
GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 528 OF 2014

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)

NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN SOUTH AFRICA

I, Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby give notice of my intention to prescribe norms and standards for the management of protected areas in South Africa under Section 11(1) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), set out in the Schedule hereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit to the Minister, within 30 days after the publication of the draft norms and standards in the Gazette, written comments or inputs to the following addresses:


By post to:
The Director-General
Department of Environmental Affairs
Attention: Dr G Cowan
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: 2nd Floor (Reception), Fedsure Forum Building, 315 Corner Pretorius and Lillian Ngoyi Streets, Pretoria.

By e-mail to: gcowan@environment.gov.za, or by fax to: 012 320 1243.

Any enquiries in connection with the draft norms and standards can be directed to Dr G Cowan at 012 310 3701.

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.



BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SCHEDULE

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CHAPTER 1 INTERPRETATION, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

1. Definitions

Any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), has the meaning so assigned and, unless the context otherwise indicates;

“ecological integrity” means a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes;

“the Act” means the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003(57 of 2003);

“the department” means the Department of Environmental Affairs;

2. Purpose and application

In terms of section 11(1) of the Act, the Minister may prescribe norms and standards for the achievement of any of the objectives of the Act, including the management and development of protected areas as well as indicators to measure compliance with those norms and standards. The purpose of these norms and standards is to prescribe norms and standards for the management and development of protected areas, with particular reference to the following two objectives of the Act (section 2) –

- (c) to effect a national system of protected areas in South Africa as part of a strategy to manage and conserve its biodiversity; and
- (e) to promote sustainable utilisation of protected areas for the benefit of people, in a manner that would preserve the ecological character of such areas.

3. Guiding principles

The purposes of areas declared as protected areas are set out in section 17 of the Act. This provides the guiding principles for these norms and standards, namely –

- (a) to protect ecologically viable areas representative of South Africa’s biological diversity and its natural landscapes and seascapes in a system of protected areas;
- (b) to preserve the ecological integrity of those areas;
- (c) to conserve biodiversity in those areas;

- (d) to protect areas representative of all ecosystems, habitats and species naturally occurring in South Africa;
- (e) to protect South Africa's threatened or rare species;
- (f) to protect an area which is vulnerable or ecologically sensitive;
- (g) to assist in ensuring the sustained supply of environmental goods and services;
- (h) to provide for the sustainable use of natural and biological resources;
- (i) to create or augment destinations for nature-based tourism;
- (j) to manage the interrelationship between natural environmental biodiversity, human settlement and economic development;
- (k) generally, to contribute to human, social, cultural, spiritual and economic development; or
- (l) to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of endangered and vulnerable species.

CHAPTER 2

NORMS, STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

4. Relative importance of the protected area established

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to verify the importance of the protected area to the South African system of protected areas.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

4.1 Norm

A protected area is assessed for its role and or importance in the South African system of protected areas

a) Standard

A protected area contributes to the achievement of national biodiversity targets

Indicators

- The protected area is an ecological viable area;
- It protects a representative sample of South African biodiversity;

- It protects a representative sample or iconic feature of South Africa's land/seascapes.

b) Standard

A protected area is important for the conservation of biodiversity.

Indicators

- Contribution to protection of endemic, threatened, or endangered species;
- Contribution to conservation of threatened ecosystems;
- Contribution to biodiversity conservation targets;
- Protection of a representative range of plant and animal diversity for the eco-region [in terms of biodiversity targets];
- Viability and extinction risk of populations of key species;
- Contribution to the representative examples of biomes, vegetation types and ecosystems;
- Extent to which natural and disturbance processes necessary for ecosystem functioning are maintained;
- The state of landscape linkages and connectivity that allow the protected area to function as part of larger surrounding ecosystems;
- Provision of ecosystem services that the protected area and neighboring land-users are reliant upon;
- The protected area provides a critical landscape function;
- The protected area includes ecosystems whose historic range has been greatly diminished.

5. The protected areas is planned to meet its objectives

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure proper planning in the establishment or expansion of the protected area.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, except for those areas which have an assigned management authority other than an organ of state.

5.1 Norm

Objectives set for the protected area are set to inform the ideal size and shape of the protected area.

a) Standard

A protected area is designed and planned to meet its objectives.

Criteria to consider when assessing the adequacy of size and shape of the protected area:—

- The size of the protected area is sufficient to achieve its conservation objectives;
- The protected area forms a critical part of a greater, integrated system forming a transfrontier protected area;
- The shape of the protected area is adequate sufficient to achieve its conservation objectives;
- The design of the protected area is adequately to allow large-scale ecological processes to take place;
- The objectives are consistent with the protected area location;
- The layout and configuration of the protected area optimizes the conservation of biodiversity.

b) Standard

A biodiversity resource inventory for the protected area is maintained and monitored.

Indicators

- Priority species, habitats or ecosystems have been identified;
- Information on these species, habitats and ecosystems is sufficient to support planning and decision making and little additional information is required to manage the protected area's biodiversity;
- A monitoring programme for these species habitats and ecosystems is in place.

c) Standard

A cultural heritage resource inventory for the protected area is maintained.

Indicators

- Cultural heritage values have been identified;
- Information on these resources and values is sufficient to support planning and decision making and little additional information is required to manage the cultural heritage of the protected area;
- There is a comprehensive inventory of cultural heritage resources.

d) Standard

The management of a protected area contributes to the maintenance of ecological processes.

Indicators

- The management of a protected area includes the adaptive management framework to ensure monitoring of ecological processes;
- The management of a protected area effectively maintains the environment for ecological processes critical for the achievement of biodiversity targets;
- Ecological processes are being effectively maintained with the result that ecological integrity and biodiversity are not being compromised;
- The management of a protected area has a monitoring system in place;
- The management of a protected area has a system to mitigate ecosystem threats in place.

e) Standard

A protected area contributes to the socio-economic benefits of the surrounding communities.

Indicators

- The protected area management has identified the ecosystem services that the protected area and neighbouring land-users are reliant upon;
- The ecosystem services are being effectively maintained with the result that the protected area and neighbouring land users are deriving most benefit from these services.

6. The protected area secured in terms of legislation

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that correct legal processes have been followed in securing the protected area.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

6.1 Norm

A protected area has a legally binding protection.

a) Standard

A protected area is declared in terms of the Act.

Indicators

- The protected area is declared in the *Government Gazette*;
- The Registrar of Deeds has been informed in writing of the declaration and has recorded such declaration in the relevant registers and documents;
- The protected area is listed in the Register of Protected Areas as required by section 10 of the Act;
- The protected area has an assigned management authority.

b) Standard

There are applicable legal mechanisms in place to control inappropriate activities.

Indicators

- There are appropriate regulations;
- The protected area has a formal set of internal rules.

c) Standard

There are adequate legal controls to ensure the integrity of the protected area.

Indicators

- The Act is applied / enforced;
- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998, the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 are applied and or enforced;
- The relevant regulations are applied and or enforced;
- Internal rules are in effect.

7. Boundary demarcated and secured**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standard is to ensure that the boundaries of the protected area are well demarcated, secured and publically known.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

7.1 Norm

A protected area has clear demarcated, secured and publically known boundaries.

a) Standard

Boundaries of the protected area are demarcated, secured and publically known.

Indicators

- The extent of the protected area is included in a description and Surveyor General diagramme;
- The boundaries are appropriately demarcated;
- The boundaries are known by both the management authority of a protected area and the neighbouring community;

- Any deviations from the declared area are agreed upon and documented in the management plan and include a signed, legally binding MoU;
- Conflicts with the local community are resolved fairly and effectively.

8. Law enforcement is effective

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that the relevant legislation is effectively enforced in a protected area.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act,

8.1 Norm

The relevant legislation is enforced effectively in all protected areas.

a) Standard

The Act, the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), where relevant the Marine Living Resources Act 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998), the World Heritage Convention Act, 1999 (Act No. 49 of 1999), the National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998), their Regulations and internal rules are in effect.

Indicators

Criteria to assess the adequacy of law enforcement effectiveness:

- The protected area has sufficient capacity to enforce the Acts, regulations and internal rules;
- The protected area's staff is adequately capacitated to enforce legislation within the organization's mandate and does so effectively;
- Staff resources are adequate to conduct critical law enforcement activities;
- The staff has relevant law enforcement and compliance training;
- The law enforcement officers are appropriately trained;

- The staff has been formally designated to enforce the relevant legislation;
- Appropriate staff have been designated environmental management inspectors;
- The staff has the necessary equipment to enable them to do law enforcement effectively;
- The protected area has allocated sufficient funds for effective law enforcement;
- The protected area receives adequate support from other sections of the organization to effectively manage ensure effective management;
- Assessment of state on illegal activities in the protected area;
- The protected area management has a database to register illegal activities;
- The database of illegal activities assessed.

b) Standard

Protection systems are in place.

Indicators

- Management mechanisms effectively control and manage access;
- The available management mechanisms are working to control both illegal and legitimate access;
- Effective control measures are in place to control the use of the protected area;
- Standard operating procedures for controlling activities have been developed and are being effectively implemented/ contingency plans;
- Annual risk assessments completed and mitigating interventions applied where appropriate;
- Critical cultural heritage assets have been identified and secured in terms of a heritage management plan.

9. Planning outside the boundary to secure the protected area

Purpose

The purpose for this norm and its standards is to [promote and or ensure] the positive involvement of the protected area management in planning outside the protected area which may affect its integrity.

Application

This standard applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, as well as their buffer zones.

9.1 Norm

A protected area has a determined buffer zone and is involved with planning outside planning structures to ensure integrity of the protected area.

a) Standard

An appropriate buffer zone for the protected area has been established.

Indicators

- The protected area has identified a buffer zone in its management plan;
- The protected area has mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the buffer zone;
- The protected area management has proactively sought to encourage neighbours to introduce conservation-friendly land uses to enhance buffering of the protected area;
- A policy for controlling activities in the buffer zone has been developed and is implemented.

b) Standard

A protected area is integrated into land-use planning outside of the protected area.

Indicators

- Management authorities play an active role in land use planning affecting the protected area.
- The land-use planning takes cognisance of the protected area and the achievement of protected area management objectives.

c) Standard

Water-use planning outside takes into account the objectives of the protected area.

Indicators

- Management authorities play an active role in water use planning affecting the protected area.
- The water-use planning takes cognisance of the protected area and the achievement of protected area management objectives.

10. Relations with neighbours is sound**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to contribute to a good relationship between the protected area staff and neighbouring communities.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, including transfrontier protected areas.

10.1 Norm

A protected area has a good relationship with its neighbours.

a) Standard

Neighbour relations contribute positively to the success of the protected area.

Indicators

- A zone of influence has been identified;
- A programme to encourage the development and maintenance of good relations with neighbours in the zone of influence is in place ;
- There is a formalized programme of regular interaction between protected area management and neighbouring land users;
- The protected area staff regularly collaborate with partners, local communities and other organizations ;
- The neighbouring communities have relevant input, where relevant, into decisions relating to protected area management;

- The protected area has entered into a co-management agreement with neighboring communities and partners – where relevant;
- The protected area has transfrontier and bilateral agreements – where applicable;
- An advisory committee or park forum has been established.

11. Management of the protected area is implemented and or planned to achieve agreed objectives

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure the approved management plan is implemented accordingly to meet the objectives set in the management plan.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, including transfrontier protected areas.

11.1 Norm

A protected area has an approved management plan in place.

a) Standard

A management plan has been developed for the protected area in accordance with section 39 of the Act, and the *Guidelines for the development of a management plan for a protected area in terms of the Act*.

Indicators

- The purpose of the protected area is reflected in the management plan;
- The management plan contains explicit biodiversity targets for all priority biodiversity elements;
- The management plan addresses the management of specific priority species and habitats;
- There is an analysis and strategy for addressing protected area threats and pressures;
- The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning and decision making;

- An expansion plan to meet the conservation objectives has been developed - where relevant;
- A zoning plan indicating what activities may take place in different sections of the area, and the conservation objectives of these sections is included in the management plan;
- An infrastructure development plan (concept development plan), subject to the zoning plan, is included in the management plan - where development is to be considered;
- There is a programme for the implementation of the management plan linked to annual work plans and staff performance agreements;
- The management plan is being fully implemented;
- Relevant components of the municipal IDP have been considered in the management plan;
- Municipal IDPs have (taken the relevant aspects of the management plan into account) considered the ecological sensitivity of the protected area, its buffer zones and any priorities areas for protected area expansion;
- The planning process allows adequate consultation with key stakeholders in the compilation of the management plan;
- There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan;
- There is a programme for the implementation of the management plan and its costing;
- Where appropriate, the implementation of community-based natural resource management is planned for;
- The terms and conditions of any relevant Biodiversity plan and/or the applicable aspects of the IDP of the local municipality have been taken into account as required by the Act.

b) Standard

The management plan for the protected area has been approved.

Indicators

- An up to date management plan has been adopted by the Board and or the HOD and approved by the Minister or the MEC.

c) Standard

The management plan as approved is implemented successfully.

Indicators

- Annual work plan of operations, implementing the management plan is in place.
- There is a detailed work plan identifying specific targets for achieving management objectives linked to the management plan.

d) Standard

Biodiversity resources are managed to meet the protected area objectives as set out in the management plan.

Indicators

- An effective fire management programme for the protected area is implemented - where relevant;
- The protected area is implementing an effective invasive species control and eradication (programme) strategy, as required in terms section 76 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No.10 of 2004) ;
- The protected area is adequately managed for sustainable use of resources, where applicable;
- The protected area has management guidelines for the sustainable use of biological resources;
- The biodiversity assets and values are being managed consistent to objectives;
- The impact of legal and illegal extractive use of biological resources is being monitored - where applicable;
- Species management plans as required in terms of National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) are approved.

e) Standard

Cultural Heritage Resources are managed to meet the protected area objectives as per the management plan and in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Agency requirements.

Indicators

- The heritage resources are managed;
- The heritage monuments are managed and maintained;
- The cultural sites are adequately managed;

- Cultural heritage resources adequately managed;
- Heritage assets and values managed consistently to objectives;
- The management of heritage assets and values (are being managed) is consistent (to) with protected area objectives;
- Critical cultural heritage assets are predominantly intact according to the objectives of the protected area.

f) Standard

All development projects that require environmental scoping are assessed through either internal or external EIA processes and are authorized at the relevant level.

Indicators

- There are records of decisions/ authorizations in place.
- There is a process to monitor and effect compliance with conditions of records of decisions.

g) Standard

Commercial tourism, where applicable, contributes to the protected area objectives.

Indicators

- The commercial tour operators interact with protected area management;
- There is an excellent co-operation between protected area management and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences maintain protected area conservation values and resolve conflicts;
- The commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management;
- Permits, licenses and concessions are granted in terms of management plan objectives;
- Tourism standards are developed for nature based tourism;
- Protected areas serving as triggers for tourism, economic development (where applicable/ subject to management plan).

12. Research and monitoring programme complements the management plan

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that each protected area has an approved programme identifying research needs and a monitoring plan according to the management plan of a protected area.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, except for those areas which have an assigned management authority other than an organ of state.

12.1 Norm

A protected area has an approved research and monitoring programme that supports their respective management plans.

a) Standard

A research programme for the protected area is being implemented.

Indicators

- Research provides for management application (where possible and allowed for by budget);
- Scientific decision support is available and or facilitated;
- Management orientated research projects form a substantial part of the programme;
- Results of research projects are fed back to protected area management;
- The results are used to adapt management of the protected area where relevant;
- There is an approved research plan with all research requirements;
- There is a number of approved projects in place;
- There is a platform in place to give feedback of research results;
- There are research records in place;
- Distinction between research for management purposes and that done by outsiders which may not have direct applications and managing the external researchers;
- Researchers to comply with ethical research procedures.

b) Standard

A monitoring programme for the protected area is being implemented.

Indicators

- The protected area has developed an applicable monitoring programme supporting management objectives, and provide for review of the programme;
- Indicators for monitoring have been established;
- The results of the programme are used to adapt management of the protected area where relevant.

13. Human resources support the implementation of the management plan**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that all protected areas have effective systems in place to manage human resources.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) of the Act.

13.1 Norm

Human resources required for the management of protected areas are adequate and effective. Capacity is available to ensure the effective implementation of the functions of the protected area.

a) Standard

Human resource capacity is adequate to manage the protected area effectively.

Indicators

- The skills development audit is completed and results are implemented;
- The protected area staff execute their duties to a high standard and require minimal supervision;
- The protected area employment conditions are adequate sufficient to retain high-quality staff;
- The protected area has a staff performance evaluation system in place;

- The protected area has a succession programme in place.

b) Standard

Human resource management contributes to effective management of the protected area.

Indicators

- There is an effective staff management programme in place;
- The protected areas fully implements the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993);
- The protected area has a staff health and safety programme in place;
- The protected area staff have good living conditions;
- The protected area has disaster management plans in place.

14. Financial management in effect

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that the protected area's finances are well managed and there is a system for their management.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

14.1 Norm

A protected area has to have an effective system in place to manage its finances.

a) Standard

Financial management effectively contributes to the management of the protected area.

Indicators

- An operational budget is allocated to fund the critical management need of the protected area;
- The long-term financial outlook for the protected areas is stable;

- The allocation of expenditures is appropriate according to the protected areas priorities and objectives;
- Financial management practice enables efficient and effective protected area management;
- Funding to conduct critical management activities is adequate for the next 5 years to conduct critical management activities;
- The costing of management plans and shortfalls are addressed ;
- There is a procurement plan supporting local communities (socio-economic).

b) Standard

Alternative resources used for the management of a protected area are well managed.

Indicators

- The management authority encouraged to solicit external funding or services for the management of a protected area.
- Environmental programmes to assist management of the protected area.

c) Standard

Mechanisms to enable volunteers to work in protected areas and managed where relevant are in place.

Indicators

- There is a system for the appointment and management of volunteers in place.
- There is a system for the application of external sources to be used to contribute to management of protected area.

15. Administrative systems ensure effective management

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that each protected area has its own administrative system in place for its management.

Application

This norm and its standard applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

15.1 Norm

A protected area has administrative systems that support the implementation of the management plan.

a) Standard

The protected area has a supportive administration system for effective management.

Indicators

- Ensuring that Public Finance Management Act is implemented;
- Ensure that assets are well managed;
- The reporting system is well managed;
- The system for information management is managed properly.

16. Infrastructure and equipment**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that each protected area has the necessary operational equipment and infrastructure in place, with an effective maintenance programme.

Application

This norm and its standard applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

16.1 Norm

A protected area has operational equipment and system for its maintenance to ensure the implementation of the management plan.

a) Standard

Necessary operational equipment and infrastructure is in place.

Indicators

- The infrastructure necessary to manage the protected area effectively is in place;
- Staff facilities are adequate to perform critical management activities;
- There is (an) adequate operational equipment as required for operational management purposes.

b) Standard

Equipment and infrastructure are effectively maintained.

Indicators

- A regular programme of infrastructure maintenance is adhered to.
- Equipment is maintained in good working condition.

17. Environmental education, awareness and communication programmes**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standard is to ensure that the protected area has an education and awareness programme in place.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, including transfrontier protected areas.

17.1 Norm

The management of a protected area has developed an education and awareness programme.

a) Standard

Education and awareness programme developed.

Indicators

- There is a planned education and awareness programme;
- There is an education and awareness plan linked to the objectives of the protected area;

- There is a fully implemented and highly effective education and awareness plan linked to the objectives of the protected area.

18. Visitor facilities contribute positively to the visitor experience

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that the protected area has visitor facilities that contribute to their visitor's experience.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, including transfrontier protected areas.

18.1 Norm

Visitor facilities contribute positively to the experience without negatively affecting the environment.

a) Standard

Visitor facilities, where appropriate (are established in line) with the protected area objectives are established in response to tourism market demands, and contribute positively to the visitor experience.

Indicators

- The visitor/tourism facilities are adequate and sufficient to prevent damage to protected areas;
- There are active programmes for restoration of degraded areas in the protected area and/or associated buffer zone, resulted (resulting) from visitor use;
- Tourism infrastructure is effectively servicing the current volume of visitors to the protected area according to the protected areas carrying capacity;
- Areas in the protected area suffering from degradation or damage as a result of visitor use are subject to a rehabilitation plan;
- The visitor facilities are appropriate to the level of visitor use.

19. Protected areas performance evaluation system is effective**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that each protected area has an effective performance evaluation system in place.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

19.1 Norm

A performance evaluation system against the management plan is implemented for all protected areas.

a) Standard

A performance evaluation system for the management of the protected area is in place.

Indicators

- There is a functioning evaluation system in place to measure performance against set objectives for the protected area.

20. Socio-economic importance of the area is enhanced**Purpose**

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that the protected area plays an important role in socio-economic activities within their sphere of influence.

Application

This norm and its standards applies to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act, [as well as transfrontier protected areas]

20.1 Norm

A protected area must develop a strategy to enhance the socio-economic activities within their sphere.

a) Standard

A protected area provides substantive socio-economic benefits to the local area, where appropriate (refer to section 41 of the Act).

Indicators

- The protected area provides socio-economic benefits to local communities;
- Programmes to enhance local community welfare, whilst conserving protected area resources are being implemented;
- There is effective communication with local communities;
- The protected area is a source of employment for local communities;
- The protected area provides community development opportunities through sustainable resource use;
- The protected area provides access to spiritual or religious sites;
- An active education and interpretation programme is implemented, focusing primarily on local children in the region around the protected area;
- The protected area receives inside and outside contributions;
- The protected area has co-management framework for benefit flows.

b) Standard

A protected area provides measurable economic benefits to the direct beneficiaries.

Indicators

- The protected area develops and implements a programme that provides economic benefits to local communities / beneficiaries where appropriate.
- The protected area delivers considerable quantifiable long-term economic benefits that make a real difference to the livelihoods of local communities.

c) Standard

A process to evaluate the stakeholder's feedback is in place for all protected areas.

Indicators

- The protected area receives high level support as a result of co-management consultation and high quality visitor experiences emanating from effective protected area management;
- The protected area has a large degree of support from neighbours, district and public stakeholders;
- The protected area has a functional protected area advisory committee;
- The protected area advisory committee is representative of all stakeholders of the protected area.

CHAPTER 3

REPORTING BY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

21. National management authorities

Management authorities of national protected areas (special nature reserves, national parks, world heritage sites and marine protected areas) are to report annually, within one (1) month after the end of the financial year on their progress toward meeting the norms and standards against the given indicators for each protected area. In addition, the report should give an overview of all protected areas for which the management authority is responsible, to allow for reflection on synergies between protected areas and their collective contribution to the South African system of protected areas. Protected area management authorities will identify and cost programmes necessary to improve on the status of protected areas in terms of correctness of declaration process and law enforcement capacity.

The Minister will table these reports at the next MINMEC for discussion.

22. Provincial management authorities

Management authorities of provincial protected areas (nature reserves, protected environments) are to report annually, within one (1) month of the end of the financial year to the MEC on their progress toward meeting the norms and standards against the given indicators for each protected area. In addition, the report should give an overview of all protected areas for which the management authority is responsible, to allow for reflection on synergies between protected areas and their collective

contribution to the South African system of protected areas. Protected area management authorities will identify and cost programmes necessary to improve on the status of protected areas in terms of correctness of declaration process and law enforcement capacity.

The MEC will table these reports at the next MINMEC for discussion

23. Management authorities which are not organs of state

Management authorities responsible for protected areas on private land, which are not organs of state, are to report annually to the MEC, by the end of April on their progress towards meeting and maintaining these norms and standards. It is recognized that certain norms and standards may be considered confidential or not applicable to these management authorities, in which case annual report will be accepted.