

**Project Title:**

**Improvements in Marine Water Quality  
through enhanced Estuarine Management in South Africa: Buffalo and Swartkops  
estuaries.**

***7<sup>th</sup> WIOSAP PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE  
DARES SALAAM, TANZANIA  
29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025***

**Name of IP:**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment  
Branch: Oceans and Coasts**

# Why the Project

- **Objectives:**

To improve the conditions of the two systems in the manner that supports the coastal ecological goods and services;

To advance adaptive management activities/actions in the context for use of coastal waters; and

To develop a long-term monitoring programme to evaluate the effectiveness of the identified management activities/actions



- **Where:**

- Swartkops estuary situated in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, formerly Port Elizabeth (Now Qheberha)

- Buffalo estuary situated in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, East London

- **Partners:** The 2 metropolitan municipalities; WSU, NMU, RU; Swartkops Conservancy; DWS; Benguela Current Commission; Eastern Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and TNPA



Buffalo estuary



Swartkops estuary



# Key Achievements

- An integrated water quality monitoring common programme has been developed for each system and the results are shared with the Oceans and Coasts Information Management System (a product of the Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy)
- Improvement of compliance and enforcement monitoring with relevant legislation : Continuous linked to Operation Phakisa – reactive approach
- Draft Basic assessment report for construction of sustainable drainage system for the treatment of water quality in 4 hot spots areas in the Swarkops estuary.
- Project Steering Committee have been established in both systems that involves all the stakeholders with the common purpose also the involves NGO and Industry.
- Strengthen the relationship between the Benguela Current Commission and the Nairobi Convention
- Bringing together different units within the municipality, Environmental Management; Stormwater and Infrastructure; and Waste Management



# Photos \_ Annexure 1.1b Lesser Flamingo Pond



# Key Lessons Learnt

- Continuous communication and regular feedback is important for the success of the project, especially where municipal political landscape is not stable.
- More than one source of funding can result in the success of the projects- rather than in-kind contribution - Department & BCC
- New funding model needs to be sorted – option of BCC due to the Stringent Supply Chain Management coupled with difficulties in allocating and assessing the funds
- Management of the aspiration of the communities in the adverse of the poverty and living conditions that they face. A strategy needs to be developed prior to the implementation of the environmental project as the communities need quick solutions to their problems .



# Project Sustainability

- The project to be managed by the Municipalities as they are the management authorities for the implementation of the estuarine management plans, together with the Provincial Government of Environmental Affairs – Keep interests has been shown by all key stakeholders

