



19 JUNE 2023

iSIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK AUTHORITY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED THE eNKOVUKENI COMMUNITY RESOURCE HUB



CEO of iSimangaliso Wetland Park Mr. Sibusiso Bukhosini delivering his speech during the eNkokuveni Resource Hub launch

iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority in partnership with Wild Oceans on the program known as Oceans Alive, together with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Tembe Traditional Authority has launched eNkokuveni community resource hub. This community resource hub is intended to be a valuable resource center that benefits community, provide support for key initiatives such as building ocean awareness, training, micro-enterprise development, employment opportunities for youth, support for community involvement in conservation activities and tourism opportunities, facilitate access to amenities (e.g. library, play area for children, cell-phone charging stations, printers, computers, and internet access), promote craft production and sales, demonstrate projects linked to nature-based solutions and climate-smart agriculture.

eNkovukeni is located on the Northern side of the Park in Kosi Bay. It is one of the disadvantaged community residing in iSimangaliso Park. The community of eNkovukeni use to cross the lake and travel a long distance to Manguzi town just to have computer and internet access to create basic things like CV's, apply for further learning and employment, do assignments, print documents and do copies. With this Hub up and running, all these community challenges are now over hence no community members to continue pay R60 to go to Manguzi town just to have computer and internet access. This hub is providing them with access to all these services and more without traveling long distance.

The CEO of iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority Mr. Sibusiso Bukhosini mentioned that he is very proud of the strategic relationship that iSimangaliso has built together with Wild Oceans, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Tembe Traditional Council. It is iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority's Mission to protect, conserve and present its world heritage values for current and future generations whilst benefiting communities living in and adjacent to the Park by facilitating optimal tourism and related development. He further congratulated eNkovukeni community for receiving this facility. Bukhosini also said developing communities such as eNkovukeni community is one of the main concerns of iSimangaliso and it is amongst iSimangaliso's objectives to empower historically disadvantaged communities.

This facility has enough space for the community to host community meetings, workshops and trainings. eNkovukeni Hub is the third hub project to be built within communities in iSimangaliso Wetland Park. There is Mabibi hub and KwaDapha hub which also provide communities with the same accessibilities as eNkovukeni Resource hub. Since the inception of these Hubs , 483 interns employed, 9 hub managers employed, 86 construction trainees employed, and there are 67 beneficiaries of sewing machines, 113 Turtle Monitors and over 130 Ocean Steward fellows.



eNkovukeni community members show casing some of the clothing made by women using sewing machines from eNkovukeni Resource Hub

eNkokukeni hub accommodates all age groups as it also provide access to sewing machines and skills training to elderly women of this community. These women are making an income and support their families by sewing clothes, uniforms, traditional attires, graduation gowns, and wedding gowns. The construction of eNkokukeni resource hub facility assisted in employing contractors from the community and they were given skills training in their field of work and help them make a living using their skills. Youth from eNkokukeni community has been appointed to be fulltime workers at eNkokukeni Resource Hub.



Some of the community members of eNkokukeni that were honored by certificates and tools of various fields of work for assisted in building the eNkokukeni Hub

The representative of the traditional leadership Mr. Vusumuzi Tembe said he is joyful to see such development at eNkokukeni. This hub will make a positive impact to this community because now they will be able to do most of basic things on this hub. He also urge community members to protect the eNkokukeni resource hub. One of the youth from eNkokukeni Ms. Makhosi Mathenjwa couldn't hold her excitement saying this hub will assist the youth to learn more about conserving nature but mostly they will learn more about animals living in the sea.

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Statement issued by iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority

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