

## **Background Information Dossier**

Extension of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site (South Africa)  
To Maputo National Park (Mozambique), to form One Transboundary World  
Heritage Site

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**iSimangaliso**  
Wetland Park

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## 1.1 Background Note

In the inscription of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park in 1999 (then Greater St Lucia Wetland Park) the IUCN (advisory body to the World Heritage Committee on natural sites) noted the eventuality of the possible extension to include terrestrial and the marine areas in Mozambique in effort of increasing protection to the undisturbed coastal ecosystem given that the “wildlife know no boundaries”.

In further efforts of increasing the ecosystem protection, in 2000 the General Trans-frontier Conservation and Resource Area Protocol amongst Mozambique, Eswatini and South African governments, and the Lubombo-Ponta do Ouro-Kosi Bay Marine and Coastal Transfrontier Conservation and Resource Area Protocol by Mozambique and South Africa were both signed to provide legal mechanism for transboundary cooperation including for the development and harmonization of regulations and legislation for conservation and sustainable development.

Considering the transboundary characteristic of the proposed extension, national legislations of the two countries are considered to be sufficiently aligned to allow for effective transboundary protection of the property as one whole.

The overall legal framework both at the national and transboundary levels, the long-standing coordination with South Africa on protection efforts and the capacity of management authorities for law enforcement and surveillance demonstrate adequate protection measures to ensure the sustainability of the nominated property’s potential OUV.

## 1.2 Nomination Dossier Submission

The lengthy co-ordination between South Africa and Mozambique allowed the resuscitation of the Transboundary Management Committee (TMC) which facilitated the learning exchange programmes and legislation harmonisation for these two countries because once the site extension is inscribed it will have to be managed as one. The TMC will also have to be equipped with both capacity and budget.

The coordination between these two countries culminated in the submission of the transboundary nomination dossier to UNESCO in February 2024. The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention requires, in this case, that South Africa provide a letter of support to be submitted with the nomination dossier. The Minister of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment signed the letter of support however stipulated that public consultation process is yet to be conducted in line with the Guidelines and South African applicable legislation.

In May 2025, the IUCN recommended to the World Heritage Committee that the proposed extension be approved as it meets all the requirements.

Kindly refer to the annexures in the next pages for more information relating to the proposed Extension of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site (South Africa) To Maputo National Park (Mozambique), to form One Transboundary World Heritage Site:

## Annexures:

Annex A:

**Background Information Document:** Public Participation Process for the Proclamation of the Maputo National Park and the World Heritage Site Nomination

Annex B:

**Nomination Document:** Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage