

# GRANT FACT SHEET



## Oceans Alive iSimangaliso MPA Project: Strengthening management and protection in marine protected areas in the South-West Indian Ocean



Project duration	June 2019 – July 2023
Country/ies	South Africa
Lead organisation	Wildlands Conservation Trust (WILDTRUST)
Partners	Marine Megafauna Foundation, Oceans without Borders, Oceanographic Research Institute/SAAMBR, Centro Terra Viva, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, iSimangaliso Wetland Park, The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, Nelson Mandela University
Total project costs	€ 4,107,083
Blue Action Fund grant	€ 3,057,995 (74%)
Match funding	€ 1,049,088 (26%)



WILDTRUST is aiming to increase marine conservation efforts in South Africa, which only has 5.4% of its continental Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under formal spatial protection. South Africa is currently facing escalating ocean threats including resource extraction, foreign industrial fishing, and climate change impacts, compromising food security and resilience in the region.

Through capacity building, infrastructure development, and wildlife monitoring, this project is focused on delivering improved management of the marine protected area (MPA) within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site, an important MPA that protects endangered migratory species (turtles, sharks and rays) that use ecologically connected sites in southern and central Mozambique. Simultaneously, the project will work to improve the zonation of the iSimangaliso MPA to include deeper offshore areas and previously unprotected critical habitats for threatened grouper, ray and shark species in no-take sanctuaries.

WILDTRUST is also supporting sustainable local economic development through job creation, capacity building, enterprise development opportunities and social infrastructure development. Delivery of socio-economic benefits for communities is conducted in a manner that is enduring and tangibly links such benefits to the proximity and assets of the iSimangaliso MPA.

**// This project aims to deliver improved protection and management at an important marine biodiversity hotspot in South Africa, and to understand iSimangaliso MPA's importance for protection of endangered species that use ecologically connected sites in Mozambique, whilst acting to address social and economic challenges for the coastal communities living around this MPA.**

## KEY TARGETS

Effectively managed MPAs:  
11,635 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of beneficiaries:  
4,400

## ACTIVITIES AND AREAS OF WORK

### MPA GOVERNANCE



- ▶ Updating MPA management plan
- ▶ Management plans adaptive to climate change
- ▶ Monitoring, control and enforcement
- ▶ Data collection and mapping
- ▶ Training of protected area staff
- ▶ Gender empowerment for MPA governance

### SPECIES CONSERVATION/SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



- ▶ Fisheries control and enforcement
- ▶ Conservation measures for turtles
- ▶ Conservation measures for other species

### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



- ▶ Creating sustainable employment opportunities
- ▶ Job training
- ▶ Sustainable tourism
- ▶ Economic empowerment of women

### HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION



- ▶ Protection of coral reefs



Photo: Cassy Pratt



Photo: Bryan Hart