PLANNING A WORLD HERITAGE SITE
BUFFER ZONE: A 40-YEAR CONTRIBUTION

presented by

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THIS PRESENTATION

• Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg region & UDWHS Buffer Zone.
• Early Drakensberg policies.
• Current COGTA approach: Suite of implementational mechanisms:
  - proactive/reactive;
    persuasion/money/law;
    specific/generic;
  — institutional development.
• Conclusions: Some lessons learnt.
UKHAHLAMBA-DRAKENSBERG REGION

[Map of the region with various regions labeled, including Okhahlamba, Mpolweni, Sibiya, and others.]

[Images of the landscape of the region, showing rolling hills and rural houses.]
UKHAHLAMBA-DRAKENSBERG WORLD HERITAGE SITE BUFFER ZONE

• PURPOSE OF THE BUFFER ZONE:
  - Protect WHS values: landscape character, heritage, biodiversity.
  - Support communities in the buffer zone.

• COGTA APPROACH:
  Support implementation of buffer zone within mandate of municipal/traditional support and coordination.
EARLY DRAKENSBERG POLICIES

- **TRPC. 1976.** *Drakensberg policy statement.* Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission Reports (sic) Volume 34.
- **TRPC. 2001.** *A Special Case Area Plan for the Drakensberg.* Town and Regional Planning Commission Main Series Volume 90

Essential elements of the series of the policies are rooted in the *Drakensberg Policy Statement* (DPS).
The DPS recognized a need for regional diversity and choice to be achieved by:
- Physiographic (land form) zonation;
- Recreational nodes in the approaches.
EARLY POLICIES – PHYSIOGRAPHIC BASIS OF ZONATION
PROACTIVE INSTRUMENTS

• PERSUASION
  - DMA principles (management of WHS interface).
  - Landscape character assessments e.g. KwaSani.
  - Policy zones mapping for inclusion into SDFs.
  - Settlement location and design e.g. Bergville urban design.
  - Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg corridor plan.
  - SDF interventions and SDF support e.g. KwaSani & Impendle SDFs.
The valley is surrounded on three sides by ridges emanating from the Marwaqa Mountains. The ridges are typically flat topped, with periodically exposed rocky ridgelines. The upper slopes are steep, though gradually decrease in pitch as they drop quickly in elevation through successive bands of sandstone (some of which are exposed). *Protea* trees are located amongst the upper bands of exposed rock and associated shallow soils. As the slopes descend towards the valley floor, they tend to become more undulating (in the horizontal plane) due to the development of small streams and drainage courses. Towards the lower portions of the slopes, it is not uncommon for these streams to fall over exposed sandstone ridges producing small waterfalls. Typically associated with these features are clumps of indigenous forest and/or *Leucosidea* Scrub. The lower slopes, displaying a pitch roughly half of that of the upper slopes, change's quickly into an undulating valley floor on which the farm Glengeriff is located.
KwaSani Viewshed (from every 100 m along the Clarens Sandstone)
Site and Environs: Preliminary Concept
UKHAHLAMBA CORRIDOR

FIGURE 3: INVESTMENT CONCEPT - LANDSCAPE AND TOURISM

UKHAHLAMBA-DRAKENSBERG PARK WORLD HERITAGE SITE

- Main Trail
- Lower Order Access Routes
- Principal Route

- Coleford Hilltown
- Underberg
- Himeville
- Netherby Hilltown
- Pevensey Hilltown

TRAIL-BASED MICROTOURISM
HOMESTEAD AND FARM TOURISM
INTENSIVE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
PROACTIVE INSTRUMENTS contd.

• MONEY
  - Environmental economics.
  - Public capital investment frameworks.
  - Trans-Maloti trekking trail.
PROPOSED INVENTIVES: Various proposals in these themes:

• Adding value to communal farming.
• Adding value to commercial farming.
• Adding value to human settlements.
• Promotion of conservation on communal & commercial lands.
ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Source: Dewar & Kiepiel, 2010; ISIK (2011) on behalf of COGTA

From abstract concept to sub-regional analysis
CAPITAL WEB: KWASANI REGION
PROACTIVE INSTRUMENTS contd.

• **LAW**
  - Scheme tool box.
  - Scheme support e.g. KwaSani rural scheme: trail zone & landscape overlays; scheme regulation of public capital investment.
  - Intended corridor plan norms and standards.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSIDE SETTLEMENT EDGES</th>
<th>OUTSIDE SETTLEMENT EDGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher levels of public capital investment.</td>
<td>Basic needs investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Settlement development is promoted and intensified in alignment with regional/subregional infrastructure</td>
<td>Focus on restoring and maintaining integrity of wild lands and agricultural areas. Settlement is recorded as existing uses in rural zones: e.g. agricultural zones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cadastral basis for zonation may be appropriate</td>
<td>Natural boundaries are appropriate basis for zonation e.g. landscape character areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public capital investment is regulated by the scheme in terms of hierarchical packages of investment</td>
<td>Public investment is regulated - basic needs investment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KIT OR CLUSTER OF PUBLIC PARTS

Source: ISIK (2011) on behalf of COGTA

1) Single Facility
2) Primary Kit of Public Parts
3) Secondary Kit of Public Parts
4) Tertiary Kit of Public Parts
LANDSCAPE BASIS OF KWASANI SCHEME
KWASANI LANDSCAPE CHARACTER/TOURISM OVERLAY

KWASANI - CAPACITY PER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT TYPE
PROACTIVE INSTRUMENTS contd.

• GENERIC INSTRUMENTS
  - 2009 Spatial planning guidelines.
  - 2012 Training modules
  - Provincial norms and standards e.g. landscape character.
Application of Settlement Edges

Settlements in Agricultural land (basic services)

Road, Bulk Infrastructure

Inner “Settlement” Edge (for intensification)

Outer Containment Edge
DM Step 4b: Define irrigation agriculture potential

Dryland Agriculture + Water Resource Potential = Irrigation Agriculture
REACTIVE INSTRUMENTS

• DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT: Planning and environmental applications
  - Monitoring and support.
  - Policy guidance on planning and environmental applications.
  - Other technical guidance on planning and environmental applications.
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- DMA work group.
- IGR agreements.
- World Heritage Site Buffer Zone Technical Committee.
CONCLUSION: SOME LESSONS LEARNT

- Pro-active approach around strong & clear concepts of development is critical: Objectives cannot be attained only by reactive (application-by-application) management.
- It is a normative exercise involving regional design & consensus & not about ultimate levels of scientific exactitude.
- Involves statutory, persuasionary and structural instruments of which the last is arguably most important.
- Landscape approach has always featured.
- IGR is an ongoing challenge but critical for success.
- WHSBZTC has been an important ground for building capacity, developing mutual understanding, training, developing policy & sustaining policies already in place.
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