of HiP on the living conditions of people due to ecotourism are: training and skills development (39%); trading curio and firewood ((2%); entrance to HiP for cultural and social reasons (20%); and job opportunities as game rangers, participating in Public Work Programme and security staff (9%). Most of these positive impacts are associated with economic opportunities and educational development of the communities. The major negative impact perceived from staying close to HiP are: problem animals (33%); not allowed to collect firewood and medicinal plants (98%); and limited job opportunities (91%).

Table 6.4: Perceived negative and positive impact of HiP on living conditions of people (multiple responses)

Positive impact (N=15)	**Percentage (%)**
Job opportunities	9
Selling curio and firewood	2
Training and skills development	39
Sport facilities	27
Visiting of HiP allowed for cultural /social reasons	20
Support with starting of vegetable garden	6
Providing accommodation to tourist	7
Negative impact (N=147)	
Problem animals	33
Not allowed to collect medicinal plants or firewood	98
Limited job opportunities	91

In Africa, South Africa ranks top of 141 countries with regard to tourism competitiveness during 2015. However, irrespective of this top ranking, South African tourism still needs to improve, and more money can be generated from tourism development, which can support

employment creation and improved living conditions of the population living close to protected areas (Awodiya, 2016).

6.8 CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this chapter the results show that neighbouring communities to HiP benefited directly from limited job and business opportunities in HiP such as the selling of curio and craft products, providing of accommodation to tourists, and participating in the Public Work Programme, training and skills development offered by HiP and enjoying of sport facilities.

Very few respondents (2%) obtain thatch grass from HiP, while all of the respondents indicated they collect firewood from trees in the surrounding communal land, and not from HiP. This arrangement by HiP is not well understood by respondents, as they do not see that these were taken to promote sustainable utilisation of resources. It is therefore appropriate that HiP management should put in more effort to interact with the people from neighbouring communities, to explain this decision to them and avoid the scepticism that many are viewing this.

Community members also benefitted socially through the educational programmes offered to neighbouring schools, as well as the financial contribution from the Community Trust Levy Fund as well as the sport facilities established. However, although they are appreciating these benefits, the majority is expecting more touchable benefits like especially with the creating of more job opportunities and more access to natural resources in the Park like building poles, firewood, controlled hunting. Although they are allowed to hunt in Mkuze Game Reserve, it is situated 63 km from HiP, and therefore community members interested in hunting are attributed to this distance to travel in order to hunt.

CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of HiP CBC programmes in terms of socio-economic development for two neighbouring communities (Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni), and to determine the degree with which these two communities participate in the implementation of these programmes. Local communities in sub Saharan Africa are usually perceived to have a comparative advantage in the development of tourism and other non-technology based economic factors. The development of tourism amongst local communities is therefore perceived as well aligned with the "natural process of development based on comparative advantage" (Akama & Sterry, 2002).

The chapter progresses to present the conclusions and recommendations looking at the objectives set for the study. The main objective of the CBC programme is to promote the living conditions of local people through access and benefit sharing but at the same time enhances the recognition for and appreciation of conservation value. A number of objectives as outlined below have been addressed in the study.

7.2 THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF HLABISA AND MPUKUNYONI COMMUNITIES (OBJECTIVE 1)

Given the high unemployment rate in both communities, pension and social grant were perceived to be the main sources of household income. Although respondents hold relative high education levels in both communities, with 55.8% respondents who obtained secondary and tertiary qualifications, many are still struggling to find employment within the surrounding area. This compelled them to provide migrant labour to areas like Gauteng, Durban and Richards Bay. As for this, the majority of households (56.7%) in both communities were headed by wives temporally until their husbands return home or permanently where husbands decide to become a permanent citizen to the city they migrated. Since unemployment is an important challenge for the communities, four distinctive categories of job opportunities surrounding Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park were identified: private sector, government, own businesses and employment with Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. Companies such as Africa Centre

(health and population centre), Eskom and Somkhele coalmine offer employment in the private sector, while the government employed community members as nurses, teachers and policemen. Respondents who owned their own businesses were mainly involved in construction of residential housing. Nine percent respondents are employed by Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park where they act as field rangers and security guards

The average household size is 15 members, which cause difficulties for heads of household to cope in looking after household members. In Mpukunyoni, 87% of the respondents are native to the area; while in Hlabisa 68% of respondents are native, with a percentage of respondents who migrated from other communities outside the UMkhanyakude District. This illustrates that the majority of respondents have been living in the area for many years, and especially the elder people clearly illustrated their strong connection with the environment.

Prior to 1994 respondents have been living in traditional huts mainly, but since then their housing has improved. Only some of the older people prefer to stay in traditional huts because of cultural reasons. The majority of respondents (83.7%) have access to electricity and those without electricity are making use of fuel wood, candles and coal as main sources of energy. Respondents without electricity indicated they do not make use of electricity due to the high cost of electricity and also because of the fact that they are not employed.

According to Statistics South Africa (2011), 41% of household in the area have toilets that are connected to a sewage system. Furthermore, 12.5% of the population in the Hlabisa Municipality have tap water inside their houses. In this study it was reflected that 28.8% of the respondents have access to running water in their houses, while the rest make use of communal boreholes. The provision of electricity and water has improved the living conditions of communities decisively since 1994.

7.3 SUB-PROGRAMMES UNDER THE CBC PROGRAMME OF HiP AND COMMUNITY'S PARTICIPATION (OBJECTIVE 2)

The Community Based Conservation programme is aimed at involving all communities surrounding the park in nature conservation and eco-tourism projects (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Management Plan, 2011). Three sub-programmes were identified to enhance Park involvement of surrounding communities in the management of the Park.

a. Rhino Ambassadors Programme

The aim of the Rhino Ambassadors programme is to make people aware of the fauna surrounding them as well as the endangered species like rhino and wild dogs. The coordinator of the Rhino Ambassadors Programme is of opinion that it has succeeded in making communities aware of poaching problem and educating the community about nature. It also created limited job opportunities for the community as safety guards and game rangers. Towards the end of 2016, poachers were identified and arrested which was a great victory for the programme and for the people involved. However, continued poaching of rhinos in HiP is still prevailing and compromise the success of this programme.

b. The *Ezemvelo RBM Cup Programme* supported the youth with opportunities to participate in recreational sporting activities in order to contribute to the upliftment of the community. Although few respondents (3.8%) participated in this programme, all respondents were aware of the programme. One of the important findings is that it looks if poor communication between programme coordinators and potential participants (the youth) is one of the reasons why it is not perceived as very effective by respondents.

c.The *Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme* (previously known as the Kwezela Programme) with its two sub programmes: Biodiversity Environmental Education Programme and Kids and Park Programme, was successfully implemented in 125 schools in the area. The programme is perceived as a success by HiP officials since it is slowly showing changing of attitudes of communities towards conservation.

The study investigated how successful HiP was in creating awareness about these programmes, which is required to close the information gap between programme management and the community neighbouring the Park. The awareness on these sub-programmes was done through tribal council meetings in local communities and running of awareness campaigns at taxi ranks, clinics and at pension and social grants points. The low percentage of participation in CBC programme resulted from the communities not well informed of the existence and how to become involved in the CBC programmes. The discrepancy in perceptions between HiP officials and the community about awareness of existing programmes should be worrying and is an aspect that requires urgent attention.

The majority (66%) of respondents who are aware of the programmes would like to be involved in planning and implementation of CBC programmes. The main reasons provided for not currently being involved in these programmes are: they do not know how to join; do not know

who are eligible to join; and do not know where to join. All of these reasons illustrate miscommunication between HiP and surrounding communities. Consequently, apathy, agitations, and mistrust among community members continue to plague the potential of CBC programmes. Effective communication and awareness campaigns are critical for communities to become involved in the planning and execution of CBC programmes. A key principle of ecotourism is community involvement in the managing of protected areas and tourism development.

7.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE HiP TO TWO NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES (OBJECTIVE 3)

Communities' responses to the role of HiP in the social economic development of two communities adjacent to the Park, their views on benefiting from the Park and perceptions regarding their rights to access natural resources in the Park were assessed.

Many protected areas in Africa are neighbouring low income generating communities which is challenging (Biggs et al., 2014). In the case of HiP, no massive benefits for communities were recorded, although the park invested in a management plan where more tourists were attracted annually to visit the Park, of which the benefits (economic and social) spilled over to communities.

The main economic benefits perceived were the direct job opportunities that were generated by HiP association, namely the few that are employed as safety guards and game rangers. When job opportunities are available, the Park considers the local community first, and when the local cannot fill the vacant position because of qualification requirement, then the Park will outsource. The Park hired field rangers and security guards, the field rangers are required to complete a ten-week training course, which entails the use of firearms, knowledge of firearms legislation, arrest procedures and a military-type drill to foster discipline and a sense of teamwork (Robertson, 2009). Apart from these job opportunities, some members of these two communities are employed on the Expanded Public Works Programme, and specifically on the Working for Water programme, where alien plants are controlled that grow close or in the various water ways in HiP.

Another major economic benefit revealed on by respondents was the small business opportunities that were created at Vukuzame and Vulamehlo, where curio and craft markets

inside the Park at the gate entrances were established. These markets provided community members the opportunity to trade free of charge curio, firewood and other art articles.

In general, the respondents were positive about the potential of tourism in their communities, since tourism offers economic development opportunities like the offering of accommodation and other tourism facilities. Through the Community Levy Trust Fund, of which 10% of all entries into the Park goes to the community trust fund, communities were able to build infrastructure such as administration rooms in schools neighbouring the Park and the luxurious Nselweni Bush lodge.

The social benefits perceived by respondents included HiP investment in schools and education through the Sifundimvelo Environmental Education Programme. This programme has exposed community children to video, lecturing and outdoor educational excursions in an effort to make them more aware of conservation and biodiversity existing in their areas. Furthermore, HiP has invested in the development of sport facilities like netball and soccer. Although only a few respondents were participating in the Ezemvelo RBM Cup, respondents are interested in soccer. Again, poor communication between the HiP coordinator responsible for this programme and the community was raised as the main reasons for poor participation in it.

Amongst the respondents, only a few were actively involved in subsistence agriculture activities like the growing of vegetables. Some of the reasons raised for this tendency were that the climate conditions during the last couple of years were very harsh (extreme drought existed for more than two years in the specific area) and also initiatives by HiP to start communal vegetable gardens in the past were not very successful.

The community is not allowed access to the Park for collection of either medicinal plants, firewood, hunting or even grazing cattle inside the Park and these has made the community not too happy with the Park since they felt they have every right to these resources as the community adjacent to the Park. To try and improve relations with the community, the Park took into consideration the increasing request from traditional healers to collect medicinal plants. Therefore, they built two nurseries to be used by traditional healers to grow their medicinal plants. The traditional healers recognized and appreciated the support given by the Park by honouring their request. Henceforth, the Park's response towards traditional healers showed that the Park management is not against the community needs, but due to the increasing environmental threats caused by erosions and poaching there is restriction of access to the resources.

7.5 PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TOWARDS CONSERVATION AND TOURISM (OBJECTIVE 4)

Participation of the local community in biodiversity conservation of local environment is important for sustainable development. The majority (76.9%) of the respondents perceived not to be aware of the existing CBC programme, which is in direct contrast to the general opinion of HiP officials. They are of the opinion that all surrounding communities should be well aware of HiP CBC programmes, since it was started in 2007. Perhaps the main reason for this is the approach followed by HiP, namely to use tribal community meetings as the man vehicle for communication. The fact that very few of community members attend these meetings, especially not the youth, contributes to general poor information sharing about programmes offered. It was recommended that, alternative communication channels like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and even posters should be used for more effective awareness raising.

Only 23% of the respondents who indicated to be aware of CBC programme, actively participated in CBC programmes. Amongst the stated reasons for non-participation, was the lack of dissemination of the detailed information regarding how to join these programmes, and who are eligible to join. Those who were aware of the programmes, 52% of them showed willingness and eager to encourage fellow community members to participate in these programmes. This positive attitude of respondents towards CBC programmes is encouraging and should be nurtured for future engagement in the programmes.

Trust is important for the building of strong and healthy relationships between neighbours, and currently suspicion and negative attitudes towards park management exist amongst many of the respondents. Thirty three percent of respondents experienced incidents where problems animals invaded their homesteads and caused damage. Although HiP invested in the operation, (Sakha Izibaya to build 50 kraals per traditional authority), the way officials are handling incidents and complains by community members, are not perceived positively. These experiences are not conducive for future relationships and jeopardise current willingness to participate in HiP programmes. It is important to understand the matter of conflict as well as the level of communication in order to resolve potential conflict and build a healthy relationship between park management and communities.

7.7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study revealed information on the impact of ecotourism on the socio-economic conditions of local communities as a result of visiting protected areas like Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni living next to a protected area like HiP. The following recommendations are important to take into consideration with the planning and implementation of CBC programmes:

7.7.1 Community involvement

Community cannot be blind sighted, not being involved in the process that affects its immediate lives. Community aspirations and desires need to be taken into consideration with planning, design and management of CBC projects. Firstly, being open to the community, involving them to decide what they think is good for the entire community. This will create an atmosphere where everybody can be comfortable and the safe environment where the community can feel free to trust the HiP. This will help a community to develop and experience sense of belonging to the larger group. After this mutual understanding has been reached, an interpersonal communication needs to be in place to keep the relationship active and strong, between HiP and the community.

7.7.2 Perform transparent processes

When "new" information such as job opportunities, recruitment for specific training or awareness meetings is planned, the information should be communicated effectively to the community. It is recommended that community meetings instead of local board of HiP meetings should be used for effective dissemination of information between park management and community members. The current communication channel leads to miscommunication and delaying of information not reaching the desired target groups. Although a good relationship exists between TAs and HiP management, not all outcomes of these meetings are well communicated to community members. Therefore, it was found in the study that people surrounding the Park, were still sceptical about Park management restrictions on the use of natural resources in the Park, and why they are not allowed to hunt in HiP.

7.7.3 Involving a communication specialist in the implementation of the Community Based Conservation Programme

Involvement of communication specialist in the execution of HiP community-based conservation programmes will be a huge asset for better operation of the programme. Park

management and programme leaders are aware that community involvement is critical for the success of the programmes, and therefore a proper planned and designed communication strategy is imperative to ensure that all community members (also the youth, the generation of the future) are informed about management decisions

7.7.4 Needs orientated CBC programme

In order for the community-based conservation programme to be a success, proper research about the community needs is a prerequisite. This will help future CBC programmes to be more community need driven, which will promote community involvement in programmes. This is an important ingredient in improving the quality of ecotourism ‘s contribution to community development. Local participation is believed to create larger and balanced economic opportunities for the local poor, increase local tolerance and positive attitudes towards ecotourism (Zhao & Ritchie, 2007).

7.7.5 Ecotourism development in the communities

Ecotourism has fundamental functions to fulfil namely: protection of natural areas, production of revenue, education and local participation and capacity building (Zhao & Ritchie, 2007). Specifically, in rural development areas like Hlabisa and Mpukunyoni, ecotourism is seen as a significant contributing factor to socio-economic development. To ensure that ecotourism is benefitting local communities, external control and management of protected areas should be avoided.

7.7.7 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Monitoring and evaluation is an important process that each project/programme needs to undertake, to test the progress of the programme. To identify possible failures or to ensure optimal results, proper M&E should be in place for HiP CBC programmes. Monitoring and evaluation can be done monthly or annually by the programme manager, or an outside independent organisation who is familiar with the process of monitoring and evaluation. In the case of HiP CBC programme, monitoring and evaluation is crucial to encourage and motivate participants. Furthermore, the process will help Park management to identify programme short falls.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Household questionnaire

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development

SYNERGY BETWEEN PROTECTED CONSERVATION AREAS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE, KWAZULU NATAL

A. IDENTIFICATION PANNEL

Name of the enumerator	
Community & ward	

B. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

B1: Name of respondent**:** _____

B2: Age of respondent

<20	

20-29	
30-39	
40-49	
50-59	
>60	

B3: Gender of respondent

Female	
Male	

B4: Marital status of the respondent

Never married	
Married	
Divorced	
Widowed	
Separated	

B5: Are you the household head? YES/NO

B6: If not, indicate your position in the household.

Daughter	
Son	
Uncle	
Aunt	
Grandma	
Grandpa	
In-law	

B7: Number of household members

B8: Number of dependents?

B9: Highest education level of the respondent?

Educational level	**Response (X)**
Primary school	
Secondary school	
Tertiary	

B10: Where is your birthplace?

Mpukunyoni	
Hlabisa	
Elsewhere	

C. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RELATED QUESTIONS

C1: Which of the following sources contribute to your household income? Rank the source in order of importance.

Types of income	Response (X)	Rankings
Salaries		
Agricultural produce		
Home gardening		
Pension		
Selling of wild food		
Selling of medical plants		
Game		
Fishing		
Income from petty trade		
Remittances		
Social grant		
Taken care of by working household		
Other (specify)		

C2: If you are employed, who is the main employer?

Employer	Response (X)
Own business	
Government	
Community projects	
HiP	
Private sector	

C3: Do you have access to the following in your house?

Infrastructure	Response (X)
Electricity	
Running water	
Proper sanitation	
Transport	

D. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE HiP TO THE HOUSEHOLD

D1: Have you ever visited HiP? Yes/No ☐

If Yes go to D3

D2: If not, what is the reason (s)? (Can choose more than one)

Reasons	**Response (X)**
No interest	
No time	
Transport problems	
Fear of wildlife	
Have bad relations with HiP staff	
No specific reason	
Any other, Specify	

D3: (a) If yes, why do you visit the park? (Can choose more than one)

Reasons	**Response (X)**
Hunting	
Harvesting of medical plants	
Harvesting of aromatic plants	
Collection of building material	
Collection of fire wood	
Grazing	
Water collection	
Employed by HiP	
Trading	
Visit the park to see relatives or friends employed by HiP	
Excursion	
Any other, specify	

D3: (b) What are trading?

Food	
Vegetables/Fruit	
Fire wood	
Curio	
Any other, specify	

D4: What are the major constraints you experience with trading?

_____

_____

_____

D5: (a) Do you think the tourism industry of HiP contributes to your living condition?

Yes	
No	

(b). Motivate you answer in D5 (a).

_____

_____

D6: Do you have permission to the following activities within the HiP boundary?

Activities	**Response (X)**
Collect fire wood	
Hunt	
Collect building material	
Collect water	
Fish	
Harvest medical plants	
Harvest aromatic plants	
Restricted to all of above	

D7: What are your legal rights to the park?

Reasons	**Response (X)**
Our parents and grandparents lived here before the park was established	
Communities adjacent to a national park has the right to these resources	
This is our only source of food and income	
Any other reasons, specify	

D9: Have you ever experienced any serious incidents of wild animals' invasion"?

Yes	
No	

D10: If yes, what was the kind of response you received from HiP for the losses occurred?

_____

_____

_____

_____

D10: Do you think conservation of wildlife or biodiversity is important?

Yes	
No	

D11: Motivate your answer provided in question Q10.

E: PARTICIPATION IN HiP CBCP PROGRAM

E1: Are you aware of HiP CBC program?

Yes	
No	

E2: Do you take part in any of CBC program?

Yes	
No	

E3: (a) In which sub program/s do you take part and how will you rate your satisfaction with the program/s in scale of (1-4)?

Project names	**Response (X)**	**Satisfaction (1-4)**
Ezemvelo RBM cup		
Sifundimvelo environmental education program		
Community rhino ambassadors		
Community levy program		
Stewardship program		
Any other, specify		

E3: (b) If not, what was the reason?

Reasons	Response (X)
Not interested	
Do not have time	
Did not know of such program exist	
Other (specify)	

E4: (a) Has your life improved since you participated in CBC program?

Yes	
No	

(b) If yes, how has your life improved?

_____

_____

_____

E5: (a) As an individual do you think your participation in planning and implementation of HiP CBC programs is important?

Yes	
No	

E5: (b) If yes, why do you think your participation is important?

_____

_____

_____

_____

E6: Will you encourage others to participate in the CBC program activities?

Yes	
No	

E7: Motivate your answer provided in E6.

E7: Has the CBC education program helped the broader community to become more aware of biodiversity conservation?

Yes	
No	

E8: Are there shortcomings that you have identified with the implementation of CBC program?

Yes	
No	

E9: If yes, what are they?

E10: How will you improve the implementation of these CBC programs?

E11: Do you think CBC program has contributed to restore people's sense of dignity?

Yes	
No	

E12: Motivate your answer provided in E11.

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!!!

APPENDIX B: Key Informants questionnaire

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Key Informants semi-structured questionnaire

Respondent name	
Respondent age	
Project name	

1. What was the objective(s) needed to be achieved when establishing this project?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. (a) Is the project achieving it objective(s)?

Yes	
No	

(b) What are the major shortcomings of the project?

c) What are the reasons for your answer provided in 2 (b).

3. What is your role as a leader in this project?

4. As a project leader what is your perception about CBC program?

5. (a) How did HiP make adjacent communities aware of CBC programs (awareness raising)?

(b) How did you ensure that community members participate in this program?

(c) Do community members participate in particular activities of HiP?

6. Have the community adjacent to HiP benefited to the program or others? How? What are the challenges to be faced?

7. (a) How much aware is the community living next to the HiP about biodiversity conservation?

(b) What are the general challenges the HiP is facing with neighbouring communities?

8. What should be done to improve the implementation of CBC program in HiP?

9. Do you think CBC program rescue the necessary priority within the community?

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!!!