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Norms and Standards for the Management of Protected Areas in South Africa

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I, Bomo Edith Edna Motewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby issue norms and standards for the management of protected areas in South Africa in terms of section 11 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act 57 of 2003), as set out in the Schedule hereto.

(Signed)

BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA
Minister of Environmental Affairs

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CHAPTER 1**INTERPRETATION, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION****1 Definitions**

Any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003, has the meaning so assigned and, unless the context otherwise indicates;

'adaptive management framework' is a formal process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from their outcomes;

'buffer zone' includes the immediate setting of the national park and attributes that are functionally important as a support to the national park and its protection;

'communities' refers to a group or network of persons who are connected to each other by relatively durable social relations that extend beyond immediate genealocal ties;

'communal land owners' refers to a territory in possession of a community;

'cultural heritage' is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations;

'ecological integrity' means the sum of the biological, physical and chemical components of an ecosystem, and their interactions which maintain the ecosystem and its products, functions and attributes;

'the Health and Safety Act' means the Health and Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993);

'the Act' means the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003;

'the department' means the Department of Environmental Affairs.

2 Purpose and application

The Act was promulgated in order to provide for (among other things) the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas representative of South Africa's biological diversity and its natural landscapes and seascapes; for the establishment of a national Register of Protected Areas and for the management of those areas in accordance with national norms and standards.

In terms of section 11 of the Act, the Minister may prescribe norms and standards for any of the objectives of the Act, including the management and development of protected areas as well as indicators to measure compliance with those norms and standards. The purpose of these norms and standards are to prescribe norms and standards for the management and development of protected areas, with particular reference to section-

2(c) to effect a national system of protected areas in South Africa as part of a strategy to manage and conserve its biodiversity; and

2(e) to promote sustainable utilisation of protected areas for the benefit of people, in a manner that would preserve the ecological character of such areas.

of the Act

The purpose of these norms and standards is-

- (a) to ensure the [sic] South Africa's protected areas fulfil the purpose for which they were declared as set out in section 17 of the Act;
- (b) to ensure that human induced disturbance within or originating outside of protected areas is avoided, and where such cannot be achieved is minimised and the impacts remedied;
- (c) to provide a goal for protected area management authorities to strive for in managing their protected areas;
- (d) to ensure protected areas are managed efficiently and effectively.

Unless otherwise stated these Norms and Standards and their indicators apply to all protected areas declared in terms of sections 18 (special nature reserve), 20 (national park), 23 (nature reserve) and 28 (protected environment) of the Act.

3 Guiding principles

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

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

CHAPTER 2 NORMS, STANDARDS AND INDICATORS

4 Relative importance of the protected area established

Purpose

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

4.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) Standard

The protected area contributes to the achievement of national biodiversity targets.

Indicators

- (i) The protected area is an ecologically viable area;
- (ii) It protects a representative sample of South African biodiversity;
- (iii) It protects a representative sample or iconic feature of South Africa's land-or seascapes.

(b) Standard

The protected area contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.

Indicators

The protected areas contributes to the-

- (i) Protection of endemic, threatened, or endangered species;
- (ii) Conservation of threatened ecosystems;
- (iii) Biodiversity conservation targets;
- (iv) Protection of a representative range of plant and animal diversity for the eco-region;
- (v) Viability of and reduces the extinction risk to populations of key species;
- (vi) Representative examples of biomes, vegetation types and ecosystems;
- (vii) Extent to which natural and disturbance processes necessary for ecosystem functioning are maintained;
- (viii) The state of landscape linkages and connectivity that allow the protected area to function as part of larger surrounding ecosystems;
- (ix) Provision of ecosystem services that the protected area and neighbouring land-users are reliant upon; and
- (x) The protected area provides a critical landscape function.

5 The protected area is planned to meet its objectives

Purpose

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

5.1 [sic] Norm

The protected area is planned in terms of size and shape to meet its objectives in terms of biodiversity and cultural conservation.

(a) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The size of the protected area is sufficient to achieve its conservation objectives;
- (ii) The protected area forms a critical part of a greater, integrated with a minimum of management interaction;
- (iii) The shape of the protected area is sufficient to achieve its conservation objectives;
- (iv) The design of the protected area is adequate to allow ecological processes to take place;
- (v) The layout and configuration of the protected area optimises the conservation of biodiversity;
- (vi) Where the size and design of a protected area is not sufficient to meet its objectives a strategy is in place to address the size and design;
- (vii) There is an expansion plan to improve the size and shape of the area.

(b) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) Key species, habitats or ecosystems have been identified and their locations mapped;
- (ii) Information on these key species, habitats and ecosystems supports planning and decision making for the management of the protected area's biodiversity.

(c) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) Cultural heritage sites have been identified and mapped;
- (ii) There is a comprehensive inventory of cultural heritage resources;
- (iii) Information on these sites and resources is sufficient to support planning and decision making for the management of the cultural heritage of the protected area.

6 The protected area secured in terms of legislation

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that the protected area has been secured in law, its boundaries well demarcated and publically known.

6.1 [sic] Norm

The protected area is an area as contemplated in section 9 of the Act.

(a) [sic] Standard

The protected area is declared and secured in law.

Indicators

- (i) All parcels of land, water or sea comprising the protected areas are declared in the *Government Gazette*;
- (ii) The Registrar of Deeds has been informed in writing of the declaration and has recorded such declaration in the relevant registers and documents;
- (iii) The protected area is listed in the Register of Protected Areas as required by section 10 of the Act;
- (iv) The protected area has an assigned management authority.

7 The boundary of the protected area is properly demarcated and secured

7.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) [sic] Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The extent of the protected area is included in a description and Surveyor General diagramme;
- (ii) The boundaries are appropriately demarcated and recognisable by the public;
- (iii) The boundaries are known by both the management authority of a protected area and the neighbouring community or landowners;
- (iv) Any deviations from the declared area are agreed upon and documented in the management plan and include a signed, legally binding Memorandum of Agreement;
- (v) All boundary disputes must be identified and a process set in place to have them resolved in a reasonable time frame;
- (vi) Conflicts with the local community are resolved fairly and effectively.

8 Law enforcement is effective

Purpose

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

8.1 [sic] Norm

The relevant legislation is enforced effectively in the protected area.

(a) Standard

The Act, the National Environmental Management Act 1998, the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 2004, where relevant the Marine Living Resources Act 1998, the World Heritage Convention Act 1998, the National Forest Act, their regulations and internal rules are in effect.

Indicators

- (i) The management authority is adequately capacitated to enforce legislation within the organisation's mandate and does so

- effectively;
- (ii) Personnel resources are adequate to conduct critical law enforcement activities;
- (iii) The employees have relevant law enforcement and compliance training;
- (iv) The law enforcement officers are appropriately trained;
- (v) The employees have been formally designated to enforce the relevant legislation;
- (vi) Appropriate employees have been designated environmental management inspectors;
- (vii) The employee has the necessary equipment to enable them to do law enforcement effectively;
- (viii) The protected area has allocated sufficient funds for effective law enforcement;
- (ix) The protected area receives adequate support from other sections of the organisation to effectively manage [and] ensure effective management;
- (x) Assessment of state on illegal activities in the protected area;
- (xi) The protected area management has a database to register illegal activities;
- (xii) The database of illegal activities assessed.

(b) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The Act is applied and enforced;
- (ii) The National Environmental Management Act, 1998, and the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 are applied and enforced;
- (iii) There are appropriate regulations;
- (iv) The protected area has a formal set of internal rules;
- (v) The relevant regulations are implemented;
- (vi) Internal rules are in effect;
- (vii) The protected area has a law enforcement programme that includes reporting on illegal incidents, successful persecutions and corrective measures.

(c) Standard

Protection systems are in place.

Indicators

- (i) Management mechanisms effectively control and manage access to the protected area;
- (ii) Effective control measures are in place to control the legal use of the protected area;
- (iii) Standard operating procedures or contingency plans for controlling activities have been developed and are being effectively implemented;
- (iv) Annual risk assessments completed and proactive mitigating interventions applied where appropriate;
- (v) Critical cultural heritage assets have been identified and secured in terms of a heritage management plan.

9 Planning outside the boundary to secure the protected area

Purpose

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

9.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The protected area has identified a buffer zone in its management plan;
- (ii) The protected area has mechanisms to promote the implementation of the buffer zone;
- (iii) The protected area management has proactively sought to encourage neighbours to introduce conservation-friendly land uses to enhance buffering of the protected area;
- (iv) A policy for commenting on activities in the buffer zone has been developed and is implemented.

(b) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The management authority actively engages with organs of state responsible for land use planning affecting the protected area;
- (ii) The management authority plays an active role in land use planning affecting the protected area;
- (iii) The land-use planning takes cognisance of the protected area and the achievement of protected area management objectives.

(c) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) Management authority actively engage organs of state responsible for water use planning;
- (ii) Management authorities play an active role in water use planning affecting the protected area;
- (iii) The water-use planning affecting the protected area takes cognisance of the protected area and the achievement of protected area management objectives.

10 Relations with neighbours is sound

Purpose

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

10.1 [sic] Norm

The protected area management authority has a sound relationship with its neighbours.

(a) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) A zone of influence has been identified;
- (ii) A programme to encourage the development and maintenance of good relations with neighbours in the zone of influence is in place;
- (iii) There is a formalised programme of regular interaction between the protected area management authority and neighbouring land users;
- (iv) The management authority regularly collaborates with partners, local communities and other organisations;
- (v) The neighbouring communities have the opportunity to provide input, where relevant, into decisions relating to protected area management;
- (vi) The protected area has entered into a co-management agreement with neighbouring communities and partners - where relevant;
- (vii) The protected area has transfrontier and bilateral agreements - where applicable;
- (viii) An advisory committee or protected area forum has been established and is functioning.

11 Management plan of the protected area is implemented

Purpose

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

11.1 [sic] Norm

The protected area has an approved management plan in place that is consistent with the objectives of the Act for the purpose it was declared.

(a) Standard

A management plan has been developed for the protected area in accordance with section 39 of the Act, and the *Guidelines for the development of a management plan for a protected area in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003*.

Indicators

- (i) The purpose of the protected area is reflected in the management plan;
- (ii) The management plan contains explicit biodiversity targets for all priority biodiversity elements;
- (iii) The management plan addresses the management of specific priority species and habitats;
- (iv) There is an analysis and strategy for addressing protected area threats and pressures;
- (v) The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning and decision making;
- (vi) An expansion plan to meet the conservation objectives has been developed, where relevant;
- (vii) A zoning plan indicating what activities may take place in different sections of the area, and the conservation objectives of these sections is included in the management plan;
- (viii) An infrastructure development plan (concept development plan), subject to the zoning plan, is included in the management plan - where development is to be considered;
- (ix) There is a programme for the implementation of the management plan linked to annual work plans and staff performance agreements;
- (x) Relevant components of the municipal Integrated Development Plan have been considered in the management plan;
- (xi) Municipal Integrated Development Plan have (taken the relevant aspects of the management plan into account) considered the ecological sensitivity of the protected area, its buffer zones and any priorities areas for protected area expansion;
- (xii) The planning process allows adequate consultation with key stakeholders in the compilation of the management plan;
- (xiii) There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan;
- (xiv) There is a programme for the implementation of the management plan and its costing;
- (xv) Where appropriate, the implementation of community-based natural resource management is planned for;
- (xvi) The terms and conditions of any relevant Biodiversity plan and/or the applicable aspects of the Integrated Development Plan of the local municipality have been taken into account as required by the Act.
- xvii) The management plan is being fully implemented.

(b) Standard

The management plan for the protected area has been approved.

Indicators

- (i) [sic] An up to date management plan has been adopted by the management authority approved by the Minister or the MEC.

(c) Standard

The management plan as approved, is implemented successfully.

Indicators

- (i) An annual work plan of operations, implementing the management plan is in place;
- (ii) There is a detailed work plan identifying specific targets for achieving management objectives linked to the management plan.

(d) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The management of a protected area includes an adaptive management framework to ensure monitoring of ecological processes;
- (ii) The management of a protected area effectively maintains the environment for ecological processes critical for the achievement of conservation targets;
- (iii) Ecological processes are being effectively maintained with the result that ecological integrity and biodiversity are not being compromised;
- (iv) The management of a protected area has a monitoring system in place;
- (v) The management of a protected area has a system in place to identify threats to its ecosystems;
- (vi) The management of a protected area has a system in place to mitigate threats to its ecosystems.

(e) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) An effective fire management programme for the protected area is implemented – where relevant;
- (ii) The protected area is implementing an effective invasive species control and eradication (programme) strategy, as required in terms of section 76 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act;
- (iii) The protected area is adequately managed for sustainable use of resources, where applicable;
- (iv) The protected area has management guidelines for the sustainable use of biological resources;
- (v) The biodiversity assets and values are being managed consistent to objectives;
- (vi) The biodiversity assets are monitored to access whether the objectives are being met at appropriate temporal and spatial scales;
- (vii) The impact of legal and illegal extractive use of biological resources is being monitored;
- (viii) Specific species management plans when intervention is required as required in terms of National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 are approved.

(f) Standard

Cultural Heritage resources are managed to meet the protected area objectives as per the management plan.

Indicators

- (i) A cultural heritage management plan has been adopted;
- (ii) A cultural heritage inventory has been developed and is maintained;
- (iii) There is a mechanism to monitor and access the status of cultural resources that facilitates their protection;
- (iv) The management of heritage assets and resources is consistent with protected area objectives.

(g) Standard

All development projects that require environmental scoping are assessed through and are authorised at the relevant level.

Indicators

- (i) There are records of decisions and authorisations in place;
- (ii) There is a process to monitor and effect compliance with conditions of records of decisions.

(h) Standard

Commercial tourism, where applicable, is compatible with and contributes to the protected area objectives.

Indicators

- (i) There is co-operation between protected area management and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences maintain protected area conservation values and resolve conflicts;
- (ii) The commercial tour operators are subject to the protected area management authority;
- (iii) Permits, licenses and concessions are granted in terms of management plan objectives;
- (iv) Tourism standards are developed for nature based tourism.

12 Research and monitoring programme complements the management plan

Purpose

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

12.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) Standard

A research programme for the protected area is being implemented.

Indicators

- (i) There is an approved priority list for research required;
- (ii) Research priorities are actively communicated with potential partners and tertiary institutions;
- (iii) A mechanism is in place to access research proposals;
- (iv) A mechanism exists to feed research results back to protected areas management to facilitate adaptive management.

(b) Standard

A monitoring programme for the protected area is being implemented.

Indicators

- (i) The protected area has developed an applicable monitoring programme at relevant temporal and spatial scale supporting management objectives, and provide for review of the programme;
- (ii) Appropriate indicators for monitoring have been established;
- (iii) The results of the monitoring programme are used to adapt management in order to improve the conservation of the protected area.

13 Human resources support the implementation of the management plan

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that all protected areas have sufficient human resources to give effect to the implementation of the management plan.

13.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) Appropriate positions have been identified and filled with capable staff;
- (ii) The skills development audit is completed and results are implemented;
- (iii) The protected area staff execute their duties to a high standard and require minimal supervision;

- (iv) The protected area employment conditions are in place to retain high-quality staff;
- (v) The protected area has a staff performance evaluation system in place;
- (vi) The protected area has a succession programme in place.

(b) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) There is an effective staff management programme in place;
- (ii) The protected areas fully implements the Occupational Health and Safety Act;
- (iii) The protected area has reasonable accommodation for all resident staff and should be in compliance with the management authority standard;
- (iv) The protected area has disaster management plans in place.

14 Financial management in effect

Purpose

The purpose of this norm and its standards is to ensure that the protected area is adequately funded, and that all funds are spent to achieve the management objectives.

14.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) An operational budget is allocated to fund the critical management need of the protected area;
- (ii) The long-term financial outlook for the protected areas is favourable;
- (iii) The protected area has a funding strategy that is linked to threats, challenges and ecological processes;
- (iv) The allocation of expenditures is appropriate according to the protected areas priorities and objectives as set out in the management plan;
- (v) Financial management practice enables efficient and effective protected area management;
- (vi) Funding to conduct critical management activities is adequate for the next 5 years;
- (vii) The costing of management plans and shortfalls are addressed;
- (viii) There is a procurement plan supporting local communities where practicable;
- (ix) Financial management practices all in line with relevant legislation.

(b) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The management authority is soliciting additional external funding or services for the management of a protected area where required;
- (ii) Environmental programmes to assist where required the management of the protected area;
- (iii) There is a system in place to engage external sources to be used to contribute to the management of protected area.

(c) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) Mechanism[s] are in place that enable volunteers to work in protected area[s];
- (ii) There is a system for the appointment and management of volunteers in place.

15 Administrative systems ensure effective management

Purpose

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

15.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The Public Finance Management Act is implemented, where relevant;
- (ii) Assets are well managed;
- (iii) The reporting system is well managed;
- (iv) The system for information management is managed properly.

16 Infrastructure and equipment is in place

Purpose

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

16.1[sic] Norm

The protected area has operational equipment and a system in place for its maintenance to ensure the implementation of the management plan.

(a) Standard

Necessary operational equipment and infrastructure is in place.

Indicators

- (i) The infrastructure necessary to manage the protected area effectively is in place;
- (ii) Staff facilities are adequate to perform critical management activities;

(iii) There is (an) adequate operational equipment as required for operational management purposes.

(b) Standard

Equipment and infrastructure is effectively maintained.

Indicators

- (i) A regular programme of infrastructure maintenance is adhered to;
- (ii) Equipment is maintained in good working condition and complies with occupational health and safety standards;
- (iii) Infrastructure and equipment maintenance records are up to date to ensure effective maintenance.

17 Environmental education, awareness and communication programmes

Purpose

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

17.1 [sic] Norm

The management authority of a protected area has developed and is implementing an environmental education, communication and public awareness programme.

(a) [sic] Standard

Environmental education and public awareness programme developed and implemented in accordance with the objectives of the protected areas.

Indicators

- (i) There is an environmental education and public awareness plan linked to the objectives of the protected area;
- (ii) There is a plan to build capacity to ensure initiatives on environmental education and public awareness are achieved;
- (iii) There are mechanisms in place to monitor the implementation of the plan;
- (iv) Communities exposed to the programme show an increased application qualification of the protected area.

18 Visitor facilities contribute positively to the visitor experience

Purpose

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

18.1 [sic] Norm

Visitor facilities in the protected area contribute positively to the visitor experience without negatively affecting the environment.

(a) [sic] Standard

A visitor management plan for the protected area with a monitoring system is in place, in accordance with section 50 of the Act.

Indicators

- (i) Visitor facilities and their service infrastructure are established through a process that includes an environmental assessment and that is aligned to the protected areas;
- (ii) The visitor and tourism facilities are adequate and sufficient to prevent damage to protected areas;
- (iii) There are active programmes for restoration of degraded areas in the protected area and/or associated buffer zone, resulted (resulting) from visitor use;
- (iv) Visitor infrastructure is effectively servicing the current volume of visitors to the protected area according to the protected areas carrying capacity;
- (v) Areas in the protected area suffering from degradation or damage as a result of visitor use are subject to a rehabilitation plan;
- (vi) The visitor facilities are appropriate to the level of visitor use;
- (vii) There are mechanisms in place to maintain the impact of the visitor facilities on both the visitors and on the environment.

19 Protected area performance evaluation system is effective

Purpose

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

19.1 [sic] Norm

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

(a) [sic] Standard

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

Indicators

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

20 Socio-economic importance of the area is enhanced

Purpose

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

20.1 [sic] Norm

The management authority for the protected area has developed a strategy to enhance the socio-economic activities within its sphere of influence,

(a) Standard

The protected area provides substantive socio-economic benefits to the local area, where practicable.

Indicators

- (i) The protected area provides socio-economic benefits to local communities;
- (ii) Programmes to enhance local community welfare, whilst conserving protected area resources are being implemented;
- (iii) There is effective communication with local communities;
- (iv) The protected area is a source of employment for local communities;
- (v) The protected area provides community development opportunities through sustainable resource use;
- (vi) The protected area provides access to spiritual or religious sites;

- (vii) An active education and interpretation programme is implemented, focusing primarily on local children in the region around the protected area;
- (viii) Where relevant the protected area has co-management framework which provides benefit flows to the community.

(b) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The protected area develops and implements a programme that provides economic benefits to local communities or beneficiaries where appropriate;
- (ii) The protected area delivers quantifiable long-term economic benefits that make a real difference to the livelihoods of local communities.

(c) Standard

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

Indicators

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

(d) Standard

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

Indicators

- (i) The protected area management has identified the ecosystem services that the protected area and neighbouring land-users are reliant upon;
- (ii) The ecosystem services are being effectively maintained with the result that the protected area and neighbouring land users are deriving benefit from these services;
- (iii) Ecosystems that provide ecosystem services are monitored, and an adaptive management framework ensures effective management, and therefore sustainable benefits to neighbouring land-users;
- (iv) Agreements are in place whereby neighbouring land users are provided access to ecosystems goods and services by which they can sustainably device [sic] the benefit.

CHAPTER 3 REPORTING BY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

21 National management authorities

Management authorities of national protected areas (special nature reserves, national parks, world heritage sites and marine protected areas) are to report annually, within three (3) months of the end of the financial year on their progress toward meeting the norms and standards against the given indicators for each protected area. In addition, the report should give an overview of all protected areas for which the management authority is responsible, to allow for reflection on synergies between protected areas and their collective contribution to the South African system of protected areas.

Protected area management authorities will identify and implement programmes necessary to improve on the status of protected areas in terms of the correctness of the declaration process. In addition they will identify and implement programmes necessary to improve law enforcement.

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

22 Provincial management authorities

Management authorities of provincial protected areas (nature reserves, protected environments) are to report annually, within three (3) months of the end of the financial year to the MEC on their progress toward meeting the norms and standards against the given indicators for each protected area. In addition, the report should give an overview of all protected areas for which the management authority is responsible, to allow for reflection on synergies between protected areas and their collective contribution to the South African system of protected areas. Protected area management authorities will identify and implement programmes necessary to improve on the status of protected areas in terms of the correctness of the declaration process. In addition they will identify and implement programmes necessary to improve law enforcement.

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

23 Local government management authorities

Municipalities responsible for protected areas are to include in their annual reports to the MEC their progress towards meeting and maintaining these norms and standards. Municipalities will identify and implement programmes necessary to improve law enforcement.

24 Management authorities which are not organs of state

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