

## Message from Dr Luthando Dziba, Managing Executive: Conservation Services

- South African National Parks supports the expansion of protected areas through a thoughtful and consultative protective area expansion strategy. The SANParks Land Inclusion Plan supports this strategy and is a practical mechanism to give effect to the strategy. In the last 25 years or so, SANParks has added more than 700,000ha to the conservation estate through a combination of land purchases, lease agreements and contractual national agreements. This is approximately 20% of the current conservation estate and a massive contribution to conservation. We thank our partners including the Department of Environmental Affairs as well as the National Parks Trust and the Leslie Hill Trust who have contributed significant resources to secure land for conservation. We also thank our partners in conservation who contribute in many other ways including land through contractual national park agreements.
- There are two exiting initiatives that will likely contribute another 150,000ha. A plan to declare the 134,000ha Square Kilometer Array Project as a national park is well under way and so are plans to explore potential for a grassland national park in the north Eastern Cape in collaboration with Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
- SANParks also sees tremendous opportunity in partnering with communities for conservation, including communities whose land claims were settled and communities that are participating in the wildlife economy.