

Your ref: Whale Heritage Site

Our ref: Whale Heritage Site

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Who deals with this: Ms S Ngombane

**WORLD CETACEAN ALLIANCE  
LOWER MADEIRA DR  
BRIGHTON  
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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ALGOA BAY TO BE DECLARED A WHALE  
HERITAGE SITE**

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's Economic Development Tourism and Agriculture Directorate is amongst others the Destination Marketing Department responsible for promoting and facilitating travel to Nelson Mandela Bay (incorporating Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage & Despatch).

Economic Development Tourism and Agriculture wish to support and motivate for Algoa Bay to be declared a Whale Heritage site. Tourism is a key sustainable contributor to our local economy and the protection and use of our natural resources in a sustainable manner of high importance.

Algoa Bay, the coastal region of Nelson Mandela Bay, boasts 40 km of magnificent golden beaches as well as one of the most diverse marine eco systems in the world. It is one of our key iconic tourism assets. Port Elizabeth, tagged as the "Water Sport Capital" of Africa, offers unrivalled conditions in addition to an abundance of action-packed activities throughout the year. With its perfect combination of warm water, calm sea and fair breezes, it is one of the best sailing venues in the world and a Mecca for all beach and water sport enthusiasts. The African leg of the international Ironman triathlon and other Surf lifesaving, rubber ducking, jet-skiing, canoeing, surfing, paragliding and power-boating events are held on a regular basis.

Algoa Bay was declared by BirdLife International as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in 2001, because of the globally threatened and vulnerable species, and plenty of other birdlife, that make the islands in the bay their home. Apart from African penguins and Cape gannets, we also host the African black oystercatcher, both white-breasted and Cape cormorants, kelp gulls, swift terns, Antarctic terns, and roseate terns. As well as the visiting pelagic species of albatrosses, shearwaters, skuas, petrels and terns, which make this bay truly incredible. The islands in the bay are of considerable importance as they are the only islands along a 1,777 km stretch of coastline between Cape Agulhas on the West Coast and Inhaca Island in the tropical waters of Mozambique. And several studies have pointed out the need to protect boundaries of species distribution range or ecosystems as these are the most likely to be modified by climate change.

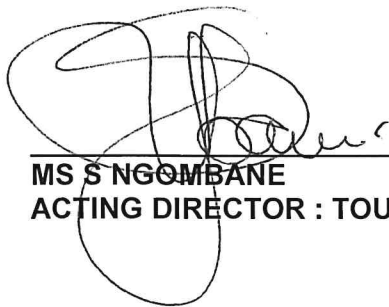
Algoa Bay includes islands with most importantly the largest Cape Gannetry in the world (110 000 breeding pairs) as well as over 50% of the world's African Penguin population.

The diving sites in Nelson Mandela Bay are of world-class quality with beautiful reefs, shipwrecks, a variety of fish and colourful soft coral species. The protected warm water of Algoa Bay provides scuba divers with the most exciting and diverse range of dive sites in the country. Reefs and pinnacles range from depths of ten to thirty metres, especially round the Cape Recife area, and visibility of up to 30 meters has been recorded.

Algoa Bay represents all five major South African coastal types that need protection, i.e. rocky shore, sandy shores, offshore, soft sediments and estuaries. The Bird Island group is already part of the Marine Protected Area established by SANParks as part of the Greater Addo Elephant National Park, which was declared in 2004.

We trust you find the above in order

Kind Regards



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**MS S NGOMBANE**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR : TOURISM MARKETING**