

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOTOURISM IN THE DUKUDUKU
FOREST RESERVE AND SURROUNDING SETTLEMENTS:
POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION.**

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that this research study: ***The Development of Ecotourism in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Surrounding Settlements: Policy and Implementation***, except where specifically indicated to the contrary in the text, is my own work both in conception and execution. All the theoretical information and related sources that have been used or quoted have been duly acknowledged by means of complete references. It is further declared that this dissertation has not previously been submitted to any institution for degree purposes.

By

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The product of this nature cannot be attributed to the researcher alone, undoubtedly it should be acknowledged and stated that it was firstly through the power of the Almighty God, who gave me strength and perseverance to face and conquer this mammoth task. In addition, it should be mentioned that there are individuals around me who contributed a great deal from the conception up to the final production of this research. These individuals have rendered their support in different forms. Furthermore, these people were pillars of my faith in completing this research inquiry. Throughout the study they gave me moral, spiritual, physical, emotional, educational and financial support. Hence, I humbly and gratefully feel very indebted to all of them. It will be difficult for the researcher at this stage to mention all of these individuals. The few people that can be mentioned include:

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DEDICATION

This piece of work in its entirety is dedicated to my precious mother Sibongile Ngema and my late father Emmanuel Ngema for having brought me up in a compassionate environment, which taught me that hard work always produces good results.

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted with the view of investigating the development of ecotourism in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and surroundings, with specific attention paid to policy and its implementation. In an effort to develop this natural environment, there has been much overuse and degradation of the natural forest reserve. What has also been implicit is that tourist visitation numbers at the Dukuduku Forest Reserve, could decrease, and these reduced numbers of tourists could affect the employment rate within the local community. Pursuant to these observations and problems, the researcher found it appealing and necessary to explore the attitudes and perceptions of the local communities towards the usage of the natural forest reserve in Dukuduku. This would be achieved by investigating the participation, practices, and patterns associated with the existing policies and their implementation in the the Dukuduku Forest Reserve environment.

In an attempt to investigate the research problem, the following research objectives were formulated:

- (a) To find out the extent to which stakeholders understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.
- (b) To investigate the adequacy of the provision of nature-based tourism facilities for employment purposes in the study area.
- (c) To examine whether there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area.

- (d) To reveal the degree to which tourism stakeholders participate in ecotourism development initiatives in the study area.
- (e) To establish whether the ecotourism related policies and practices, existing in the study area are geared towards benefitting the local community.

The above listed objectives were investigated using a methodology process that involved the collecting of data from the local community of Dukuduku and other stakeholders, by means of questionnaires. The data collected was analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences [SPSS] computer programme, which led to acquiring research findings.

The findings that emerged showed that among the majority of respondents there is a relatively good understanding of the meaning and importance of ecotourism as a human activity. Notwithstanding, the social involvement of local communities in activities of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, were seen as inadequate. The majority of stakeholders indicated that they perceived a substantial number of ecotourism resources or facilities as inadequate and not employment based.

Regarding the upholding the policy of conservation in contrast to the commercialisation of ecotourism resources, the majority of respondents were in favour of upholding the policy of conservation of ecotourism resources. The respondents were also asked to reveal how they perceive local community participation in ecotourism activities, the majority of the respondents agreed that there was no beneficial participation in ecotourism activities in the study area.

Finally it was established that respondents in the study area revealed that the existing ecotourism related policies and practices were not clear to them and that the policies were geared to benefit the local community. In this regard the majority of the local community and the service providers individually indicated that the existence of policy formulation and its beneficiation was poor in the study area. The study concludes by offering some recommendations associated with the objectives of the study listed above.

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CHAPTER 1

ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

1.1. INTRODUCTION

The protection of the environment is an essential part of ecotourism development. Without adequate environmental protection, ecotourism development in particular, and prospects of development in general, are undermined, compromising the present and future prospects of tourism organisations, tourist guests and host destinations alike (Cater & Lowman, 1994: 09). Ecotourism is one of the important components of tourism. It is related to nature-based tourism where we find tourists appreciating nature without causing harm to it, so that even the future generations can benefit. Ecotourism also encompasses the participation of the local community in the conservation and development of the recreation and tourism resources (Nzama, 2008).

This study is concerned with exploring the development of ecotourism in Dukuduku Forest Reserve, based on existing policies and their implementation, for purposes of benefiting the stakeholders socially and economically. The stakeholders include the community, the tourists visiting the area, local authorities, service providers and even the future generation. An in-depth investigation of the aspects concerning ecotourism within the study area, was undertaken: community understanding of ecotourism development; various ecotourism activities that exist within the study area; participation of the

community in ecotourism activities; and the ecotourism activities that could be initiated in the study area. Participation by the communities in ecotourism planning and development is fundamental, so that stakeholders have a buy-in and a degree of empowerment in the process of ecotourism development (Page & Dowling, 2002)

1.2. BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Historically, the benefits of ecotourism development have been to a large extent enjoyed by the White population group in South Africa, representing the minority of the entire population of the country. The Apartheid government enacted repressive policies, which did not favour the Black population groups. These policies were strategically excluded the Black people from the mainstream of the ecotourism and recreation industries. Furthermore, these policies encouraged poor Black people not to respect the nature conservation legislative frameworks and related policies. Hence, the people of Dukuduku did not bow to the conservation policies associated with the Dukuduku Forest Reserve. This study seeks to address some of the problems associated with the development of ecotourism, in the context of exiting tourism policies and their implementation [<http://www.eoearth.org/article/GreaterStLuciaWetlandPark.SouthAfrica>. (2008)].

Ecotourism is one of the subjects that have to be learned or taught in most of our school. Learners need to have an in-depth knowledge on how tourists should become environmentally friendly whilst performing their nature-based activities. The Dukuduku area has a greater potential of attracting tourists as an ecotourism destination since it is near the Isimangaliso Wetlands Park (former Greater St

Lucia Wetland Park [Refer to Figure 1.1], which is a World Heritage Site. Tourists travel almost daily en-route to St. Lucia, and the Dukuduku community expects to get a piece of the tourism pie.

The Isimangaliso Wetland Park plays an important park in the popularisation of the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and the Dukuduku Settlement Area. The Isimangaliso Wetland Park as shown in Figure 1.1 is located in Northern Coastal KwaZulu-Natal. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park, is a World Heritage Site encompassing four different ecosystems. Its wetlands, swamps, mangroves and lagoons attract many eco-tourists and nature lovers [<http://www.kzntopbusiness.co.za/site/user-data/mtubatuba.pdf>. (2009)].

The Wetland Park incorporates a variety of habitats ranging from the Lebombo mountains to grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, dune forests and stretches (nearly 200km) of unbroken white beaches (Hughes, 2006). The Isimangaliso Wetland Park is known for its biodiversity, breathtaking ecosystems, spectacular landscape and popularity among the international tourists <http://www.southafrica.info/stlucia.htm>. (2007).

This particular study is expected to bring awareness to the local communities on how they could establish their own eco-tourism businesses and other ecotourism activities, as a way of eliminating poverty and unemployment. If ecotourism is well-developed in the study area, with appropriate policies in place, many tourists would expected to visit the Dukuduku Forest Reserve as an ecotourism destination. The people of the forest (Dukuduku) will then benefit both, economically and socially. In addition, they will begin to appreciate the importance of conservation over commercialisation.

FIGURE 1.1: RELATIVE LOCATION OF UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



[<http://www.zulu.org.za>. (2008)]

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives which are set for the study would help to accomplish the main goals of the study. Furthermore, these objectives would assist the researcher to keep focus on the problem under investigation. The main aim of this study is to provide valuable information about ecotourism development in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve area. The fundamental objectives are as follows:

- (a) To find out the extent to which stakeholders understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.
- (b) To investigate the adequacy of the provision of nature-based tourism facilities for employment purposes in the study area.
- (c) To examine whether there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area.
- (d) To reveal the degree to which tourism stakeholders participate in ecotourism development initiatives in the study area.
- (e) To establish whether the ecotourism related policies and practices, existing in the study area are geared towards benefitting the local community.

Accordingly the objectives of this study are captured and addressed through the hypotheses of this study which are tackled in Chapter 4. The realisation of the objectives of this study is of paramount importance in the drawing of conclusions and recommendations. The objectives are also important in addressing the research problem as presented earlier in this chapter.

1.4. HYPOTHESES

According to Wellman and Kruger (2001) the hypothesis is defined as a tentative assumption or preliminary statement about the relationship between two or more phenomena that need to be examined. In other words, the statement of hypothesis is a calculated guess that is useful in shaping the direction of the study. It facilitates the analysis and interpretation of the subject matter under discussion. The questionnaires were formulated in such a way that they would address the concerns encompassed in the statements of hypotheses. In this study the following hypotheses relative to the objectives of the study, are postulated:

- (a) That the stakeholders do not understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.
- (b) That the provision of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area, are not geared for employment purposes.
- (c) That there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area.
- (d) That the stakeholders do not see their participation in ecotourism development initiatives as being significant in the study area.
- (e) That the existing ecotourism related policies and practices in the study area are not geared towards benefitting the local community.

The above-stated hypotheses were assuming guesses of the researcher; they were subject to acceptance or rejection pending on the outcome of data analysis. These hypotheses would also facilitate the process of arriving at interpretive findings and conclusions

1.5. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

In order to cast light on the exact spatial area that this study is referring to as well as refer to some concepts that may cause doubt to anyone reading this study, it was felt appropriate to start by looking at both the spatial and conceptual delimitation of the study. In other words, delimitation of the study refers to setting conceptual and geographical boundaries regarding the subject-matter of the study area, as well as giving clarification or meaning to the concepts that are continuously used in the study.

1.5.1 Physical Delimitation

The present study is spatially delimited to the KwaZulu-Natal in the District of Ukhanyakude, which in turn contains the Mtubatuba Local Municipality which has the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and the Dukuduku Settlement Area [Refer to Figure 1.2] which are within 50 kilometres-radius of the district municipality. The geographical range of towns from Lower Umfolozi to Mtubatuba, a distance of approximately 15 kilometres, are well positioned as core sampling areas of investigation [Refer to Figures 1.1 & 1.2]. The Dukuduku Settlement Area is geographically delimited to the Mtubatuba Local Municipality. The regional access road to the study area is the R618. The study area is between Mtubatuba Town and St. Lucia Town. There are villages that make up the Dukuduku Reserve.

**FIGURE 1.2: MTUBATUBA MUNICIPALITY AND THE
DUKUDUKU SETTLEMENT AREA**

These villages include: the new Dukuduku Settlement Area in the northward, the Khula Village, Ezwenelisha and Khayelisha in the South. The study was conducted mainly among the residents of the Dukuduku Settlement Area and the Town of St Lucia.

1.5.2 Conceptual Delimitation

The study is confined conceptually to the local community of the Dukuduku Settlement Area considered to be the host community, the owners or service providers of ecotourism activities and facilities. Conceptual delimitation has been placed on concepts occurring in the objectives of the study, such provision, participation, policy, implementation, strategy, practices and benefit. These concepts are explained further in sections below.

By way of illustrating, the concept of local community means or refers to the local residents who come into contact with tourists, as employees, as service providers and attractive curiosities for tourists. Furthermore, perception in the study refers to what communities perceive as the right direction for their development or expectation towards the natural resources in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve. The concepts of 'Black' and 'African' is being used interchangeably and synonymous in meaning in this study, and refers to the 'Black South African'. The delimitation and contextualisation of these concepts would enabled anyone reading the study to understand them better.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of this study are expected to encourage the involvement of all stakeholders, such as education authorities for the inclusion of ecotourism as a school subject in African schools at lower levels. This can help in passing

ecotourism from one generation to the other. This study is also expected to make a significant contribution to the population of Dukuduku, in that they can gain the understanding of principle of ecotourism development. The community's acquisition of economic benefits would make it better aware of the ecotourism industry, as well as its social benefits to the livelihood in their environment. It is also expected to draw attention to the positive attributes of participating in ecotourism activities.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Researchers in general have always stressed the need to understand the terminology and usage of concepts in a research inquiry (Magi, 2008). For purposes of better understanding of concepts, these have to be spelt out in an ambiguous manner so as to offer the working meaning for the research document. In this section of the study, the researcher therefore aims at establishing a clear meaning of concepts which are free of misinterpretation. For the purpose of this study, some of the key concepts are defined as was intimated in the previous section.

1.7.1 Ecotourism

According to Fennell (1999: 25) ecotourism can be defined as a sustainable form of natural resource-based tourism that focuses primarily on experiencing and learning about nature, and which is ethically managed to be low impact, non-consumptive and locally oriented (control, benefits and scale). It typically occurs in natural areas, and should contribute to the conservation or preservation of such area. On the other hand, Goodwin, *et al*, (1998) see another brand of ecotourism as encompassing the celebration and sharing with tourists the

uniqueness and diversity of different cultures in areas visited, hence the notion of a cultural village in the study area is most attractive.

According to the Tourism White Paper on Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa (DEAT, 1996:14) ecotourism is an environmentally and socially responsible travel to natural or near natural areas that promote conservation, has low visitor impact and provides for the beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people. In support, Page and Dowling (2002) argue that ecotourism is low impact nature tourism which contributes to the maintenance of species and habitats either directly through a contribution to conservation and or indirectly by providing revenue to the local community sufficient for local people to value and therefore, protect their wildlife heritage area as a source of income.

In line with these definitions and introducing an integrating approach, the definition by the American-based Ecotourism Society become important and goes as follows:

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 conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people (Hall and Lew, 1998: 44).

A variety of definitions of ‘ecotourism’ exists and these have been used in a number of ways. The few definitions cited above specifically related to this research study. Therefore, in the context of this study ecotourism will be used to mean “a form of tourism that does not harm the natural environment and from

which the local people benefit socially and economically, as well as allowing for future generations to benefit as well.”

1.7.2. Tourism

According to Goeldner & Ritchie, (2009) tourism is related to and comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in place outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, recreation activity, business and other purpose. For the purpose of this study the term tourism is used to mean travelling of people to outdoor recreation facilities. On a similar trend, the World Tourism Organisation (WTO, 2000) defines tourism as the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes.

McIntosh, *et al*, (2002: 10) Define tourism as “ The sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the interaction of tourists, businesses, suppliers, host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors. For the purposes of this study, the definition by McIntosh, *et al*, (2002) is adopted as a central point of departure for this particular study.

1.7.3 Tourism Development

Aaronson (2000) defines development as associated with positive social change, which means moving forward to something that is better than at present. In this case this change relates to the growth and advancement of tourism activities and benefits. In other words, tourism development relates to a process for improving human well-being through re-allocation of resources that involves some modification of the environment (DEAT, 1997). That is, tourism

development also implies the establishment and promotion of new tourism products and activities, upgrading and marketing of already existing tourism products, and creating a safe and user-friendly atmosphere for tourists and local communities.

1.7.4 Sustainable Development

It was the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, 1987:8), that initiated the definition of sustainable development, which refers to the improvement of human and physical environment with a view of meeting the needs of the present communities “without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainable development usually operates on the environment and therefore suggests the natural setting upon which people or humans participate in activities, one of which is tourism development.

Hence, the concept “sustainable development” relates to the careful and strategic utilization of resources in development so that not only the present, but the future generations as well, benefit from the resources. Sustainable development is widely applied in tourism development planning. Weaver (2000: 300) defines sustainable tourism as follows:

“Sustainable tourism can be defined as tourism that meets the needs of the current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

It is also important to equate sustainable development with responsible tourism, the latter concept being referred to as: “tourism that promotes responsibility to the environment through its sustainable use; responsibility to involve local communities in the tourism industry; responsibility for the safety and security of

visitors and responsible government, employees, employers, unions and local communities (DEAT, 1996: 6).

Finally, Riddell (1985: 05) defines development as “that balanced form of broadly beneficial change which is aimed at securing economic growth, social betterment and resource husbandry for the benefit of local communities and posterity. This generalised definition of development and sustainable development by Riddell (1985) is adopted for the purposes of this study as a central point of departure.

1.7.5 Tourist

According to Lubbe (2003: 274) a tourist is defined as “Any person travelling to a place other than that of his or her usual environment for less than 12 consecutive months and whose main purpose of trip is other than exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.” A tourist is one who travels for a period of 24 hours or more in a place other than that in which he usually resides, whose purpose could be classified as leisure (whether for recreation, health, sport, holiday, study or religion) or business, family, mission or meeting (Nzama, *et al*, 2005).

In the context of this study tourists mean people who travel away from their home and country for enjoyment, personal affairs or any other purpose except to intend to work for remuneration, similar to those who would visit the study area.

1.7.6 Reserve

In the context of tourism a reserve is a piece of land set aside for the protection of wild animals or human population of a certain type. (www.gov.za). The

definition of a reserve or protected area adopted by International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is:

An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means. Although all protected areas meet the general purposes contained in this definition, in practice the precise purposes for which protected areas are managed differ greatly (IUCN, 2000; 22).

The IUCN also defines a reserve as a natural area of land and/or sea, designated to protect the ecology or ecosystems, limit exploitation of the area, and provide for spiritual, scientific and educational opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

In the context of this study a reserve refers also to a place outside the urban area where a group of people who share same beliefs, culture and values live together. In closing this definition, it important to note that a nature reserve or nature preserve is a protected area of importance for wildlife, flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest, which is reserved and managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for study or research [<http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nature-reserve>. (2008)].

1.7.7 Policy

There are many approached of defining the concept 'policy'. Lubbe (2003) defines policy as a set of guidelines generally accepted by all and used to improve and facilitate decision making and appropriate action under certain

circumstances. The concept of ‘policy’ relates to a planned or agreed upon course of action usually based on particular principles, for example, the government’s policies on education (Hall, 2000; Lubbe 2003). In relation to development, Hall (2000) sees policy in relation to governmental processes, that is, in terms of the consequence of the political environment, values and ideologies, the distribution of power, institutional frameworks, and of decision-making processes. In other words, Craythorne (1990: 59) avers that “Policies are concerned with events to take place in the future arising from or based on the events in the present or past”. The policy and strategy highlighted in this study relates to the how management can facilitate tourism understanding and participation of the local community in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Settlement Area.

1.7.8 Implementation

The term ‘implementation’ in tourism, is similar to the term ‘application’, it refers to the carrying out or execution of public policy. This process consists of rule-making and rule administration [<http://www.answers.com> (2008)]. In this particular research study implementation refers to the manner in which policy is executed by those in authority. In this instance implementation refers to the extent to which tourism development and resultant benefits can be facilitated for the benefit of local communities in the study area. The emphasis on implementation is on action rather than on theory (policy). The notion of implementation further emphasises the idea continuous actions with regard to use of tourism resources at hand and by being less premeditated, and often practically executed. Implementation is used to make the problem easier and practical to understand and solve [<http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/implementation> (2009)].

1.7.9 Black

The people that stay around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Settlement Area are predominantly Black or African. As a result, the concept “Black” is defined and seen as an elusive term in the South African environment. Fundamentally it may relate to the differences in race and ethnicity of South Africans in the pre-Mandela period. In this study the term *Black* refers to the dark-skinned inhabitants of South Africa, which were previously discriminated against during the apartheid period. The term is used synonymously with the term “African” (Magi 1986).

In defining what an African is, Mazrui (2008) sees the concept as relating to the Black people and other races inhabiting the continent of Africa, and South Africa in this case, also associated with the Black or African diaspora. He goes on to make a distinction between what he calls “Africans of the blood” and “Africans of the soil”. He sees Africans of the blood as belonging to the African race, but not necessarily to the African continent. The Africans of the soil, on the other hand, belong to the African continent, but not necessarily to the black race. He further argues that most black people that reside south of the Sahara, such as in South Africa, are Africans of both the blood and the soil. For purposes of this research study the terms Black and African are used synonymously to refer to black people that reside in South Africa, are Africans of both the blood and the soil.

1.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The study pursued on ecotourism development in Dukuduku, is carried out giving due recognition to the independent views of the authorities and

respondents. Furthermore, the study was designed in a way that attempts to focus on the expected ethical standards and principles related to research. These include the following:

- Ethical issues relating to individual to researcher, that is, the research study shall not be undertaken for personal financial gain.
- Research and academic plagiarism shall be totally precluded from this study, particularly as relating failing to acknowledge all secondary sources used in the study and any materials cited.
- Misuse of privileges afforded to the researcher by the respondents, that is, invading the respondent's privacy during the data collection stage of the research process.
- Confidentiality and privacy of the information provided by the respondents shall be protected by keeping the information given not to be disclosed.
- Anonymity of the respondents, as well as the identity and privacy of the respondent shall remain be protected as was promised from the very onset of the investigation.
- The researcher had acquired a voluntary and informed consent of the respondents to the study. The study shall therefore conform to the principle of voluntary consent where the respondents shall participate in the study willingly. Informed consent shall be based on information, an identification of the researcher.

Inclusive of the ethical considerations listed above, there are those that directly relate to the researcher such as about the dissemination of research findings, which will be publicised. Finally, the observation of academic freedom and ess of personal rights relating to issues of intellectual property.

1.9 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

The methodological procedures followed in study are clearly discussed below as a basis for understanding how the research process was achieved. In other words this study investigates the different types of people ranging communities to conservation authorities, from whom the study data was collected. Among methods given priority is the survey method to measure variables and produce statistical information (Neuman, 2000: 247). In addition, the usage of existing statistics, the internet, newspapers, interviews and historical comparative method to combine date and theory, become important. The study design was found useful by the researcher as a diagnostic study to determine the reason why a problem exists. Relating to the methods of collecting and analysing data in this study, these have been selected is such a way that they should yield results that would resolve some of the issues investigated. Data was collected mainly via the questionnaire, with a view of reaching various stakeholders in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment.

1.9.1 Study Population and Sample

The target population for the study consisted of the local communities, tourists or visitors, the authorities, service providers and the business sector operating in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area. The local communities would be those that can be associated with tourism activities and include people of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area and those staying in surrounding villages such as Ezwenelisha and Khula.

A proportionate sampling procedure was used to select the category of people from which questions were distributed as categorised in the heading above. For purposes of this research study, a randomly stratified sample of 127 respondents was used for the collection of relevant information. The different categories of the sample eventually came out as follows: (a) local community members constituting a sample of 85 respondents; (b) the service providers, 12 respondents; (c) the tourists about 20, and (d) the conservation officials or employees, 10 respondents. These categories were interviewed comprising respondents with various activities, jobs and responsibilities. Some examples of these respondents include: national tourists, beach users, estuary users, local street vendors, shop owners, guest house owners, and accommodation managers, community leaders, traditional leaders, municipal officers and the conservation officers..

1.9.2 Instrumentation

In this study, a structured interview schedule, using a researcher-administered questionnaire was utilised. This was to ensure that respondents were asked similar sets of relevant questions in the same sequence. The research questions comprised closed-ended and open-ended questions. All questions were designed and coded to suite the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) computer programme, available at the Department of Recreation and Tourism at the University of Zululand. The analysis of data was presented in the form of frequency tables, frequency percentages, columnar graphs and pie graphs, as well as cross-tabulations. This form of presentation of data is meant to make it easier for the reader to understand the interpretation of data, particularly as it is presented in Chapter Four.

1.9.3 Collection of Data

The research data was collected from the various stakeholders mentioned above found in the study area. The relevant community protocols, like asking for permission to hold a meeting with the communities in the settlement areas, were followed. It is important to note that the interviewers asked questions verbally especially to local community members some of whom were illiterate. The more literate community members were presented with the questionnaires to read and complete on the spot, with guidance of the interviewers. The telephone and email facilities were not used in interviewing the respondents.

At relatively less extent, the observation methods were used as a supplementary method of collecting data. Nonetheless, the researcher somewhat successfully attempted to observe all activities taking place in the study area. These were recorded to back up statistical evidence acquired from the respondents. With regard to acquiring documentary evidence from organisational sources, the researcher was able to access the documents of the Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife. In addition a formal request was made to the municipality to allow the researcher to have a look at their local economic development plan or strategy.

1.9.4 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The responses received from the interviews and the findings from observations and documents were analysed using the content analysis method that group data into relevant categories (Kerlinger, 1986). As soon as the information was collected, it was presented, analysed and interpreted as soon as possible. Frequency-percentage tables, graphs and cross-tabulations were used to present that analysed data. As mentioned earlier the questionnaires were analysed quantitatively using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The

study therefore, used a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The statistical representation of data was achieved through frequency-percentage tables were then interpreted to reveal respondents' views and perspectives. The statistics used were based on the frequency of responses and converted to appropriate percentage values. The resultants statistical outcomes assisted the researcher with the interpretation of the results, and drawing conclusions about the objectives and hypotheses to determine whether these were met or not.

1.9.5 Pilot study

Approximately twelve questionnaires were prepared to pilot the study. They were distributed among the stakeholders to reveal the level of accuracy and understanding of the questions completed. The basic aim of this procedure was to test whether the questions were clearly understood and addressed the issue they were intended to address. The researcher took time to speak to the respondents explaining the objectives of the study so as to ease the possibility of any tensions that might arise. All the respondents that were interviewed resided within the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area. To reiterate, the primary aim of the pilot study was not only to establish whether questions were clearly understood, but also to test whether the questions solicited expected responses, as well as reveal the consistency in terms of meaning and expression attached to them. In other words the pilot study was done in order to test the reliability and validity of questions. The community leaders were contacted so that they could contribute to the preliminary pilot round of the questionnaire survey. Fundamentally, there were no serious weaknesses recorded or observed in the structuring of the questions.

1.10 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

This study consists of five chapters, that is, the introduction chapter, theoretical background chapter, physical setting chapter, data analysis and interpretation chapter, and a summary and conclusion chapter.

Chapter 1: The orientation to the study serves as a prelude to other chapters and describes the overall character of the study. In other words, in this chapter a tentative orientation of the study is revealed. It also deals with the objectives and significance of the study. Furthermore it introduces concepts that are central to the study and these terms are defined and conceptualised. One of the most important components of this chapter is the statement of objectives and related educated conjectures, which are a projection of the possible outcomes of the research. This chapter has given the layout and procedure that has been followed in the study towards solving the core problem of the study.

Chapter 2: The theoretical framework focuses on some of the literature that relates to the study. This chapter reflects what other scholars or researchers in the field of recreation have written in relation to the topic. It provides a conceptual framework for purposes of generating objectives and outcomes for the study. It actually looks at the existing literature works and investigates how previous scholars addressed the concepts that are covered in this study. It is upon the basis of these literary works that authentic generalisations can be made.

Chapter 3: Setting of the study area provides a general background, the history of the study area, and the actual location map of the area was given. The

chapter focuses on the nature of the study area, such as geographical features and geomorphological landscape, climate conditions and vegetation. The infrastructure in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area was also highlighted. The latter includes roads, educational facilities, tourism facilities, and natural tourism resources. This chapter also focuses on the geology, climate, natural vegetation and wild life in the area. Accessibility to the study area is given some attention.

Chapter 4: The data analysis and interpretation of the study is presented in this chapter. More importantly the analysis of data is presented in the form of tables and graphs. Analytic and interpretive discussions of data collected are presented, attempting to produce judgements emanating from the analysis. In this chapter an attempt was also made to discuss some general guidelines that ought to be considered when providing community tourism facilities and programmes. This chapter is regarded as the core of this research investigation in that the empirical analysis and synthesis of data and ideas are put into effect. It is at this point in the analysis of information that inferences are made about findings of the study. Importantly, the objectives of the study are fully assessed at this point.

Chapter 5: Conclusions and recommendations. This chapter gives the summary of the findings and make recommendations pertaining coastal tourism development in the study area. The study also contains a comprehensive bibliography of the literature, the books, journals and websites consulted during the theoretical research of the study. Also included are the questionnaires and transmittal letters used for purposes of collecting data.

1.13 CONCLUSION

In this study an analysis of various approaches adopted by stakeholders about the understanding of meaning, importance, supply, strategies, utilisation, conservation, commercialisation, policies, and community benefit associated with ecotourism in the study area. Furthermore, the study also looked at the needed policy changes in order to achieve ecotourism development in the study area. To achieve these aims this chapter has set out the orientation of the study, giving appropriate objectives, hypotheses, definition of terms and the research methodology.

The increasing significance of the tourism outputs at the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and resources management options, mounting attention to benefit-cost analysis of tourism conservation versus commercialisation has become important in this research study. Finally, the provision of tourism facilities is rooted in the shared responsibilities for and commitment to economic and social development of the municipality. This clearly means that provision of tourism facilities requires co-operation between public and private organisations, introducing joint decision-making at all levels within the municipality and the local communities.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Literature review according to Tripp (1990) is the exploration of existing knowledge on the problem or topic of study. Whereas, Belley (1982) suggests that only books, articles and research reports that relate directly to the topic should be included in the literature review. On the whole, a theoretical framework forms the basis upon which a research is generally conducted. This pronouncement of theory is of great help to the researcher since it points to the correct direction to be followed regarding studies that have been done which are related to the current study (Magi, 2005). Therefore, the purpose of this chapter is to furnish this study with theoretical material which is related to ecotourism development and management of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. The uniqueness of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park is not confined only to its scenic beauty and World Heritage Site status, but also to the fact that it has much to offer the local indigenous community in the area.

The main aim of this chapter is to analyse the literature which is related to ecotourism as an alternative to mass tourism. A detailed discussion of the development of ecotourism, ecotourism activities and facilities that tend to contribute towards ecotourism development has been attempted. Another important relevance of this chapter is to explore what different authors say about the participation of local communities in natural parks. Other authors'

ideas and viewpoints will be related to the objectives of the study that have been mentioned in the previous chapter. Some of the key concepts contextually relevant for this chapter relate to understanding community involvement, participation, perspective, perceptions and prospects relating to the management and sustainability of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park.

Tourism attractions, such as the Isimangaliso Wetland Park and Dukuduku Forest Reserve, provide the driving force that motivates people to visit places that appeal to their specific needs and senses. Attractions also act as magnets that draw people to them. Tourism experts such as Swarbrooke (1999) and Lubbe (2003) define attraction as occurrences or creations (such as scenery, climate, nature, water-bodies, exceptional fauna or flora, buildings or other architectural work, scenes of historic importance, works of art, places of enjoyment and entertainment, etc.) or happenings (such as festivals, meetings, sport competitions, etc.) in the natural or human made environments, that motivate people to travel. These attractions are there to benefits all stakeholders and in particular the local or host community.

2.2 ECOTOURISM: ITS NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Since the development of the world conservation strategy with its emphasis on eco-development, there has been a strong move towards recognising the interdependences that exist among environmental and economic issues. This led to the concept of 'sustainable development', which equates development with environmental and social responsibility (Page & Dowling, 2002: 14). Tourism strongly depends on the quality of natural resources. The environment is a resource that provides an exciting opportunity for compatible human use. However, the environment can provide such opportunities as are cited, if it is used in a sustainable manner.

According to Hertzner as cited in Page and Dowling (2002: 56) four fundamental pillars need to be followed in order to pursue a more responsible form of ecotourism. These include:

- Minimum environmental impact
- Minimum impact on – and maximum respect for host cultures.
- Maximum economic benefits to the host country's grass roots.
- Maximum "recreational" satisfaction to participating tourists.

In support of the same viewpoint, Chalker as cited by Page and Dowling (2002: 5) has argued that ecotourism must take into account three interconnecting issues:

- The need to be ecologically sound.
- Respect for local traditions.
- Ensuring benefits for local residents.

Development exists as a means by which to concentrate people in very high densities, displacing local people from traditional subsistence-style livelihoods to ones that are subservience based (Fennell, 2003:4). Discussing the environment, Cater & Lowman (1994: 92) have also stated that preserving the natural environment means making informed choices. This means integrating tourism development within a country or a region. As such, Cater as cited by Burns & Holden (1995:222) states that ecotourism would therefore seem to offer a form of tourism development for the future which would not only be capable of encompassing the principles of sustainability, but which also offers real market opportunities for developing countries who often possess many of the attractive resource bases for this type of tourism.

The tourism industry is one of the world's most important sectors for economic development. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) [http://www.wttc.org/eng/tourism_research. (2009)], tourism is one of the world's largest industries. Within that industry, ecotourism is the fastest growing sector. This was also confirmed by the research done at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia, where it was found that ecotourism is the fastest growing sub-sector of the international tourism industry. It has a growth rate three times that of tourism overall. According to Butler & Hinch (1996) ecotourism is regarded as a marketing approach with the potential to boost tourist arrivals and maintain operations.

In the context of ecotourism development principles and commercialisation and growth of tourism, Burns & Holden (1995: 222) have proposed three typologies of ecotourists:

- ***The rough ecotourist:*** young to middle-aged; travels individually or in small groups; independent organisation; cheap hotels; buses, eats locally; sport and adventure tourism.
- ***The smooth ecotourist:*** middle-aged to old; travels in groups; tour oriented; three-five star hotels; luxury restaurants; nature and safari tourism.
- ***The specialist ecotourist:*** young and old; travels individually; independent or specialist tours; a wide range of hotels, transport and eating places; scientific investigation of pursuit of interest.

Although in the short term there may seem to be benefits, such as little pressure on resources and of retention of local control in decision-making resulting from encouraging alternative forms of tourism, in the long term without proper planning these benefits may be lost. Without attentive

planning and management control, the development cycle for ecotourism is not likely to be different from that of other forms of tourism.

2.3 TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

According to the United Nation's Brundtland Report as cited by Burns & Holden (1995) sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. The report also includes the provision that sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony, but rather a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs.

In the context of the Brundtland Report, the population of Dukuduku faces a number of challenges to their attempts to gain greater control over their economic destiny. The physical realities of the area, including its isolation, limited population base and harsh climate have long precluded the growth of commercial agriculture and manufacturing. Most of the attention has been focused on the exploitation of the area's natural resources by companies. These resources have however been exploited by companies and individuals from outside the area who have created few linkages with the local economy and generated little in the way of local employment. To fight with this crisis, the local authorities of Dukuduku have to turn to tourism, more especially ecotourism as a source of income and much-needed employment. A community-based tourism strategy which aims to develop an industry that is environmentally and culturally sustainable, broadly distributed between communities and which yields maximum possible economic benefits for

residents, particularly those of small and medium sized communities needs to be developed.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Hunter, 1995). Sustainable tourism development should:

- Meet the needs of the local community in terms of improving their social life styles whilst not compromising the natural baseline on which they depend
- Satisfy the demands and confirm the expectations of tourists and the tourism fraternity and continue to attract tourists into the country
- Conserve the environmental integrity of the area with a view to conserving the natural resources for posterity
- Include women, youth and the disabled so everyone is sufficiently consulted to have a say in the decision making process
- Prohibit any development which may be harmful to people.

If these kinds of guidelines are thoroughly maintained, the role of sustainable tourism development would be achieved to the best ability of rural and conservation communities. This situation could be better achieved even at places such as the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environments.

Non-consumptive ecotourism, can be developed in Dukuduku, focusing on adventure (hiking, kayaking) naturalist (wildlife viewing, and art/culture tours). Butler & Hinch (1996:77) suggested that eco-tourists travel with an ethic of responsibility toward local ecosystems and cultures thereby lessening the social and environment costs associated with tourism and development. This form of alternative tourism is seen to make a greater use of local goods

and facilities than traditional form of mass tourism, leading to improved economic linkages with the local economy and more direct involvement of locals in the industry both as employees and owners.

Eagles as cited by Butler & Hinch (1996) states that, as a group eco-tourists also tend to be highly educated with higher than average levels of disposable income. Those travellers who listed natural attractions as their main reason for selecting their destination spent more money per day than those who do not see nature that much important in their travel. Ecotourism is also one of the few industries where physical isolation of a destination may actually work to its economic advantage, adding an important taste of the ‘unknown’ and most important, the ‘untouched’.

Tourists are increasingly turning their backs on ‘tinsel and junk’ and are instead seeking ‘real and natural’ experiences often based on ‘customized’ forms of travel. These people are less likely to accept the standardized mass package format, and are less satisfied with holidays that are purely the ‘antithesis of work and of education and learning’. (Butler & Hinch, 1996). In this context, it would be interesting to establish the extent to which tourists and local communities would subscribe to conservation-based tourism or alternatively commercialised tourism approaches in the study area.

2.3.1 Guiding Principles of Sustainable Development

The United Kingdom’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has formulated the following guiding principles for attainment of sustainable development: [<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/links.htm>]. (2009):

- The environment has an intrinsic value which outweighs its value as a tourism asset. Its enjoyment by future generations and

its long term survival must not be prejudiced by short term considerations.

- Tourism should be recognised as a positive activity with the potential to benefit the community and the place as well as the visitor.
- The relationship between tourism and the environment must be managed so that the environment is sustainable in the long term. Tourism must not be allowed to damage the resource, prejudice its future enjoyment or bring unacceptable impacts.
- Tourism activities and developments should respect the scale, nature and character of the place in which they are sited.
- In any location, harmony must be sought between the needs of the visitor, the place and the host community.
- The tourism industry, local authorities and environmental agencies all have a duty to respect the above principles and to work together to achieve their practical realization.

In conclusion, tourism, environment and development are very much interrelated human activities or endeavours, which seek to promote community development with less negative impacts on the environment. This research study therefore, seeks to find out what undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources exists in the study area. How tourism stakeholders participate in ecotourism development initiatives and finally, what ecotourism related practices are geared towards benefitting the local community.

2.3.2 Critics of sustainable tourism

Sustainable tourism, however, is not without its critics. Hunter as cited by Fennell (2003) suggests that the current approach to sustainable tourism

development is one that is flawed because it condones the planning and management of tourism in a manner inconsistent with the design of sustainable development. In particular, tourism does not adequately address the issues of geographical scale and inter-sectoral co-operation which are so important to achieving sustainable development.

Furthermore, Macbeth as cited by Fennell (2003) calls attention to the fact that sustainable tourism is more reactionary than proactive in nature. Tourism is vulnerable to losing sustainability for four main reasons. First, tourism is not recognised as a natural resource-dependent industry; second, the tourism industry is invisible, especially in urban areas; third, tourism is electorally weak, with little support in government; and fourth, there is a distinct lack of leadership driving the industry, which ultimately makes tourism vulnerable to attacks from other land users. (Fennell, 2003:13).

Other critical reviews of tourism and sustainability include the belief that sustainable tourism will probably not be achieved, despite the most committed environmental performance and sustainable tourism development is unlikely to occur unless the people of rural tourism communities work together to make it happen. There appears to be certain agreement that if sustainability is to occur at all, it must be done at the local level and perhaps shaped loosely by a broader national or international policy. Sustainable nature tourism policy must include the following three areas:

- National support and advanced planning
- Appropriate pricing and revenue policies
- Local participation and benefits.

The tourism White Paper argues that [DEAT, 1996: 20] to succeed, any tourism development policy of South Africa must, as a priority, seek the

meaningful involvement of the previously neglected communities, not only in the supply of their labour services, but also in entrepreneurial activities.

2.4 ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

According to Lubbe (2003) policy is defined as a set of guidelines generally accepted by all and used to improve and facilitate decision making and appropriate action under certain circumstances. In South Africa policies usually trickle down from national level to the local level. One can differentiate three levels of policy and legislative framework. The policies which are highlighted in this study are mainly provincial and local policies as they apply to the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environments. These policies are important for governmental authorities in their quest to supply local communities with employment opportunities.

2.4.1 Tourism Policy, Laws and Regulations

Policy serves as an action plan in the management of affairs. Policy is an overall high level plan that includes goals and procedures (WTO, 1997). Laws, rules and regulations, assist every individual and organizations to perform and act in a socially acceptable way, policy serves as a set of accepted principles and plans constituting a programme of action in the management of affairs. Laws, rules and regulations can thus be regarded as the parameters or the playing field within which the game must be played, and policy as the way in which the game is played (Lubbe, 2003).

2.4.2 Policy and the Government Structure

Tourism policy is generally considered to be an area within a nation's economic policy. The formulations of tourism policy are the crucial responsibility of the government that wishes to develop tourism as an integral

part of its economy. The WTO (1997) highlights some of the issues that policy makers, legislators and administrators need to consider. Tourism policy has to state the role of tourism in the economy. This involves the costs involved in the implementation for public authority, and the costs for tourism firms, tourists and host communities in changing their behaviour. Administration of tourism has to be considered in tourism policy formulation. Tourism policy also has to take into consideration the government support for tourism which involves government encouragement through information, education and general permission directed at tourism operators, tourists or communities in tourist areas.

2.4.3 Tourism and Variety of Policies

In South Africa, policies exist at national, provincial and local levels. At national level, the White Paper on Development of Tourism in South Africa (DEAT, 1996) provides a policy framework and guidelines for tourism development in the country. In South Africa the Interim Tourism Task Team (ITTT), which was appointed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in 1994, produced a Green Paper in 1995, which graduated into the White Paper on Tourism Development and Promotion in 1996. From the analysis it became clear that South Africa has not reached its potential as a tourist destination with well-structured policies and strategies.

At the provincial level, the policy is spelled out in a number of provincial White Papers (DEAT, 1991; DEAT, 1996; DEAT, 1997; DEAT, 1999). Up to 2001, only three provinces had published comprehensive policy documents (Lubbe, 2003). The Gauteng Tourism White Paper addresses matters such as tourism infrastructure; tourism training and education; tourism financing and investments; tourism and economic empowerment; tourism marketing and promotion; and safety and security. Policies also exist within organizations.

The nature and type of policies developed and implemented vary according to size and nature of the enterprise. A small tourism agency is managed according to a number of basic rules and guidelines. A large local or international enterprise has a well-developed policy or set of policies and strategic plans. Large enterprises also have separate financial, human resources, marketing, trade, local and international trade policies that guide its decision-making and operations in each of these areas.

2.4.4 Implementation of Tourism Policies

One of the objectives of policy and legislation is to regulate implementation and action. Tourism should contribute to the country's economy through generating income, attracting foreign investments and creating job opportunities. The White Paper on Tourism (DEAT 1996), describes the vision of tourism development in South Africa. There have been several policy documents which have followed the Tourism White Paper, and are discussed in brief in the next section.

According to Rogerson & Visser (2004); Spenceley, Goodwin & Maynard (2004), some of the most important policy documents include: the White Paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa (DEAT, 1996); Tourism in GEAR (Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy (DEAT, 1998); the Transformation Strategy for South African Tourism (DEAT, 2000); the Responsible Tourism Guidelines (DEAT, 2002); the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment [BBBEE] (DTI, 2004b; SAGG, 2004) and Tourism Growth Strategy [SA] 2008-2010, (SAT, 2004). These policy initiatives were the basis for tourism change in South Africa, and Pigram & Wahab (2000: 28) have argued that “change is a powerful and positive force which, when harnessed constructively, challenges individual, groups and organisations to perform to their optimum capability.”

2.5 COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

The community should have access to resources. If the park authority shares the resources with the local communities, that is bound to indicate whether they have a good relationship or not with the local communities. If there are already relationships that exist, it could even be extended through this practice. The access to the natural park could be in the form of gaining material to make crafts, firewood, building wood and other artefacts and necessities which are fundamental to human life. It will be from this standpoint that people will be cooperating in sustaining and using the resources in a creative manner for their benefit.

There are different resources found in Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment. The community should have access to those resources. However, they should be taught how to use those resources in a sustainable way for future use. There are very good dead carving trees and Incema reeds found inside the park. There should be arrangements made so that the wood carvers and Incema weavers will have access to use these carving trees and Incema grass in a sustainable way that are not required for tourism development in the park. The traditional healers from the local communities should be allowed to harvest the ‘muthi’ plants in the park but in a very sustainable way [<http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISimangaliso-Wetland-Park>. (2008)].

Notably, since the majority of the local communities do not have electricity, most of them depend and require to be allowed to collect firewood from the park, but this should be subject to prior arrangements having been made with the Isimangaliso authorities. Schoolchildren should also be allowed to learn about different animals and plants. They should also go there for training.

An investigation of Reserve 126 in the St Lucia environment by the Ezemvelo Wildlife, has expressed a viewpoint that the park authorities have adopted two policies that are affecting the protected area neighbours (KZN-NCS, 1995: 26). They are that:

- (a) The fundamental right of locals living adjacent to a proclaimed area are to have access to that area for their specific needs, be it collecting reeds, herbs, fishing and, of course, recreation.
- (b) The local community should earn 25 percent per annum of the revenue collected from the proclaimed area, from the tourist facilities established on the community based area.

These two policies adopted by KZN-NCS (1995: 21) stress the argument above that it is the fundamental responsibility of any nature reserve to establish a good relationship with the neighbouring communities or to contribute towards socio-economic empowerment by giving them access to the park. However, the park authorities should do so in a very systematic and organized way for the sustainability of the resources. For example, where the natural park has trees that were destroyed in the park by lightning, strong winds or other phenomena, then arrangements could be made to give these trees to woodcarvers for their craft-making enterprise. Such a gesture would undoubtedly strengthen the relationship.

2.5.1 Indigenous communities and resources

According to Murat, *et al* (1998) there is evidence that elaborate resource management systems prevailed among indigenous African people before the arrival of European colonists. Traditional institutions such as kings, chiefs, headmen and healers played an important role in regulating and monitoring resource use. An example is the royal hunting preserves of the AmaZulu that

is a procedure or an event which is well-known in southern Africa. The local institutions such as chiefs and headmen played an important ecological role, in setting boundaries that restricted natural resource use and enforced them (Murat, *et al* 1998). The underlying factor is that indigenous people were very conscious of the sustainable management of natural resources, because they relied on them for different purposes. It is from this background that the local people around Isimangaliso Wetland Park should be permitted to use some of the resources found inside the park in a sustainable manner. The resources should be harvested in a proper way. Proper harvesting of the resources in this case refers to observing the relevant season to harvest and not taking roots out so that the plant can grow again.

One of the wood-carver groups has established a project for indigenous tree nursery. The group propagates the trees that they use the most when doing their carvings and craftwork. If they see a dead tree in the forests, they then replace it with a seedling from their nursery to cater for the future generation. This project has succeeded because of cooperation between the local community and the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. In particular, KwaZulu-Natal Ezemvelo Wildlife has helped the wood carvers by teaching them advanced technical ways of propagating plants as well as improving the quality of seedlings. It has been observed that, if the community has the opportunity of getting involved in using the natural resources, it invariably comes up with strategies and ideas of managing those resources more efficiently.

2.5.2 Sustainability of natural resources

The concept of sustainability has come to mean the need to preserve and protect the natural environment. The natural environment is rapidly being destroyed because of over-exploitation. Once the natural resources have declined below a level of viability, they become non-renewable. Over-

exploitation and degradation of natural resources can stem from tourist activities. Tourism and sustainability of resources are interrelated. Lubbe (2003) believes that, in order to implement sustainable development, a careful balance is required between the long-term and short-term goals, and it has to emphasize equity and quality of life rather than the mere quality of output. The concept of duration is highlighted by Butler & Boyd (2000) in their definition which views sustainable development as the process which is developed and maintained in an area in such a manner and on such a scale that it remains viable over an indefinite period and does not degrade or alter the natural environment on which it exists.

In addition to the duration, Hall & Lew (1998) emphasize that social and economic factors are the driving forces in promoting activities that cause cumulative effects. The condition of the environment should be enhanced as a result of careful control being exercised over the local users and tourist access. Solutions may not only lie with improved environmental management, but with changes in economic and social perceptions. Governments in tourist destinations should not be engrossed in the development of economic generating tourism policies, but should also focus on implementing policies designed to sustain the natural resources so that the resources continue to attract tourists over an indefinite period of time.

2.6 MAIN STAKEHOLDERS IN COMMUNITY TOURISM

The Tourism White Paper (DEAT, 1996) has proposed that communities must organise themselves as role players, identify tourism resources, seek financial assistance for tourism development, engage in partnerships, enhance the positive benefits of tourism and promote responsible tourism. On the other hand, Ashley & Roe, (2002) propose that community-based tourism has emerged from three different perspectives, that is, conservation in communal

areas, sustainable local development and tourism development. These three perspectives have progressively led to the emergence of community involvement in tourism. In South Africa it was only after 1994 that community tourism began to emerge as a specific and official approach in the management of tourism development. Community tourism actually came to focus mainly after the publication of the White Paper on tourism (DEAT, 1996). The cooperation between key stakeholders in ecotourism provides benefits for everyone involved in the tourism industry. This kind of benefit can be expected to be rooted in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area policies, that is, if the best practices in tourism were to be put in place.

2.6.1 The government

As suggested in the Tourism White Paper (DEAT, 1996) the government has a major role to play in the development and promotion of the tourism industry. For the tourism industry to flourish, the government must establish a safe and stable political environment, which is one of the indirect demands of the tourist and tourism development. Legally speaking the government in South Africa has a responsibility to facilitate, coordinate, regulate, monitor and develop the promotion of the tourism industry.

A successful tourism industry depends on the construction of partnerships between government, private sector and local communities who play a hosting role to tourists. It is the responsibility of the government to provide a range of infrastructural support, such as land, roads, electricity, water and sewerage disposal facilities, to the industry as a whole. The provision of the infrastructure does not only benefit the tourists, the local communities also benefit in a sense that they make use of the facilities provided. This is fundamentally relevant to the subject matter of this research inquiry.

Seaton & Bennet (1996) believe that worldwide governments play an important role in land ownership, development and management of tourism. Through the government policies community tourism can become a sustainable phenomenon, even in places such as the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.

2.6.2 The parastatal organisations

In some countries parastatal organisations and the voluntary non-profit-making organisations has become a major stakeholder in tourism development and promotion. The perceived responsibilities of the parastatal organisations are to facilitate, coordinate, regulate and monitor the development and promotion of the tourism industry. As suggested in the Tourism White Paper (DEAT, 1996:57) these organisations have the following functions:

- (a) To develop policies and plans for tourism industry, which bind the government, local communities and private sector
- (b) To assist the community and community related groups in organising themselves, preparing them to implement tourism projects
- (c) To educate, train, facilitate and bridge community on the content of the Tourism White Paper and related legislation
- (d) To assist the government by conducting tourism and environmental awareness programmes for the tourism industry.

The above-mentioned functions are rendered by the parastatal organisations and the voluntary non-profit-making organisations to develop, spread and facilitate the development of tourism. The parastatal organisations also assist the local community by attracting donor agencies to boost the projects that

are developed by the community. A good example is that of woodcarvers in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment.

The parastatal organisations also help the local community by providing the skills such as starting a community project or cultural village, bookkeeping, management procedures and project development cycle. These management techniques are vitally important and needed by the various components of the Isimangaliso parastatal organisations.

2.6.3 The local community

It has been generally stated and agreed that local communities in many a tourist destination, are the people who enjoy or suffer the main impact of tourism. Tourism should involve and allow local communities to participate in tourism development programmes and ensure that they are given a fair opportunity to compare (De Kadt, 1979). As the tourism industry depends greatly on the goodwill and cooperation of host communities, there is no amount of attraction that can compensate for rudeness or hostility that the tourist can experience from host communities. In order to develop this goodwill, host communities need to be involved in the tourism development decision-making process in relation to tourism development. The community must be able to identify tangible benefits from the arrival of tourist in their destination or environment. The situation becomes worse if the local community had been forcefully removed from the study area, as was the case with the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment.

Local communities must practise responsible tourism so as to attain tourism sustainability. The main objective of responsible tourism is to bring the benefit to all stakeholders of tourism, such as the tourist, the local community and the private sector, without causing any damage that can affect those

involved in tourism. It is evident that tourism developers and promoters should consider the interests of all parties involved in developing and marketing of tourism destinations (Bennett, 2002). This is a kind of practice that is highly desirable in the study area.

The Tourism White Paper (DEAT, 1996) and (Bennett, 2002) have proposed the following guidelines that can be used to encourage community involvement in the tourism industry:

- a) Communities must be encouraged to participate in land-use planning, and rural development around the nature reserves.
- b) Communities should be made to respect tourism facilities, take advantage of tourism and be encouraged to share tourist resources and amenities.
- c) Tourism planning must be based on the goals that are identified by local residents so that it can maintain the lifestyle, keep the development within the caring capacity and balance the change pace with local desire.
- d) The local communities should oppose any development that is harmful to the local environment.
- e) Encourage broad-based involvement in tourism events, as it is the homes of local residents, which are being put on display.
- f) Communities must seek partnership opportunities with the established tourism private sector.

The involvement of local communities in tourism can lead to community development and awareness of the value associated with tourism. This involvement is an important benefit because it accommodates the interests and needs of the local community. Furthermore, involvement also encourages local communities to practise and participate in tourism as

tourists. The value of tourism would be better understood if the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area communities also made an effort to visit other destinations similar to theirs.

2.6.4 The private sector

There is no business that can function successfully without capital. Therefore the private sector is also in the development of community tourism because most of the time the local communities lack capital. The private sector plays a crucial role in the development and promotion of community tourism. In terms of the White Paper on Tourism (DEAT, 1996) the sector provides amenities that seek to enhance tourism satisfaction among the tourists. The delivery of quality tourism services and giving the customer value for money are largely private sector responsibilities. The functions performed by the private sector are put forward by the White Paper on tourism (DEAT, 1996) but only a few are mentioned here:

- a) The private sector must involve local community in tourism industry through establishing partnership ventures with communities outsourcing purchase of goods and services from local communities.
- b) It must develop and promote socially and environmentally responsible tourism.
- c) It must enable local communities to benefit from tourism development for example local communities' benefits directly new reticulations and village electrification programmes developed through tourism investments in rural areas.
- d) It must advertise and promote individual services as well as the country, local, regionally and internationally. Private sector must operate according to standards.

In essence, the role of the private sector in community tourism can be seen as a twofold process: to be involved as a donor or as profit making agent. It is important to note that the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment need more assistance from the private sector as it cannot expect extensive profits from the local community.

2.7 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN TOURISM ACTIVITIES

It is an acceptable principle and truth that communities next to natural resources need to be part of and identify potential tourism resources and attractions in the local environment (DEAT, 1996). Gone are the days when communities could expect things to be done for them by outsiders. The idea of participating in tourism activities provides a direct and authentic experience for local communities to engage and host tourists in the local environment. Participation can ensure effective utilisation of available natural resources. In this regard, the local people can take responsibility for various activities. All these improve efficiency and make the participatory projects more cost-effective (George, 2001): Based on the above statement the topic of participation in this research study is explored through looking at recreation participation of local communities, and community environmental awareness. Community and participation in activities is an important focus of this research.

2.7.1 Development and improvement of infrastructure

The community has to participate in the development and improvement of the infrastructure. Fundamentally, the government and park authorities have a duty to develop and improve the infrastructure such as roads, electricity and sewage systems. But the community must not be left out of the development processes.

With a developed infrastructure major events held within and near the natural resource area would easily be linked to other recreation and tourism facilities, where the visitors could see more of South Africa, and particularly KwaZulu-Natal and more specifically the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment. The staging of major events has important promotional and developmental opportunities for small communities such as those found in the Dukuduku Environment.

2.7.2 Promotion of environmental management

Policies and legislation governing the nature reserves and the tourism industry should encourage environmental management and stewardship. A well-managed tourism industry has the potential to contribute to gross domestic product of a particular Province, as well as South Africa's natural economy. In order for such promotions to succeed, the participation of the local community is very important. This participation would also lead to good environmental management leading to sustainable and responsible tourism in the study area.

The tourism activities associated with the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment can create new services and drive other sectors of the economy, e.g. subsistence agriculture could flourish and benefit the local community. Tourism can also strengthen the community through its generation of foreign exchange from eco-tourism spin-offs, thereby creating employment opportunities. Finally, tourism creates opportunities for the community-based small entrepreneurs, who in turn would promote conservation awareness and understanding.

In the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Environment, the promotion of environmental management could expose the local communities to opportunities to create tourism businesses such as:

- (a) Bed and Breakfast establishments or guesthouses.
- (b) Woodcarving and various arts and crafts.
- (c) Ethnic restaurant or tavern.
- (d) Cultural village.
- (e) Tour operating business
- (f) Tour guiding service and community conservation area.

2.7.3 Reduction of the crime rate

Some writers have asserted (Spira, 1996; Bruce, 1997; George, 2001) that the origin or source of tourism crime and lack of safety and security come from within the local communities themselves. Thus it is imperative for the local community to participate in the development of strategies to combat tourism crime. Fundamentally, the government and park authorities must initiate and institute effective crime prevention strategies, as well as introduce serious punitive measures against criminals who tarnish the image of South Africa as a safe tourist destination. Communities themselves must report criminal cases to the police so that the culprits can be apprehended. According to criminal statistical records, crimes that have occurred in the Isimangaliso Park vicinity are well reported and cannot be allowed to go unnoticed. Some aspects of tourism crime and the issues of safety and security are relevant to the context of this research investigation.

2.7.4 Provision of Training

The South African constitution does recognise the right of access to education and training, and the government bears the main responsibility for providing this service. The duty of the government is, among others, to improve the educational qualifications in local communities, as such an excellent service could be offered to the tourists. The training offered should not only be restricted to nature conservation matters but also include courses

and in-service training deals with: accommodation such as Bed and Breakfast establishments or guesthouses; woodcarving techniques and some arts and crafts skills; managing a cultural village as well as tour guiding and tour operating businesses.

2.8 TOURISM BENEFITS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The involvement of local communities in tourism activities not only benefits the community and the environment but also improves the quality of the tourist's experience. Local communities can become involved in ecotourism operations, and in the provision of knowledge, services, facilities and products. The benefits should outweigh the cost of ecotourism to the host community and the environment. Ecotourism can also generate income for resource conservation management in addition to offering social and cultural benefits. The contribution may be financial with part of the cost of the tour helping to subsidise conservation projects. Alternatively it could consist of practical help in the field with the tourist being involved in environmental data collection and analysis (Page and Dowling, 2002).

The establishment and introduction of the Dukuduku Settlement Area community was aimed at facilitating a conciliatory provision of residence, since forced removals of yesteryear. The establishment also seeks providing an equitable distribution of tourism benefits from the Dukuduku Forest Reserve. These benefits are expected to play a meaningful role in the betterment of lives of the people living near the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area. Such expectations will become possible through the implementation of development policies and formalising a memorandum of understanding between the authorities and communities. These legal

documents stipulate the procedures on how people should go about utilising or establishing tourism facilities for their own benefit.

There are some individuals involved in selling of local artefacts to tourists around the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, The local communities are now able to come into contact with tourists. Though this contact is still minimal, in a matter of time, local people are going to benefit even more through this contact with tourists. Some members of the Dukuduku Settlement community have already started benefiting from such a venture. These ventures refer to individual who are selling crafts, performing cultural activities and other benefits they get through tourism.

2.8.1 Economic and financial benefits

Among several studies that have advocated a viable relationship between tourism development and community benefits, the most prominent are those that have emphasized economic and financial benefits (Mahony & van Zyl, 2002; Ashley & Jones, 2001; Roe *et al*, 2001). In other words, local community benefits derived from the tourism industry ought to enhance general community development. According to Mahony & van Zyl (2002), there seems to be fewer direct tourism employment benefits from tourism development projects. There are indications that to a large extent, the local small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) are generally given project contracts on a commercial basis. To ensure that the local community is able to take up such SMME opportunities, various technical training programmes have been initiated. What has been reported by writers cited above is there has been collective economic benefit from the revenue generated from hunting and other tourist visits. The assessment also revealed that the community is given opportunities to participate economically, though the control of assets is shared with the South African National Parks authorities.

There is a great possibility that the findings associated with the economic and financial initiatives can suggest more or less the same results for the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. Understandably the findings on these initiatives would facilitate the acceptance or rejection of the hypotheses postulated in chapter one of this research study.

2.8.2 Non-economic and non-financial benefits

It would be good to cite Mahony & Van Zyl (2002) who argue that the non-economic and non-financial developmental benefits worthy of consideration included the following: (a) The extent of capacity building and training within the community; (b) the extent to which the local community is involved in decision-making, (c) the social and cultural impacts of the initiative; and (d) the types and applicability of policies and strategies that are in place to direct progress in community development.

Furthermore, Mahony and Van Zyl (2002) argue that government views capacity building and skills development, as the key elements of local community benefit. The analysis of tourism activities and projects have indicates that, they translate as benefits to some staff members and local communities through these non-economic elements. There are also indications that the local communities benefit by participation in decision-making and management of the nature reserve.

2.8.3 Personal benefits

The recorded outcomes from participating in tourism activities that operate at an individual level may be termed personal. They include personal skills development, enjoyment and all the other experiential components of participation. Tourism's personal or experiential benefits include excitement

and relaxation, escape from an intimate association with other people, environment appreciation, learning and testing competence, tranquillity and stimulation (Lieber & Fesenmaier, 1983).

Further, from these experiences are more long-term benefits such as self-enhancement through improved mental health, the development of self-reliance and competence, inaugurating and building relationships of trust and communication and a renewal in both mind and body. Personal benefits include both the immediate experience and the developmental consequences for the self that endures, at least for a limited time (Lieber & Fesenmaier, 1983).

2.8.4 Societal benefits

The concept ‘society’ for purposes of this research study may be regarded as equivalent to ‘community’. Hence, outcomes from participating in tourism activities that are related to society or social groups or collectives may be termed societal and thus also imply being communal. First of all, societal or communal benefits refer to the support and enhancement of intimate communities, those family and friendship groups that share a spatial habitat and common lifestyle. However, there are other kinds of societal benefits as well, including possible contributions to the development of larger communities and a higher level of public health. Such benefits may also be long-term, for example, as supporting conservation on an ecological basis for human life and contributing to the basis for social cohesion [<http://www.psychclassics.yorku.ca/Maslow/motivation.htm>. (2008)]. Without doubt the White Paper on tourism was correct in describing ‘sustainable tourism development’ as tourism development or management of any other tourism activity which optimise the economic and other societal benefits available in the present without jeopardising the potential for similar benefits in the future.

2.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter has attempted to review literature that it related to the study topic, which addresses the community benefits and importance of ecotourism development. In this regard, ecotourism development and community related benefits have highlighted. Development has never been defined in a globally acceptable manner. It refers broadly speaking to desirable social and economic progress, which people can achieve using different approaches. Development can in some instances mean the improvement in living conditions, for which economic growth and industrialisation may seen as essential. However, if there is no intention to the quality of growth and social change, one cannot speak of development. (Burns & Holden, 1995)

In another context, this chapter has attempted examine principles related to tourism understanding, provision, policies and practices. The presentation of these principles is both from the local and international perspectives, such as tourism community relationship as well as the emerging dichotomies of conservation versus commercialisation. Most of the relevant literary sources have expressed the need for community involvement and participation in various tourism activities. The returns that benefit the local communities usually rest on the mutual understanding between two parties: the community and tourism authorities or institutions. The emerging benefits would normally result in workable collaboration, which ensures that the tourism venture in an area would run smoothly.

It is therefore important that the local communities participate in all aspects of tourism development. They should be able to utilise the resources, found in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, in a sustainable manner. If the

utilisation is sustainable enough, then the community could even go to the extent of forging relationships that would result in the co-management of the natural resource, as could happen in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area.

CHAPTER 3

PHYSICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

By its character and nature, research may be approached from a theoretical perspective as well as from a practical and reality perspective. In this regard, the researcher thought it wise to include a chapter on the *physical setting of the study area*, with a view of introducing an element of reality in the research investigation (Magi, 2007). In science, the view associated with empirical evidence, is based on the belief that the evidence of what is observed in the physical environment stands to be more reliable than phenomena described in the theoretical realm (Magi, 2007). There are common characteristics identifiable about most tourism features which attract people to tourist destinations, such as the study area. It can therefore be argued that the greatest difficulty for research in the realm of tourism and recreation, particularly in South Africa, is the scarcity of current and relevant research information and data about a specific locality (Magi, 2007). Consequently, this research study and chapter sought to accentuates the type of research technique that would easily analyse the practical and reality elements of this study.

The main aim of this chapter is, therefore to discuss the physical setting of the study area, with a view of painting the scene for the analysis and interpretation of data presented in the next chapter. In this chapter, emphasis is placed on the following topics: the historical and physical overview of the area, settlement

patterns, physiography and climate, as well as socio-economic and cultural activities in the study area.

3.2 RELATED HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

The history of the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and related settlement areas, have a long and torrid past surrounded by continual conflict, disputes and misunderstandings. In addition, the history of Dukuduku Forest is closely associated with the historical development of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, formerly known as the Greater St. Lucia Wetland. The Wetland Park is Africa's oldest and largest nature reserve, which also has acquired the World Heritage Site standing.

Originally iSimangaliso Wetland Park was occupied and owned by the Sokhulu and Mbuyaze clans of the Zulu Nation. Later the Ncube tribe have also claimed historical ownership of land in the Dukuduku Forest Area. In the 1700s the attention of the European people began to focus on the economic and conservation importance and viability of the area. The Dukuduku Forest falls within an area that remained under indigenous traditional authority until the British annexed it in 1887. Later in 1897, the area [the present iSimangaliso Wetland Park] was annexed as the Colony of Natal and designated a Game Reserve. From 1935 to 2000, a variety of legislative acts were promulgated as an attempt to protect the park and Dukuduku Forest, as well as secure the biodiversity and conservation of the natural qualities and attributes of these natural area. Some these include: the Water Act No.54 of 1956; the Natal Nature Conservation Ordinance No.15 of 1974, (refers to National Park, St. Lucia Game Reserve and St. Lucia Park); the Forest Act No.122 of 1984; the Ramsar sites of 1986; the Environment

Conservation Act No.73 of 1989; the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act No.9 of 1997; and the World Heritage Site status of 2000 [<http://www.eoearth.org/article/GreaterStLuciaWetlandPark.SouthAfrica>. (2008)].

It is interesting that with the categorisation of land in Zululand as “Crown” land resulted in indigenous people becoming “squatters” on their own land. Dukuduku has been characterised by forced removals, and by 1998, various governments had relocated people living in the Dukuduku forest area at least four times over the century for a diverse set of land use purposes mentioned above. Despite these removals, many people remained or returned to the forest area. The passing of the Restitution legislation in 1994 provided an opportunity to those dispossessed to claim back their land. The original inhabitants of the Dukuduku forest area lodged a restitution claim in 1998. Despite the lodging of a claim, the claimants have faced continued harassment by the state for their decision to remain in the forest whilst this claim is investigated and resolved. The state continues to allege that the occupants in the forest are there illegally and there is a strong lobby from the state (particularly the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry) to ensure any settlement of their claim does not include the option of residing in the forest [[http://www.afra.co.za/dukudukuforest community/](http://www.afra.co.za/dukudukuforestcommunity/) htm. (2009)]. It was not until 2000 that the forest was incorporated into the iSimangaliso Wetland Park area, which is now a World Heritage Site.

3.3 PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF DUKUDUKU FOREST AND SETTLEMENTS

The physical layout of the study area, the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, which consist of Dukuduku Settlement, Ezwenelisha Village and Khula

Village. All these environmental, natural and settlement centres are described in this section in some detail. It is anticipated that the location maps [Figures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3] will give the reader an idea of the relative position of the study area.

It is important to state that the conflict for land and residential rights in the Dukuduku Area has been a see-saw legal event. In 2002 the Regional Land Claims Commissioner chose to dismiss the claim of the Dukuduku Community on some legal grounds. The community sought legal opinion and challenged this decision in the Land Claims Court. In May 2003 the presiding judge in the Land Claims Court overturned the Commissioner's decision and instructed the Commission to gazette the claim as valid. This has presented the people of Dukuduku with a better opportunity to be part of deliberations aimed at deciding their land claim. [<http://www.afra.co.za/dukudukuforestcommunity/htm>. (2009)].

3.3.1 Location of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park

As mentioned earlier the location of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park has a strong influence on the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, particularly considering that the Dukuduku Forest Reserve was proclaimed as part of the Wetland Park. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park starts from the east of Mbonambi town and stretches down to the east of N2 road to the Kosi Bay until the borders of Mozambique [Refer to Figure 3.1 & 3.2]. It is situated in the Umkhanyakude District Municipality. The main study area is around the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, which use and regard the Mtubatuba Local Municipality as their centre for administrative operations. It is important to note that the iSimangaliso Wetland Park is characterised by unique environmental and location features, which are later referred later [See Figure 3.1 and 3.2].

[illegible]

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In the context of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, were declared as a conservation area, therefore the Dukuduku Forest people were given an alternative places of residence in the Dukuduku Settlement Area, Ezwenelisha Village and Khula Village. Other people have stubbornly remained in Dukuduku when others moved to the two villages as well as in the Dukuduku Settlement Area. In 2008 the government has allowed those Dukuduku people to stay in the Ezwenelisha Village, which is also known as Dukuduku Settlement, on a permanent basis [<http://www.afra.co.za/upload/files/AP16a.pdf> . (2009)].

The government decision on resettlement was based on the 2007 decision of the Land Claims Commission, which re-gazetted the land claim in favour of the people of Dukuduku. Gazette notices have since been issued to parties affected by the claim for them to respond, and thereafter settlement negotiations between parties concerned will ensue to determine a settlement agreement and the implementation process. In this regard, continued occupation of the forest and any settlement of the restitution claim will certainly be weighed up against both environmental and economic development plans for this area.

Regarding the historical development of the villages of Ezwenelisha and Khula, which are housing or sheltering the spill-over of residents from the Dukuduku Settlement Area, which are relatively near the Town of St Lucia. It can be restated that these residential areas are places of protest, and politically charged. While many of the voices are concerned about the environment and economy of the area, the dispossession of land and severe limitations of access to natural resources that occurred for indigenous people in the area, sits at the heart of the unresolved land dispute.

FIGURE 3.2 LOCATION OF DUKUDUKU FOREST RESERVE
AND THE STLLEMENT AREAS

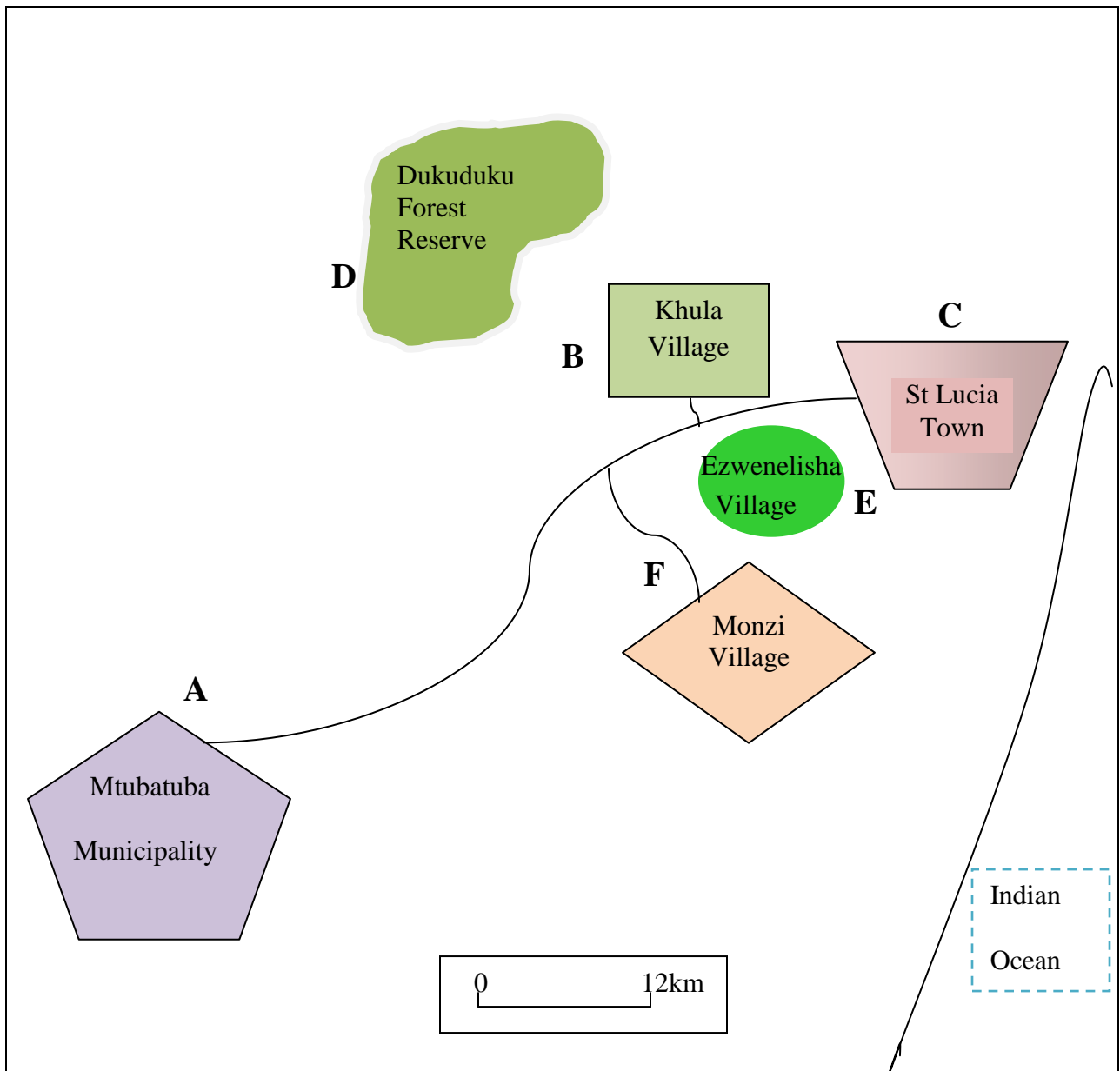
3.3.2 The Dukuduku Forest Reserve

According to Van Wyk, *et al.* (1996) the Dukuduku indigenous forest is classified as the subtropical forest, which is further categorised into the dune, coastal lowland and swamp forest. The Dukuduku Forest is regarded as the largest and best preserved coastal lowland forest in South Africa. It covers approximately an area of 3,500 hectares, which makes up about 40% of the present coastal lowland forests. The Dukuduku Forest is situated on the northern banks of the Umfolozi River floodplain. The natural vegetation surrounding the forest has been cleared for sugar cane plantations. These plantations are on land which has been allocated to White farmers, thus making the local tribal communities to invade the remaining indigenous forest for their survival and subsistence agricultural needs.

As mentioned earlier the Dukuduku Forest [Refer to Figure 3.2] lies at the entrance to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and the whole area has been earmarked for the development of eco-tourism, which is the anchor project for regional development of northern KwaZulu-Natal. The Dukuduku Forest has been part of the Wetland Park, but its occupation by illegal squatters has led to its exclusion as part of a World Heritage Site. The Dukuduku Forest area is richly endowed with dense lowland forests and is regarded as a protected indigenous area but a large part of it has been rapidly degraded over the years by the illegal invasions and squatter settlements,

As indicated earlier the villages which have started to accommodate the forest invaders include: the Dukuduku Settlement Area, Ezwenelisha Village and Khula Village. The road from Mtubatuba to St. Lucia (R618) is the central portion of the study area [Refer to Figure 3.2 and 3.3].

**FIGURE 3.3 RELATIVE LOCATION OF DUKUDUKU FOREST AND
THE SETTLEMENT AREAS**



Over the years the Dukuduku Forest has decreased from 10,000 hectares in the early 1990s to about 3,500 hectares in the early 2000s. In the 1980s and 1990s the some farms belonging to Whites, adjacent to the Dukuduku Forest, were earmarked for purchase and settlement of the Dukuduku Forest people. For example, in the south west of the forest two farms, the Sturwig and Spurwig

farms were bought for the resettlement project. The resettlement of Dukuduku residents to these farms may have dealt a heavy blow to some farmers, because some they were of the view that such a move was contravening their rights by putting a squatter camp at the doorstep of their farms [[http://www. zulu-kingdom.co.za/2005/KZN-municipalities/mtubatuba%20 rev. html](http://www.zulu-kingdom.co.za/2005/KZN-municipalities/mtubatuba%20revi.html). (2005); [http://www.afra.co.za/ upload/files/AP16a.pdf](http://www.afra.co.za/upload/files/AP16a.pdf) . (2008).

With the new democratic government in 1998 attempting to resolve the Dukuduku settlement problem, the authorities had argued for the benefit of accepting the resettlement plan. Responding to a question on how the community would benefit from the project; the Director in the Department of Water Affairs mentioned the following [<http://www.mtuba4u.co.za/galleries/default.htm>. (2008)]:

- Jobs were to be created during the actual housing construction phase and rehabilitation of the Dukuduku Forest.
- Sustainable development was to be maintained by setting aside agricultural land as well as grazing land.
- The existing sugar cane farm was to be portioned for settlement as well as sugar cane farming.
- The community will have 100% share ownership of all proceeds generated by sugar cane from the two purchased farms.
- The community and Government will jointly manage the forest as per provision of the new Forest Act.
- Profits generated from the forest will be split evenly with Government taking 50% and the community the other 50%.

- Government's share will be used for the maintenance of any profits generating activity whilst the community's share would be used by the community for its own benefit.
- All job opportunities that arise in the forest will be given to the community and the community will continue to have access to the forest.
- Responding to a question on how to ensure maximum tourist attraction to Dukuduku, Dr Mjwara, the then Director in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry said the issue of Dukuduku was attracting a lot of attention in the international arena and once settled, Dukuduku would become a major tourist destination.

The community benefits listed above are important to stimulate participation in sustainable tourism development in the study area. Also associated with such political annunciations are setting up social systems, which would be good for tourism development. Some of the topics worth discussing in this section include: education, agriculture, infrastructure and visitor facilities in the area. The aim of discussing these topics is to bring into focus the spatial elements of education and other aspects, so as to contribute to tourism development. Understandably, the development of the area plays an important role in the participation of the community in tourism activities.

3.3.3 Location of Ezwenelisha Village

The Ezwenelisha Village (Figure 3.3) came about because of the relocation or resettlement of Dukuduku Forest dwellers in the formals villages. Thus the Ezwenelisha Village is a relatively new settlement area or village forming part

of a newly planned settlement. It is important to note that as shown in Figure 3.3, Ezwenelisha Village [E] is an outlying rural area that is located approximately some 10 to 15 kilometres southwest of St Lucia Town [C]. Ezwenelisha Village has acquired its inhabitants from the Dukuduku Settlement Area. The village has basic yet somewhat adequate infrastructure, such as water reticulation, electricity, tarred roads and socio-cultural facilities. Some of residential structures built are rudimentary and are in the process of being built on strict planning and building principles. Many of the residents are mainly employed through carving, craft-making and sculpturing. The products are sold along the main road to St Lucia Town.

The residents of Ezwenelisha Village have small subsistence gardens for their food requirements as well as for selling in the street market or street-vending. The Ezwenelisha area is situated in a beautiful subtropical area, well-endowed with wild indigenous trees as well as fruit trees (mango, paw-paw, avocado, granadilla and banana). It is also rich in sugar cane, which is not exploited on a large scale.

3.3.4 Location of Khula Village

The Khula Village (Figure 3.3) is a township located towards the west of the Town of St Lucia, falling within the jurisdiction of the Mtubatuba Local Municipality. The main village [B] is, therefore, located approximately 12 kilometres from the Town of St Lucia and the St Lucia Estuary. The residents of Khula Village are part and parcel of the physical environment and tourism facilities and activities to be found in the study area [Refer to Figure 3.3] [<http://www.mtuba4u.co.za/galleries/default.htm>. (2008)].

Khula Village [B] is a ‘township’ predominantly occupied by rural communities directly linked with the people who were removed from parts of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The Khula Village has approximately 3600 inhabitants and is semi-rural. The spatial distribution of these semi-rural households ranges from 50 metres to about 100 metres. Shown in Figure 3.3, is the Town of Mtubatuba [A] which is the main administrative centre of Khula Village [B], Ezwen’elisha [E] and St Lucia Town [C]. Prior to the new democratic order of 1994, Khula Village did not have an adequate infrastructure, such as water reticulation, electricity, tarred roads and socio-cultural facilities. Some of the residents of Khula village are employed in the town of St Lucia [C], working in homes, restaurants, lodges and shops. Several of the residents are either owners of small time craftwork (hawking) or employed by the well-off sector of this region [<http://www.openafrica.org/route/southern-route.htm>. (2008)].

Apart from working for businesses in town, some Khula Village residents are in the business of selling craftwork on the side of the road going to St Lucia, or at the market area at St Lucia, which is patronised by domestic and international tourists. The Khula Village community is therefore dependent on tourism activities for their household income.

3.3.5 Eviction and Resettlements

The Dukuduku Forest has been at the centre of evictions and resettlements in recent history. The entire area of iSimangaliso Wetland Park has been from colonial times gripped by the negative history of evictions and resettlements. To a certain extent this history has impacted on the practising of conservation in the

natural areas around the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and the Dukuduku Forest Reserve. Some of the people living in the surrounding area: Ezwenelisha Village, Khula Village and Monzi Village, hope that their problems about evictions and re-settlements would be revisited and be offered some compensation.

By 1932 and 1955 evictions were from traditionally settled areas for tree planting by the government. In both these occasions no resistance was offered by the local community. In 1974, the eviction of people living in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve was to establish a plantation. Finally, in 1994 the army forcefully moved people from the Dukuduku Forest to the Dukuduku Settlement Area, Khula Village and Ezwenelisha Village. The reason behind the eviction was to establish a conservation area since government had realised that the area had potential for such a scheme [AFRA, 2002; <http://www.afra.co.za/upload/files/AP16a.pdf> . (2009)].

With the coming of democracy in South Africa, the evictions and settlement problems are being gradually and successfully addressed. As such, there are prospects that the people of Khula Village and Ezwenelisha Village, hope that the problems about evictions and re-settlements would be revisited and settled. If this were to happen then the people of Khula and Ezwenelisha, would be willing to support the tourism programmes offered by the iSimangaliso Wetland Park [AFRA, 2002; <http://www.afra.co.za/upload/files/AP16a.pdf> . (2009)].

3.4 THE HISTORY OF DEKUDUKU FOREST

The South African indigenous history points that Dukuduku Natural Forest dates back from the days of King Shaka. Historical arguments are abound that the history of Dukuduku Forest, came into prominence from the Shakan period,

when the place was inhabited by small tribes, and since then it has provided food, building materials and shelter for cattle. There are two meanings of the word “dukuduku” that have been offered: It has been said to mean the sound of heartbeat of an excited or scared person. Secondly, it has been associated with the word “duku” which suggest “a place where you can disappear”. Apparently during the reign of King Shaka people often were forced to hide in the forest for various reasons (DWARF, 1999). The forest was regarded as sanctuary for both men and cattle during the Zulu succession struggle following the death of King Cetshwayo in 1884.

In 1897 Dukuduku Forest area was annexed as a state land to the Colony of Natal. People continued to live in the area known as the Eastern Shores and were forcibly removed in the mid 1950s after the area was declared a state forest. The Mail and Guardian (1998), has highlighted that when the forest was declared state property in 1956 it covered 10,125 hectares today it is much smaller.

By 1964 the indigenous portions were nearly halved. The people who lived alongside the forest were the Ncube clan who were eventually squeezed into smaller areas. In the 1980s the Ncube clan was virtually forced to invade the State Forest since it was taken from them without compensation. The population within the forest grew rapidly as a result the Nationalist government took steps to remedy the situation by simply removing them. In the 1980s and 1990s the conservationists started to raise their concern over the forest as more and more people settled in the Dukuduku Forest (Zululand Observer, 2001). Early plans to resettle the illegal dwellers on the land near Monzi were met by a protest from white farmers in that area and as a result the plans were abandoned.

The illegal dwellers were asked to leave the area since it formed part of a protected area but they resisted and claimed ownership of the forestland (Sunday Times, 16 May, 1999).

In July 1990 Dukuduku Forest hit the headlines when six men were convicted for illegal squatting. Among these men was Caiphus Mkhwanazi, who is now the leader of Dukuduku North community. Mr. Mkhwanazi claimed that his ancestors' bones were buried in the forest and therefore he had a right to live there. All convicted men were given a R1000.00 suspended fine each and asked to leave the forest by August 1990. In 1991 the then Department of Planning and Provincial Affairs resettled forest dwellers at the Khula Village bordering the forest. After protracted and volatile negotiations about 560 families moved out of the forest but some families refused and stayed behind [Refer to Figure 3.2]. This move resulted in two communities; the legal settlement on the northern edge of the forest with proper houses, electricity, schools, crèches and a clinic, and the illegal dwellers still living in Dukuduku Forest.

In the period 2000 to 2008 there has been cooperation between the government and the Dukuduku Forest communities, towards finding some resettlement solutions or programmes. Fundamentally the squatters have been moved from the Dukuduku Forest Reserve to the Dukuduku Settlement Area and the finally to villages such as Ezwenelisha Village and the Dukuduku Settlement Area, Khula Village. In 2009 plans are being made to move 750 families from the Dukuduku Settlement Area and resettle them in Ezwenelisha Village. It is also proposed to move 3050 families from the Dukuduku Settlement Area to the area 20 kilometres north-west of the Dukuduku Settlement Area. This study, among other things, seeks to investigate the stakeholders' feelings about the provision

of nature-based tourism facilities and the existence of policies relating to establishing employment opportunities in the study area.

3.5 THE PHYSIOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The environment of the study area, the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, is characterised by a variety of physical and climatic attributes which give the forest and settlement area a unique character. These unique physiographic characteristics enabled the forest area and related natural areas to attract tourists and achieve world popularity. The attributes of the physical environment around the study area are discussed under the following headings: physiography and general climate.

3.5.1 Physiography

The landscape of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area is dominated by the undulating dunes of the KwaZulu-Natal coastal system, consisting of waterways and coastal forests. It comprises tall-vegetated coastal dunes, which are regarded as among the tallest in the world. The geomorphology of the area relatively flat and of typically weathered sandstone in dune-formation, delineate towards the north to floodplains. The altitude in the area ranges from 10-170 metres above sea level at the Town of St Lucia. Typically, the area is full of wetlands that are adjacent to Dukuduku indigenous forest. There are also grass and wetland reeds, therefore these form a natural habitat for hippos which are abundant in the area [<http://www.southafrica.info/stlucia.htm>.(2008)].

Typical rock formations in the area comprise cretaceous sedimentary rocks of the St. Lucia formation, which is known for its richness in fossil remains. The Dukuduku Forest is a mixed, subtropical climax community. Some of the

subtropical plants species removed from clearings are endemic to Dukuduku Forest, as a result they have become extinct, consequently resulting in the forest's potential as a tourist resource being badly damaged [<http://www.eoearth.org/article/GreaterStLuciaWetlandPark.South Africa>. (2008)].

The Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area are washed and influenced by the Mfolozi and Msunduze rivers, which enter the sea together close to the mouth of Lake St. Lucia. These rivers are seasonal, flowing during the wet summer months and reduced to isolated pools and seepage through bed sediments in winter. All these rivers are responsible for the moderately dense vegetation cover of the wetland. In many places the waterways are shaded by forest and shrub vegetation [KZN-NCS, 1999; [<http://www.eoearth.org/article/GreaterStLuciaWetlandPark.South Africa> (2008)]].

3.5.2 General climate

The climatic conditions of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area are important in determining whether climate as a factor has any influence on the tourism activities within the study area. The influence would occur because climatic conditions impose one of the most unyielding constraints, where outdoor activities are concerned. The rhythms of the seasons affect both the hours of daylight and the extent to which temperatures are conducive to participant comfort in the outdoors (Patmore, 1983).

The Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area are under the influence of the warm Mozambique current which causes climatic variations which are characterised by hot summers and moderate winters. The mean daily maximum temperatures around the Forest and Settlement Area, are 26°C in January and 21°C in July.

Mean daily minimum is 19°C in January and 9°C in July, with extremes falling to 8°C and 3°C respectively. The climatic conditions in this area make it more attractive in summer than in winter months. The attraction is mainly due to the vegetation which offers a scenic view and game is found in abundance in summer as compared to winter months when most animals hibernate [KZN-NCS, 1995; <http://www.eoearth.org/article/GreaterStLuciaWetlandPark.SouthAfrica>, 2008].

The subtropical zone dominating the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area has warm, moist summers and mild dry winters. The warm temperatures are responsible for the perennial rains that wash the study area. The mean annual rainfall in this study area is about 1250 millimetres (mm) and the rainy season falls between November and March. At the coast it varies from 1200 to 1300 millimetres (mm) per annum with 60% of the rain falling in summer. Hence, the vegetation in the area is always green because of the abundant water. Evaporation rates are high and large-scale flooding common [<http://www.eoearth.org/article/GreaterStLuciaWetlandPark.RSA> (2008)].

3.6 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES

Based on the proposition of the Director of Water Affairs and Forestry regarding the natural and socio-economic benefits for the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, it is worth reiterating some of these attributes. The benefits are associated with local resource development for the local communities, the creation of jobs and alleviation of poverty. The Director listed some of the following attributes, [<http://www.mtuba4u.co.za/galleries/default.htm>. (2008)]:

- The community will have 100% share ownership of all proceeds generated by sugar cane from the two purchased farms.
- The community and Government will jointly manage the forest as per provision of the new Forest Act.
- Profits generated from the forest will be split evenly with Government taking 50% and the community the other 50%.
- All job opportunities that arise in the forest will be given to the community and the community will continue to have access to the forest.

It was anticipated that the Forest Reserve would be sustainably managed so as to maintain its ecological integrity and biodiversity.

3.6.1 Agriculture

Without doubt agriculture is the mainstay of human activities in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area. It was indicated earlier in this chapter that the soils in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, are relatively fertile and could maintain planting a commercial crop as well as a vegetable garden. Notwithstanding this benefit, the people of Dukuduku Settlement Area, Ezwenelisha Village and Khula Village, are not enthusiastic or proficient vegetable growers. There are two vegetable gardens and an orchard at Khula Village. Poultry is also kept, bee-farming and indigenous tree-planting projects operate in some of the villages. All these projects are facilitated by KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, SiyaQhubeka Forests (Pty) Ltd.

3.6.2 Infrastructure

On the whole, existing infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, health facilities, transportation and water reticulation, in the Dukuduku Settlement Area,

Ezwenelisha Village and Khula Village are found in the developed municipal areas. There is only the main road which is tarred from Mtubatuba to St. Lucia Town that goes between Khula Village and Ezwen'elisha Village. There are also access gravel roads that lead to the three villages. There are no health clinics at these villages; instead there are mobile clinics that come on certain days of the week from Mtubatuba. The mobile clinic uses an old building in the areas.

The three villages in the study area do not have adequate recreation and tourism facilities for their inhabitants, let alone for tourists. What was observed is that there were a few informal soccer grounds that are very small in size when compared to ordinary official-size soccer grounds. There are no official soccer grounds and most of the existing grounds are soil-covered, none have a lawn or grass finish. Soccer is the most popular sport, yet it is poorly provided for. [AFRA, 2008; <http://www.southafrica.info/stlucia.htm>. (2007)]

3.6.3 Cultural Activities

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is known world-wide for its World Heritage Site status and the nature and recreation activities and facilities offered in the area. It is this status and the attributes that are also responsible for many tourists visiting the area and the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area. The people residing in the settlements areas have cultural roots that can make them sell their cultural resources to the tourists visiting the Wetland Park. It is noteworthy that a number of tourism activities are located in and around the tribal areas as well as in Khula and Ezwenelisha Villages. These include arts and craft making, historical/ cultural activities, cultural events and guest entertainment. Historical and cultural sites have not been identified or recorded.

The game and nature reserve activities have taken more attention than any other recreation or tourism activities. According to the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority, approximately 25% of all foreign tourists who visit the province visit the Zulu cultural villages north of the Tugela River. International tourists visiting the Khula and Ezwenelisha Villages have shown interest in cultural activities like *Indlamu* (Zulu dance), Isicathamiya (Traditional group singing) and others. The community members have organised themselves into groups that perform cultural entertainment in different areas of the village, so as to get money.

3.6.5 Craft work

The people of Dukuduku Settlement Area, Khula and Ezwenelisha Villages are very skilful in craft making. The tourists visiting the area are also very impressed and are prepared to buy the crafts and artefacts. It is from this perspective that the local people are producing craftwork that impresses the tourists and at the same affects some of the endangered trees, animals and plants.

It is clear that the professional support and training facilitated by the iSimangaliso Park Authorities, has helped empower the people of Dukuduku in the field of art. There are also local arts organisations and cultural institutions that take samples of the local artwork to bigger markets outside the area.

3.7 CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the history and physical elements of the study area were presented. The chapter has attempted to put into context the arguments relating to the evictions, invasions and resettlements of the Dukuduku Forest people into

the area under discussion. In the presentation, the location of the study area relative to KwaZulu-Natal, Mkhanyakude District, Mtubatuba Municipality, iSimangaliso Wetland Park and the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, were given attention. In addition, the history, physiographic, socio-economic and cultural attributes were discussed.

The information given in this chapter has laid the foundation for the next activity of this research study, that is, to embark on data analysis and interpretation. It is also worth mentioning that the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Area, as the study area, has the potential to reveal how tourism development is geared to favour either nature conservation or alternatively commercialisation.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section on analysis and interpretation, is pivotal to the study reaching its objectives, since it is the practical and core of the actual research study. The section of data analysis and interpretation is said to be achieved through the process of description, explanation and prediction, all these depending on the statistical measure used (Magi, 2000). The researcher understands that data analysis alone does not bring the research study into completion, but the interpretation of data is necessary to bring the study to the level answerable to the questions of the research study. "Essentially, interpretation converts the results of analysis and makes inferences about the various sections of research design" (Magi, 2007: 125). As such, this chapter contains the ordering and summarising of data so as to get answers to the research questions.

The results obtained from analysis and interpretation of data, provide feedback on the tenability or amenability of the original research hypotheses. It should be noted, however, that even if the results obtained from the analysis and interpretation are in agreement with the hypotheses, this does not necessarily mean that the theory is finally and irrefutably proven to be correct, but is only provisionally supported as there is no other theory which may explain the results obtained (Bless and Higson-Smith, 2000).

4.2 RESTATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES

In essence, the research objectives which refer to what the researcher wants to achieve at the end of the research study are presented here. The hypotheses provide some educated about the estimated outcomes of the study (Magi, 2007). As presented below each objective is made to match each hypothesis. Therefore, objectives and hypotheses are restated in this chapter in order to refresh the reader and have a guided data analysis, these are stated as follows:

Objective 1: To find out the extent to which stakeholders understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.

Hypothesis 1: That the stakeholders do not understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.

Objective 2: To investigate the adequacy of the provision of nature-based tourism facilities for employment purposes in the study area.

Hypothesis 2: That the provision of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area, are not geared for employment purposes.

Objective 3: To examine whether there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area.

Hypothesis 3: That the there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area.

Objective 4: To reveal the degree to which tourism stakeholders participate in ecotourism development initiatives in the study area.

Hypothesis 4: That the stakeholders do not see their participation in ecotourism development initiatives as being significant in the study area.

Objective 5: To establish whether the ecotourism related policies and practices, existing in the study area are geared towards benefitting the local community.

Hypothesis 4: That the existing ecotourism related policies and practices in the study area are not geared towards benefitting the local community.

It is anticipated that these objectives and postulated hypotheses would assist the researcher to arrive at reasonable and educated conclusion with regard to this study. This chapter is therefore presenting the analysis of matters related to objectives, as well as giving the findings about the various hypotheses postulated above. In other words, in this chapter the objectives of the study are thoroughly interrogated in collaboration with the data collected with a view of achieving the outcomes of this research. As such, the restatement of objectives and hypotheses, seek to facilitate the making of judgements and drawing of conclusion and recommendations from these research techniques.

4.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

The stakeholders from whom data was collected consisted of various categories and emerged from various areas of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas,

which include: Ezwenelisha Village and Khula Village. The respondents varied in terms of, gender, age and marital status [see Table 4.1]. In addition, socio-demographic variables such as education qualifications, occupation and income status are dealt with in Table 4.2 respectively.

The demographic characteristics of respondents were used in creating frequency tables and cross tabulations, which enabled understanding about each variable. It is anticipated that the emerging attributes of the demographic variables will make the findings of the study to be better understood, when considering the research problem or research objectives. These variables and the corresponding sub-variables, as shown in Table 4.1, were analysed in terms of absolute frequency and their frequency percentage.

TABLE 4.1: DISTRIBUTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

VARIA- BLE	SUB- VARIABLE	TOURISTS n=20		OFFICIALS n=10		SERVICE PROVIDERS n=12		LOCAL COMMUNITY n=85	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Gender	Females	11	54%	04	38%	07	62%	50	59%
	Males	09	46%	06	52%	05	38%	35	41%
		20	100%	10	100%	12	100%	85	100%
Age	15-25	01	05%	01	07%	01	08%	17	20%
	26-35	05	22%	03	37%	03	22%	20	24%
	36-55	08	40%	05	49%	06	50%	33	39%
	56-80	06	33%	01	07%	02	20%	15	17%
		20	100%	10	100%	12	100%	85	100%
Marital Status	Married	12	61%	05	46%	06	52%	42	49%
	Single	05	22%	04	37%	04	32%	29	34%
	Widowed	03	17%	01	17%	02	12%	10	12%
	Divorced	00	00%	00	00%	00	04%	04	05%
	100%	20	100%	10	100%	12	100%	85	100%

[n = 127. Some of values of the sub-variables were rounded-off to nearest decimal]

4.3.1 Gender Distribution

The distribution of gender is important for this study. The analysis of the distribution of gender for the tourist category, revealed that 54 percent were females and 46 percent were males. Not surprisingly, females were in the majority, since there are more females in rural areas than men and females take care of extended family commitments. According to the World Travel Organisation (UNWTO, 2004), there are more women in tourism being motivated to travel in order to escape from routine or domestic environment. In terms of the conservation and municipal officials, there were more males [52%] than females [38%], because conservation organisations were always dominated by males. One of the social objectives highlighted in the Tourism White Paper (DEAT, 1996) is that tourism should be used as a catalyst for human development, focusing on gender equality. Among the service providers it transpired the distribution was dominated by females [62%], this being attributed to more females participating in small and micro enterprises (SMEs).

The distribution of gender among the local communities revealed that about 59 percent of respondents were females and 41 percents being males. This distribution suggests that there were more females who were prepared to participate in the survey. As mentioned earlier, rural areas in KwaZulu-Natal are generally dominated by females, since many males work in big towns away from their rural homes.

4.3.2 Age Distribution

In this study the largest age distribution [Refer to Table 4.1] was found among the middle aged group (36-55). This was the case for all categories, the tourists [40%], the officials [49%], the service providers [50%] and the community

[39%], It is evident that in all these categories the middle-aged group was well-off to engage in tourism since they had more disposable income. The young adult (26-35) respondents were the second largest in responses: 37 percent for officials, 22 percent for service providers and 24 percent for the community. On the other hand, the old-age group (56-80 years) among the tourists was the second largest group of respondents. It is further evidence that the middle-aged group as well as the old-age group are the main groups that have more leisure time and have abundance of disposable income (Torkildsen, 2005).

The responses among the youth [15-25 years] were the least for all categories, mainly because this is a group of inexperience and scarcity of disposable income. The average score of the youth distribution was 10 percent. The age structure of the Dukuduku local community, being of greatest interest for this study, revealed that the large majority of the community members (39%) fell within the mature adult age-group (36-56 years) and the young adult (26-35) respondents were the second largest group. A relatively small sector of the local community members (17%) were in the old-age group (56-80 years). The age distribution suggests that the local community is relatively poor as it is made up of more less-educated and less high-income groups, as shall later be seen in the discussion of socio-economic variables.

4.3.3 Marital Status Distribution

On the whole the marital status of distribution of respondents, showed that the married group was in the majority, at an average score of 52 percent of the respondents. The second largest marital status group were those who indicated (31% average) that they were single. Only about one percent [2%] of the respondents indicated that they were divorced. In the light of the above

discussion, it would be interesting to establish whether the conservation and tourism practices would be influenced by the respondents' marital status.

As mentioned earlier, the socio-demographic variables such as education qualifications, occupation and income status are regarded as important in establishing the conservation and tourism behaviour patterns of the people of Dukuduku. The analysis of these socio-demographic distributions are portrayed in Table 4.2.

4.3.4 Education Distribution

The distribution by education would undeniably influence the levels of understanding, provision, conservation, commercialisation, policies, and community benefit associated with ecotourism in the Dukuduku Area. It should further be accepted that the level of education has a significant influence on perceptions (Magi, 1986). Furthermore, Lubbe (2003) argues that tourism education and training has to be responsive to the changing needs in the tourism sector. It was unfortunate that the tourists interviewed in the study area were from outside the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas and could not effectively influence policy formulation.

It is worth noting that the majority of conservation and municipal officials [53%] and service providers [57%] indicated that they were in possession of matriculation plus a diploma. The respondents who possessed tertiary qualification (+28%) were the second largest respondents, except for those in the community group, who had secondary school qualifications. The bias towards the well-educated was a matter of chance because those who were educated were in a select group and happened to be there and selected for a

response. A minority of 4 percent of the local community respondents were the only ones who indicated that they have had primary school education. It may be argued that this apparent level of education would auger well for making judgements about the development of ecotourism in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Surrounding Settlement Area, and paying attention to policy formulation and implementation.

TABLE 4.2: DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

VARIA- BLE	SUB- VARIABLE	TOURISTS n=20		OFFICIALS n=10		SERVICE PROVIDERS n=12		LOCAL COMMUNITY n=85	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Education	Primary Sch.	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	03	04%
	Secondary Sch.	02	08%	01	10%	02	15%	24	28%
	Matric +Diploma.	11	54%	05	53%	07	57%	49	58%
	Tertiary Degree	07	38%	04	37%	03	28%	09	10%
		20	100%	10	100%	12	100%	85	100%
Occupation	Unskilled	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	10	12%
	Semi-skilled	00	00%	00	05%	01	07%	21	24%
	Skilled	08	43%	04	37%	05	40%	22	26%
	Professional	12	57%	05	46%	05	43%	20	20%
	Unemployed	00	00%	01	12%	01	10%	15	18%
		20	100%	10	100%	12	100%	85	100%
Income	R1000 – R3000	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	26	30%
	R3001 – R5000	00	00%	00	00%	02	16%	20	23%
	R5001 – R8000	02	11%	01	12%	03	20%	28	33%
	R8001 – R10000	09	44%	05	50%	05	40%	10	12%
	≥ to R10001	09	45%	04	38%	02	24%	01	02%
		20	100%	10	100%	12	100%	85	100%

[n = 127. Some of values of the sub-variables were rounded-off to nearest decimal]

4.3.5 Occupation Distribution

The analysis of data depicted in Table 4.2 shows that the majority of tourist respondents [57%] were in the professional occupation category. Similarly, the

majority of the officials [46%] and service providers [43%] were employed as professionals. A further significant number of respondents (average of 36%) in the various categories indicated they were skilled individuals. The reasons for these findings were that the tourists interviewed were well-off, educated and high income earners. The occupation structure revealed that a good number of officials [37%] were skilled or specialists in their fields of operation. Similarly, the private sector operators [40%] were skilled in the occupation of service provision, such as in accommodation, craft-vending, transportation, gastronomy, and curio shops.

Undoubtedly, the local community category was found to have relatively wide-spread of categorisation of respondents in the unskilled [12%] category, semi-skilled [24%], skilled [26%] and professional [20%]. A significant number of community respondents [18%] indicated that they were unemployed. These unemployment values suggest that there is a dire need for the local communities to benefit from the tourism industry. What was observed in the study area is that there were many Black people who were engaged in small and micro enterprises as well as unemployed, as compared to the other populations groups.

4.3.6 Income Distribution

With regard to income distribution, the majority of tourist respondents [45%] were earning more than R10001 per month. Similarly, the majority of the officials [50%] and service providers [40%] were earning between R8001–R10000 per month. It is evident that these three categories mentioned above comprise people who are well-educated, have good occupation and have adequate disposable income. The local community was interestingly, found to have a cluster of fairly lower income categories of ranging from R1000 to

R8000 and with an average of 29 percent. Only 2 percent of the community members indicated that they earned more than R10001 per month.

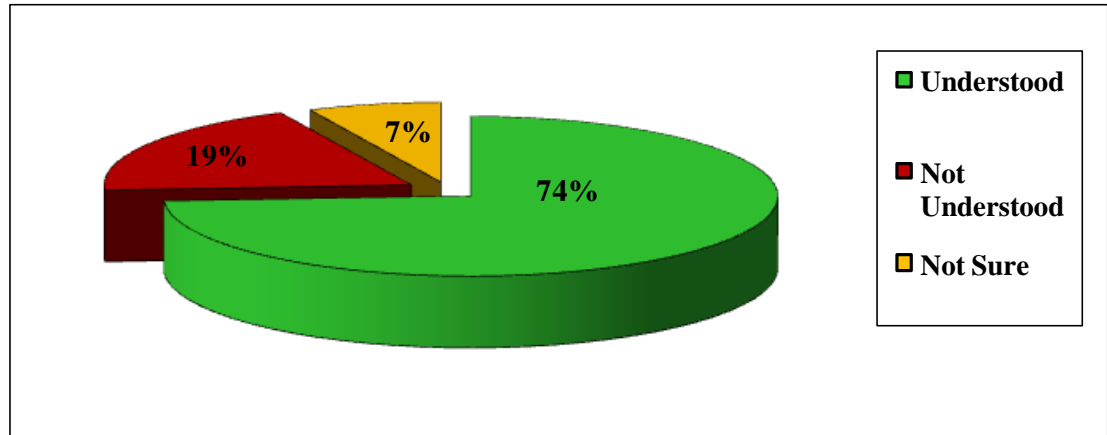
Since most of the professional respondents interviewed were relatively earning well, it may be inferred that their perception of the development of ecotourism in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Surrounding Settlement Area was worth investigating and establishing good policies for good governance. On the other hand, it was evident that the local community was less-educated, unskilled or semi-skilled in their occupation, as well as low income earners. It may be concluded that the local community members would exert lesser influence on conservation approaches in the study area, than the other three categories of respondents.

4.4 UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

It was intimated earlier in the study that the term tourism is used to mean travelling of people to outdoor recreation facilities so as to enjoy leisure experiences. The benefits of staying away from home and enjoying tourism, leisure, business and other activities is well accounted for in the whole world (WTO, 2000, 2004). Some of the extra benefits associated with tourism include: economic and other benefits to host communities, provision of employment opportunities, generating foreign capital, developing the infrastructure, spreading development, improving the quality of life and the standard of living (Wahab & Pigram, 2000; Rogerson & Visser; Magi & Nzama, 2008, 2009a, 2009b).

The first objective of the research study was to find out the extent to which stakeholders understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and the Settlement Areas. To facilitate analysis, respondents were subdivided into these four categories so as to assess each group's understanding and preference of ecotourism development in relation to conservation policies and their implementation. What is shown in Figure 4.1 is that the majority of respondents [74%] indicated that they understood and saw ecotourism as important for the development of their area. On the other hand, only 19 percent and 7 percent of the respondents indicated that they did not understand and were not sure about the matter, respectively.

**FIGURE 4.1 UNDERSATANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF
ECOTOURISM**



The positive response [74%] may be accounted for in that the majority of the respondents were fully aware and understood the meaning and importance of ecotourism. In view of these outcomes it may be concluded that Hypothesis 1, which states: *That the stakeholders do not understand the meaning and*

importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve, should not be supported.

To get more clarity about the respondents' understanding of ecotourism, they were asked to define or explain what they thought ecotourism meant to them, about 62 percent of the respondents were correct. On the other hand, 22 percent of the respondents were incorrect and 16 percent were not sure. To verify the understanding of the meaning and importance of ecotourism, the respondents were asked to rank preselected correct and incorrect definitions or statement describing ecotourism. For example, that ecotourism:

- (a) *“It is when you go to university and study economic development so as to improve the employment opportunities for your area”. [Incorrect].*
- (b) *“Has to do with the improvement of nature-based resources and conserving them for visitors and the benefit of the host community”. [Correct].*
- (c) *“It is the development of cities and urban area for the purpose of creating jobs and places local can visit.” [Incorrect].*

The outcomes of the responses were that a significant number of respondents [72%] selected the correct statement. On the other hand, about 28 percent of the respondents selected the incorrect statement. The possible reason for selecting the correct statements is that there was good understanding of the concept of ecotourism, because of the relatively high levels of education, income and occupation among the officials, service providers and tourists. These factors apparently all had a positive influence on the selection of the statements.

Pursuant on the above-stated analyses and the outcomes achieved, it was reasonable to conclude that Hypothesis 1, which states: *That the stakeholders do not understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve*, should not be supported.

4.5 THE PROVISION OF NATURE-BASED TOURISM FACILITIES.

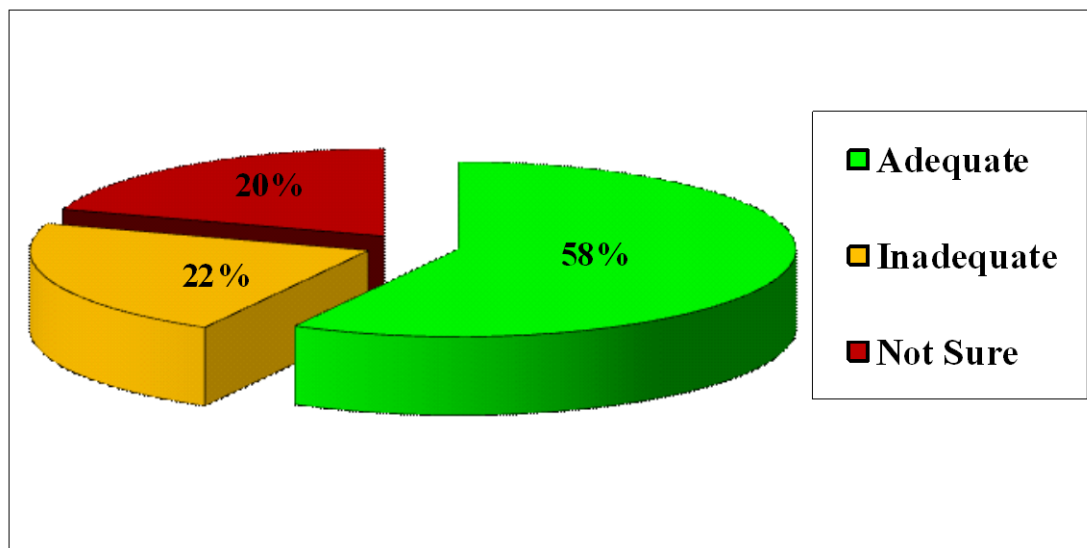
The provision and maintenance of the nature-based tourism facilities in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas goes hand in hand with tourism understanding, participation, and management, wherein tourism authorities are usually responsible for the supply and maintenance of these facilities. As such, the second objective of this study sought to investigate the provision of nature-based tourism facilities, as related to employment opportunities in the study area.

In responding to this objective the respondents were asked whether the nature-based tourism facilities were adequately provided as well as professionally maintained. The outcomes of this analysis, as reflected in Figure 4.2 indicated interesting results. The outcomes are based on three types of responses: ‘adequate’, ‘inadequate’, and ‘not sure’ about the provision of nature-based tourism facilities.

About 58 percent of the respondents in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas believe that the nature-based tourism facilities are adequately provided. Whereas only 22 percent of the respondents felt that the provision was inadequate. A significant number of respondents [20%] were not sure whether the tourism facilities were adequate or not. It is can, therefore be inferred that

the few nature-based tourism facilities that were perceived to be adequate, had a strong influence and presence in the minds of the respondents. The latter view is expressed because there were not too many nature-based tourism facilities in the study area [Refer to Chapter 3].

**FIGURE 4.2 PROVISION OF NATURE-BASED TOURISM
FACILITIES AROUND THE DUKUDUKU AREA**



These outcomes are supported by theoretical notions that the existence of nature-based resources have the tendency to impact positively on the knowledge and behaviour of people living next to these resources (Torkildsen, 2005; Spenceley, 2005; Goeldner, *et al.*, 2006). On the basis of the outcomes of these analyses, it may be concluded that Hypothesis 2, of the study which states: *That the provision of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area, are not geared for employment purposes*, should not be supported. The basis of this decision is that the majority of respondents were significantly positive about the adequacy of provision and maintenance of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area.

Besides the provision of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area, respondents were asked to list and rank the ecotourism facilities that they thought are in existence in the study area. These resources were considered in the context of the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and development potential. What is shown in Table 4.3 is the outcome of responses relating to the perceived provision of ecotourism resources, facilities and services in the study area.

TABLE 4.3 RANKED PROVISION OF ECOTOURISM RELATED FACILITIES IN THE STUDY AREA

RANK	FACILTIES	ABSOLUTE FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY PERCENTAGE
01.	Wildlife [fauna and flora]	88	69%
02.	Lakes and Rivers	78	61%
03.	Estuary Fishing	76	60%
04.	Beach Swimming	73	58%
05.	Forest area/ Dune forests	72	57%
06.	Camp sites & Picnic area	71	56%
07.	Arts and Craft stalls	58	46%
08.	Cultural Village	56	44%
10.	Electricity & Drinking Water	52	41%
13.	Schools & Clinic	51	40%
14.	Other facilities	42	33%

[n = 127. Some of the subjects gave more than one response for facilities]

What is clearly evident in Table 4.3 is that nature related tourism resources, such as wildlife, lakes, rivers, forests, fishing, swimming, camping and picnicking, were perceived by the majority of respondents [56% to 68%] as being well provided. On the other hand, the more functional or utilitarian ecotourism resources, such as arts and craft stalls, cultural village, electricity, drinking

water, schools and clinics, were perceived by the minority of respondents [33% to 46%] as being inadequately provided.

The main reasons for perceiving these facilities as well provided were that they were highly visible and preferred facilities by stakeholders particularly the tourists, officials and service providers. The main reason for the least provided facilities were that the respondents, mainly the local community of Dukuduku, were in dire need of the basic practical facilities such as schools, electricity and water. On the basis of this discussion, relating to the provision of facilities and activities in the study area, it may be concluded that Hypothesis 2, which states: *That the provision of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area, are not geared for employment purposes*, should be supported. The basis of support is that the majority of stakeholders have indicated that they perceived a substantial number of ecotourism resources or facilities as inadequate and not employment based.

4.6 OVER-EMPHASIS ON COMMERCIALISATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tourism practices and the competitive spirit have become critically important for developing countries such as South Africa, because tourism, by its nature, requires less capital outlay than other forms of economic activities to get going (Wahab, 2000). It is one of those industries believed offer job creation and employment opportunities, hence in the last few decades it has tended to become over-commercialised. While the government has been mainly responsible for developing policies that support tourism development, local communities have been expected to participate actively in selling ecotourism wares and take

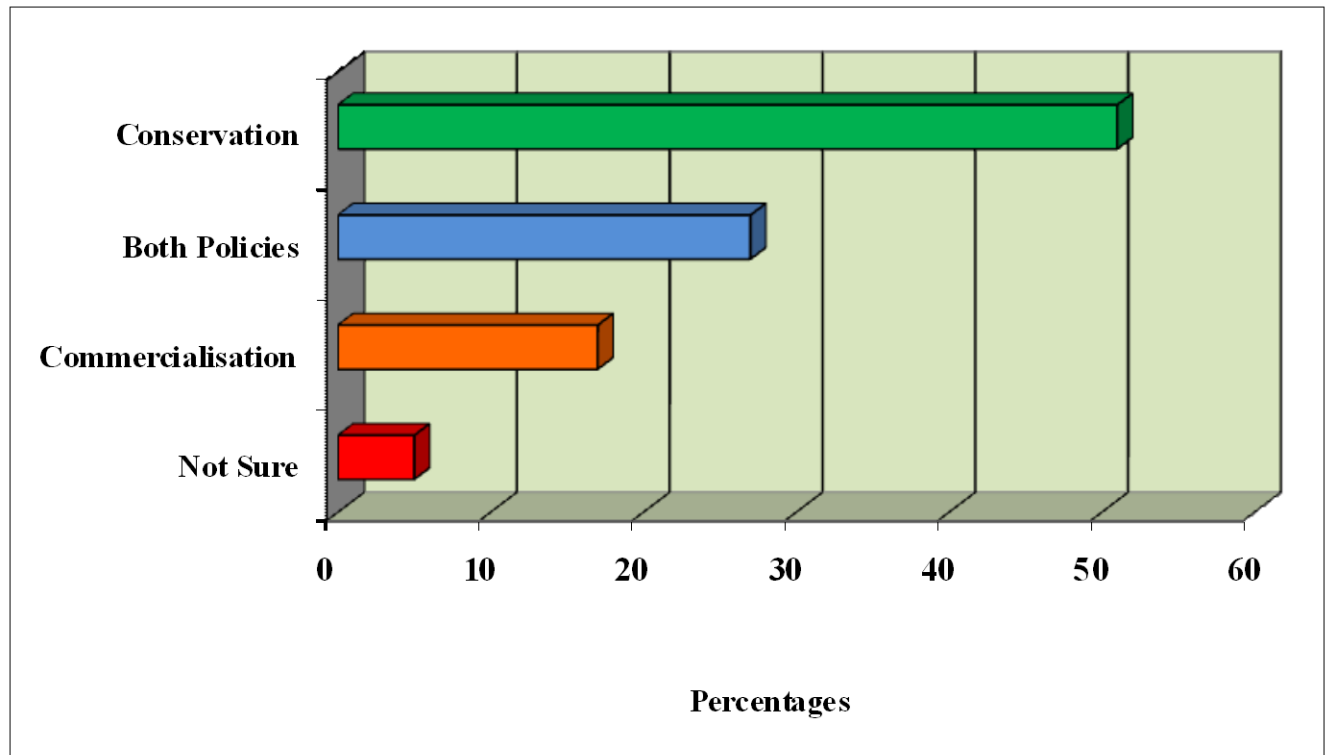
advantage of the entrepreneurial opportunities created by the industry (Hall & Lew, 1998; Wahab, 2000; Rogerson & Visser, 2004). In this context the former Vice-President of South Africa, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka argued that:

While our tourism has outperformed all of our sectors in the economy, it is not yet saturated, and therein lies our fortune as we need to create the desperately needed jobs in South Africa. Some of our competitors create one job for every eight foreign arrivals; we create one job for every 12 arrivals and that presents a challenge. [<http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/speeches/2006/mngcuk0506.htm>]. (2006).

One of the fundamental objectives of this study was to find out whether there was undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area or not. In this regard the investigation is seeking to contribute to the on-going debate about what would be the best practice between supporting conservation approaches versus the commercialisation, as seems to be the problem around the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas.

In this regard, the respondents were asked to reveal the kind of policy they favoured for ecotourism development, between conservation and commercialisation of resources. As shown in Figure 4.3 the majority of respondents [51%] indicated that they were in favour of upholding the policy of conservation of ecotourism resources. This was the view held despite that the local community was not benefiting as much as they would have liked from the nature-based tourism resources and facilities

FIGURE 4.3 PREFERRED POLICY ON CONSERVATION VERSUS COMMERCIALISATION OF ECOTOURISM



On the other hand, approximately 27 percent of the respondents indicated that they favoured the utilisation of both policies: conservation and commercialisation of ecotourism resources. About 17 percent of the respondents thought that commercialisation was also necessary as a policy for developing the ecotourism environment in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas.

The main reasons given for favouring conservation as the main policy were ranked as follows: for the benefit of future generations; preservation of their heritage; ecotourism development; general economic development; attracting international tourists; job creation and employment, etc. The main reasons for favouring both conservation and commercialisation were similar to the above

reasons, as well as that the approach would introduce a balance between conservation and development.

On the basis of the analysis appearing above, relating to the comparison between conservation and commercialisation as the favoured approach for future development, it may be concluded that Hypothesis 3, which states: *That there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area*, is not supported. The basis for the rejection of this hypothesis is that, surprisingly, many people in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas are becoming conservation conscious, as reflected in many of the reasons advanced for supporting the policy of conservation.

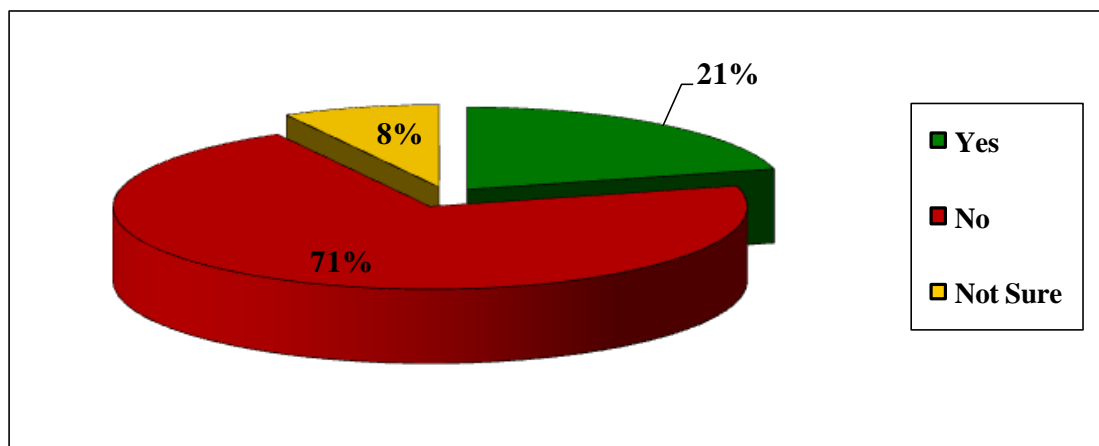
4.7 PARTICIPATION IN ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The purpose of this research study, among other things, sought to discover how the local community participated in tourism activities, with a view to benefit financially. According to Pigram (1983) participation can be defined as those activities by which members of the society share in the selection of ruling and directly or indirectly in the formation of public policy which directs their involvement in recreation and tourism activities. On the other hand, Torkildsen (2005) views participation as the core of the experience, the times of encounter with the resource and activity opportunities offered to the local community members or visitors. In other words, in this context participation may be used to determine the level of community participation and the way in which they share certain activities offered by the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement authorities and other stakeholders.

4.7.1 Increased Ecotourism Participation in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas

Tourism participation for local communities of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas is an advantageous situation for them, particularly in enhancing ecotourism development and policy improvement. Participation in ecotourism is particularly important for the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, because it would provide job creation and employment opportunities.

FIGURE 4.4 BENEFICIAL ECOTOURISM PARTICIPATION IN THE DUKUDUKU ENVIRONMENT



When respondents were asked to reveal their responses towards the perceived local community participation in ecotourism activities, the responses indicated in Figure 4.6 were identified. A majority of 71% of the respondents agreed that there was no beneficial participation in ecotourism activities in the study area. The main possible reason is that, on the whole, respondents do not have the required facilities and the necessary skills required owing to the poor level of education and related demographic attributes. Surprisingly, a minority of 21

percent of the respondents showed a positive response towards the beneficial participation in tourism activities in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas. This outcome suggests that even though respondents are aware of the importance of conservation in the Dukuduku Area, they are not happy with the tourism participation levels.

From the analysis above it may be concluded that **Hypothesis 4**, which states: *That the stakeholders do not see their participation in ecotourism development initiatives as being significant in the study area*, is supported and therefore accepted.

4.7.2 Community participating in ecotourism activities by age

Age has been regarded as an important variable in determining levels of participation in recreation and tourism activities (Torkildsen, 2005). In this regard, respondents were asked to indicate if the community was adequately participating in tourism initiatives.

TABLE 4.4: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES BY AGE

Responses on Participation	15-35		36-55		56-80		TOTAL	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Full Participation	03	02%	13	10%	06	05%	22	17%
Moderate Participation	05	04%	18	14%	11	09%	34	27%
Non-Participation	12	10%	33	26%	27	21%	71	56%
TOTAL	19	15%	63	50%	45	35%	127	100%

[n = 127. Some of values of the sub-variables were rounded-off to nearest decimal]

What is shown in Table 4.4 are the different understandings the community has on participation in ecotourism activities in the study area, varying in terms of age groups. The majority of 56% of the various respondent age-groups agreed that there was non-participation in ecotourism activities in the study area. In other words, all the various age categories: the young adults (15-35); the middle-age-group (36-55) and old age-groups (56-80), were all of the view that there was non-participation in ecotourism activities in the study area. The next number of respondents (27%) who expressed a view that there was moderate participation in ecotourism activities was mainly representative of the three age-groups. It should also be noted that the middle-age-group (36-55) was the most responsive [26%] age-group of all.

From the analyses above, it may be concluded that Hypothesis 4, which states: *That the stakeholders do not see their participation in ecotourism development initiatives as being significant in the study area*, is supported and therefore confirmed. The basis for this conclusion is that the majority of various age-groups were in support of the notion that there was non-participation in ecotourism activities in the study area.

4.8 BENEFICIAL ECOTOURISM POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE STUDY AREA

It is generally accepted that ecotourism management policies and development practices have the main intention of improving the tourism delivery as well as enhancing or benefiting the local communities and their natural and cultural environments (Page & Downing, 2002). Furthermore, Magi & Nzama (2009a, 2009b) have argued that the formulation of ecotourism development policy and

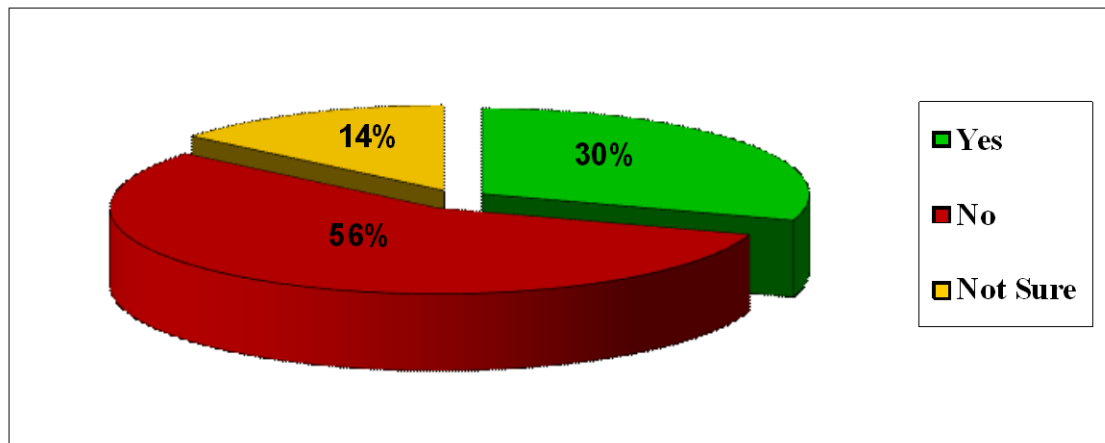
its implementation, are two sides of the same coin, but tend to be different in character and performance. Whereas it may seem easy to craft policy, it may be relatively difficult to implement the same policy. The application of policy should translate into efficient delivery of ecotourism products that would benefit the local communities in the long run. In this regard, the respondents in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas were asked to reveal their perceptions towards ecotourism related policies and practices, existing in the study area, and whether they were geared towards benefitting the local community.

4.8.1 Awareness of Ecotourism Policies Promoting Development

In an attempt to activate the ecotourism policies and practices in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, the conservation and municipal officials have put up strategies for successful implementation of ecotourism development (Njobe & Botha, 2003), which include: stakeholder partnerships and co-operation, fulfilment of community aspirations; improved understanding stewardship; equitable access to facilities and tourism attractions (DEAT, 2006b); as well as job creation, and poverty alleviation (Yawitch, *et al*, 2003; Ashley & Roe, 2002).

What is shown in Figure 4.5, are the outcomes of analyses of ecotourism stakeholders in the study area. In this case, stakeholders were asked to indicate their awareness of any policies that promoted ecotourism development in the area. The majority of respondents [56%] indicated negatively, that they were unaware of ecotourism development policies existing in their area. In support, about 14 percent of the respondents also indicated that they were not sure about these policies.

FIGURE 4.5: AWARENESS OF ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICIES



The main reasons given for the negative responses were that there appears to be: lack of information and communication about the ecotourism policies; poor infrastructure provision; poor management liaison with the stakeholders and lack of supply of jobs and employment opportunities. On the contrary, approximately 30 percent of the respondents indicated that they were aware of ecotourism development policies existing in the study area. Respondents indicated policies relating to: protection of wildlife, conservation of resources; provision of accommodation, craft centre and small business opportunities. None pointed to the adequacy of policies promoting functional amenities such as electricity, schools and health facilities.

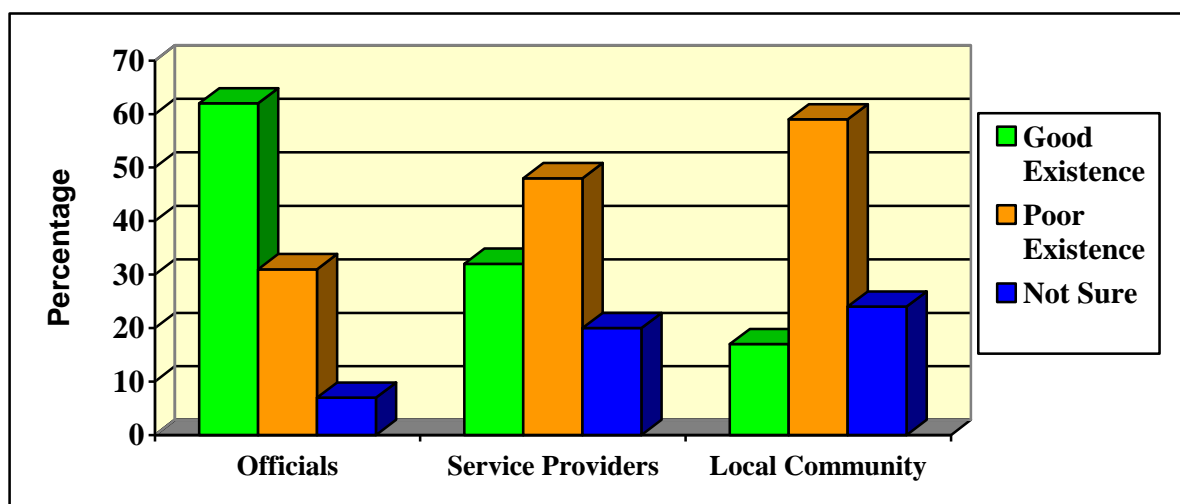
From the analysis provided above, relating to awareness of the existence of ecotourism development policies, it may be concluded that Hypothesis 5, which states: *That the existing ecotourism related policies and practices in the study area are not geared towards benefitting the local community*, should be supported. The basis for accepting the hypothesis is that the majority of

respondents has indicated a lack of awareness of the existence of relevant ecotourism policies.

4.8.2 Perceived Existence of Policies by Stakeholder Categories

Pursuant to the notion of the existence of ecotourism policies and practices in the study area, stakeholders were asked to indicate which ecotourism policies and practices they were aware of as existing in the area. Applying the cross-reference approach, as shown in Figure 4.6, it is evident that the majority of the tourism officials [64%] perceived the existence of policies and their benefitting the local community to be good, whereas about 28 percent of the officials perceived the existence of ecotourism policies to be poor. The possible reason for this response was that the officials were intimately involved in policy matters, acknowledged their existence and also understood the difficulty of implementing existing policies.

FIGURE 4.6 PERCEIVED EXISTENCE OF POLICIES AND THEIR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY



[n = 127. Some of the subjects gave more than one response for each statement]

On the other hand, a majority of the service providers [43%] thought that the ecotourism existence of policies and their benefitting the local community was poor. About 34 percent of the service provider thought they were good. It should be understood that the service providers were in business and wanted more business opportunities to be offered to them.

Pertaining to the local communities, it became evident that the majority [62%] of them suggested that the existence of policy formulation and its beneficitation implementation was poor. Interestingly, an aggregated response of 85 percent of the community suggested that, on the notion of policy beneficitation, it was ranging from poor to 'not sure'. Only a meagre number [15%] of the community felt that the policy situation was good. The main reasons for these responses were that most community members had either experienced some difficulties in trying to access ecotourism opportunities, such as job creation, employment and poverty alleviation, or that their poverty status and poor educational qualifications influenced their negative responses. These negative responses seem also to be stimulated by inadequate small business opportunities, poor skills development and unemployment (Spykes, 2002; Sikhakhane, 2006).

In viewing the outcomes of these analyses it stands to reason that Hypothesis 5, which states: *“That the existing ecotourism related policies and practices in the study area are not geared towards benefitting the local community,* should be supported. The basis of accepting this hypothesis is that, as earlier stated, the respondents were consistently revealing that there is lack of a coherent link between policy formulation and it's benefitting the local community. The majority of the communities around the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas

are hard pressed with seeking ecotourism benefits that would be creating jobs and foster poverty alleviation.

4.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter has attempted to analyse and interpret the nature-based tourism facilities, policies and practices in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas as perceived by the various stakeholders, consisting of tourism and municipal officials, service providers, tourists and recreators, as well as local communities of the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas. From the reported findings it can be concluded that whereas there are some negative feelings about the nature-based tourism facilities and activities, there are also positive signs towards embracing conservation as a development thrust in policy formulation and implementation.

This chapter has attempted to deal with the analysis of the main objectives of this research study. The analysis and interpretation of data was achieved by utilising the analysis of hypothesis-based approach, wherein the hypotheses were either accepted or rejected. The chapter dealt with the analysis of demographic characteristics of the respondents (tourists, officials, service providers and local communities), which revealed varying and at times similar responses. Then the chapter dealt with the different objectives relating to: the understanding of the meaning and importance of tourism development; the provision of nature-based tourism resources; the utilisation of ecotourism management practices and the apparent commercialisation of resources.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The core of previous chapters was to provide the theoretical framework of research materials, the physical setting of the study and the analysis and interpretation of data collected from the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas. This chapter therefore seeks to report on the findings relating to the objectives and hypotheses of the study. In other words, the chapter presents some of the summary of conclusions, recommendations and the final conclusion of the study based on all chapters. Under summary the chapter reflects on the existing relationship between the stakeholders and their perceptions of development and promotion of cultural and heritage tourism. The summary is also built around the objectives and hypotheses of the study. Therefore, pursuant to the objectives of this study, which have to do with the development and management of natural resources, in the context of policies and practices governing the ecotourism process in the study area.

5.2 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

The summary of this research study is based on its objectives and hypotheses. The study had sought to examine the process of the development of nature-based ecotourism facilities in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, in

relation to community participation and community benefits. The study also sought to reveal how stakeholders perceive the application of conservation measures onto the entire area Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas.

The summary of study is based on the core objectives of the study, as were reflected in Chapter One, and are based on how the respondents or stakeholders: (a) understand the meaning and importance of tourism development in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas; (b) investigate the adequacy of the provision of nature-based tourism facilities for employment purposes in the study area; (c) examine whether there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area; (d) reveal the degree to which tourism stakeholders participate in ecotourism development initiatives in the study area; and (e) establish whether the ecotourism related policies and practices, existing in the study area are geared towards benefitting the local community.

The theoretical framework for the study was highlighted in Chapter Two. The conceptual framework of the study was structured on the basis of the statements associated with the study objectives. The key concepts and principles on ecotourism involved the following: the definition and importance of tourism development; tourism provision; tourism management and development; characteristics of ecotourism; tourism policy and implementation; tourism and conservation; tourism and community involvement; and the benefits of ecotourism.

Chapter Three highlighted the physical setting of the study. It addresses the historical, geographical and environmental elements of the study area, the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas. The general physical environment is

explained paying attention topography and general climate are described. In addition, the biological environment covering the flora and fauna, typifying what gives the area its unique character. A brief exposition of the economic and socio-cultural attributes is also given. These include agriculture, infrastructure, leisure cultural activities, and so on. These touristic natural features add to the attractiveness and importance of the study area.

The core of the study is Chapter Four, which focussed on the analysis and interpretation of collected data. This process of analysis was achieved through relating to the various objectives and hypotheses, which were mentioned earlier in this section. A variety of findings and conclusions were attained from this analysis and interpretation. These are presented in greater detail in the next section.

Finally, Chapter Five gives the summary and conclusions of the study based on the objectives and hypotheses. The emerging findings give conclusive statements or outcomes about the research question. It was conclusively established that, there are evidently negative perceptions of provision, participation, management practice and community related tourism benefits in the study area. These findings lend themselves to the needs for the ecotourism development in the study area.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS BASED ON OBJECTIVES

In an effort to summarise the findings of the study, these are presented on the basis of the objectives dealt with in the text of this research investigation. After the hypothesis was analysed and assessed for acceptance or rejection, a sound argument is presented to create an environment to reach some conclusions. The findings and recommendations were then presented, based on the outcomes of

analysis and interpretation of data. The summary of these chapters is presented below:

(a) The first objective of the study sought:

To find out the extent to which stakeholders understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve.

In the analysis of this objective, the respondents were asked to reveal their knowledge about the meaning and importance of ecotourism in the study area. The majority of the respondents gave a positive response to indicate their understanding the meaning and importance of tourism development. In this regard it was concluded that Hypothesis 1, which stated: *That the stakeholders do not understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve*, should not be supported.

When the respondents were asked to define or explain what they thought ecotourism meant to them, the majority of respondents were able to select the correct definition of the concept of ecotourism. It stated that ecotourism:

“Has to do with the improvement of nature-based resources and conserving them for visitors and the benefit of the host community”.

[Correct].

On the basis of the outcomes achieved, it was concluded that Hypothesis 1, which stated: *That the stakeholders do not understand the meaning and importance of ecotourism in and around the Dukuduku Forest Reserve*, should not be supported. It is evident that the finding of the hypothesis above was rejected on the basis that the majority of respondents indicated that they were familiar with the meaning of the concept ecotourism.

(b) The second objective of the study sought:

To investigate the adequacy of the provision of nature-based tourism facilities for employment purposes in the study area.

With an intention of assessing the provision of ecotourism facilities and services, respondents were asked to reveal their views about these resources. What was analysed revealed that, on the whole, the tourism facilities provided in the study area were viewed as adequately provided. It is apparent that the responses of all the stakeholders were strongly influenced by their jobs, business opportunities and activities. The reason for this finding is that both service providers and community work and experience the provision of facilities on a day-to-day basis, and seemed to be happy with the delivery thereof.

Regarding the explored findings, it was concluded that hypothesis 2, which stated: *That the provision of nature-based tourism facilities in the study area, are not geared for employment purposes*, should be supported. The basis for this decision is that the majority of stakeholders have indicated that they perceived a substantial number of ecotourism resources or facilities as inadequate and not employment based. Interestingly, the tourism, conservation and municipal officials were the only group that felt the supply of resources was adequately. The main reason being that they are responsible for providing, and do not want to found failing to supply the resources.

(c) The third objective of the study sought:

To examine whether there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area.

The analysis of this objective indicated that the majority of respondents were in favour of upholding the policy of conservation of ecotourism resources. This was the view held despite that the local community was not benefiting as much as they would have liked from the nature-based tourism resources and facilities. In addition, the respondents also indicated that they favoured the utilisation of both policies: conservation and commercialisation of ecotourism resources. The main reasons given for favouring conservation as the main policy were: the benefit for future generations; preservation of heritage; and ecotourism development as well as job creation and employment.

On the basis of the preceding analysis it was concluded that Hypothesis 3, which stated: *That there is undue over-emphasis on the commercialisation of the natural resources in the study area*, is not supported. The basis for the rejection of this hypothesis is that, surprisingly, many people in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas are becoming conservation conscious.

(d) The fourth objective of the study sought:

To reveal the degree to which tourism stakeholders participate in ecotourism development initiatives in the study area

Torkildsen (2005) views participation as the core of the experience, the times of encounter with the resource and activity opportunities offered to the local community members or visitors. In other words, participation may be used to determine the level of community participation and the way in which they share certain activities offered by the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement authorities and other stakeholders.

When respondents were asked to reveal their responses towards the perceived local community participation in ecotourism activities, the responses indicated that the majority of the respondents agreed that there was no beneficial participation in ecotourism activities in the study area. The main reason being that the respondents do not have the required facilities and the necessary skills required to participate effectively in the ecotourism activities.

From the analysis it was concluded that Hypothesis 4, which stated: *That the stakeholders do not see their participation in ecotourism development initiatives as being significant in the study area*, is supported and therefore accepted.

(e) The fifth objective of the study sought:

To establish whether the ecotourism related policies and practices, existing in the study area are geared towards benefitting the local community

The respondents on revealing their understanding of the existing ecotourism related policies and practices as they are geared to benefit the local community, the majority of respondents indicated negatively, that they were unaware of ecotourism development policies existing in their area. The majority of the local community and the service providers individually indicated that the existence of policy formulation and its beneficiation implementation was poor in the area.

In viewing the outcomes of these analyses it stands to reason that Hypothesis 5, which states: *“That the existing ecotourism related policies and practices in the study area are not geared towards benefitting the local community*, should be supported. The basis of accepting this hypothesis is that, as earlier stated, the

respondents were consistently revealing that there is lack of a coherent link between policy formulation and it's benefitting the local community. The majority of the communities around the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas

From the findings of the analyses in this section it was concluded that Hypothesis 5, which stated: *That the existing ecotourism related policies and practices in the study area are not geared towards benefitting the local community*, was supported. The basis of accepting this hypothesis was that the respondents were consistently revealing that there is lack of a coherent link between policy formulation and it's benefitting the local community. The majority of the communities around the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas would concur.

The entire section on the conclusions based on objectives, has dealt with all the hypotheses discussed above. The emerging outcomes of these analyses have laid a foundation for making conclusions about the research question relating ecotourism development and community beneficiation. The latter being based on whether the local community could benefit substantially either using the conservation approach or commercialisation strategy in ecotourism development.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It should be understood within the context of all unresolved problems and challenges existing in the study area that some solutions need to be drawn from the already existing literary sources, theoretical framework and findings of this research study. The recommendations made in this section are aimed at

clarifying some aspects of this study as well as to generalise on some of the findings in order to avoid some of the issues which are found to exist in the study area. The recommendations are presented as a contribution to the formulation of policies and strategies that seek to introduce the understanding of a conservation-based ecotourism. The recommendations are as follows:

- Since this research study is not conclusive about the problems associated with the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and the Settlement Areas, there is a need for additional investigation to be conducted.
- It is important to encourage more community participation that is based on achieving local community ecotourism benefits emerging from ecotourism related activities or practices.
- It is fundamentally important to revisit the ecotourism policies that exist and get the local community to participate in the formulation of ecotourism policies as well as their implementation.
- It is imperative that accessibility to nature-based resources and facilities be improved, mainly for all stakeholders, but especially the local community.
- Establishment of ecotourism programmes associated with the creation of jobs, which would expose the local communities to the travel and tourism industry.
- Establish a range of skills development and training in ecotourism activities and practices, which would facilitate the participation of community members in ecotourism business opportunities.

Finally, the establishment of ecotourism policies and strategy in the study area, which seek to empower the local communities, is fundamental to a viable and

all-inclusive tourism industry. It should be recognised that the aim of the South African government is to achieve a tourism industry that is able to create job opportunities and achieve poverty alleviation for all. As such a paradigm shift in utilising the tourism facilities at the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, is an objective worthy of achieving.

5.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter has attempted to map out the understanding, awareness, provision, participation and management practices within the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas, towards achieving an ecotourism development process in the study area. Furthermore, the chapter has through the analysis and interpretation of objectives and hypotheses attempted to address practices mentioned above. These analyses have been developed into general conclusions, which in turn have assisted in co-ordinating and the revelation of the essence of different chapters of the study. Finally recommendations have been made to ensure that pitfalls identified in the Dukuduku Forest and Settlement Areas should be addressed or prevented for sustainability in the future.

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APPENDIX - A

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Development of Ecotourism in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Surroundings: Policy and Implementation

St Lucia & Surroundings	01			In KwaZulu-Natal	03	
UMkhanyakude	02			Outside KwaZulu-Natal	04	

A. DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

1. Gender

Female		01		
Male		02		

2. Age

18-25		01		
26-35		02		
36-55		03		
56-80		04		

3. Marital Status

Married		01		
Single		02		
Widowed		03		
Divorced		04		

4. Level of Education

Primary Level		01		
Secondary Level		02		
Matric plus Diploma		03		
University Degree		04		

5. Occupation

Unskilled		01		
Skilled		02		
Semi-Skilled		03		
Professional		04		

6. Income

R1001 – R3000		01		
R3001 – R5000		02		
R5001 – R8000		03		
R8001 – R10000		04		
≥ to R10001		05		

B. UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING & IMPORTANCE OF ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT

7. What do you understand to be the meaning of ecotourism?.....

.....

.....

.....

8 Do you think ecotourism development is important for your local area?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

9. Please give reasons for your response

.....

.....

.....

10. Rank the statements describing ecotourism development in order of their correctness as you see them.

(a) It is when you go to university and study economic development so as to improve the employment opportunities for your area.		01		
(b) It is when tourists visit natural areas such as game reserve, beaches and God created resources with a view enjoying nature and benefitting the community.		02		
(c) This is the enhancement of rural areas by improving the infrastructure such electricity, roads, sewage system and schools.		03		
(d) It is the development of cities and urban area for the purpose of creating jobs and places local can visit		04		
(e) It has to do with the improvement of nature-based resources and conserving them for visitors and the benefit of the host community.		05		

- 11 Do you think it is important for the local community to develop and conserve tourism related facilities?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

12. Please give a reason for your response.

.....

.....

.....

C. THE PROVISION OF ECOTOURISM RESOURCES

13. Do you think the ecotourism resources in the Dukuduku Forest area are adequately provided for the local people?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

14. Do you think it is important for the local community to develop and conserve tourism related facilities?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

15. Please give a reason for your response.

.....

.....

.....

16. Kindly list those facilities you think are existing in Dukuduku Forest Area:

(a)	01	
(b)	02	
(c)	03	
(d)	04	

(f)	6	
(g)	7	
(h)	8	
(i)	9	

17. Of the ecotourism tourism attractions listed below, tick those you are familiar with in the area.

Nature-made Attractions			Man-made Attractions		
(e) Wildlife	01		(f) Community Schools	6	
(f) Mountains	02		(g) Cultural Village	7	
(g) Forest (Indigenous)	03		(h) Vending Structures	8	
(h) Caves	04		(i) Archaeological Sites	9	
(j) Lakes & Rivers	05		(j) Traditional Events	10	

D. PARTICIPATION IN ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT

18. Do you think local communities participate sufficiently in ecotourism activities in your area.

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

- 19 Please give a reason for your response.

.....

.....

.....

20. Indicate what type of nature-based tourism activities do you participate in most?

Swimming	01		Bird watching		09
Fishing	02		Jogging		10
Camping	03		Boating		11
Game viewing	04		Picnicking		12
Canoeing	05		Nature study		13
Sight seeing	06		Playing games		14
Walking/driving for pleasure	07		Horseback riding		15
Skiing	08		Other		16

Comments:

.....

.....

.....

E. CONSERVATION COMPARED TO COMMERCIALISATION

21. What policy do you favour for tourism, between conservation and commercialisation of resources?

Conservation of resources		01		
Commercialisation of resources		02		
Both Conservation & Commercialisation		03		
Not sure		04		

22. Give reasons for the answer you have selected:

.....

.....

.....

.....

F. ECOTOURISM STRATEGIES OR MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

23. Are you aware of any existing ecotourism management practices or development strategies that are in place in the Dukuduku Forest area?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

24. Please give reasons for your response

.....

.....

.....

25. Kindly list the types of strategies that have been successfully applied in the Dukuduku Forest Area:

(a)	01	
(b)	02	
(c)	03	
(d)	04	

(e)	05	
(f)	06	
(g)	07	
(h)	08	

26. Please tick the strategies which you think are in existence in Dukuduku Forest:

(a) Small Business Opportunities	01		Building of Schools	06	
(b) Development of facilities	02		Conservation of nature	07	
(c) Infrastructural Development	03		Community Levies	08	
(d) Skills Development	04		Protection of Wildlife	09	
(e) Job Creation	05		Land Restitution	10	

G. ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN AREA.

27. Are you aware of any policies and practices that promote and develop ecotourism development in your area?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

28. Please give a reason for your response.

.....

.....

29. Tick the ecotourism policies and practices that you are aware exist in the area for development and conservation?

Conservation of resources	01		Camping and Caravanning	07	
Traditional community practice	02		Local craft making practice	08	
Infrastructural Development	03		Conferencing practice	09	
Skills Development practice	04		Wildlife protection practice	10	
Job Creation & Poverty Reduction	05		Small business development	11	
Accommodation provision practice	06		Facilities for the disabled	12	

30. Who do you think should be responsible for establishing policy in the Dukuduku Forest area?

Government officials	01	
Community organisations	02	
Business Sector	03	
Conservation authorities	04	
Municipal officials	05	
Other [Specify]	06	

H. COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM ECOTOURISM

31. Do you think there are any ecotourism benefits from the Dukuduku Forest Area own for the local communities?

Yes		01		
No		02		
Not Sure		03		

32. Please give a reason for your response.

.....

.....

.....

.....

33. Kindly list those Benefits you think are available in the Dukuduku Forest Area.

(a)	01	
(b)	02	
(c)	03	
(d)	04	

(e)	05	
(f)	06	
(g)	07	
(h)	08	

Any Additional Comments:

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APPENDIX- B

University of Zululand:

**DEPT. OF RECREATION
& TOURISM**

20 March 2008



Private Bag X1001

KwaDlangezwa 3886

South Africa

Tel: 035 902 6719

Fax: 035-902 6073

Ref:

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir /Madam

RE: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

The students Ms. N.D. Ngema [Reg: 900437] is a part-time postgraduate student in the Department of Recreation and Tourism at the University of Zululand. She is busy doing the Masters of Recreation and Tourism [MRT] degree. The MRT students are required to undertake a research study as part of their degree work. The attached questionnaire is part of her research project seeking to establish how people of Dukuduku view ecotourism development in the context of existing policies for conservation in the study area. The title of the research project is:

The Development of Ecotourism in the Dukuduku Forest Reserve and Surrounding Settlements: Policy and Implementation

This research is undertaken mainly for academics purposes in the study area. It is hoped that the findings will make a meaningful contribution to the field of tourism as well as the understanding of conservation tourism among people of Dukuduku Forest Reserve, and KwaZulu-Natal as a whole.

All information collected from you through the interviews or questionnaire will be kept in strict confidence.

Your assistance in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Prof. L.M Magi

Professor: MRT-PDRT Programme
Department of Recreation and Tourism
University of Zululand