KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT ACT
NO. 9 OF 1997


ACT
To provide institutional structures for nature conservation in Kwazulu-Natal; to establish control and monitoring bodies and mechanisms, and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

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CHAPTER 1

1. **Definitions**

In this Act, unless the context indicates a contrary intention

**Administration** means the Kwazulu-Natal Provincial Administration;

**affected officials** means any person who, on the date of the coming into effect of this Act, was -

(a) in the employ of the Natal Parks Board;

(b) in the employ of the Directorate: Nature Conservation of the Department.' or

(c) in any other category of officials identified by the Minister;

**Board** means the Kwazulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board;

**Chief Executive Officer** means the person appointed as head of the Conservation Service in terms of section 22;

**Conservation Service** means the Kwazulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service established in terms of section 20;

**the Constitution** means the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996);

**Department** means that department of the Administration whose functions and duties include the administration of this Act,

**ecotourism** means natural resource-based tourism;

**employees** includes all affected officials,

**Gazette** means the Provincial Gazette of Kwazulu-Natal;

**heritage resource** has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 1 of the Kwazulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997;

**House of Traditional Leaders** means such body established in terms of section 3 of the Kwazulu-Natal Act on the House of Traditional Leaders, 1994 (Act No. 7 of 1994);

**local board** means a protected area board established in terms of section 25;
Minister means that member of the Kwazulu-Natal Executive Council under whose portfolio the responsibility for protection and conservation of the environment and nature conservation resides and under which the administration of this Act falls;

Minister of Finance means that member of the Kwazulu-Natal Executive Council whose portfolio includes responsibility for the finances of the Administration;

nature conservation means the conservation of naturally occurring ecological systems, the sustainable utilisation of indigenous plants and animals therein, and the promotion and maintenance of biological diversity;

organised agriculture means that body or those bodies which together are representative of a substantial proportion of the farmers in Kwazulu-Natal;

organised labour means that body or those bodies, registered in terms of the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (Act No. 66 of 1995), which are representative of a substantial proportion of the employees of the Conservation Service;

organ of State has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 239 of the Constitution;

Parliament means the Provincial Legislature of the province of Kwazulu-Natal;

person means a natural or juristic person or a group of such persons unless the context shows a contrary intention;

Portfolio Committee means the portfolio committee of the Kwazulu-Natal Provincial Legislature whose terms of reference include nature conservation in Kwazulu-Natal;

prescribed means prescribed by regulations made in terms of this Act;

protected area means any area -

(a) declared or proclaimed as such in terms of section 3; or

(b) listed in the Second Schedule to this Act;

province means the province of Kwazulu-Natal;

Provincial Tourism Authority means the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority established in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority Act, 1996 (Act No. 11 of 1996);

Public Service Act means the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. R 103 of 1994);

Regional Tourism Committee means such body established in terms of section 25(2) of the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority Act, 1996 (Act No. 11 of 1996);

Secretary means the person appointed as head of the Department in terms of the laws governing the Public Service and includes an acting and temporary appointment;

this Act includes schedules hereto and regulations made in terms hereof;
**tribal authority** means a tribal authority or community authority established in terms of the KwaZulu Amakhosi and Isiphakanyiswa Act, 1990 (Act No. 9 of 1990).

## CHAPTER 2
### MINISTERIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

2. **Powers, duties and functions of the Minister**

   (1) The Minister is, in addition to any other powers, functions and duties granted to or imposed on him or her in terms of this or any other law, responsible for nature conservation policy, the implementation of this Act, and related matters.

   (2)(a) Notwithstanding any provisions contained elsewhere in this Act, the Minister may, after consultation with the Portfolio Committee and the Board, suspend any decision or resolution taken by the Board, a local board, or an official of the Conservation Service in terms thereof.

   (b) When the Minister has acted in terms of subsection (2)(a), he must, within 30 days after receiving representations from the Board, local board or official of the Conservation Service, as the case may be, and in consultation with the Portfolio Committee, determine whether the relevant decision or resolution will be-

   (i) implemented;
   (ii) implemented in a revised form; or
   (iii) abandoned.

3. **Protected areas**

   (1) The Minister must, in consultation with the Board and the Portfolio Committee, prescribe categories of protected areas, together with objectives of each category.

   (2) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette -

   (a) proclaim an area described in such notice to be a protected area;

   (b) amend the boundaries of a protected area;

   (c) assign a name or names to a protected area, and vary or withdraw such name or names;

   (d) subject to the provisions of this Act and any other applicable law, designate or vary the designation of the category of a protected area; and

   (e) subject to the prior approval of the Parliament by way of a resolution, deproclaim a protected area in whole or in part.

   (3) In exercising the discretion referred to in subsection (2), the Minister must only act -

   (a) on the recommendation of the Board;

   (b) after consultation with the Portfolio Committee;

   (c) in consultation with the owners of any land affected thereby;
(d) in consultation with the tribal authority within whose jurisdiction any such land is situated; and

(e) after consultation with the holders of any other real rights in and to the land.

CHAPTER 3
KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD

4. Establishment of the Kwazulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board

(1) There is hereby established the Kwazulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board.

(2) The Board is a juristic person capable of suing and being sued in its own name.

(3) The Board is the successor in title to the Natal Parks Board and the Directorate: Nature Conservation of the Department in respect of all rights, duties and obligations existing at the date on which this Act comes into effect.

(4) The Minister must -

(a) invite submissions from members of the public of the names of persons who could be taken into consideration when appointing members to the Board; and

(b) prescribe the method which will enable the invitation contemplated in paragraph (a) to reach the greatest number of residents in the province.

(5) An invitation contemplated in subsection (4)(a) must specify the method of submission and a date by which nominations are to reach the Minister.

(6) The Board must consist of no less than nine and no more than fourteen members appointed by the Minister in terms of subsections (7) and (8), plus the Chief Executive Officer, ex officio, as contemplated in subsection (10).

(7)(a) The Minister, after consultation with the Portfolio Committee, must appoint a selection committee to assist in the appointment process,

(b) The Minister must refer all nominations received to such selection committee.

(c) The selection committee must compile a short list of candidates and submit such short list to the Portfolio Committee.

(d) The Portfolio Committee must, after commenting on the nominees, submit the short list, together with such comments, to the Minister.

(e) The Minister must, after considering the short list and the comments of the Portfolio Committee, and subject to the provisions of subsection (8), appoint the appropriate number of Board members.

(8) The members of the Board must have an interest in nature conservation and must be drawn from the following categories to achieve, as far as is practical, a balance of interests and expertise within the Board:

(a) at least one, but not more than two persons -
(i) nominated by the House of Traditional Leaders; and
(ii) from non-governmental organisations, institutions or groups established for the advancement of nature conservation or environmental protection within the province;

(b) one person -

(i) from community-based organisations in rural areas in the province;
(ii) with extensive knowledge of the business sector;
(iii) with knowledge and experience of environmental law;
(iv) nominated by the Provincial Tourism Authority;
(v) with extensive knowledge and experience of labour matters;
(vi) from organised agriculture; and
(vii) with extensive knowledge of the protection and management of heritage resources; and

(c) not more than 3 other persons, selected by the Minister, to enhance the competence of the Board.

(9)(a) A person cannot be appointed as, or remain, a member of the Board if such person -

(i) is or becomes a member of the national or provincial Parliaments, or an official or employee contemplated in the Public Service Act, or, save for the Chief Executive Officer contemplated in terms of subsection (10), a member of the Conservation Service;
(ii) is an unrehabilitated insolvent, or becomes insolvent and the insolvency results in the sequestration of his or her estate;
(iii) is declared to be of unsound mind by a court of the Republic; or
(iv) since the date on which the Constitution came into effect, has been or is convicted of an offense and sentenced to more than 12 months' imprisonment without the option of a fine, either in the Republic, or outside the Republic if the conduct constituting the offense would have been an offense in the Republic, but no one may be regarded as having been sentenced until an appeal against the conviction or sentence has been determined, or until the time for an appeal has expired. A disqualification under this paragraph ends five years after the sentence has been completed.

(b) A person must, prior to appointment as a member of the Board, submit to the Minister a written statement declaring whether or not he or she is disqualified in terms of paragraph (a).

(10) The Chief Executive Officer of the Conservation Service is an ex officio member of the Board.

5. **Powers, duties and functions of the Board**

(1) The primary functions of the Board are -

(a) to direct the management of -

(i) nature conservation within the province.
(ii) protected areas; and
(iii) the development and promotion of ecotourism facilities within the protected areas; and

(b) to ensure the proper, efficient and effective management of the Conservation Service.
(2) The Board may from time to time -

(a) undertake investigations into and make recommendations to the Minister in relation to

(i) legislation and policies pertaining to the function of nature conservation;
(ii) financing of nature conservation and ecotourism activities; and
(iii) policy formulation for the coordination of ecotourism projects involving both government and private initiatives, including community-linked projects associated with protected areas;

(b) raise funds and acquire or dispose of movable assets by any lawful means including but not limited to -

(i) the acceptance of conditional and unconditional donations, bequests and sponsorships;
(ii) the acquisition, sale, lease, hire, donation or exchange of movable natural resources and assets, including but not limited to plants and animals;
(iii) revenue derived from ecotourism, levies and the issue of permits and any other similar sources of funds or assets;

(c) enter into agreements with

(i) statutory bodies;
(ii) organs of State; or
(iii) persons or bodies approved by the Minister for the purposes of this paragraph,

in terms of which the Board undertakes to perform a function or functions on behalf of such body, organ or person;

(d) within its area of operation, effect or cause to be effected movable or immovable improvements;

(e) arrange with any insurer for the provision of insurance cover for the Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Board, and for officers and employees of the Conservation Service, in respect of bodily injury, disablement or death resulting solely and directly from an accident occurring in the course of the performance of their duties;

(f) provide accommodation for visitors to protected areas, and facilities and services in connection therewith;

(g) fix and adjust the fees, charges and levies to be paid by persons for entry into, accommodation in and other facilities provided within protected areas;

(h) grant exemptions or partial exemptions from the fees, charges and levies contemplated in paragraph (g);

(i) make ex gratia refunds in whole or in part in respect of the fees, charges and levies contemplated in paragraph (g); and

(j) provide training and education in any matter related to its primary functions.

(3) The Board must -

(a) determine conditions and set norms and standards for -
(i) nature conservation activities and the management of protected areas: Provided that different norms and standards may be determined for each category contemplated in section 3(1);

(ii) the sustainable use of all indigenous plants and animals throughout the province; and

(iii) the regulation of import, export and utilisation of indigenous and non-indigenous wild plants and animals throughout the province;

(b) in respect of management plans submitted by a local board in relation to protected areas -

(i) approve or reject such plans, conditionally or otherwise;

(ii) defer a decision on such plans until the completion of investigations to be undertaken by or on behalf of the Board; or

(iii) refer such plans back to the relevant local board for amendment or further investigation of aspects identified by the Board; and

(c) ensure the protection and management of heritage resources within the protected areas, according to the principles of the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act, 1997.

(4) Subject to the prior approval of the Minister and the Minister of Finance, the Board may

(i) borrow money or obtain overdraft facilities from a bank or other financial institution;

(ii) acquire an interest in companies, partnerships or other bodies and dispose of such interests in whole or in part;

(iii) second officers or employees of the Conservation Service to any international agency, national or provincial department, or statutory body to assist with matters reasonably related to the objects of the Board;

(iv) enter into agreements, contracts and joint ventures with other institutions, organisations, bodies or persons;

(v) acquire, sell, lease, hire, donate or exchange immovable property; and

(vi) enter into trans-frontier undertakings for the promotion of nature conservation and, to this end, exercise any of the subsection (2), (3) and (4) powers outside the province, but subject to any other relevant laws.

(5) In addition to the powers contemplated in subsections (2), (3) and (4), the Board may take such other action not incompatible with the provisions of this Act as it may deem necessary for the achievement of its primary functions.

6. **Period of office**

(1) The members of the Board, other than the Chief Executive Officer, must be appointed for a period of three years or such lesser period as the Minister may determine.

(2) Different periods of office may be determined for different appointments.

(3) On the expiry of such term of office, a person is eligible for reappointment: Provided that no member of the Board is eligible for more than two consecutive reappointments,

7. **Chairperson and deputy chairperson**

(1) The Minister must, from amongst the members of the Board from time to time appoint a chairperson and a deputy chairperson of the Board, and may at any time withdraw or vary such appointments.
(2) In the event that the office of chairperson is vacant or the chairperson is absent, incapacitated or refuses or fails to act as chairperson of the Board, the deputy chairperson must exercise all of the powers, rights, functions and duties of the chairperson during the period of such vacancy, absence, incapacity, refusal or failure.

(3) In the event that -

(a) the offices of both chairperson and deputy chairperson are vacant; or
(b) both the chairperson and deputy chairperson are absent or incapacitated or refuse or fail to undertake the duties of chairperson,

the Minister must appoint another member to act as chairperson during the period of such vacancy, absence, incapacity, refusal or failure.

8. Filling of vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in the ranks of the members occurring for any reason, the Minister may, subject to the provisions of section 4, appoint a person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies for a period of office determined by the Minister when making such appointment.

9. Publication of appointments, resignations and terminations

(1) When appointing a member, the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the Board, the Minister must cause a notice to be published in the Gazette as soon as is practical after such appointment, specifying the name of the appointee, the office held, the date of effect and period of such appointment.

(2) When a member of the Board resigns from appointment as a member, the chairperson or deputy chairperson, or when a member's appointment to the Board is terminated, the Minister must cause a notice to be published in the Gazette as soon as is practical after such resignation or termination, specifying, the name of the member, the office held, and the date of effect of such resignation or termination.

10. Resignation of a member of the Board

A member of the Board may, at any time and upon giving written notice to the Minister, resign from appointment as-

(a) the chairperson or deputy chairperson; or
(b) a member,

or both, as the case may be, and must as soon as practical thereafter advise the Chief Executive Officer of such resignation.

11. Termination of appointment

(1) The Minister may terminate a person's appointment as a member on one or more of the following grounds:
(a) infirmity of mind or body which prevents him or her from the proper discharge of the duties of his or her office;

(b) conduct which brings or could bring the activities of the Board into disrepute;

(c) failure, refusal or neglect to carry out the duties and functions of a member to the best of his or her ability; or

(d) failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board without the consent of the chairperson.

(2) Whenever the Minister terminates the appointment of a member in terms of subsection (1), such termination and the grounds therefore must be reported within 14 days to Parliament or, if Parliament is not sitting, to the Speaker and the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee.

12. Suspension of a member

The Minister may suspend a member from the execution of his or her duties whilst the Minister is investigating and considering allegations which, if proved to be correct or substantially correct, could result in the member's appointment being terminated in terms of section 11.

13. Remuneration and conditions of appointment

The Minister must, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, from time to time determine the conditions of appointment of members, including allowances payable.

14. Meetings of Board

(1) The meetings of the Board must be held on such dates and at such times and places as may from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board: Provided that the first meeting of the Board must be held at such time and place as the chairperson may determine.

(2) The quorum for a meeting of the Board is a simple majority of the total number of members appointed at that time.

(3) A decision of the majority of the members present at a meeting of the Board is a decision of the Board and in the event of an equality of votes the chairperson has a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

(4)(a) The Board may not exclude the public, including the media, from meetings of the Board unless it is reasonable and justifiable to do so in an open and democratic society.

(b) Members of the public may only participate in meetings of the Board with the prior permission of the Board.

(5) The Minister and Secretary may attend meetings of the Board and may participate in discussions but may not vote.

15. Establishment of committees
(1) The Board may from time to time establish committees from within the ranks of its members to which specific matters or classes of matters may be referred for investigation and report to the Board.

(2) When establishing any such committee, the Board must -

(a) determine the terms of reference of such committee including but not limited to whether or not such committee ceases to exist once it has completed the task or tasks allocated to it by the Board;

(b) appoint a chairperson of such committee.

(3) The Board may at any time terminate the existence of or any mandate given to a committee, irrespective of whether or not the committee has completed the task or tasks allocated to it by the Board.

16. Minutes of proceedings

(1) The Board must cause minutes to be compiled of the proceedings of every meeting of the Board and of any committee established by the Board and must cause copies of such minutes to be circulated to all the members.

(2) The minutes prepared in terms of subsection (1), when signed at a subsequent meeting of the Board or committee by the chairperson, must, in the absence of proof of error therein, be deemed to be a true and correct record of the proceedings which they purport to minute and must, at any proceedings in terms of this Act or before a court of law or any tribunal or commission of inquiry, constitute prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the Board or committee and the matters they purport to minute.

(3) The minutes of meetings where the public and media were not excluded in terms of section 14(4)(a), once signed in terms of subsection (2), become public documents and must be made available for scrutiny by the public and the media, upon request.

17. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

(1) Where, in relation to a matter being investigated, considered or voted upon by the Board, a member has any direct or indirect interest which precludes or could preclude him or her from performing his or her functions as member in a fair, unbiased and proper manner, he or she must -

(a) disclose such interest; and

(b) disclose the nature and extent thereof

(2) Upon such disclosure, he or she must not participate in such investigation, consideration or vote and must absent himself or herself from the room or other venue in which such investigations, considerations or voting is taking place,

(3) Any disclosure and determination contemplated in subsection (1) must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in question.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), upon the disclosure of the interest and the member absenting himself or herself from the meeting, the remaining members must discuss
the matter and determine whether the member in question may return to the meeting and participate in the discussion of the issue before the Board.

(5) If any member fails to comply with the provisions of subsections (1) or (2), a decision of the Board taken following such a consideration may, at the discretion of the Board, be set aside and declared void at the instance of any aggrieved person.

18. Reports

The Board must, not later than 6 months after the end of the financial year determined in terms of section 24(1), submit a report and audited set of financial statements to the Minister on the activities of the Board, the Conservation Service and local boards for the twelve-month period coinciding with the previous financial year, which report must be tabled in Parliament by the Minister within 60 days.

19. Administrative and financial support

(1) Unless otherwise directed by the Minister, secretarial and administrative support for the Board must be provided by the Conservation Service.

(2) The activities of the Board, the Conservation Service and the local boards must be funded by means of -

(a) funds voted for that purpose by Parliament;

(b) funds raised by the Board in terms of section 5; and

(c) in respect of the Board and the Conservation Service, any other source approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister of Finance or, in respect of local boards, any other source approved by the Board.

CHAPTER 4
KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION SERVICE

20. Establishment of Conservation Service

(1) There is hereby established the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service.

(2) The Conservation Service is accountable to the Board for the execution of its functions, powers and duties.

21. Organisation, appointment and secondment of persons to the Conservation Service

(1) The Conservation Service must consist of such posts arranged in such an organisational structure as the Minister, in consultation with the Board and after consultation with organised labour, may approve.

(2) The Board may, with the prior approval of the Minister, from time to time and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, appoint such employees as the Board may deem necessary for the proper functioning of the Conservation Service.

(3) The Minister may prescribe the conditions of service of persons appointed in terms of subsection (2).
(4) Every employee of the Conservation Service has a right of appeal directly to the Minister in the event of dismissal.

(5) Notwithstanding anything else herein contained, the Minister may, in consultation with the Board, and subject to the laws governing the Public Service, second officials of the Provincial Administration to the Conservation Service for fixed or indefinite periods: Provided that such officials must, during the period of such secondment, remain in the employ of the Provincial Administration and must be subject to the same conditions of service which would have applied had they not been so seconded: Provided further that where any official of the Provincial Administration is so seconded, he or she is regarded to be in the full-time employment of the Conservation Service for purposes of management and control and is subject to compliance with all the legal and other measures and requirements applicable to persons in the full-time employment of the Conservation Service.

22. Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

(1) The Minister must, in consultation with the Board, and after the position has been duly advertised, appoint a Chief Executive Officer of the Conservation Service, who must exercise such powers and perform such functions and duties as may be prescribed, including but not limited to the control and management of the administration and finances of the Conservation Service and the execution of the policies of and directives of the Board.

(2) Whenever the office of Chief Executive Officer is vacant or the Chief Executive Officer is for any reason unable to perform the duties of his or her office, the Minister may, in consultation with the Board, appoint an officer of the Conservation Service as acting Chief Executive Officer on such terms and for such period as he or she sees fit: Provided that the Minister may furnish and withdraw a standing authority in this regard.

23. Powers, functions and duties of the Conservation Service

The primary function of the Conservation Service is nature conservation inside and outside protected areas, and to this end the Conservation Service must, in addition to any powers, functions or duties assigned to it under this Act or any other law, and subject to the policies of and directives by the Minister, Board and where applicable, local boards, undertake to provide support -

(a) for the Board, including but not limited to the rendering of professional, scientific, operational, administrative, secretarial, and infrastructural support services;

(b) for local boards, including but not limited to the rendering of professional, scientific, operational, administrative, secretarial and infrastructural support services;

(c) for activities in such other areas as may be placed under the control of the Board by the Minister;

(d) to any other person or body, as authorised by the Board; and

(e) for a process to ensure comment can be made on land-use changes outside protected areas where such changes could detrimentally affect ecological processes and biodiversity in the province.

24. Accounts and financial records
(1) The financial year of the Board, the Conservation Service and the local boards must coincide with the financial year of the Department.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer is the accounting officer of the Board, the Conservation Service and the local boards.

(3) The financial accounts of the Board, the Conservation Service and the local boards must be audited by an auditor registered in terms of the Public Accountants and Auditors Act, 1991 (Act No. 80 of 1991).

CHAPTER 5
LOCAL BOARDS FOR PROTECTED AREAS

25. **Establishment and membership of local boards**

(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Board and after following the procedure specified in this Act and prescribed, establish a local board in respect of a protected area or areas.

(2) The Minister must -

   (a) invite submissions from residents of, and neighbouring communities to, the protected area or areas of the names of persons who could be taken into consideration when appointing members to the local board;

   (b) prescribe the minimum requirements and other criteria which will be taken into consideration when deciding which persons are to be appointed to such local board; and

   (c) prescribe the method which will enable the invitation contemplated in paragraph (a) to reach the greatest number of residents of, and neighbouring communities to, the protected area or areas.

(3) An invitation contemplated in subsection (2)(a) must specify the method of submission and a date by which such nominations are to reach the Minister.

(4) The Minister must, after considering any nominations submitted in terms of subsection (2)(a), and in consultation with the Board, appoint the prescribed number of members to the local board: Provided that -

   (a) at least one official or employee of the Conservation Service nominated by the Board must be an ex officio member of a local board;

   (b) where applicable, the Regional Tourism Committee may nominate a member of their committee to be an ex officio member of a local board;

   (c) in making appointments, the Minister must consider the need to ensure a balance between tribal authorities, regional councils and other municipalities, community-based organisations, the business sector, environmental groups, fanning associations and other interested parties in the particular area as well as the appointment of specific persons given the circumstances prevailing in any particular protected area or areas;
(d) any appointments made in respect of any particular local board should be based on demonstrated real interest by the nominated persons in respect of the particular protected area or areas; and

(e) where a local board has within its area of jurisdiction one or more protected areas which fall partly or wholly within the area of one or more tribal authorities, the membership of that local board must include not less than one representative of each such tribal authority.

(5)(a) A person cannot be appointed as, or remain, a member of a local board if such person -

(i) is or becomes a member of the national or provincial Parliaments, or an official or employee contemplated in the Public Service Act;

(ii) is an unrehabilitated insolvent, or becomes insolvent and the insolvency results in the sequestration of his or her estate;

(iii) is declared to be of unsound mind by a court of the Republic; or

(iv) since the date on which the Constitution came into effect, has been or is convicted of an offense and sentenced to more than 12 months' imprisonment without the option of a fine, either in the Republic, or outside the Republic if the conduct constituting the offense would have been an offense in the Republic, but no one may be regarded as having been sentenced until an appeal against the conviction or sentence has been determined, or until the time for an appeal has expired. A disqualification under this paragraph ends five years after the sentence has been completed.

(b) A person must, prior to appointment as a member of a local board, submit to the Minister a written statement declaring whether or not he or she is disqualified in terms of paragraph (a).

(6) A member of a local board must be appointed for a period of three years or such lesser period as the Minister may determine. Different periods of office may be determined for different appointments. On the expiry of such term of office, the person is eligible for reappointment.

(7) A chairperson and a deputy chairperson of a local board must be elected by members of the local board.

(8) In the event of the office of chairperson being vacant or if the chairperson is absent, incapacitated or refuses or fails to act as chairperson, the deputy chairperson is empowered to exercise all of the powers, rights, functions and duties of the chairperson during the period of such vacancy, absence, incapacity, refusal or failure.

(9) In the event of -

(a) the offices of both chairperson and deputy chairperson being vacant; or

(b) both the chairperson and deputy chairperson being absent or incapacitated or refusing or failing to undertake the duties of chairperson,

the members must appoint another member to act as chairperson during the period of such vacancy, absence, incapacity, refusal or failure.

26. **Consolidation or fragmentation of local protected areas**
The Minister may, in consultation with the Board and after consultation with any local boards affected thereby -

(a) incorporate all or part of a protected area into the area of jurisdiction of another local board;

(b) declare a part of an existing protected area to be a separate protected area and either appoint a local board in respect of such area or incorporate such area into the area of jurisdiction of another local board;

(c) combine two or more local boards in respect of two or more protected areas; and

(d) disestablish a local board.

27. **Powers, duties and functions of local boards**

(1) Subject to the provisions of any law and the policy issued by the Board, the objects of local boards are to promote local decision-making regarding the management of nature conservation and heritage resources within protected areas as well as to promote the integration of the activities of the protected area into that of the surrounding area.

(2)(a) A local board must, in consultation with the Conservation Service and in compliance with any norms and standards, and policies issued by the Board, and subject to the approval of the Board, compile and monitor the implementation of management plans in respect of the protected area or areas for which such local board was appointed.

(b) Any amendment of a management plan contemplated in paragraph (a) must not be implemented until the approval of the Board to such amendment has been obtained.

(3) A management plan contemplated in subsection (2) must as far as is practical -

(a) promote the objectives for the protected area or areas, particularly with reference to -

(i) promotion of the developmental needs of the people living in or adjacent to the protected area; and

(ii) providing a mechanism whereby other bodies, groups and persons who have an interest in the conservation of or promotion of tourism in and adjacent to the protected area for which the local board was established, will be permitted to submit representations regarding the management of such area;

(b) promote educational programmes relating to nature conservation; and

(c) determine local policies within the framework of the Board's policies on nature conservation and heritage resources within the relevant protected areas, including but not limited to

(i) resource management, protection and zoning;

(ii) development of ecotourism;

(iii) scientific research; and

(iv) cooperation and coordination with other persons, bodies or groups involved in tourism, nature conservation and related matters.

28. **Filling of vacancies**
In the event of a vacancy in the ranks of the members of a local board occurring for any reason, the Minister may, in consultation with the Board, appoint a person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies for a period of office determined by the Minister when making such appointment, and the provisions of sections 25(4) and (5) apply mutatis mutandis to such an appointment.

29. **Publication of appointments**

When the Minister has appointed a member, the chairperson or deputy chairperson of a local board, the Minister must cause a notice to be published in the Gazette as soon as is practical after such appointment, specifying the name of the appointee, the office held, the date of effect and period of such appointment.

30. **Resignation of appointment**

A member of a local board may at any time and upon giving written notice to the Minister, resign his or her appointment as a member.

31. **Termination of appointment**

The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, terminate a person's appointment as a member of a local board on one or more of the following grounds:

(a) infirmity of mind or body which prevents him or her from the proper discharge of the duties of his or her office;

(b) conduct which brings or could bring the activities of the local board into disrepute;

(c) failure, refusal or neglect to carry out the duties and functions of a member to the best of his or her ability; or

(d) where a local board is disestablished or reconstituted.

32. **Suspension of a member**

The Minister may suspend a member from the execution of his or her duties whilst the Minister is investigating and considering allegations which, if proved to be correct or substantially correct, could result in the member's appointment being terminated in terms of section 31.

33. **Remuneration and conditions of appointment**

The Minister must, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, from time to time determine the conditions of appointment of members of local boards, including allowances payable.

34. **Meetings of a local board**

(1) The meetings of a local board must be held on such dates and at such times and places as may from time to time be determined by resolution of that local board: Provided that the first meeting of the local board must be held at such time and place as the chairperson of the Board may determine.
(2) The quorum for a meeting of such a local board is a simple majority of the total number of members appointed at that time.

(3) A decision of the majority of the members present at a meeting of the local board is a decision of that local board and in the event of an equality of votes the chairperson has a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

(4)(a) A local board may not exclude the public, including the media, from its meetings unless it is reasonable and justifiable to do so in an open and democratic society.

(b) Members of the public may only participate in meetings of a local board with the prior permission of the local board.

(5) The Minister and Secretary may attend meetings of a local board and may participate in discussions.

35. Establishment of committees

(1) A local board may from time to time establish committees from within the ranks of its members to which specific matters or classes of matters may be referred for investigation and report to that local board.

(2) When establishing any such committee, the local board must -

(a) determine the terms of reference of such committee including but not limited to whether or not such committee ceases to exist once it has completed the task or tasks allocated to it by the local board; and

(b) appoint a chairperson of such committee.

(3) The local board may at any time terminate the existence of or any mandate given to a committee, irrespective of whether or not the committee has completed the task or tasks allocated to it by the local board.

36. Minutes of proceedings

(1) A local board must cause minutes to be compiled of the proceedings of every meeting of that local board and of any Committee established by it and cause copies of such minutes to be circulated to all the members and the Board.

(2) The minutes prepared in terms of subsection (1), when signed at a subsequent meeting of the local board or committee by the chairperson, must, in the absence of proof of error therein, be deemed to be a true and correct record of the proceedings which they purport to minute and must, at any proceedings in terms of this Act or before a court of law or any tribunal or commission of inquiry, constitute prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the local board or committee and the matters they purport to minute.

(3) The minutes of meetings where the public and media were not excluded in terms of section 34(4)(a), once signed in terms of subsection (2), become public documents and must be made available for scrutiny by the public and the media, upon request.

37. Disclosure of conflict of interests
(1) Where, in relation to a matter being investigated, considered or voted upon by a local board, a member has any direct or indirect interest which precludes or could preclude him or her from performing his functions as member in a fair, unbiased and proper manner, he or she must -

(a) disclose such interest; and

(b) disclose the nature and extent thereof,

(2) Upon such disclosure, he or she must not participate in such investigation, consideration or vote and must absent himself or herself from the room or other venue in which such investigations, considerations or voting is taking place.

(3) Any disclosure and determination contemplated in subsection (1) must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in question.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), upon the disclosure of the interest and the member absenting himself or herself from the meeting, the remaining members must discuss the matter and determine whether the member in question may return to the meeting and participate in the discussion of the issue before the local board.

(5) If any member fails to comply with the provisions of subsections (1) or (2), a decision of the local board taken following such a consideration may, at the discretion of the local board, be set aside and declared void at the instance of any aggrieved person.

38. **Reports**

A local board must, not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year determined in terms of section 24(1), submit a report to the Board on the activities of that local board for the twelve-month period coinciding with the previous financial year.

39. **Administrative and financial support to a local board**

The Conservation Service must take whatever steps may be necessary to provide a local board with such secretarial and administrative support as may be necessary.

**CHAPTER 6**

**GENERAL**

40. **Delegations**

(1) In addition to any powers conferred upon him or her by the KwaZulu-Natal Delegation of Authority Act, 1994 (Act No. 8 of 1994), the Minister may, in his or her sole discretion, delegate any power or duty conferred or imposed upon him or her by this Act, other than the power to make regulations, to any official in the Department, the Board, a local board, the Chief Executive Officer or, with the consent of the Chief Executive Officer, any other official of the Conservation Service.

(2) The Board may, by resolution, delegate any powers or duties conferred or imposed upon it by this Act to a member, or members of the Board, a local board, the Chief Executive Officer or, with the consent of the Chief Executive Officer, any other official of the Conservation Service.
(3) The Chief Executive Officer of the Conservation Service may delegate any powers or duties conferred or imposed upon him or her by this Act to an official or officials of the Conservation Service.

(4) Any delegation of authority to an official effected in terms of this section must be to a named official or to the incumbent of an identified post.

41. **Regulations**

(1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, make regulations regarding -

(a) any matter required or permitted to be prescribed in terms of this Act; and

(b) generally all matters which are reasonably necessary or expedient to be prescribed in order to achieve the objects of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1), the Minister may make regulations on any or all of the following subjects for the better administration, application and implementation of this Act:

(a) the conditions of service, employment, transfer, promotion and continued employment of officials of the Conservation Service;

(b) the terms and conditions under which officials of the Conservation Service may be seconded to an organ of State, institution or body;

(c) the management and administration of the Board or local boards;

(d) the determination of criteria for the making of appointments to the Board or local boards, including criteria for the determination of real rights of any interested parties;

(e) the financial and accounting activities of any institution or body established or recognised in terms of this Act, in so far as this has a bearing on any financial activities undertaken with provincial funds or any grants or other benefit received from the province;

(f) the declaration of a protected area;

(g) the management and control of protected areas; and

(h) the administration, management and control of movable and immovable assets of the Board or the Conservation Service.

(3) In making regulations, the Minister must only act following the procedures set out in this Act; failing which -

(a) in consultation with the Board and after consultation with the Portfolio Committee; and

(b) in respect of the subsection (2)(a) and (b) regulations, after consultation with organised labour,

42. **Repeal of laws and savings**
(1) The laws specified in the First Schedule to this Act are repealed or amended to the extent indicated in the First Schedule: Provided that any such repeal or amendment comes into effect on a date to be fixed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette: Provided further that the Minister may fix different dates of effect for different repeals or amendments.

(2) A repeal or amendment contemplated in subsection (1) does not affect the validity of any bylaw, regulation, proclamation, notice, approval, authority, appointment, certificate or other document, issued, made, promulgated, given or granted under the aforesaid laws and in force or valid immediately prior to the commencement of this Act in so far as they are not repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to which extent they must remain in force or valid until amended or revoked.

CHAPTER 7
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

43. Existing employees

(1) On a date to be determined by the Minister, all affected officials must be transferred to the Conservation Service, and from that date such employee is deemed to have been appointed in terms of section 21(2) of this Act.

(2)(a) Such transfer is -

(i) subject to the employee’s consent; and
(ii) at a salary and salary scale, and on terms and conditions of employment. not less favourable than those which governed the affected official's previous employment.

(b) Every employee is required to confirm acceptance or refusal of the offer of employment by the Conservation Service within a period stipulated by the Minister: Provided that employees who do not indicate their election in writing are deemed to have accepted the transfer to the Conservation Service.

(c) Any sick or vacation leave which stood to the credit of such person immediately prior to the date determined by the Minister must stand to the credit of such person in their employ in the Conservation Service.

(d) Full-time service performed by such person before their date of appointment to the Conservation Service is deemed to be service performed by that person in the Conservation Service.

(e) No person may, as a consequence of such appointment, acquire a retirement age higher than that applicable to that person before such transfer and appointment.

(f) Affected officials already confirmed in their posts with their previous employer must not be subject to a probationary period in the Conservation Service: Provided that any affected official who at the time of the commencement of this Act was serving a probationary period must complete that probationary period in the Conservation Service under the same terms and conditions which applied at the commencement of the probationary period.

(g) Grievance or disciplinary proceedings contemplated or commenced by or against any affected official may be finalised by such affected official or the Conservation Service after any transfer made under this Chapter.
44. **Other contracts**

The provisions of any formal or fixed-term contract or agreement applying to persons other than the employees contemplated in section 43 above, which applied on the day prior to the commencement date of this Act, continue to apply to such person without change until such person and the Conservation Service agree in writing to a variation or cancellation thereof.

45. **Existing rights**

(1) Any transfer made under this Chapter must not affect such employee’s continuity of employment.

(2) All rights and obligations which existed between each affected official and the relevant previous employer must continue as if they were rights and obligations between each employee and the Conservation Service.

(3) No employee may, as a direct consequence of this Act

   (a) be deprived of a right held under any other law; or

   (b) obtain the right to retire at a date earlier than would otherwise have been the case.

46. **Pension fund**

(1) The Minister must -

   (a) from time to time recognise a pension fund or funds for employees appointed to posts in the Conservation Service; and

   (b) recognise one or more existing funds as being funds to which affected officials may belong.

(2) Notwithstanding any establishment or recognition contemplated in subsection (1), affected officials may, subject to the applicable rules of the fund and within a period determined by the Minister, elect to -

   (a) remain contributing members of the fund to which they belonged prior to their transfer and appointment to the Conservation Service;

   (b) remain dormant members of the fund to which they belonged prior to their transfer and appointment to the Conservation Service, and become members of a new fund as recognised in terms of subsection (1)(a); or

   (c) become members of a new fund as recognised in terms of subsection (1)(a), subject to the rules governing the transfer of their accrued entitlement from their existing fund to the new fund,

47. **Short title and date of commencement**

This Act is called the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Management Act, No. 9 of 1997, and comes into force on a date to be fixed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette: Provided that the Minister may determine different dates for the commencement of different sections of this Act.
## FIRST SCHEDULE
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<td>18 July 1985;</td>
<td>P 31/85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18 September 1986</td>
<td>P 56/86</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Abbreviations used in Part A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GN</td>
<td>National Government Notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KGN</td>
<td>KwaZulu Government Notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>National Proclamation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Provincial Proclamation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(r)</td>
<td>Repealed or revoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZP</td>
<td>Zululand Proclamation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART B

Forest reserves proclaimed in terms of national legislation and assigned to the province.